

Haddad Ballet Presents 'The Snow Queen'

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Mother's Day Photo Gallery

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From left, Great Falls Volunteer Fire Chief Frank Smith, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Milburn Sanders and Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department President Joan Bliss. Milburn Sanders and his wife Ellen joined the Great Falls VFD in 1942, seven days after it was founded as an auxiliary to the McLean Fire Department.

Fire Department Turns 70

NEWS, PAGE 3

MAY 9-15, 2012

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Past Great Falls Volunteer Fire Chief Homer Johns presents Milburn Sanders, who joined the department 70 years ago, with a brick from the original station Saturday, May 5.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Volunteer Fire Department Celebrates 70 Years

New firehouse hosts anniversary celebration.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Milburn Sanders, 90, joined the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department (then known as the Forestville Fire Department) seven days after it opened on May 5, 1952. Seventy years later, he was part of the celebration at a new building, with generations of volunteer and career firefighters that came after him.

"The Volunteer Fire Department is a lifelong tradition in many American communities," said current Volunteer Fire Chief Frank Smith. "It's an icon this community can be proud of."

The fire department was established as an auxiliary to the McLean Fire Department. On Nov. 7, 1955, the name was changed to Great Falls.

The station opened up to the community Saturday, May 5, hosting families that wanted to explore the station and various rescue equipment.

The Volunteer Fire Department deeded the land the station is on to the county in 2007 and assisted in the planning, financing and construction of the new station.

"The Volunteers had a huge role in making this facility happen, and we at the county extend our appreciation for their contributions," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

"One of my favorite things about this fire department is they're always so open with us, letting kids come in a play around the vehicles and explore the building," said Jeff Bronson of Great Falls. "It really makes this a community spot, and we're always happy to show up and support the men and women who keep us safe."

Smith also made sure to recognize the volunteers who staff the station, thanking them for their hours of training and on-duty time.

"It's not a seasonal pastime," Smith said. "Firefighters train anywhere from hundreds to thousands of hours."



Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department President Joan Bliss and Volunteer Fire Chief Frank Smith are presented with an American flag by Mary Ann Cannon on behalf of Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) to commemorate their 70th anniversary Saturday, May 5.

The ceremony also featured presentations to VFD President Joan Bliss and past Volunteer Fire Chief Homer Johns from the Great Falls Optimist Club, thanking them for keeping the VFD involved in their many community events.

Wendy Adeler, who presented Bliss with her award, called her an "example of how to be charitable with her time, skills and an example to me as a young mother, how to find time for my family and my community."



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Great Falls Citizens Association's Seniors Group meet at the Great Falls Library Wednesday, May 2.

Seniors Group Plans First Events

Ecumenical Council members join with group, seek county charter.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Citizens Association's Seniors Group hosted their meeting with new membership Wednesday, May 2, as group mainstays were joined by representatives from local churches and Fairfax County. The group, which was founded last year and has been seeking input from local residents, started planning their first event and laid out plans for a year's worth of events, starting this September.

"Our vision is to establish a Great Falls Senior Center, based on the Burke-Springfield Senior Center Without Walls," said Bob Lundegard, an original member of the group. "They're a group of people that doesn't have a dedicated building, but they host regular events and activities for seniors."

Lundegard said the group reached out to the faith community since Great Falls lacks a formal community center, churches are well equipped to handle groups of people. The Great Falls Library's rooms are often booked and the Grange is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, so both of those do not meet the need.

THE SENIORS GROUP met with every member of the Great Falls Ecumenical Council, a group that includes eight local Christian churches.

Last year, Fairfax County budgeted for \$70 million to fund

senior citizens activities, none of which went to Great Falls.

"It was shocking to see that Great Falls doesn't have these services, and I was needing [Supervisor] John Foust [D-Dranesville] about it, and he said 'if you don't ask, you won't get,'" said Wayne Foley, a member of the group and GFCA board member.

Linda Fernald, another early member of the group, said she and her husband have three living parents between them, ages 98, 95 and 91, and that caring for them made them see the lack of resources in Great Falls.

"We realized that there just aren't any local programs to help socialize seniors or meet other needs, and we need to have that," she said.

Carol Blackwell and her family have experienced the kind of situation that the Seniors Group hopes to rectify. Several years ago her husband was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's.

"It was devastating, he had no one to talk to, and even though there are millions of people with the disease, we didn't feel connected to any of them," she said. "Here in Great Falls, we hope to find people who have struggled with what we've struggled with and connect them to people and resources."

Blackwell helps run the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter's Memory Café, a social meeting that connects those suffering from cognitive diseases and

SEE SENIORS, PAGE 6

Old Brogue Hosts Reston Smile Partners Fundraiser

Event raises funds for pro bono lab work for Reston Interfaith clients.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Old Brogue hosted a fundraiser Tuesday, May 1 for Reston Smile Partners, which operates in partnership with Reston Interfaith to provide pro bono dental care for their clients.

Reston Smile Partners is a network of 13 dental professionals who assist with general dentistry, five specialists and a lab, Reston-based Protech. Since its inception in March 2011 they have served 45 different individuals, most requiring multiple visits.

"Ever since we attended Best of Reston a few years ago, I've taken on a few pro bono cases for Reston Interfaith and Cindy asked me 'Why don't you see if some of your colleagues will join in?'" Frederick Dibbs said. "I was reluctant at first to ask them to get involved, but everybody I approached was open and willing, and they've been unbelievably cooperative ever since."

