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Celebrating the Persian New Year

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Persian dancers celebrate the Nowruz Festival last year in Tysons Corner Center. This year’s Festival is March 17.
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Langley and Cooper Present Pyramid Concert

By Alex Montano

Senior, Langley High School

Continuing an exceptional season, the Langley High School Orchestra under maestros Dr. Scott McCormick and Adam Willett delivered a splendid performance of challenging Hungarian repertoire on Tuesday night, Feb. 26. This time, they were joined by the talented Cooper Middle School Orchestra playing various American and European music in the annual Pyramid Concert. Ensembles from both schools impressed the audience by featuring the rhythmic and melodic characteristics of music from Hungary. The night began with the Langley Concert Orchestra’s strong and expressive rendition of one of the world’s most famous Hungarian-themed pieces: Brahms’ “Hungarian Dance No. 5.” This piece’s distinctive, folk-inspired melody delighted concertgoers and was a wonderful way to get the full auditorium in the right spirit.

The Cooper Chamber Orchestra continued the concert with a well-executed performance of “Allegro Gustoso,” a lively piece composed in the classical tradition, conducted by music director Elizabeth Leung. This was the first of two Cooper ensembles to play, and a good opportunity to hear some of the musicians that will eventually comprise the Langley orchestra in the coming years. Following these performances, the intermission gave the audience the chance to partake in a silent auction, where a variety of special products and services were up for bidding. Many families were able to purchase things such as gift certificates and tickets generously donated by families and businesses in the community.

The music continued after the break with three ensembles performing some very special music. The Langley Symphonic Orchestra’s performance of Berlioz’s “Rakoczi March” continued the Hungarian theme, featuring a melody that was formerly a state anthem of Hungary. Next, the Cooper Middle School’s second ensemble, the Cooper Symphonic Orchestra took the stage, first presenting “Darkened Shadows” by Reznickow. This haunting piece left a great impression on the audience, but it was their performance of “Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2” by Liszt that drew the most praise. The ensemble’s mature playing and technique was evident throughout the piece. Senior violinist Kevin Cheng of the Langley Philharmonic Orchestra noted, “Our program’s future is in good hands — the musicianship of the Cooper Symphonic was impressive.”

Capping off a night of great music, the Langley Philharmonic Orchestra delivered two Hungarian pieces noted for both their difficulty and rarity. Dohnanyi’s “Serenade Op. 10” was well received for its contrasting between slow, melodic passages and virtuosic, fast sections. This was followed by “Divertimento No. 2” by Leo Weiner. A musical gem, this work is obscure even amongst professional classical musicians. However, members of the Langley Philharmonic Orchestra enjoyed playing this charming yet powerful work. Senior cellist Robbie Hamilton remarked, “This piece’s moving melodies and rich orchestration makes me think it should be performed more often.” Another aspect of this piece is its particularly demanding music for the viola section. Senior violinist Daniel Lee of the Langley Philharmonic said, “That section had a great performance tonight; you can tell a lot of practice went into learning their music.”

With less than three weeks remaining until the District XII Orchestra Assessments, both the Langley and Cooper Orchestras will continue to polish these pieces until they are ready to be performed for a panel of professional judges. Notably, the Langley Philharmonic Orchestra will attempt to win “Superior” ratings for the eleventh year in a row, a feat that has never been accomplished in the state of Virginia by a high school orchestra. Afterwards, the Langley Orchestra will travel to Hungary as part of their music trip to Europe in April, and have the opportunity to play some of these pieces in the same country where they were composed over a century ago.

McLean Community Center Seeks Residents’ Ideas

Public Hearing on Programs is Wednesday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Having recently completed the renovation and expansion of its Ingleside Ave. facility, the McLean Community Center (MCC) is now asking residents what kinds of programs and services they would like to see offered. MCC’s Public Hearing on FY 2021 Programs will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 27. All meetings of the board are open to the public. MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

The MCC Governing Board wants to hear from residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville, who pay a real estate surcharge to support the center. The hearing is the first step in planning for the FY 2021 budget cycle, which begins July 1, 2020 and ends June 30, 2021. The center’s divisions include the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and The Old Firehouse Center. Tax district residents who wish to speak at the hearing are asked to call the Center at 703-744-9348, TTY: 711, to have their names placed on the speakers list; however, speakers are not required to sign up in order to speak. Residents also may submit comments by mail, fax (703-556-0547) email (holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov) or in person up to seven days after the hearing.

For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: https://bit.ly/2Gi5iC.
The last full review of the county’s Comprehensive Plan as it applies to McLean took place in 1998. After the Board of Supervisors authorized review of the Plan in regards to the approximately 230-acre “central” area, county, consultants and residents have been hard at work. Through a series of workshops, public hearings, dozens of meetings and the formation of a task force comprising McLean residents and representatives of civic groups, a draft Vision Plan was presented to the public in December of 2018.

