

Fall Fun in McLean

FALL FUN 2012, PAGE 11

Austin Young, 8, holds the pumpkin he found at last year's pumpkin patch at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. This year's will begin Oct. 6, and will support local charities.

Keeping Tysons Corner Moving

NEWS, PAGE 3

Cordial Debate Turns Into Controversy

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Cordial Debate Turns Into Controversy

Allen, Kaine battle for Northern Virginia votes.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Mohammed Ashiq, a longtime employee at Luciano's restaurant in Oakton, was working at the restaurant Sunday when former Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine met with supporters at the Oakton shopping center.

"I'm still pretty much undecided," Ashiq said, "but I have a 9-year-old daughter and education is an important issue for me."

Ashiq said he liked what Kaine had to say about increasing access to affordable higher education, but he wanted to hear more from both candidates before making up his mind.

Scott Tanner, who was dropping his daughter off at the center for a birthday party, said he is "leaning slightly in favor of Kaine" over former Republican Senator George Allen, who is vying to win back his seat from retiring Democratic Senator Jim Webb.

In a tight race that could decide which party controls the Senate, Northern Virginia has become the battleground region within the battleground state, and both candidates have spent an increasing amount of time and money courting voters in the region.

In the past few weeks, Kaine and Allen have crisscrossed Fairfax County almost daily, meeting with voters at business roundtable candidate forums. Last week, campaign momentum was beginning to favor Kaine when two independent polls showed Kaine opening up a significant lead for the first time after 17 months of campaigning. A Quinnipiac University-CBS News-New York Times poll released Wednesday, Sept. 19, showed Kaine had a 7 percentage point lead over Allen, 51 percent to 44 percent.

THE NEXT DAY, the former governors faced off in a highly-anticipated debate at the Capitol One Center in McLean that demonstrated clear differences in their approach to policy and fiscal issues. It was the third of five scheduled debates.



U.S. Senate candidates Tim Kaine and George Allen face off during the Fairfax Chamber debate in McLean on Thursday, Sept. 20.



"If you want a job, you ought to join the Allen team."

—George Allen



"I'm open to dialogue, and I don't see how openness is something controversial."

—Tim Kaine

Hosted by the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and moderated by David Gregory, host of NBC's "Meet the Press," the candidates were more cordial than

SEE Kaine, PAGE 17



Tim Steinhilber of Transurban-Fluor, gives an update on the progress of the project Friday, Sept. 21 at the annual Keep Tysons Moving program at Capital One Headquarters.

Keeping Tysons Corner Moving

Event provides updates on 495 Express Lanes, Dulles Metrorail.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

those who live, work and play in the Tysons area."

In the next 15 months, Tysons Corner will see almost \$5 billion in new transportation projects come online. The 485 Express Lanes are scheduled to open by the end of this year, and by the end of next year, five stops along the Silver Line will connect Reston and Tysons Corner to the rest of the metro system.

The fourth annual Keep Tysons Moving event was held Friday, Sept. 21 at Capital One Headquarters, featuring leadership from these projects to provide an update on what commuters can expect in the coming months.

"Since 2008 we've been living and working with construction zones around Tysons Corner and the Beltway. This area is home to the two largest ongoing projects in the nation, the 495 Express Lanes and the Dulles Metro extension," said John Lynch, regional transportation program director with VDOT. "Together these two projects represent about \$5 billion in infrastructure improvements. So a substantial amount has been invested in the Tysons Corner area. The projects themselves represent new options for

THE 485 EXPRESS LANES are a joint operation between VDOT, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the private company Transurban-Fluor.

"The projects themselves represent new options for those who live, work and play in the Tysons area."

—John Lynch, VDOT

The lanes will be variably-priced, with access from north of the Dulles Toll Road south to Braddock Road. Vehicles with three or more people, as well as buses, will be able to ride for free.

As of now, the lanes are 98 percent complete, with work on the ramp connections, pavement striping and operational testing yet to be done.

SEE EXPRESS LANES, PAGE 5

THE COUNTY LINE

County Combats Chronic Homelessness

Fairfax County joins national effort to house “most vulnerable.”

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fewer families experienced homelessness for the first time in Fairfax County this year, a 16 percent decline stemming largely from the County’s “housing first” focus, which rapidly identifies housing for those living on the edge.

But the number of chronic homeless—the most entrenched street dwellers and vulnerable individuals—jumped 20 percent this year.

According to a recent report released by the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH), 51 percent of single individuals (353 people) were identified as chronically homeless in 2012, compared to 39 percent in 2011. An additional 43 adults were counted as unsheltered in 2012 over the previous year.

It’s those numbers that troubles many in the county’s nonprofit community. And as the weather begins to turn colder, county officials are seeking ways to help the homeless population most at risk to hypothermia and other medical problems.

Dean Klein, director of Fairfax County’s OPEH, announced last week that Fairfax County is embarking an ambitious new approach in dealing with the county’s chronically homeless, those who need not only a home but also the “wrap-around” medical services necessary to maintain permanent housing.

“We are currently organizing our teams to get our most vulnerable and chronic population off the streets,” Klein said. “The chronically homeless are the most medically and physically fragile.”