One of the first dentists he approached



From left, Reston Smile Partners Members Sumit Sharma, Luis Martinez, Charles Fields, Frederick Dibbs, Joan Wise of Reston Interfaith and Joseph Richardson at a fundraiser at The Old Brogue Tuesday, May 1.

was Dr. Sumit Sharma, who does general dentistry work.

"Everyone I've worked with has been so thankful, and they're always flexible. I see them before the start of my regular day, about one patient a month," Sharma said. "One patient had to come in for seven vis-

its, for a total of eight extractions and two root canals."

Joan Wise of Reston Interfaith has served as liaison for the program since the beginning.

"We simply could not provide these services without the time and talents of these

individuals and groups," she said. "They're helping people get healthy and get back into the workforce, and it's amazing to watch how informative it's been for clients."

Wise recalled one client who always seemed to be in a foul mood, until she had a few extractions that eased the tooth pain she had felt for years.

"All of a sudden she became the sweetest, gentlest person," Wise said. "There was another woman who was missing her two front teeth, and she never smiled, she had no self-confidence. Now she's confident and always smiling, it has truly been miraculous."

The funds raised at the May 1 event were to supplement the donated lab costs from Protech, who handle two cases per month pro bono.

"We can't expect the lab to do everything for free, or the dentists to pay the lab fee in addition to their donated time," Frederick Dibbs said. "These funds will help us cover more lab costs for more clients."

Reston Interfaith handles the initial screening of clients, and if they meet the criteria they are examined by a dentist, who can perform cleaning, in-office procedures, send work to a lab and send to a specialist if needed.

More information about Reston Smile Partners and other services can be found at www.restoninterfaith.org.



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NEWS

Marina Mist by
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Great Falls Artist Earns Honorable Mention in Watercolor Exhibition

The Charles H. Taylor Art Center in Hampton, Va. is currently hosting the 33rd annual Virginia Watercolor Societies Exhibition. Juried and judged by N.C. artist, Dan Smith, with 494 entries by 175 artists across the state, the work of Great Falls artist, Betty Ganley, a painting capturing the "mood" of a misty morning in a Maine boatyard, was awarded an Honorable Mention and has been hailed by the judge as "a traditional boat composition, docked for repair

... I found the virtuosity of the watercolor application remarkable." Ganley, an artist for over 30 years, and the recipient of over 70 awards, is known for her nautical and floral pieces. The Virginia Watercolor Exhibition is on display through May 27. More of Betty Ganley's works can be found on her web site - bettyganley.com - and exhibited at the Great Falls Library, during Great Falls Studios annual Studio Tour, Oct. 20 and 21, 2012.

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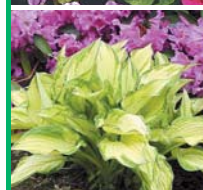
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NEWS

Seniors Count on County

FROM PAGE 3

their caregivers with others in the same situation.

Joy Trickett, a member of the Dranesville Church of the Brethren, said she knows of many people who could use the group's services and would take advantage of future events.

"There's a lot of elderly widows and widowers who have been left behind in Great Falls, who want to stay here, but don't have the friendships to keep them active," she said.

Madelyn McCabe said she attended because her and her husband "love our house and love this community, and we'd like to age in place."

The Seniors Group hopes to hold their first event in July, which will honor 50 Great Falls residents who have lived here for 50 years or more.

After July's event, they hope to hold a monthly event, for about three hours in the middle of the day, starting in September and for at least a year. The budget for each event will be about \$500, Lundegard said, enough for lunch, transportation and a small amount going to the host building.

THEIR NEXT STEP is to become chartered by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors as an official group, and they are currently

drawing up their proposal to submit to Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

Jennifer Duarte of the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, said there are a variety of services the county can provide.

"We can help get grants, bring in speakers from the police, fire department and AARP, as well as bring in instructors for events like line dancing, Pilates and yoga," she said. "Once we figure out this community's specific needs, there will be a lot more opportunities. We know there is a significant need here, the closest Senior Center in Herndon, and many seniors just can't make it that far."

"This is our chance to create a lasting, significant institution in Great Falls, one that will enrich the life of older adults, a community that is getting larger," Lundegard said. "We want to make sure the group is around in five to 10 years, we're going to need a constant supply of new energy, people and ideas."

The GFCA Seniors Group meets at the Great Falls Library, the next meeting will be Thursday, June 14 at 1 p.m. Their first event is currently scheduled for July 11 at 11 a.m.

They are also holding a survey online to gauge the needs of seniors, families and caregivers and can be found online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/GFCA.

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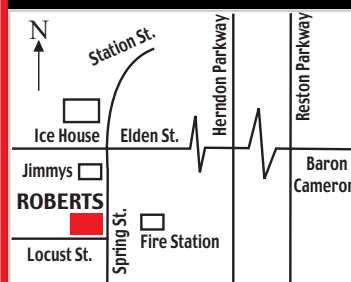
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Despite the high number of drivers in Northern Virginia who already have an E-Z Pass transponder, when the HOT-Lanes open on the Beltway, there will be pressure for many more drivers to subscribe.