Working with that plan, the McLean Community Business Center (MCBC) task force is still at it, defining, fine-tuning, and gathering community input for consideration on updates to the Comprehensive Plan – the manual for the county’s planning and development.

At their eighth meeting on Monday, March 4 at the McLean Governmental Center, the collaborative group of residents and county staff had put forth what seemed to be a modest, four-item agenda. Kim Dorgan, the task force chair, partnering with Katrina Newton with the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning had lined up a clarifying review of the zones that comprise the MCBC to be followed by a discussion of the 10 submitted suggestions for land use change received via a public commentary period, before ending with a discussion of the transect zones.

The “transect” is defined as a “series of zones that form the transition from less-densely populated portions of a defined area, leading to a denser, urban-type core.” The transect concept is a key element in the “smart growth” movement being used to rethink and re-develop population centers like McLean, or neighboring Tysons Corner.

Despite their best efforts, the members never got much past that clarification agenda item and the boundaries involved. Discussion of transects and the submissions would have to wait until the next meeting, scheduled for March 18.

FROM THEIR COMMENTARY and their questions, it’s obvious that the task force members have been doing their homework. There are a few members with significant...
Vision Plan for McLean ‘a Work in Progress’

FROM PAGE 4

related experience on their professional resumes, but not everyone in the group came on board with extensive knowledge of land use planning and even the county staff would be hard-pressed to claim an encyclopedic comprehension of the current Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan and the many related guidelines, legalities and scientific considerations that weave together to inform urban planning decisions.

Previous related experience or not, the members all come armed with an amazing knowledge of their place on the map – history, geographic highlights, and an orientation that would be the envy of any driver forced to work without a satellite navigation system. They must also possess a true dedication to their community. The amount of work and the time needed to fully understand the current situation and to develop and consider alternatives for future growth – even with the guidance and work of consultants Streetsense and county staff and experts – places the emphasis on the members all starting from a common point of reference and basic understanding of the complexities.

Still, as this latest meeting demonstrated, even with all that preparation and dedication, moving forward can be a difficult and frustratingly slow process. The review of what type of land use is allowable within each zone – “Center,” “General,” or “Edge” – was fairly straightforward, but things slowed down when the members began discussing the boundaries of each zone, where they might overlap and where and how to allow “bonus development” of higher structures when accompanied by agreed upon green or other public-use space.

Member Jack Wilburn proposes a “floating” bonus plan that allows more flexibility but avoids the scenario where “everyone is Center Zone” - possibly creating over-development and the loss of green space. Wilburn, member William Sudow and others also cautioned against stretching the Center Zone, which contains the majority of the commercial and higher density developments, fearing that such expansion would erode the “town center” concept and inhibit the accessibility and connectivity that forms the basis of the Vision Plan which met with general approval at the last public feedback session in December.

You could wind up with these separated pockets of development, defeating the purpose and the plan,” said Wilburn. “We need to define the bonus areas to encourage strategic, connected assembly of development,” added Sudow. “We need to condense the Center Zone, not spread it out,” agreed member Kelly Green Kahn. “That would defeat the purpose of a town center where people gather.” Kahn also put in a plug to keep service stations safe, regardless of zoning.

MORE WALKABLE OR NOT, residents still need their cars and the convenience of nearby filling stations.

Things bogged down a bit further when the notion of “caps” on height and density entered the discussion. One member reminded the group that public feedback seems to heavily favor capping both in future developments, while others, including Sudow, answered that a key principle of the study was to find ways to attract quality development not only with clear guidelines, but with opportunities for developers to create economically viable projects.

Task force chair Dorgan worked to keep the meeting on target, going around the table and asking for a non-official vote from each member on the designation of each area within the study parameters, with room for changes as the discussions continue and the submissions are reviewed.

Center, General and Edge zones were eventually marked – if not unanimously agreed upon – and the revised working map will be available on the County’s MCBC website shortly.

Although he gave his opinion on the refinements, member Ed Murn expressed concern that some of these designations and other decisions being put forth were not realistic options for developers and in some cases cost prohibitive for them. “We shouldn’t make willy-nilly designations just to categorize.”

Murn foresees future frustrations ahead if the county and the community’s plan offers something that really cannot be achieved or as member Rick Salopek puts it, is “actually disingenuous.”

Planning and Zoning’s Newtson acknowledged the need for as much accuracy as possible – particularly for the county to run valid test models on the impacts of any changes to the Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances and to develop mitigation recommendations for any potential negative side effects.