Klein said Fairfax County’s efforts are part of national movement of communities working together to find permanent homes for 100,000 of the country’s most vulnerable and chronically homeless individuals and families.

MARSHALING THE FORCES of government agencies, faith-based communities, businesses and nonprofit partners, the campaign—called “100,000 Homes”—seeks to provide housing, counseling, treatment and other services aimed at helping people stay off the streets permanently.

Supported by a broad base of national and local partners, the campaign is fundamentally altering the response to homelessness by giving communities concrete tools that work and connecting them to likeminded advocates across the country.

According to county leaders, the plan is a “more intelligent way to invest in the homeless,” because it creates permanent solutions to what many see as an intractable problem.

“What is different is that people don’t have to be completely stabilized where their



Dean Klein

“You see community after community that has changed perceptions about the chronic homeless. We can do the same in our community.”

—Dean Klein, director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH)

mental health or addiction issues are concerned before they get housing,” said Tom Nichols, executive program director of Volunteers of America-Bailys Crossroads Shelter.

“The success of the program is based on the fact that being in permanent housing is significant motivation to address these issues without the added pressures of living on the street,” Nichols said.

ACCORDING TO PAULA SAMPSON, the director of Fairfax County’s Department of Housing and Community Development, the “100,000 Homes” initiative fits with Fairfax County’s Housing Blueprint, which identifies ending homelessness in 10 years as one of its four principal goals.

“(We bring) to the table a variety of resources that provide permanent, affordable housing to Fairfax County’s homeless population,” Sampson said, noting that the fiscal year 2013 Housing Blueprint provides a total of 196 new permanent housing opportunities for homeless individuals and families, including the chronically homeless.

“The FY 2013 Housing Blueprint also provides 84 housing opportunities for persons with special needs, including persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, and seniors, many of whom would be home-

| Characteristic | Number | Percent |
|--|--------|---------|
| Serious mental illness, substance abuse or both | 444 | 64% |
| Chronic health problems | 91 | 13% |
| Physical disability | 84 | 12% |
| Homeless due to domestic violence | 63 | 9% |
| Current or prior history of domestic violence (new category) | 104 | 15% |
| Limited English Proficiency (new category in 2012) | 98 | 14% |
| Homeless from an institution | 102 | 15% |
| Formerly in foster care | 28 | 4% |
| Veteran of U.S. military service | 56 | 8% |
| Chronic homeless | 353 | 51% |
| Unsheltered | 178 | 26% |
| Gender: Male | 508 | 73% |
| Gender: Female | 189 | 27% |
| Employed | 142 | 20% |
| No income | 285 | 41% |
| Income from \$1 to \$500 per month | 101 | 14% |
| Income from \$501 to \$1,000 per month | 140 | 20% |
| Income over \$1,000 per month | 42 | 6% |
| Race/ethnicity: Hispanic (any race) | 94 | 13.5% |
| White (non-Hispanic) | 289 | 41.4% |
| Black (non-Hispanic) | 243 | 34.9% |
| Bi- or Multiracial/Asian/Other/Unknown | 71 | 10.2% |

Ages: Age 18-34: 174 (25%); Age 35 - 54: 367 (53%); Age 55 and over: 155 (22%)
Unaccompanied youth under age 18: 1 (<0.15%)

***A total of 697 single individuals were identified as homeless last year. Of that number, 353 people were identified as chronically homeless.**

less or at-risk of homelessness but for these resources,” said Sampson.

Klein said Fairfax County will also benefit from other communities that have had success with the campaign.

“We’re looking at implementing regional solutions to the issue of preventing and ending homelessness and one impressive example in a neighboring community is what they’ve been able to achieve in Arlington,” Klein said.

Arlington’s Success Story

Arlington kicked off its campaign last October, when 150 volunteers and civic leaders hit the streets before dawn to survey and register homeless persons living on the streets of Arlington. One of the key strategies of the campaign is train teams to identify the chronic homeless during “registry week.”

“Two County Board members, Jay Fissette and Mary Hynes, actually went out on the street to survey the homeless at 4 a.m. during the registry week,” said Anita Friedman, a division chief with the Arlington Department of Human Services. “We had over 150 community volunteers participate in the registry.”

During Arlington’s registry week, a total of 153 homeless persons were surveyed, and 83 scored at least a 1 on the “vulnerability scale,” which is used to assess risk of dying on the streets. Friedman said 33 homeless persons identified as vulnerable have been successfully placed in permanent housing.

Housing placements began in December 2011 and have averaged 3.7 a month

with 97 percent of persons placed maintaining their housing. Most important, Arlington’s campaign is on target to fulfill the goal of housing 100 people in three years.

Friedman said the momentum about the new initiative carried over to the community-wide debriefing held at the end of registry week. During that meeting, real estate developer John Shooshan, who owns the Shooshan Company, pledged \$500,000 of his own money towards housing the homeless, and challenged the Arlington County government to match the amount. The Arlington County Board approved a match of \$500,000 at the end of fiscal year 2012.