VDOT is now proposing to tack on an additional \$1 a month fee for each E-ZPass transponder. Note that is per transponder, not per account, so in a household with multiple cars and multiple transponders, the additional annual charge could be \$36, \$48 or \$60.

There are 900,000 transponders in use in Virginia now, with an expected need for more than 400,000 more coming with the new I-495 Express Lanes.

Driving through the E-ZPass lane on the Dulles Toll Road without stopping while cars without a transponder line up to slog through is one advantage. The two other places one can use the E-ZPass

in Northern Virginia are the Dulles Greenway and, soon, the "express lanes" on the Beltway.

One of the disadvantages of using the E-ZPass is that you seldom know how much you are paying, and it's significant. Signs with full information about tolls are few and far between, and so far nonexistent on some roads.

Motorists will need an E-ZPass transponder to ride in the Beltway express lanes. Vehicles with three or more people will be able to drive in the express lanes for free if they have a Flex transponder which has a switch that identifies carpoolers, but which also costs more than a regular transponder.

It is worth noting that 100 percent of the tolls from the Beltway HOT-lanes will be collected by the private company that is building them, without any revenue sharing with the Commonwealth. If it is really VDOT's responsibility to maintain the system to collect those tolls, then that is a failure in the crafting of

the contract to build the lanes. Apparently all E-ZPass account holders will be paying for the contractor's collection of funds.

Meanwhile, we're still not sure what it will cost to drive in the express lanes, but we do know that the amount will vary depending on traffic. We can only hope that signs will make it clear how much it will cost.

Today VDOT approved four new signs for the Greenway that will at least let drivers know how much they are paying. The answer is more than \$5 each way, not counting the new fee per transponder.

VDOT will not hold public hearings on this, although it should. It will be accepting emailed comments. Visit www.virginiadot.org/e-zpass or submit comments directly to vdotinfo@vdot.virginia.gov.

— MARY KIMM,

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Ordinary Heroes

BY MEGAN MAN
SOPHOMORE/TJHSST

When most people hear the word "hero," they think of the man with tights and a cape.

People expect heroes to make the quick change into their alter ego, and swoop in from the sky just in the nick of time to save the day from disaster. Growing up in McLean, I've been intrigued by the superheroes fighting off the bad guys in comic books. Internally, I cheered as the city was safe for another day. Tying a cape around my shoulders, I would pretend to be Superman, activating my laser vision on all in my sight, or the mighty Thor, waving around my hammer of gold. I have yet to see someone in McLean swoop in from the skies, or possess the Odinfence.

However, I have seen some pretty remarkable superheroes.

The heart of the CIA pulses in the Langley area of McLean. Men and women in business suits scurry in and out of the building with an air of mystery. The fortress, famed for its secrecy, is evidence of the well oiled machine of the government. America's Batman and Batwomen – the CIA agents, are saving the world that we see whizzing by under our noses. These men and women are resolving conflict, and, in many cases, are risking their lives. They have to sacrifice time with their families to commit to their jobs, and ultimately, their country.

"All of a sudden, I had transported my family across the coun-



Megan Man

try, taken a big pay cut, folded up my house in California, and rented a place in Washington, and I was working for a man who really did not understand what I was trying to do," explains former Director of the Office of Science and Technology Albert Wheelon in an interview about his involvement with the CIA during the Cold War.

Take a leisurely drive through the suburban streets of McLean, and you'll occasionally see cloth banners hanging on the front doors of houses. A blue star printed on a white background with a red border running along its sides, merely the size of a sheet of paper, holds the basis of which this country was founded upon. Growing up, I would pass those houses and think "Oh, what a nice decoration." I was unaware that the families of those serving in the military would hang those banners as a physical representation of the sacrifices that would be made in wars so far away from my sheltered bubble. For many residents of McLean, conflicts seem so far away. We see it on the news every night, and think "Oh dear, I can't believe that people are dying." The moment you pass those banners is when you come to the sudden realization of how real the consequences are on the frontlines in comparison to our mundane lives. Soldiers aren't just people who get shipped off to con-

flicts; they're our neighbors.

We can't forget about our local heroes – the ones on call day in and day out. Who do we call in a medical emergency? Who do we see annually at McLean Day, educating the community about what they do? The volunteer fire and police departments, as well as the emergency medical services play a critical role in our everyday lives, whether we take note of it or not. My earliest memory of McLean Day was climbing into a red fire truck. My mouth was agape as my toddler self was floored in wonder at the shiny metal and the fire hose. The firemen and firewomen make a conscious effort to reach out and educate society about fire safety. The police department also lends out a hand to the community of education. I remained giddy with excitement as I sat through a presentation by a police officer at my elementary school. I still remember racing home with a plan to share with my family all that the police taught us on what to do in emergency situations. These volunteer heroes don't just carry out their duties in a mediocre fashion, but go above and beyond their calling.

The most overlooked heroes are right next to you. You see them in the grocery store, in the library. Without its volunteers, McLean would not be the progressive suburb that it currently is. People willing to give their time to straighten up bookshelves, or help at a children's program save not only money for the organization, but their acts of kindness resonate

throughout the community.

Say, for example, someone volunteers at a program designed for disabled children. The program has volunteers care for the children, so that the parents could have a day off. Long term effects include the parents being able to fully contribute to create a healthy community.