A senior staff member from the Fairfax County Department of Transportation supplied additional information which took many by surprise, saying that for the transportation test modelling, realistic foundations were critical since “there can only be
2019

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VoterInformation


2019 Elections Include:
Filing deadline for parties, March 28 Primary if held: June 11 Virginia General Election Nov. 5 Virginia Senate (4-year term) House of Delegates (2-year term) Soil and Water Directors (4-year term) Board of Supervisors School Board Counties: 4-year terms: Commonwealth's Attorney Sheriff Commissioner of Revenue Treasurer Vienna Town Council

In case you wonder what will be on the ballot next, here is a guide.

Virginia has a General Election every year on the first Tuesday in November. Federal offices are elected in even-numbered years. State and Local offices are elected in odd-numbered years. Clifton Mayor and Town Council are elected in even-numbered years on the first Tuesday in May. Herndon Mayor and Town Council are elected in even-numbered years on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. Vienna Mayor and 3 Town Council members are elected in even-numbered years on the first Tuesday in May. If primaries are called by the political parties, they are held on the second Tuesday in June.

— Mary Kimm, mkkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

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New Ways of Being Heard

To the Editor:

Karl Marx was a passionate ide- alist from nineteenth century in- dustrial era. Factory workers would commit to their jobs despite possible oppression, while their employers overaw the work envi- ronment become increasingly filled with lost souls. This is occurring at a wider scale in today’s government, and seen across the world especially in places whose rights don’t provide them the same lib- erties that America has. While try- ing to reach the government to express a concern, one may find themselves in a never-ending battle with a voicemail, or prere- cored machine. This parallels with Marx and his belief of unequal relationships between common people and their superiors. Hope- fully enough people can unite with a similar agon and anticipate change from those who run our lives. Working citizens should be able to express their concerns in- stead of being consistently turned away. No longer do we have to go on strike to show disagreement with the process. Now, we can use plat- forms like twitter to voice our opinions in an effort to be heard by our government officials.

Jessica Seppi
McLean
James Madison University
Freshman

Out of Touch
To the Editor:

In response to the opinion ar- ticle by Kenneth Lourie from Feb. 27, 2019, (“The Following Is a Test.”) I find it truly sad how diffi- cult it is to communicate with gov- ernment representatives and how separated the elected officials are from the everyday person.

After all, they are supposed to be the representation of the people’s opinions and ideas. There is no real intimate relationship between politicians and the people they represent, citizens vote for them based on a generalized plat- form that is displayed, but to some extent, there is no transparency in the work of politicians unless they make a major news headline. And to hear that attempts by citizens to close that gap between them- selves and government officials to address concerns or share ideas is almost impossible as if politicians are trying to prevent others from reaching out is concerning. The more power that is taken out of the hands of the masses and into few, the less this country will op- erate as a true democracy and will instead become more centralized like other countries where citizens are blindly lead by an isolated gov- ernment.

Linsey Wenk
McLean
James Madison University
Freshman

Lifesaving Legislation
To the Editor:

Did Virginia voters ever think their Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner and Governor Northam would sanction infanticide?

It is a matter of common sense and basic human decency to re- quire, as Senate bill 311, Born- Alive survivors protection act would have, that any health care practitioner present when a child is born alive following an abortion be given the same degree of care to preserve the life and health of the child as would be given to any other newborn. It is an outrage that Virginia’s U.S. Senators Warner and Kaine voted against this critical lifesaving legislation. This is not an abortion rights is- sue. This is protecting the weak and most vulnerable among us.

Ethel Pascal RN
Great Falls

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:
Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Arlington VA 22214
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

Susan Foster
CIRCULATION MANAGER
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ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor 703-778-9414
kurspahic@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

REGIONAL OFFICES:

Northern Virginia
1606 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-917-6444

Virginia
1606 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703-917-6444

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Step-by-Step Plan to Deal with Anxiety

On Monday, April 1, the Safe Community Coalition (SCC) will host an event program titled “Reducing Anxiety: Strategies to Interrupt the Worry Cycle,” featuring Lynn Lyons, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 at the McLean Community Center’s Alden Theater. Lyons, LCSW, is an author of the groundbreaking book “Anxious Kids, Anxious Parents: 7 Ways to Stop the Worry Cycle and Raise Courageous and Independent Children.” In it, she provides families with step-by-step plan to solve the puzzle of anxious, avoidant children. It explains the difference between healthy worrying and debilitating anxiety and provides the tools to help children and teens face their challenges and stop the cycle of fear.

Based in Concord, N.H., Lyons has more than 28 years of experience working with parents and children with anxiety. This event is part of the Safe Community Coalition’s yearlong focus on youth anxiety.

Tickets are available at https://reducinganxiety.brownpapertickets.com/.

Share to Hold Meeting Open to All

Share, Inc. will hold a General Meeting open to all on Thursday, March 7 at 7:30 - 9 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Agenda: Call to order; Invocation; Treasurer’s report; Reports from program chairs; Committee reports, as needed; New business; Adjourn.