“The \$1 million is being used to ‘buy down’ 10 one-bedroom units that will be set aside for 30 years for permanent supportive housing for clients at a local apartment complex owned and operated by the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH),” Friedman said.

“We would love for that to happen in Fairfax County,” Klein said.

He said by putting faces to statistics during registry week, homeless advocates can provide an opportunity for people to better understanding the issues, and give them an opportunity to be a part of the solution.

“You see community after community that has changed perceptions about the chronic homeless. We can do the same in our community,” Klein said.

To learn more about the national campaign, visit the website at <http://100khomes.org>



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

As part of the “100,000” Homes campaign, this group of county and nonprofit staff attended a boot camp in Kansas City this summer. (From left) Susan Ryan, New Hope Housing; Lori Mclean, Housing Development; Tom Barnett, OPEH; Nella Leppo, Community Services Board; Jerrienne Anthony, FACETS; Thomas Nichols, Volunteers of America; Carol Erhard, Fairfax County Housing and Community Development; Debbie Scaggs, OPEH; and Vince Jenkins, Reston Interfaith.

Express Lanes, Metrorail Coming to Tysons

FROM PAGE 3

"We'll be adjusting the toll rates to maintain as close to 55 miles per hour as much as possible," said Tim Steinhilber, the project general manager for Transurban-Fluor.

All electronic tolling, done at highway speeds.

"There are three access points in Tysons Corner, Route 7-Leesburg Pike, Westpark Drive and Jones Branch Drive," he said. "We have provided additional access points to Tysons without having to access Chain Bridge Road... the main point is to get traffic in and out of Tysons as fast as possible, so you can not only get a 55 mile per hour trip to Tysons, but access closer to your destination once you exit."

There will be 495 Express Lanes signage show ingprices to get to two popular destinations along the

Beltway, in addition to a price displaying the cost of access to the farthest point from the exit a driver is entering from.

The lanes are separated from regular traffic by barriers, and are 100 percent monitored by video, as well as state troopers.

PHASE ONE OF DULLES METRORAIL is nearing completion, with construction about 80 percent complete, said Pat Nowakowski, executive director of the Dulles Metrorail Project.

"Going forward, a lot of our focus is on a lot of electrical-type work, train controls, the third rail power, those types of things, and spacing work. You're going to start seeing these stations reach a high level of completion," he said.

All aerial structures are in place, and all tracks are expected to be placed within a month.

Nowakowski said he hoped that by this time next year, construction will be complete.

"We expect in three weeks time to be setting pedestrian bridges in place over top of Route 123. That will occur on Friday night, Oct. 5, and Saturday night, Oct. 6, if things stay on schedule," he said. "We're very pleased to start moving this part of the contract forward, this is the first part, then we'll be moving to Wiehle Avenue and putting those bridges on over top of the Dulles Access Highway and the Toll Road."

For Phase Two, Sept. 11 marked the deadline for companies to submit their request for qualifications information. By October, the companies are expected to be on a short list, price proposals are due April 2013, and Nowakowski said he expected the contract to be awarded in May 2013.

WHO WILL PAY THE \$3.1 BILLION TAB FOR NEW TYSONS ROAD AND TRANSIT PROJECTS?



You are invited to attend a public forum to hear Fairfax County officials discuss the plan for funding \$3.1 billion in additional transportation projects needed to transform Tysons into an urban center. The plan addresses how costs will be split between taxpayers and developers and what the expected impact will be on taxpayers. Find out what they are recommending to the Board of Supervisors and ask questions. Join us on:

Tuesday, October 2 from 7:30 – 9:30 P.M.
at The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA

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NEWS

Community Meeting on Salona

How do we enhance Salona's value to the community today and for future generations? The Salona Task Force wants to hear the community's views.

The Salona Task Force, appointed in 2011 by Dranesville Supervisor John Foust and Fairfax County Park Authority Board member Kevin Fay, was charged with reaching out to the McLean community regarding possible future uses of a conservation easement granted to the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) at historic Salona.

The Task Force has held meetings over the past 15 months, inviting interested community groups and individuals to present proposals. The next step is to present these options to the community at large, which will happen on Thursday, Oct. 4. The meeting will be held at the McLean Community Center starting at 7:30 p.m. and will include presentations by members of the Task Force and by others who have presented ideas to the Task Force.

Margaret Malone, chair of the Salona Park Task Force, said that the "the Salona property offers a unique opportunity to provide McLean with a park that will greatly enhance the lives of citizens of all ages."

Salona has a rich cultural history. The Salona property, part of the Northern Neck Proprietary of 1649, became part of the Fairfax Land Grant and in 1719 was acquired by Thomas Lee, father of two signers of the Declaration of Independence. The Salona property remained in the Lee family until the early 19th century. At one time Salona was held in trust by Revolutionary War hero Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee (father of Robert E. Lee) for Henry "Blackhorse Harry" Lee, a son by his first marriage to Matilda Lee, granddaughter of Thomas Lee, and later under the ownership of Richard Bland Lee, builder of Sully Plantation. In August 1814 when British troops attacked America's capital city, President James Madison



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Salona has a rich cultural history.

son and his wife, Dolley, separately fled the White House before the British set the city ablaze. It is thought that President Madison spent that fiery night at Salona with the Reverend William and Ann Maffitt. Evidence strongly suggests that the Madisons reunited at Salona the following day. During the American Civil War the 208 acre Salona property was occupied by the Federal Army between October 1861 and March 1862 as a part of Camp Griffin. Brigadier-General William Farrar ("Baldy") Smith used the vacated house for his headquarters. The Vermont Brigade, consisting of the second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth Vermont Infantry Regiments and a part of Camp Griffin, encamped on the surrounding property. Major-General George McClellan was known to have spent the night at Salona at least once.