A task as mundane as helping straighten up the bookshelves at the library could be an act of graciousness. Who knows? Maybe seeing a library with organized and straightened bookshelves

could encourage people to return to the library to read.

A hero needn't be a member of the CIA, or have to fight battles overseas. Take a look at Captain America. He started out as the scrawny Steve Rogers, a military brainiac. Everyone else around him had the capacity to crawl through barbed wire, or had the ability to execute countless pushups. And yet none of them were willing to sacrifice themselves and cover the grenade before it blew up their troop mates. All except Steve Rogers. Eventually, he would continue on to save the world from destruction. Do you ever think, "I'm just a human, how could I ever be special?"

Are there times when you feel as if you're just slugging through yet another nine to five workday, only to come home too tired to do anything useful? Remember the heroes of McLean – the sacrifices that they have made, and how it didn't take much to save the world.

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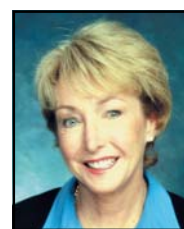


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PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

March 2012 Top Sales in McLean and Great Falls

1 1174 Old Tolson Mill Road,
McLean — \$6,000,000



2 814 Leigh
Mill Road,
Great Falls —
\$3,900,000



4 886 Chinquapin Road,
McLean — \$2,800,000

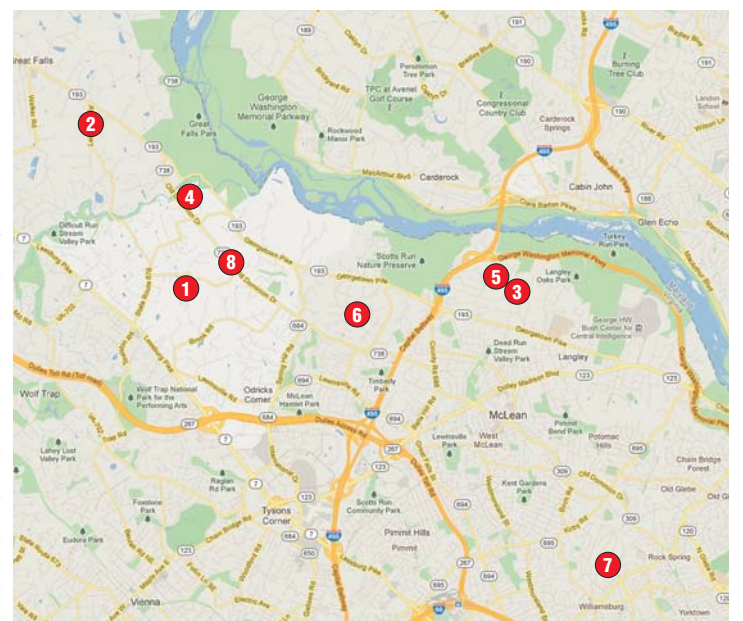


5 6719
Wemberly Way,
McLean —
\$2,795,000



6 922 Dominion Reserve Drive, McLean
— \$2,600,000

7 2023 Rockingham Street,
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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City ...	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC ..	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 1174 OLD TOLSON MILL RD ..	6	..	7	. 3	.....	MCLEAN	\$6,000,000	Detached	2.00	22102	ASH GROVE	03/05/12
2 814 LEIGH MILL RD	9	..	10	. 4	.....	GREAT FALLS ..	\$3,900,000	Detached	3.50	22066	FORESTVILLE	03/14/12
3 836 WHANN AVE	6	..	6	. 2	.....	MCLEAN	\$3,475,000	Detached	0.84	22101	LANGLEY FOREST	03/15/12
4 886 CHINQUAPIN RD	7	..	8	. 2	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,800,000	Detached	5.00	22102	MCLEAN FALLS AT CHINQUAP ...	03/29/12
5 6719 WEMBERLY WAY	6	..	6	. 2	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,795,000	Detached	1.00	22101	PARKVIEW HILLS	03/30/12
6 922 DOMINION RESERVE DR .	5	..	6	. 2	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,600,000	Detached	0.94	22102	GARFIELD PARK	03/30/12
7 2023 ROCKINGHAM ST	5	..	5	. 3	.....	MCLEAN	\$2,500,000	Detached	0.52	22101	FRANKLIN PARK	03/02/12
8 8535 OLD DOMINION DR	4	..	5	. 0	MCLEAN	\$2,225,000	Detached	2.40	22102	MB DAWKINS	03/15/12

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Home Life Style

A kaleidoscopic landscape encourages lounging outdoors. David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center says such spaces are created with vibrantly colored planters and vivid flowers like knockout roses and endless summer hydrangeas.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER



The Best Seats Outside the House

Local designers offer tips for creating a spectacular patio or deck.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Warm weather means more time spent lounging by the pool or grilling on the patio. A winter-worn outdoor space can make popular warm weather pastimes less than appealing.

Creating a space that provides both comfort and style can be a daunting undertaking. Local designers are offering suggestions for creating a luxurious retreat fit for relaxing or outdoor entertaining.

When a home's interior flows effortlessly into its outdoor surroundings, a patio or deck becomes an extension of the house. "Accessories are now focused on bringing indoor luxuries outside," said McLean-based designer Shanon Munn of Ambi Design Studio in McLean. "Outdoor furniture is now made larger and more comfortable, and outdoor fabrics are more beautiful than ever. We're really able to match the outside more closely to a home's interior."