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

WINTER SHELTERS

Find homeless and cold weather drop-in centers and shelters that serve Northern Virginia at www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-List.

Submit photos to: Northern Virginia Business Journal, 1510 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22102, or email: norteno@connectionnewspapers.com. Include a daytime phone number.

Step-by-Step Plan to Deal with Anxiety

Task Force

From Page 7

one transportation test” because of costs and time involved.

There were 10 “submissions” (suggestions, recommendations, comments from the public received during the submission period which ended in November) slated for discussion, but which were moved to agenda items on March 18, when the task force meets again.

INCLUDED IN THE SUBMISSIONS were recommendations that street widths be narrowed in front of stores, smaller pocket parks be considered in lieu of one or two larger green spaces, and that residential, office and hotel usage should not be dictated on particular sites (MCBC-10).

Brian Clifford submitted MCBC-4, recommending increasing the FAR (the relationship between the size of the building and the size of the land parcel) intensity from 0.5 to 2.0 which would allow for mixed-use development versus only office and ground floor retail in the general location of 6861 Elm Street.

All of the submissions can be viewed on the county’s website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov and citizens are encouraged to review them along with all of the attendant documents.

The task force meetings are open to the public. “We want to hear from everyone,” said Dorgan.

The Vision Plan for the growth and possible transformation of McLean is still just that, but as Dorgan and the task force crew attest, “we have to make a start in order to get there.”

Lynn Lyons

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCC
Julia Wires purchased an iPhone for her 12-year-old daughter in part she says, because many of the girls at her Potomac, Md. school have smartphones that they bring to campus daily. Wires and her husband were initially hesitant to make the purchase because their daughter was diagnosed with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Anxiety Disorder at the end of 2018.

“First, there’s the social pressure she feels because all of her friends have iPhones. Then there’s the issue of her dad and I being able to keep in touch with her now that she has more freedom to go places on her own,” said Wires. “Both of those [factors] are juxtaposed against the fact that she has trouble staying focused and calming down when she needs to. That made the decision tough for us.”

Too much time spent on gaming, smartphones and watching television could exacerbate symptoms in children who’ve been diagnosed with ADHD, according to a new study by researchers at San Diego State University and the University of Georgia. The report showed that even after one hour of screen time, children and teens may begin to have lower self-control, less emotional stability and a greater inability to finish tasks.

“Kids with ADHD have trouble keeping track of time, so they could spend hours on their tablet without realizing it. Screen time can make bedtime routines more difficult and parents might have an additional struggle getting their kids to fall asleep,” said child psychologist Adele Schwartz, Ph.D, of McLean, who was not involved in the study. “Kids with ADHD also might be more likely to ignore parental guidelines and I would worry more about them engaging in risky behavior online.”

Helping a child with ADHD transition from playing a video game to doing their homework could require special handling, advises Sarah Bryant, LCSW. “Instead of telling your child that they have to stop watching television at six o’clock or that they have five more minutes on a video game, try telling them that they have to stop at the next commercial break or at then end of the round in a video game,” she said.

Working collaboratively with one’s child will reduce the chance of a power struggle, says Bryant. “You and your child can work together to list all of the things that need to get done, like homework, time spent outside, doing sports, chores and other activities and come up with a schedule,” she said. “Figure out how much time is left for things like video games and television. Hang the schedule somewhere that’s visible to both of you. Your child will see how little time is left for playing video games and since they were part of the process, they’ll feel like they’re part of a team rather than a subordinate with no control over their life.”

“Parents of kids with ADHD should definitely make use of parental controls on tablets, smart phones and television, especially during school hours or when kids should be doing their homework,” added Schwartz. “It’s also important that children, especially those with ADHD not use electronics at least an hour before bedtime. And it almost goes without saying that parents should model the behavior that they want their children to have by limiting their own screen time.”

Managing Screen Time

Working collaboratively with one’s child can decrease the struggle.

By Marilyn Campbell
Before David B. Lang came to Reston as artistic director of The Reston Chorale, he was already known among Washington-area music circles as a leading professional keyboard artist, concert organist, vocal coach and choral director. Among other posts, he had served as director of music for Saint John the Beloved in McLean and Saint Catherine of Siena in Great Falls, and as principal organist for Saint John’s Episcopal Church-Lafayette Square (Church of the Presidents) in Washington, DC.

Now celebrating his 10th season with The Reston Chorale, Lang will be featured as organ soloist when the Chorale presents Reflections, a concert of choral and organ works on Sunday, March 17. The 4 p.m. concert will take place at Saint Luke Roman Catholic Church in McLean, known for its beautiful acoustics and grand pipe organ. Lang will perform Francis Poulenc’s Concerto for Organ, Strings and Timpani with members of the Piedmont Symphony Orchestra.