Salona is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register, and the Inventory of Historic Sites in Fairfax County, and is specifically referenced as a Heritage Resource in the County Comprehensive Plan.

Public Forum to Discuss Tysons Transportation Funding

After seventeen months of deliberation, County officials have developed a plan for the Board of Supervisors on how to fund an estimated \$3.1 billion in additional transportation needed to support the transformation of Tysons into an urban center. County residents will now have an opportunity to hear planners discuss the recommendations at a public forum. The McLean Citizens Association

hosts the meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 2, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

"County taxpayers need to know the magnitude of the financial obligations and risks that Tysons redevelopment will entail for them," said MCA President Sally K. Horn. Tysons redevelopment has been a priority issue for MCA, and MCA is encouraging civic groups and

residents County-wide to attend.

County speakers slated to appear include: Walter Alcorn, at-large planning commissioner and chair, Planning Commission Tysons Committee; Jay Donahue, Dranesville planning commissioner; and Barbara Byron, director of the office of community revitalization. Rob Jackson, chair of the MCA Tysons Liaison Committee will also speak.

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OPINION

How to Register, Vote, Vote Early

Don't sweat voter ID; voter registration card, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or government check with name, address of voter will work.

Changes in Virginia's voter identification rules are causing confusion in many quarters, and some voters might be tempted to stay home rather than deal with a difficult situation. What about your 92-year-old mother who hasn't driven in almost a decade? Do you need to schlep her to the DMV to get her a photo ID before November?

Slow down, there are alternatives, including a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck indicating the name and address of the voter.

Acceptable forms of identification include: Virginia voter identification card (due to arrive in the mail next week); current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck indicating the name and address of the voter; valid Virginia driver's license; military ID; any Federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID; employer issued photo ID card; concealed handgun permit; valid student ID issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

How important is it for Virginia voters to turn out on or before Nov. 6? As a critical "battle-ground" state, Virginia will be key in determining who will be the next President of the United States. Who will represent Virginia in the U.S. Senate is also too close to call. Since polling shows that there are very few undecided voters in the Commonwealth, every eligible voter will want to be sure to cast a ballot. Turnout in Northern Virginia could determine who is president and which party controls the U.S. Senate.

This is a high-participating, politically engaged area.

Fairfax County, with a population of just more than 1.1 million people, has 717,105 registered voters as of Aug. 31, 2012.

And consider that in 2008, 79 percent of Fairfax County's registered voters turned out at the polls.

The City of Alexandria has a population of about 144,000 with 103,445 registered voters

More Election Information

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email Kevin.Linehan@fairfaxva.gov

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email: info@sbe.virginia.gov
http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.html

as of Aug. 31, 2012.

Arlington has a population of about 216,000 and 160,326 registered voters as of Aug. 31, 2012.

When you consider the sheer numbers of people likely to go to vote on Election Day, wouldn't it make sense to go and vote early?

Virtually every voter in Virginia is eligible to vote absentee, which includes voting in-person absentee at a variety of locations. Absentee voting began Sept. 21 and will continue through Nov. 2.

There are many reasons that voters are allowed to vote absentee, but the most broad of these applies to almost anyone with a job: "Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation, will be at his place of work and commuting to and from his home to his place of work for 11 or more hours of the 13 that the polls are open (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.)."

See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/absentee_voting/index.html for a complete list of acceptable reasons to vote absentee, links to download a request for an absentee ballot and other instructions.

You can download an absentee ballot and mail it to your local voter registration office, or you can vote "absentee in person."

To vote on Election Day, you must be registered at your current address no later than Oct. 15, 2012. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov. There you can also download a voter registration form and mail it to the elections office

address, listed above.

Absentee Voting in Person, Fairfax County
❖ Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035

Absentee voting hours, Sept. 21-Oct. 16, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thursdays: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Oct. 17-Nov. 2, Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday Hours: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Office Closed On: Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 (Columbus Day)

Last Day to Vote In-Person: Saturday, Nov. 3
Absentee Voting in Person, Fairfax County Satellite Locations

Voting in the following seven locations is available Oct. 17 - Nov. 3, Monday - Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

❖ Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

❖ Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

❖ North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA 20190

❖ West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152

❖ Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306

❖ Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Excellence Criteria: Misleadingly Incomplete

To the Editor:

Reporting by the McLean Connection (MC) generally excels. Nonetheless, some articles, such as that submitted for the Aug. 22-28 issue ["School System Committed to Excellence," by Ilryong Moon, chairman of the Fairfax County School Board] have fundamental internal disconnects that MC should have identified in a note. The title of this submitted article,