Lamps, mirrors and even chandeliers are among the trendiest alfresco accents. Outdoor rugs deliver an instant elegant impact. "Another nice luxury is an outdoor articulating fan," said Munn. "Those work twofold. They keep you and your guest cool and keep mosquitoes away."

INDULGENCE WAS THE THEME on a Potomac patio designed by Jim Rill, principal of Rill Architects. He furnished the space with kitchen appliances and a television, all built for outdoor use, and topped it with a stained wood ceiling. "It's like having a living room outdoors," said Rill. "The spaces are connected to the outside, while also protected from the



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Trendy alfresco accents like outdoor lamps, mirrors and even chandeliers can help make a patio or deck feel like an extension of a home's interior. McLean-based designers Shanon Munn and Amanda Welch, of Ambi Design Studio, incorporated these elements into the master deck of the D.C. Design House.

elements."

When designing the patio of an Alexandria home, Landscape architect Stephen Wlodarczyk of Botanical Decorators incorporated flowers in bursts of color. "I see the use of bold colors being the trend," he said.

Wlodarczyk said that growers are developing "designer" flowers in hues that span the color spectrum.

SEE PATIO, PAGE 12

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Home Life Style

Patio with 'European Feel'

FROM PAGE 11

He has a penchant for coneflowers, which bloom throughout the summer and come in varieties with names like hot lava, gumdrop and Maui sunshine.

David Watkins, a Fairfax Station resident and manager of Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax, Gainesville and Merrifield agrees that brightly colored blooms pack a powerful punch. "We're adding vibrant colors to landscapes with flowers like knockout roses and endless summer hydrangeas," he said.

The trend extends to patio furniture. "We're going from patio umbrellas and chair cushions in browns and blacks to colors like magenta," said Watkins.

TO MAKE A PATIO or deck child-friendly, Nancy Towmey, principal designer of Finnian's Moon Interiors, an Alexandria-based firm, suggests weatherproof storage ottomans and child-sized tables and chairs. "Kids like to be comfortable just like everybody else," she said. "Ottomans are great for holding their toys."

Don't skimp when it comes to quality. "I would encourage people to buy something decent. It is usually worth the money to invest in something decent," she said.

Gina Benincasa, landscape designer with D&A Dunlevy Landscapers, Inc. says that when building



PHOTO COURTESY OF D&A DUNLEVY LANDSCAPERS, INC.

When building this McLean patio, designers with D&A Dunlevy Landscapers combined stone and foliage. "Trendier patios are now very detailed," said landscape designer Gina Benincasa.

the patio of a McLean home recently, her team paid particular attention to the foundation. "Trendier patios are now very detailed and use all different kinds of stone like limestone and travertine stone," she said. "Adding a pebbled mosaic as part of the patio or in some cases the whole patio is really decorative and can give it a European feel."

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Shoppers can choose from a wide range of plants and shrubs at reasonable prices offered at the Great Falls Garden Club annual plant sale.

Great Falls Garden Club's Annual Plant Sale

The Great Falls Garden Club will hold its Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, May 12 from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. In addition to the Plant Sale, the Great Falls Garden Club will be hosting a Small Standard Flower Show from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike. One can see, in the Horticulture Division, what beautiful flowers can be grown in the Great Falls area. Everyone is invited.

Hundreds of plants donated by Club members will be offered for sale. This year, in addition to selling a wide variety of plants, there will also be a Garden Treasures Sale of items

ranging from plant related books, to household items donated by Club members.

Because of the popularity of the Plant Sale, come early for best selection; it's not unusual for all to sell out by 11:30. The funds raised will be used to support various Club activities, including community beautification projects. By popular demand the Club has added a Horticultural Resources page to its website www.gfgardenclub.org providing links to information on plant diseases and pests, helpful books, local public gardens, plant identification and more.

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With pianist Adam Golka. Britten's Sinfonia da Requiem, Debussy's La Mer, Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand, and Elgar's Enigma Variations. Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

Great Falls Garden Club Plant Sale and Flower Show. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great

Falls. Plant sale 9 a.m.-1 p.m., flower show 1-4 p.m. Free admission. 703-759-3130 or joanburkgren@cox.net.

Great Falls Citizens Association 3rd Annual Walk along the Potomac River. 1 p.m. Fraser Preserve, 101 Springvale Road, Great Falls. See some of the largest trees in Virginia, led by Tree Commissioner Bob Vickers. See marshes, woodlands, a variety of birds and more. Free. Wear good walking shoes and bring a water bottle. bcanis@yahoo.com.

Victorian Hanging Baskets. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15



Safe Community Coalition

Prescription Medicine Collection

McLean Day

May 19, 2012, 10:00am-5:00pm

McLean Community Center

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

Fill moss-covered baskets with a variety of foliage and flowering plants. \$30. Pre-payment required at 703-255-3631.

A Studio Rep Production: Make 'em Laugh. 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. "Sure Thing" and "The Philadelphia" by David Ives, "An Ongoing Examination of the True Meaning of Life" by S.W. Senek and "Penitent," an original play by Samantha Downey. Presented by Studio Rep, a company of local high school students. For age 12 and up. \$10-\$15.

sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Starshine Theater: Folk Tales USA. 7 p.m. The Grange Theater, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Starring local students. Reception follows. Reserve at 703-790-9050 or Pat@StarshineTheater.com.