Reflections will also feature the Duruflé Requiem, excerpts of Pergolesi’s Stabat Mater, and the premieres of two new choral works: the world premiere of Allan Laino’s Gloria %commissioned by The Reston Chorale %and the Washington, D.C. premiere of Maarten Spruijt’s Thurémin.

The Reston Chorale will be joined by organist Paul Skevington; soloists Gloria Parvin, mezzo soprano and Robert Quittmeyer, baritone; treble voices from several local churches, and guest conductor Allan Laino.

Discounted tickets for Reflections are available online at www.RestonChorale.org through Saturday, March 16. Full-price tickets will be available at the door one hour before the concert: $25 for seniors (62+), $30 for adults (18-61) and free for active duty military and youth 17 and under, with an adult or senior ticket holder. Doors will open at 3:30 pm.

Established in 1966 by Dr. James Christian Pfohl, The Reston Chorale is a mixed-voice, auditioned chorus with a broad repertoire including pops, masterworks, American classics, and new works.

More at www.restonchorale.org
Celebrating the Persian New Year

Nowruz Festival to be held 
March 17, 2019 at Tysons Corner Center.

By Steve Hibbard
The Connection

Following 3,000 years of customs and traditions, the colorful Nowruz Festival — the Persian New Year celebration — will be held Sunday, March 17, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tysons Corner Center. The free event attracts 20,000 visitors who come for the music, dance, dramatic performances, shopping at the Bazaar, and costumed characters roaming the festival.

Nowruz, which normally falls in early spring, is when Persian-Americans will join locally to celebrate the new year. The festival was previously held at the Reston Town Center and the John Carlyle Square Park in Alexandria.

According to organizer Shohreh Asemi, what’s new this year is a larger and taller stage that will accommodate musicians, vocalists, dancers, DJs, artists, costumed characters, and traditional players. The entertainment begins at 11 a.m.

She said they will have around 50 tents offering jewelry, books, artwork, crafts, and other traditional Persian products. Three tents will introduce Persian culture and two tents are just for kids to have fun. In addition, there will be lots of tasty food sold by a variety of food trucks. There will also be a raffle for two airline tickets by Turkish Airlines. Asemi said the Nowruz Festival has been voted Best Cultural Festival for D.C. by the Washington City Paper’s readers in year’s past.

THE NOWRUZ FESTIVAL is a free, family-friendly, fun event that celebrates life, love and good will. Of all the Persian national festivals, the New Year celebrations are at once the most important and the most colorful.

The venue provides a fun place for people to celebrate with family and friends, to taste Persian food and enjoy traditional and modern Persian entertainment. Among the traditions is a ceremonial table called the cloth of seven dishes (each one beginning with the Persian letter Sin). The symbolic dishes consist of Sabzeh or sprouts, usually wheat or lentil, representing rebirth. Another is Samanu or a sweet, creamy pudding. There’s Senjed, the sweet, dry fruit of the Lotus tree, which represents love. And another is Seer, which is garlic in Persian, representing medicine.

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

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

The 2019 Nowruz Festival will be held Sunday, March 17, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tysons Corner Center, 8100 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. For more information, visit the website athttp://nowruzfestival.org. Or contact organizer Shohreh Asemi at 202-369-1515 or email Shohreh directly at shohreh@nowruzfestival.org.

BASIS Independent McLean Celebrates Lunar New Year

BASIS Independent McLean (BIM) held its annual Lunar New Year Celebration, celebrating its Mandarin curriculum and honoring the Year of the Pig. Students of all ages performed skits, songs, dance and Kung Fu demonstrations commemorating Chinese culture.

BIM Mandarin teachers Maggie Li, Carrie Tozzi, and Hao Wang directed the student performances. Traditional Chinese food was enjoyed afterward, hosted by BIM parents. At BIM, students in PreK through grade 4 take Mandarin.

After two years of Latin, grade 7 students may choose Mandarin as their language to study through high school.

“Our Lunar New Year celebration brings our school together not only in song and dance, but it highlights our robust Mandarin program,” said Tiffany Conroy, head of school for BASIS Independent McLean. “As a school dedicated to global education, we think it’s important to explore and engage with global cultures,” said Conroy.

For more information, visit basissindependent.com or basiccurriculumschools.com.
**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Backbeat Underground Comes to 1st Stage**

Soul-jazz group in a special musical event at Tysons.

*By David Siegel*

The Connection

"W*e want everyone to begin thinking of Tysons as a vibrant and far-ranging musical destination," said Douglas C. Lovejoy, President, Virginia Chamber Orchestra Board of Trustees. Working together with 1st Stage, "we are always on the lookout for performers who will attract audiences to Tysons.

“Our partnership with 1st Stage goes back to the opening of the Silver Line in July, 2015. There are a number of dark stage evenings for 1st Stage that the VCO uses to bring music to Tysons," said Lovejoy.