"School System Committed to Excellence," is at variance with the article's identified performance criteria. The main claim by well-intended Mr. Moon is that the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) have "continued to succeed at the highest levels." However, the performance criteria that he quotes, in support of claims of these levels for the system, are decidedly mixed and misleadingly incomplete as indicated below. Such reporting seems to reflect shortcomings in statistical understandings and transparency needs. More seriously, the overall set of touted performance criteria is quite inconsistent with needed managerial strategies set to mea-

sure excellence improvements, as well as levels, of all FCPS students. Particularly given quite disappointing U.S. educational performances compared with those of so many other nations, we can and should do much better. While others could question the conclusion that the FCPS is a "world-class school system," the more critical question is whether FCPS succeeds in improving on, as well as achieving, proper performance criteria designed to meet FSPS objectives consistent with being "committed to excellence."

1. The "FCPS SAT average of 1654" (out of 2400) exceeds state and national averages. This one measure of performance clearly is

the best indicator among those he identifies. But it nonetheless is fundamentally incomplete. The reason is that reporting of these averages, without relative changes, ignores the extent to which this average reflects improvement or deterioration. An improvement in the SAT average to 1800 by 2020 would be a desirable goal.

2. FCPS's pass rates for the Virginia Standards of Learning assessments during the 2010-11 school year "were 93 percent in English" and "92 percent in mathematics." There is no indication on whether or not these two percentages reflect an improvement. Moreover,

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

McLean CONNECTION

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

there is no indication of how these rates compare with state or comparable national averages. In addition, one reason that these reported percentages are poor performance measures is that they entice FCPS to focus on students near class pass-fail lines, perhaps between the bottom 2 and 17 percentage points, rather than on all students. Astute teachers likely will assume that students in about the top 83 and in about the bottom 2 percent will likely remain in their respective pass-fail categories. Thus, these two indicators, in themselves, encourage teachers (to improve in this criterion) to ignore roughly 85 percent of students.

3. The achievement gap "in reading for Black students" narrowed and the achievement gap "in mathematics for Hispanic students" narrowed. The implication in this selective reporting is that gaps in mathematics for Black students and in English for Hispanics did not narrow. More seriously, the implication is that teachers should discriminate by focusing on these students. Of course, one way for teachers to achieve such ill-advised performance criteria would be to ask all Asian students to stop going to libraries and stop their

credible study habits. The point here is that all students at every level in every subject should be encouraged to excel and that all performance criteria should be completely consistent with this comprehensive objective.

4. The article reports from 2011 national rankings that "nearly all FCPS high schools were listed in the top 6 percent" of public schools. But it does not indicate the specific percent of FCPS high schools in the top 6 percent nor the change in the FCPS percent from the prior year. Meaningful indicators also may be how average FCPS public high schools compare with those of averages of all U.S. counties and how this relevant percentile compares with the prior year.

5. The article lamentably omits any reference to operational performance criteria designed to improve, as well as to sustain, excellence among FCPS students. Regrettably, it was reported publicly that only one-fourth of teacher assessments are to be based on student learning achievements rather than on the current basis of one-half of teacher assessments. Assuming student learning achievements are properly measured for assessing teachers, this planned

decline is a step backwards. At least one half of teacher assessments should be based on changes in student performances to avoid an excessive emphasis on possibly biased opinions and manipulations. It is critical that the relevant student performances for assessing teachers should be based on the same students passing from the prior year to the current school year. Such a measure avoids distortions from changes in the composition of students during that period for each teacher. To the extent that teachers do not like teaching to the test, they should participate in identifying proper tests, keeping in mind that they neither should avoid objective assessments of student improvements nor suggest that national and state tests are bogus. Also, administrators should acknowledge (and report on) their urgent need to avoid granting and extending tenure to undeserving teachers and to link enhanced teacher salaries and bonuses to relevant performance criteria.

Dr. David V. Pritchett

Parent among those disappointed with educational progress.
McLean

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 27

Titans Breakfast Series. 7-9:15 a.m., at the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. The Northern Virginia Technology Council's fireside chat with John Jumper, expert on matters concerning aerospace, defense, industrial, transportation and automotive business sectors; group prices available. \$65-85 for individuals. www.nvtc.org/events.

Public Hearing. 7:30 p.m., at MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A hearing on the proposed FY 2014 budget; residents of the district who want to speak, register in advance. 703-790-0123, ext. 711 or mcleancenter.org/fy2014budget.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 30

Downsizing Seminar offered by the Lyons & McGuire Team of Keller Williams Realty. 1-4 p.m. Free community service to educate home owners about the downsizing process. Seminar being held in the Keller Williams Great Falls office 774-A Walker Rd. Please RSVP to LyonsMcGuire@TeamGreatFalls.com. Questions call 703-406-9009.

24th Annual Virginia Arab Candidates Night. 7-9 p.m., at the Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Senate and congressional candidates to address more than 300 Arab American political activists. RSVP. 202-256-8008 or amr@amrfoto.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 3

Policy Forum. 7:30-9 a.m., at The Gannett Building, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Tysons Chamber of Commerce invites in-the-know speakers to highlight issues at stake in the national elections. 703-281-1333 or info@tysonschamber.org.