The Snow Queen, A Two Act Children's Ballet. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Presented by the Studio of Classical Ballet. Tickets: Adults \$20, seniors and student \$18, children \$15. 703-759-3366.

Church Yard Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. Hot dog lunch served mid-day. Sponsored by the United Methodist Men of Charles Wesley UMC. www.charleswesleyumc.org.

Bids Benefiting Kids Concert at 1:30 p.m.; An Evening with David Lindley at 7:30 p.m.; In The Lobby Bar with SNRG presents "Simple Variety" at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 13

Clarinetist Robert Patterson and Pianist Audrey Andrist. 3 p.m. Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Bernstein Clarinet Sonata, the Brahms Clarinet Sonata No. 2, Debussy's Premiere Rhapsodie and more. Free. 703-620-9535 or 703-324-8344.

Songs of Mothers From the Bible. 5 p.m. Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. An original cantata by Jane R. Cooper. Donations accepted to benefit African women with HIV and AIDS. 703-795-6068.

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St, N, Vienna. Adults \$8, children \$3. Omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon and more. Open to the public. 703-938-6580.

Alleghany St., Dan Fisk, Crossover 757 and Brian Franke at 1:30 p.m.; Garrison Starr CD Release Show and Erick Baker at 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/MAY 14

John Parr (St. Elmo's Fire) and Anthony Da Costa. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/MAY 15

Never Shout Never, Koji, Kurt Travis and Bearcat. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women Spring Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Assaggi Osteria, 6641 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Featuring speaker Johnnetta Cole, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, on African Art: Why is it Important to American Art and Culture. Dinner \$38.50. All welcome. Reserve at 703-356-0529 or www.mcleanaauw.org.



PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Sophie Foulad, 11; Ava Campbell, 8; Sabrina Luz, 10; Rachel Keenan, 9, and Nicole Luz, 12, will be a part of the Haddad Ballet's performance of "The Snow Queen" on May 12.

Haddad Ballet Presents 'The Snow Queen'

Performance will be studios fourth in Great Falls, first since 2006.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet will present "The Snow Queen" at the Madeira School in McLean Saturday, May 12. This is the fourth time Haddad has put on the show since coming to Great Falls and the first since 2006.

She first put it on while living in Kenya in 1986, as a fundraiser for the cancer ward of the Jomo Kenyatta Hospital.

"We've got around 60 people in the show, each one playing multiple roles," Haddad said. "Each character change involves a change in personality

as well, which is good for the dancers, to imagine bringing a different character to life."

The story is based off Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tale of the same name, first published in 1845. It tells the story of playmates Kai (played by Anthony Haddad, 9) and Gerda (played by Justine Verheul, 13) who encounter supernatural beings.

"The Snow Queen" will be performed Saturday, May 12 at 2 and 7 p.m. at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students and seniors and \$12 for children. Tickets can be purchased by calling 703-759-3366.



From left, Alexis Unwalla, 18, as the Snow Queen and Eliza Campbell, 17, as Frost, part of the Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet's performance of "The Snow Queen" which will take place May 12.



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McLean Kids Series

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Wednesday, May 16, 8 p.m.

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Highlanders Hoping to Take Off in Soccer Postseason

District OT losses have hurt McLean boys, but team is poised for strong showing at upcoming Liberty tournament.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

It has been a season of several frustrating, down to the wire losses for the McLean High boys' soccer team. On the other hand, the Highlanders have also won enough games to have clinched a winning regular season record and to believe they can be an impact team at the upcoming Liberty District and perhaps even the Northern Region playoffs.

"I think we've played well," said McLean head coach Mike Anderson, whose team held a decent enough 6-4-2 overall record with one regular season game remaining. "We've been a little unfortunate."

McLean, which was scheduled to close out the regular season on Wednesday, May 9 of this week with a district home game versus Marshall, is 3-3 in district play. All three of the Highlanders Liberty losses - setbacks to Jefferson, 1-0; South Lakes, 2-1; and Langley, 2-1 - came in the late stages of second overtime sessions.

In the most recent defeat - a district home setback to cross-town rival Langley last Wednesday night, May 2 - the Highlanders held a 1-0 lead late in regulation play before the talented Saxons tied the contest and ultimately won in extra play.

Those close game losses McLean has undergone this season are going to have to be the types of games the Highlanders win if they want to make a strong run at next week's eight-team Liberty District tournament.

"Some of it has been lack of focus," said Anderson, of the overtime district losses. "And we've been a little bit unlucky."

McLean is likely to be the district tournament's No. 4-seed and will meet either South Lakes or Stone Bridge in a first round (quarterfinals) game next Monday night, May 14. If the Highlanders clinch the No. 4-seed by beating Marshall this week, they will host their first round playoff game on Monday.

By winning its playoff opener, McLean would advance to a district semifinals contest at Fairfax High School on Wednesday, May 16. Also, a quarterfinals win would automatically qualify McLean for the following week's 16-team Northern Region playoffs. A loss, however, would end the Highlanders' season.

Anderson believes his team, which has proven to be an offensive juggernaut this spring (an impressive 36 goals over 12 games), can catch fire and get on a postseason roll.