As for scheduling Backbeat Underground, "after listening to their music, it became obvious that this was an opportunity to introduce a unique sound at 1st Stage. Backbeat Underground will give us the opportunity to attract a unique segment of live music consumers in the area.

Backbeat Underground’s musical genre is described this way by Satya Thallam, one of the group’s members: “We call it souljazz. It’s informed by the deep funk tradition of DC, the idioms and structure of jazz, and pioneers of the neo-soul movement. Above all it’s built on ‘groove.’ We like to say it glitters like steel wool!"

Backbeat Underground was formed in 2012. The group plays to crowds all over the DC area, from smaller, hidden-gem venues up to the well-known Union Stage, the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Theater.

All the Backbeat Underground members have been based in the DC area for years. The band is Satya Thallam (saxophone and percussion), Brad Booth (keyboards), RJ James (drums), Gerald Pierce (bass), and John Wedeles (guitar).

Pierce who attended McLean High School and The Langley School before that, credits the excellent music programs at both schools for contributing towards his lifelong passion.

The group regularly lays down tracks; either instrumental songs or tunes featuring a variety of guest vocalists. “The band delivers tight, energetic sets steeped in fresh improvisation and head-bopping, booty-shaking pockets,” said Thallam.

As for what to expect for the evening at 1st Stage; “expect sophisticated originals as well as a mix of classic soul and modern rock covers, filtered through the band’s unique interpretations," said Pierce. “We hope people will come away thinking of funk and soul in a new way;" said Thallam. “We love the classics, and look to them for inspiration, but we hope audiences see them in a new, vibrant, vital light."

As for drummer James, he was clear; “Expect a funky good time! Let’s have fun!"

Backbeat Underground presented by Virginia Chamber Orchestra at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Rd, Tysons. Performance: Friday, March 15, 2019 at 8 p.m. Tickets $25 at the door; Seniors and advance purchase $20; Students and military $15. For tickets go to www.vco.events/

**Where and When**

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**Photo by Todd Bell/Courtesy Backbeat Underground**

Backbeat Underground (from left): Brad Booth, John Wedeles, Satya Thallam, Gerald Pierce, RJ James

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 7

International Women’s Day Market, 4-9 p.m. at Caboose Commons, 3091 Old Dominion Dr. Fairfax. Caboose Commons will be hosting a pop-up market consisting of local, women-run businesses in the community. Limited edition women empowerment merchandise for sale and pop-ups from Park Story, Skips and Flutters, Odduki, Color Street, Do/Terra essential oils, Beauty Counter, and more. Visit www.caboosebrewing.com.

Mah Jongg Lessons. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, VA 22043. Plan to attend all three sessions (March 7, 14, 21). Enrollment is limited. $85. Includes nine hours of lessons and includes the 2018 National Mah Jongg League Playing Card. To register, send a check made out to WCTRS to Iva Gresko, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, VA 22043. Include your email address, home address, and home and cell phone numbers. Your check is your registration. Contact Iva Gresko 703-532-2217.

Live Music: House of Hamill. 7 p.m. at Maggiano’s Little Italy – Tysons Corner, 2011 International Drive, McLean. Maggiano’s Concert Series will present an early St. Patrick’s Day performance with national touring artists, House of Hamill. Showtime is 7 p.m. with the option of a pre-concert early admission experience at 6:18 and older. $25-$45. Call 703-893-5810 or reserve tickets at www.eventbrite.com (search House of Hamill).

FRIDAY/MARCH 8


International Women’s Day Celebration. Lake Anne Plaza, Reston Community Center, Jo Ann Rose Gallery, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. 7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. – Gallery Reception 8:15 p.m. – 9 p.m. – Panel Discussion and Q&A. www.lakeanneplaza.com

SATURDAY/MARCH 9

Women’s History Panel Discussion. 10 a.m.—noon at Kings Park Community Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Presented by NAACP Fairfax County, the program will provide a platform for women of color, from all over Fairfax in various leadership roles and positions to come together as one to develop strategic, actionable ways to build and maximize economic and political power – for the betterment of women, their families, communities, and future. Register online or collect donations for BRAW (www.BRAWS.org). Join at www.fairfaxnaacp.org/about/women-in-naacp.

Meet The Maker. 2:55 p.m. at Balducci’s McLean Store, 6655 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The taste of the Smoky Mountains, both rugged and haute cuisine, is presented by Blackberry Farm in a collection of jams, cheese and beer. Meet the Farmstead Manager, Dustin Busby. Free. Visit balduccis.com/events.