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For more Information, please visit:
viennaoktoberfest.com




FALL FUN

Virginia Is for Lovers, and Apple-Lovers

Apple season in full swing; Grab a basket and pick your own.

Ida Red, Nittany, Gala, Pink Lady or Honey crisp: whether you like your apples tart or sweet, there are plenty of apple-picking orchards and farms to pick from within an hour's drive of Northern Virginia. For many

families, apple-picking has become a fall tradition, providing a fun outdoor activity and healthy food. Grab a basket and pick your own. Many of the orchards and farms listed below also host special events, fall festivals, hayrides and other

activities. Before you head out, call ahead to make sure that your favorite apple (or pumpkin) is ripe and available for picking.

— VICTORIA ROSS



Stribling Orchard



Marker-Miller Orchards



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Baskets of apples at Rock Hill Orchard



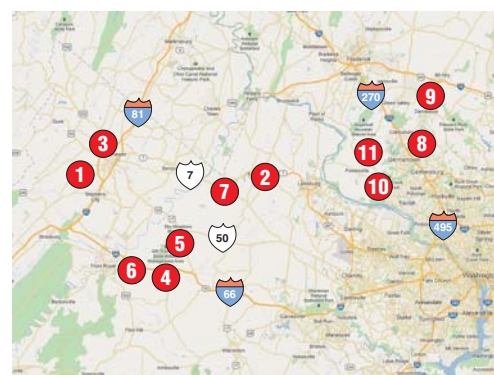
Valley View Orchard



Virginia Farm Market



The Little Country Kitchen at Homestead Farm



© GOOGLE MAP DATA

Maryland

8 BUTLER'S ORCHARD

For 60 years, this family farm has become known for its apple picking as well as its popular fall festival. In addition to apple orchards, there's a market and bakery, featuring everything "apple," a country store, hay rides, slides and tons of pumpkins. 22200 Davis Mill Road, Germantown 301-972-3299 Butlersorchard.com

9 ROCK HILL ORCHARD

Rock Hill Orchard, located in the Agricultural Reserve in Northern Montgomery County, offers a variety of apples to pluck, from Red Delicious to Empire. There's also a fruit, flower and vegetable market packed with locally-grown produce. Rock Hill Orchard features free hayrides to the orchard on Saturdays and Sundays. 28600 Ridge Road, Mount Airy, 301-831-7427 Rockhillorchard.com

10 HOMESTEAD FARM

The Allnutt family has farmed in Montgomery County since 1763, when James Allnutt purchased 746 acres by the Potomac River. Homestead Farm consists of 230 acres of James' original purchase. Today, the Allnutt family continues the family farming tradition. Visitors can pick their own apples, or enjoy Homestead's homemade caramel apples. The Little Country Kitchen features apple pie, cider and fresh vegetable soup. 15600 Sugarland Road, Poolesville, 301-977-3761 Homestead-farm.net

11 LEWIS ORCHARDS

18901 Peach Tree Road, Dickerson, 301-349-4101 Lewisorchardfarmmarket.com

Virginia

1 MARKER-MILLER ORCHARDS

A family favorite, Marker-Miller Orchards has something for everyone in the family. Relax on the front porch in wooden rocking chairs, pack a picnic lunch and enjoy eating in the midst of the lush orchards, or go on an adventure to pick-your-own apples. Every weekend through October, the market is open where apple-lovers line up to get fresh apple cider donuts (a must-have). There's also hand-dipped apple ice cream and cider slushes. On the weekends, there are wagon rides, the cow train and a huge play area for children.

3035 Cedar Creek Grade, Winchester 540-662-1980 Markermillerorchards.com

2 CROOKED RUN ORCHARD

Crooked Run Orchard is a small family farm on the outskirts of Purcellville in Loudoun County. Many families go to this orchard for the simple pleasure of apple-picking. There are no mazes or wagon rides or kiddie trains. Owners Uta and Sam Brown grow the food; you pick it. There is no entrance or parking fee. There's only a charge for the food. Children also enjoy the orchard's "table of things." Yes, that's what children call it. There are several "table of things," that include bones, snake skins, nests,

dried bats or frogs, turtle shells and "anything else we find that's interesting during the year," Brown said.

37883 E Main Street, Purcellville, 540-338-7445 Crookedrunorchard.com

3 VIRGINIA FARM MARKET

Virginia Farm Market began in 1952 as small roadside stand selling homegrown fresh peaches. The market has grown to include a bakery, a gift shop featuring wood baskets and local preserves, and apples, apples and more apples. Taste the "jug-your-own" apple cider. Look for the big red barn located on Route 522 north of Winchester.

1881 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, 540-665-8000 Virginiafarmmarket.com

4 STIBLING ORCHARD

The Stribling farm and orchard has been in the Stribling family for almost 200 years. Beginning in September through November, the farm has fresh apples, cider and all sizes and shapes of pumpkins. In addition to apple-picking, visitors can enjoy beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Stribling Farm's historic buildings and many farm animals.