"I think we're really starting to find our stride," said Anderson, whose team looked outstanding last Friday night - two evenings following the disappointing loss to Langley - in a 5-1 district win over visiting Madison. "We have an awesome team and can beat anybody."

But the coach also realizes his team can be beaten if it is not on its game. Monday's quarterfinals round playoff affair, against either South Lakes or Stone Bridge,



The McLean High boys' soccer team lost to South Lakes 2-1 in overtime during the regular season. The Seahawks could be the Highlanders first round Liberty District playoff opponent next week.

will be a must-win game against a good opponent.

Anderson said both the Seahawks and Bulldogs are good teams. He said South Lakes, while not a prolific scoring team, is tough and good on defense. Stone Bridge, he said, is outstanding in scoring off of set pieces and would also be quite a challenge. McLean did beat Stone Bridge during the regular season by a 4-2 score on May 1 in Ashburn.

DEFENSIVELY, McLean has played fairly solid this season.

"Our defense is good," said Anderson. "We've had some hiccups."

A couple of positional changes proved to be beneficial for McLean in the win over Madison. Midfielders Theo Erickson and David Galdo, both juniors, were moved back to defender positions while a couple of defenders, including Jonathan Dunn, moved to midfield.

"Both are natural defenders and stabilize the back for us," said Anderson, of talented players Erickson and Galdo.

Anderson was pleased with the way his players took to and responded to the changes. McLean scored all five of its goals over the first 50 minutes of play versus the Warhawks. Dunn contributed a pair of assists. The Highlanders played a solid game defensively and displayed some firepower on offense.

"We have so much arsenal on offense," said Anderson.

McLean's top goal scorers this spring have been senior forward Mark Saunders (10 goals), senior midfielder Mike Russo (8), and senior defenseman Kyle Pyne (7).

Saunders, Russo, and Pyne are senior team captains, along with midfielder Nikolas Pavlis and goalie Rob Maffei.

Russo (University of Central Florida) and Maffei (Manhattan College) have accepted partial scholarships to play collegiate soccer next school year.

Anderson said his 2012 Highlanders have a good, winning mindset.

"Mentally, they're a very strong group with strong captains," said the coach. "They lost a heart-breaker versus their main rival [Langley] and came back and beat Madison."

SPORTS ROUNDUPS



The McLean High boys' tennis team recently captured the Liberty District championship. Next up for head coach Aavo Tomkov's team is the postseason with the Liberty District Tournament, set to run this week (Monday, May 7 through Friday, May 11) at both McLean High and Lewinsville Park. The Northern Region Tournament is scheduled for next week beginning on Monday, May 14.

George C. Marshall High School is pleased to announce the hiring of Sarah Baker as its new head gymnastics coach. Coach Baker brings with her 12 years of competitive experience and most recently served as an assistant with both the Marshall and McLean High coaching staffs. Last season, Mclean finished first in the Liberty District and Marshall was third. As the new head coach for Marshall, Baker will continue to develop Statesmen student athletes to become the best they can be in both the classroom and in gymnastics.

The **Langley High girls' softball team**, in a Liberty District home game versus first place Stone Bridge last Tuesday, May 1, lost by an 11-6 score. Langley gained an early lead with a single by Taylor Chason, sacrifice bunt by Kaitryn Evans, and a sacrifice fly by Maggie Natal. The Saxons added to the lead in the bottom of the third inning with singles by Gabi Pijaca and Julia Weeks, and a triple by Taylor Chason. Singles by Kaitryn Evans, Karina Strum, and an RBI off the bat of Natal increased Langley's lead to 5-

0. Stone Bridge rallied and scored two runs in the top of the fourth. But Langley did not relent. A single by Mel Dronfield and a double by Gabi Pijaca added an additional run to make the score 6-2 Langley through four innings. Stone Bridge, however, stepped up and scored five runs in the fifth inning and four more in the seventh to gain control of the game.

Three days later, Langley, in a pitcher's duel at district opponent Madison, was edged by a 1-0 score. Emily Templin pitched all six innings for the Saxons, striking out four Warhawks and allowing just four hits. With the game scoreless in the sixth inning, Maggie Natal tripled with two outs. But Madison pitcher Kelsey Ross then retired the next batter for the final out, stranding Natal at third. Madison scored its run in the bottom half of the sixth and Ross retired the Saxons in order in the seventh to seal the win for the Warhawks. Ross, over seven innings, allowed just one hit. Both teams, throughout the game, made numerous good defensive plays in the field to back their pitchers.



The Langley High girls' tennis team is this season's champion of the Liberty District after going 14-0 over the regular season. This year marks the first time in at least 10 years that the Langley girls' team has gone unbeaten during the regular season. Langley, under head coach Sara Vincent, will be competing at the Northern Region Championships beginning Thursday, May 17.

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MOTHER'S DAY PHOTO GALLERY

"I'm Fine"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Mostly. All things considered, and as a stage IV (terminal) lung cancer patient, it's impossible – for me, to not consider all things.