Author Event: Sarah Strassberg. 2:30-3:30 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9380 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local author Sarah Strassberg discusses her debut novel, The Queen Anne Society. For Ages 9-14. Free. Email vperp@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUNDAY/MARCH 10

Grand Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m. at The Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. Historic Vienna Inc announces the grand opening of two new exhibits. 1. Uptowns, Vienna and the “50s.” Come experience Vienna in the 50s through an exciting multimedia exhibition. 2. Documentation, “Women Creating a More Perfect Democracy: 100 Years of the League of Women Voters.” Visit historicviennainc.org/.

Washington Saxophone Quartet. 4 p.m. At Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Tickets are $40 and may be purchased at the door or online at www.amadeusconcerts.com. Students 17 and under and active military are admitted free of charge. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A. Scott Wood will begin at 3:15 p.m. A reception will follow the concert, at which attendees may meet and chat with the performers and fellow music lovers.

Winter Concerts performed in partnership with the Italian Café Steakhouse. 7 p.m. at Balducci’s McLean Store, 6655 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The City of Vienna is celebrating the Great Tradition of French Choral Music, with guest artist Metropolitan Opera Soprano Danielle Talamantes, who is a graduate of McLean High School. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.thechoirofwashington.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 11

Internet and Net Neutrality. 7:30-8:30 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Free. In 2017, the FCC decided to eliminate open Internet access, firing widespread speculation about whether this would result in an Internet lacking in rules and consumer protections. Hear about the debate, how the FCC’s action will affect Internet users, and what happens next. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4708859.

SCOV Lunch n Life. At Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Cost: $15/person payment due by March 4, 2019. RSVP to SCOV office@scov.org – 703-281-0538.

TUESDAY/MARCH 12

1950s Civil Rights Issues. 7:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chamber of Vienna’s Town Hall, 127 Center St., Vienna. Colbert King is coming to Vienna to talk about 1950s civil rights issues. A Pulitzer Prize winning Washington Post journalist, he will speak at the Historic Vienna Inc meeting in connection with Historic Vienna Inc’s new exhibit “Vienna in the 1950s.” Refreshments will be served. Free and open to the public. Visit historicviennainc.org/

McLean Historical Society Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Phyllis Verhalen who will present “The Life of Julia Grant, Wife of President Ulysses Grant.” Call Carole Herrick at 703-356-7200.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Movie Series: New Disney Classics. 7:30 p.m. at the Alden Community Hall, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden is showing a new film series with “new Disney Classics” – those that were released during the 1990s. The films will be shown at 12:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month through May. Free admission. Visit mcleancenter.org/performing-arts.
ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

National Pi Day Celebration. Amphora Bakeries celebrate National Pi Day with iconic pies in their Vienna and Herndon locations. Call 703-564-0000 or visit amphorabakery.com/pi-landing-page.

THURSDAY/SATURDAY/MARCH 14-16

Oleanna

Thursday-Saturday/March 14-16

National Pi Day Celebration.

THURSDAY/MARCH 14

Oleanna

THURSDAY/MARCH 14

Oleanna

FRIDAY/MARCH 15

Game Night. 7 p.m. in the Chapel at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Game night for adults in their 20s and 30s. Board games and card games, and snacks will be provided. Free and open to all young adults in the area. Contact the Rev. Annamarie Goenchenbohm at 703-356-7200 or agroenenboom@lewinsville.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 15

Made to Move

SUNDAY/MARCH 17

The Glory of France

The City Choir of Washington’s celebrates the Great Tradition of French Choral Music, with guest artist Metropolitan Opera Soprano Danielle Talamantes, who is a graduate of McLean High School. Sunday, March 10, 4:30 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.thecitychoirofwashington.org.


WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at Nostos Restaurant, 8100 Boone Blvd. French-inspired members are invited. No reservations will be accepted after Friday, March 15. $40 per person. To attend, pay at squareup.com/market/mclean-newcomers-club. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org.

Dining with Dorothy. 12:30 p.m. At J.J. Skeldon’s, 900 Fairfax Blvd. Fairway. Join with your friends or make new ones. Newcomers are always welcome. To reserve your space, contact event chair Dorothy Flood at dflood1706@gmail.com or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

TEDxTysons OpenMic Night. 7-9:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center’s Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. In This award-winning family production meets StorySLAM-style evening, aspiring TEDx Talkers will present their 2-3 minute pitch to a full house... and at the end of the evening one speaker will be selected to develop and present a full TEDxTysons talk. For TED fans or someone who loves a behind the curtain glimpse. This is an all-ages event. A reception follows featuring McLean Project for the Arts artists. Tickets $16/$12 MCC tax district residents. Visit the website mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

The Joshua Show (Family Friendly). 1 p.m. At The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This award-winning family production features a modern-day Mr. Rogers with hipster appeal, live music, tap dancing, physical comedy and multiple styles of puppetry to take the audience on a journey to find the joy in being yourself. Cost is $15/$10 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 25