11587 Poverty Hollow Lane, Markham 540-364-3040 Striblingorchard.com

5 VALLEY VIEW ORCHARD

An historic property located in Virginia's "Hunt" country near Middleburg, the historic Valley View Farm is the home of Virginia Perfection Orchard, which boasts six different varieties of apples for picking. Worth seeing is the estate's manor house with a formal English Garden situated in the middle of 500 acres of meadowlands and mountains, and is now the site for weddings and other special events. 1562 Leeds Manor Road, Delaplane, 540-592-3730 Valleyviewfarmva.com

6 THE APPLE HOUSE

Although it's not an orchard, The Apple House has been a landmark for families and school groups since the 1960s. Located at the northern entrance to Skyline Drive, the family-owned business is known for homemade apple butter donuts, crisp apples and apple crisps. 4675 John Marshall Hwy, Linden, 540-636-6329 Theapplehouse.net

7 GREAT COUNTRY FARMS

18780 Foggy Bottom Road, Bluemont, VA 20135 540-554-2073 farmer@greatcountryfarms.com www.greatcountryfarms.com

FALL FUN 2012

Oliver Bush, 7, pulls a wagon full of pumpkins at last year's pumpkin sale at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. This year's will begin Oct. 6.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED



Fall Fun in McLean

MPAartfest, pumpkin patch part of local fall events.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Fall is home to several annual traditions in McLean. One such tradition, the McLean ArtFest, hosted by the McLean Project for the Arts, will hit a major milestone this year, and the MPA is celebrating accordingly.

As part of the MPA's 50th anniversary celebration,

the ArtFest presents some of the event's classic features and several new ones. The Children's Art Walk, live exhibitions and artists who work in almost every media will be part of the event.

Margi Vanderhye, co-chair of the event, said that this year will feature 50 artists, the highest number yet, "due to the number of high quality entries we received."

Since it takes place in early October, past ArtFests have seen everything on the weather spectrum, from pouring rain to perfect fall weather, but the festival's regulars will not be deterred no matter the situation.

SEE PUMPKIN, PAGE 12



Vivian Shen, a first grader at Haycock Elementary School, stands next to her painting at the McLean Project for the Arts ArtFest. This year's event will feature the children's art walk.

Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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FALL FUN 2012



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

A collection of teapots made by artist Laura Peery at last year's MPAartfest. This year's will be Sunday, Oct. 14 and will feature 50 local artists, live music and interactive exhibitions.

Pumpkin Patch to Support Charities

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

FROM PAGE 11

"Last year's event was about the worst-case scenario when it comes to fall weather, cold, windy and rainy," said Maunel Certosa of Vienna. "But the art, even in tents, was still there, and they took care to make sure the show itself didn't suffer, which is all you can do. So hopefully we've earned a good day this year, because I'll be there either way."

NEW ADDITIONS this year will be The Exceptions, an acoustic duo featuring Jason Saitta and Max Snyder. It will also feature the MPA Wine Café, featuring wine from Chain Bridge Cellars and a new community art project, "Leaf Your Mark."

MPAartfest will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14 at McLean Central Park. Parking is available at the Dolley Madison Library and there will be free shuttle service provided to and from various parking lots around McLean. More information can be found at www.mpaart.org.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church in McLean will also be doing their part to continue an annual tradition. Now in its fourth year, their annual pumpkin patch supports charities that serve the local community and areas around the world.

The pumpkins come from the Northwestern New Mexico Navajo Reservation. Proceeds from the sale are split between the reservation, and local charities Share, the Samaritan Mission of Washington, D.C., the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center, the FACETS Hypothermia shelter program and CrossLink International.



Christopher Edmondson, 4, at the St. Thomas Episcopal Church pumpkin sale, which will begin Oct. 6.

"I never liked getting my pumpkin from a place like Giant or Wal Mart, I wanted my kids to have the experience of picking out their own pumpkin," said Gerald McKnight of McLean, who discovered the sale last year. "I found the St. Thomas sale when we were visiting friends last year, and once I saw how nice everyone was and what we were supporting, I knew it was for us."

THE PUMPKINS will arrive Saturday Oct. 6 and will be on sale throughout the month. St. Thomas Episcopal Church is located at 8991 Brook Road in McLean.

FALL FUN 2012



Benny Potter and Western Electric playing classic rock and rockabilly music.



Auctioneer Bruce Grammer, assisted by Linda Thompson with "a throw" showing Great Falls historic places.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF T R COOK/THE GREAT FALLS OPTIMIST CLUB

Great Falls Optimist Club To Hold Annual Barn Dance

The Great Falls Optimist Club is holding its seventh annual Barn Dance, complete with a live band—"Benny Potter and Western Electric"—and barbecued ribs, chicken and bar-b-que from Famous Dave's on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 7 to 11 p.m. Proceeds from this year's event will go to the Great Falls Children's Fund and Childhood Cancer Charity.

Club member Linda Thompson has again donated the use of her refurbished bank barn in Great Falls for the upcoming event. Famous Dave's dinner, water and soft drinks will be provided by the Great Falls Optimist Club and beer and wine will be available for donations. The cost is \$60 per person. There will be donations from local businesses for raffles and an auction.