What I'm considering in this column is how – and why – I typically respond to well-meaning inquiries regarding my health. Generally speaking, I'm not going to give any in-depth answers to most people who ask. I am happy to provide a relatively curt, but courteous answer. I'm not inclined (nor do I feel the need) to give any unsuspecting – or even a suspecting and sincere questioner, both barrels: diagnosis, prognosis, appointments, scan results, treatment protocol, etc. It's "T.M.I." It's not that I'm uncomfortable or even unwilling – or unable to respond in this kind of detail, it's more that I'm unenthusiastic. I'd really rather, unless compelled by a particularly persistent person, to not bother/bore anybody with chapter and verse about how I got to where I am. It's not exactly that I don't feel it's anybody's business (obviously I do, given the content of my weekly column), it's more that I'm selfish, sort of. My delusion is, the less I talk about having cancer, the less serious my circumstances are. It's a reworked version of George Costanza's advice to Jerry Seinfeld on how to beat a lie-detector test: "It's not a lie, if you believe it." If I don't blather on about it (having cancer), it's not that serious. Alternatively, the more I talk about it, the more believable it becomes and the more inevitable are the consequences. If I don't give it life (by talking about it), perhaps it dies and I don't.

Don't get me wrong, I will talk about having cancer (I certainly write about it enough), but it doesn't really bring me the kind of joy that most opportunities to talk about oneself generally do. Oh sure, I have a pretty good story to tell; having outlived my original prognosis by years, but perhaps the less said, the better. Sometimes I feel as if I'm flying under the radar and the fact that I was diagnosed with incurable, stage IV lung cancer in February, 2009 has slipped through the cracks somehow and been forgotten. To that end, as much as possible – in public, I try not to dwell on having cancer. I have it. Next. If I don't publicize it, maybe I don't hasten its apparently delayed effect.

There's so much that goes on, psychologically – in my head, when it comes to having cancer. Accepting it is one thing – which I've done, but being victimized by it is quite another and something I will not allow. Of course I have some physical issues that prevent me living a "normal" life, but I view them more as opportunities to make the best of a bad situation rather than making the worst of it. Where's the future in that? There isn't, at least in my strategic plan. And though I joke about pretending and being in denial about having cancer; the truth is, I'm quite comfortable with my circumstances – and my attitude. I really am "fine" with all of it.

Sometimes, most times in fact, I'd simply rather not talk about it. I'd rather talk about something else, anything else. It's actually therapeutic to do so. Thanks for asking though, but not for the reason you might think. Oddly enough, though it's a question I realize will be asked, as often as not, it provides me an opportunity to give an answer that you might not expect: it's not always about me, and it shouldn't be, in spite of my circumstances. Life goes on – for all of us, and that's what interests me.

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



Cynthia Travers and Cristina Travers Ruzila, both of Great Falls, on a Mom/Daughter getaway in Cancun, Mexico. Just celebrating life!



Halloween 2011 at the Great Falls Village - Rose, Melodee, and Gloria Boos.



Great Falls residents (from left to right) Tess and Tim Higgins with their mom, Una.



Brooke, 7, and mom Patty Dawn, of Great Falls, share a hug after school.



Wendy Pan, of Great Falls, with her boys (husband Gary with Garrett, Wesley and Mitchell).



Melodee and Rose Boos, of Great Falls, walking at River Bend.



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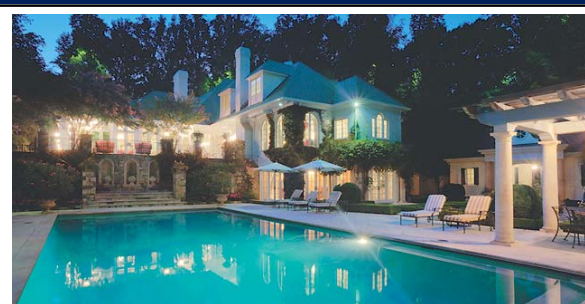
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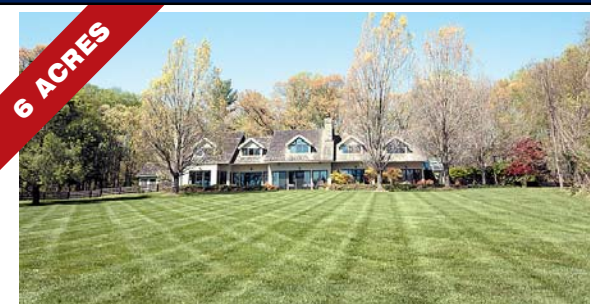
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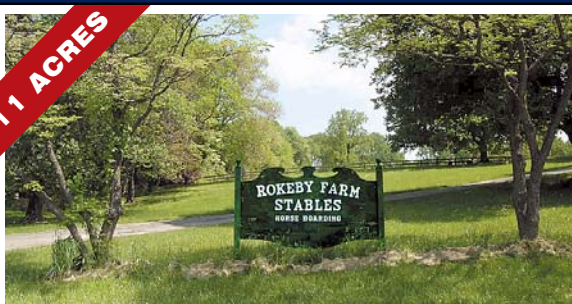
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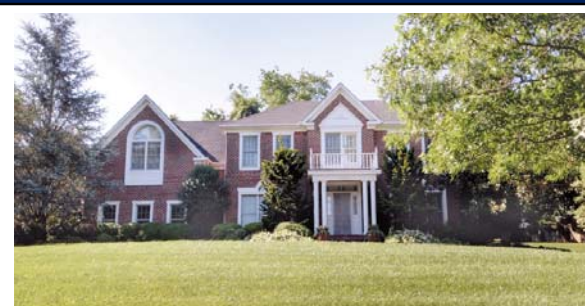
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