Ayr Hill Garden Club Event. 2-3:30 p.m. At Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Free. Speaker, Fairfax County Master Gardener, Molly O’Boyle, presents “All About Growing Vegetables and Herbs in Containers.” Molly will share strategies that include best plants to use, container selection, fertilizer do’s and don’ts, etc. Email Emilie Larson at emilieolson@rcn.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Sophocles’ “Antigone.” 2 p.m. At The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sophocles’ classic drama from 441 B.C. holds startling relevance today, examining divinity, obedience, and law—and how love overcomes them all. Cost is $40/$30 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Shakespeare’s “The Comedy of Errors.” 7:30 p.m. At The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Two long-separated twins, their two tricky servants (also twins), a jealous wife, and her lovelorn sister romp through this fast-paced comedy. Cost is $40/$30 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Run a family seat for our governor candidate forum.

Visit the Center at 1234 VANGLEDE BE, MC, WA 22101.

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

McLean Community Center

2019 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION

We are looking for residents of Small District 1A, Dranesville, who wish to serve their community by playing a lead role in helping to carry out MCC’s mission.

Candidate Petition Packages may be picked up at the Center starting January 22.

To contact the Center at:

Call: 703-790-0123, TTY: 711
Email: ELECTIONS@MCLEANCENTERS.ORG

Visit: www.MCLEANCENTER-LE.COM

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Sports

Pioneers Defeat Statesmen in Semifinals

Hagen Vandiver scored 21 points including 4 three pointers and Zach Blue added 17 for the Patriot Pioneers as the Pioneers held on for a 61-54 victory over the Marshall Statesmen on Feb. 25 in the semifinals of the Northern Region 6D tournament.

Vandiver connected on the first of his three pointers in the 1st quarter and scored half of his team’s 10 points. Teammate Yusef Salih also sank a shot from long distance, but it was Marshall who opened a 13-10 first quarter advantage behind Daniel Deaver’s 10, 1st quarter points. Jack Taylor added a 3 pointer.

In the 2nd quarter, Patriot made 9 field goals, five of which were three pointers. Jackson Ford, Yusef Salih, and Zach Blue each connected from long range with a three, while Vandiver scored 5 points in which he was successful on two from downtown. That shooting was enough for Patriot to overcome the early deficit and to take a 34-21 advantage. Jack Taylor’s 5 points paced Marshall for the quarter.

Marshall would go back to Deaver who added more points to his total. The Statesmen’s Ryan Schlaffer would score 4 points in the 3rd quarter helping Marshall to narrow their deficit to 45-35 by quarter’s end. Hagen Vandiver again led the Pioneers in scoring for the quarter accumulating 5 points. Jackson Ford added another 3 pointer for the Pioneers. Devon Parrish added his fourth basket of the game in the quarter.

In the 4th quarter, Patriot made 9 field goals, five of which were three pointers. Jackson Ford, Yusef Salih, and Zach Blue each connected from long range with a three, while Vandiver scored 5 points in which he was successful on two from downtown. That shooting was enough for Patriot to overcome the early deficit and to take a 34-21 advantage. Jack Taylor’s 5 points paced Marshall for the quarter.

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Marshall Takes Down Westfield, 64-45

11 in the quarter. Westfield’s Sam Johnson scored 6 points in the quarter while teammate Marshall Reed added 4, and Gavin Kiley added a basket. With just eight minutes to play and trailing 47-29 in regulation Westfield still had fight in them and outsorced the Statesmen 17-16, but were not able to stage a comeback. Marshall closed out the game with a 64-45 victory. Westfield’s Marshall Reed scored 8 points in the quarter, including two 3 pointers to give him a game high 25 points, and Trent Reimonenq added another three pointer. Taylor Morin and Robert Black each added a basket. Marshall’s Daniel Deaver scored 6 points in the quarter for a team high of 23 points. Jack Taylor added 5 points and ended the game with 9 points. Ryan Schlaffer scored two points and ended up with 17 for the game.

— Will Palenscar
March 22 - Assistive Technology to Support dementia. Helping those with dementia and their caregivers find fun, resources and ‘family.’ Email Carol Blackwell at cblackwell@aol.com or call 757-236-6933.

Thursday/March 8
Technology Fridays in March. FRIDAY/MARCH 8
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WEDNESDAY/MARCH 6
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*OPEN* SUN 3/10 2-4pm!

5848 Hilldon Street, McLean
*AMAZING* 4BR/3BA all brick home in sought-after Chesterbrook neighborhood! This two level home features stunning addition w/ great room, vaulted ceilings, & MBR w/ en suite BA; updated kitchen & BAs; finished lower level rec room w/ fireplace walks-out to the fenced back yard w/ private, treed views; two car garage; beautifully landscaped!

*OPEN* SUN 3/10 2-4pm!

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