This year's party and dance will be held in a changed setting: Linda Thompson has fixed up the barn with lights, a stage and

country-style decorations that create the perfect ambiance.

The Great Falls Optimist Club is a child-centered (501-c3) non-profit organization that focuses on supporting, encouraging and challenging children to reach greater heights. A voluntary organization, the club is always interested in welcoming new members and volunteers. Among the many annual family-oriented events sponsored or assisted by the club are the Great Falls Children's Spring Festival and Egg Hunt, the Fall Spooktacular at Halloween and the Fourth of July celebration in Great Falls.

If you are interested in joining the Great Falls Optimist Club or volunteering at specific events, contact Membership Co-chair Angela Bongiorno at 703-759-2925 (vze3cxh6@verizon.net). Contributions can be mailed to P.O. Box 233, Great Falls, Virginia 22066.



Linda Thompson has fixed up the barn with lights, a stage and country-style decorations that create the perfect ambiance.

Talents Galore at 'Arts by George!' The 7th annual George Mason University "Arts by George!" event to be held on Saturday, Sept. 29.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A bevy of incredible talent is set to entertain as the seventh annual George Mason University "Arts by George!" is coming on Saturday, Sept. 29, at 5 p.m. Arts by George! will take place in the de Laski Performing Arts Building on Mason's Fairfax Campus, as well as Harris Theater and a tented plaza next to the performing arts building.

From the multi-talented, multi-Tony Award-winner Sutton Foster to aspiring creative artists from the

Mason College of Visual and Performing Arts, there is a jam-packed day of events.

"We want audiences to "become 'infected' with the energy and creativity of the next generation of artists," said William Reeder, chair of Mason College of Visual and Performing Arts. His description of headliner Foster was simply this: "She is as good as it gets!"

Notably, the benefit event will use proceeds to support student scholarships as well as the Great Performances at the Mason Center for the Arts.

Joseph and Carol Catalano are

event co-chairs for this year's "Arts by George!"

Asked why people should come to the event, especially those who may have never attended before, the Catalanos said, "You will be amazed at the talent of the these young students who come from all over the world to attend GMU and it's right here in your backyard. Secondly, the funds raised go directly toward scholarships for these students and supports the Great Performances at Mason concert series. Lastly, you will have such a good time that you can't wait for next year's event."



Members of the Mason Dance Company performing at last year's "Arts by George!" The Mason Dance Company will be performing at the 2012 event.

Where and When

George Mason University's "Arts by George!" showing at the Center for the Arts and de Laski Performing Arts Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012. Student performances and exhibitions, and silent auction of an array of arts-related items and experiences from 5-7:30 p.m., at de Laski Performing Arts Building. Sutton Foster event at Concert Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$40-\$70. Special packages available. Call 703-993-2787 or visit www.cfa.gmu.edu/tickets. For detailed information about "Arts by George!" student performances, silent auction and other benefit events information including Grand Buffet, visit www.artsbygeorge.gmu.edu or call 703-993-4188.

FALL FUN 2012

Fairfax County Fall Fun

Along with the seasonal changes of fall—"sweater weather," the oft-sighted decorative gourd and pumpkin, new menus and produce, and the swath of color across the treeline in every direction—come the fall events. Finding pumpkins, parading through town in costume and spending time enjoying fall in Fairfax County are musts. The Connection presents some favorite County events to aid and abet your celebration of the season at hand. See full calendar at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 27

Fall for the Book Festival: Alice Walker. 3 p.m., Concert Hall, Center for the Arts George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Catch a headliner event at the festival; the author of *The Color Purple* discusses her social and political activism. www.fallforthebook.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 28

ValeArts' 17th Annual Fall Art Show and Sale Reception. 7 p.m., reception; 10 a.m.-6 p.m., show hours, at the Historic Vale School House, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. Over 150 works from nine local artists; meet the artists and celebrate the show, open Sept. 28-30. www.ValeArts.com.

Mason Award Presentation: Neil Gaiman. 7:30-9 p.m., Concert Hall, Center for the Arts George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The author of cult DC Comics to books including *Coraline* accepts

the 2012 Mason Award for an author making extraordinary contributions towards connecting literature with a wide reading public. www.fallforthebook.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 29

Fall for Fairfax KidFest. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Northern Virginia's largest family fall festival boasts more than 100 hands-on activities and exhibits focusing on education, sport and fitness, the environment, public safety and personal health; among those are a farmers' market, pony and hayrides, scare-crow making, pumpkin decorating, a carnival and dozens of shows for children. 703-324-3247 or www.fallforfairfax.com.

Woodland Park Crossing Festival. Noon-4 p.m., 12960 Highland Crossing Drive, Herndon. Samples of fall brews and foods, yoga presentations, zumba dances, fitness demos, a walking scarecrow, DJ, face painting, glitter tattoos, pumpkin painting, and more. 703-785-5634 or www.woodlandparkcrossing.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 30

Fall for Fairfax KidFest. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. Northern Virginia's largest family fall festival boasts more than 100 hands-on activities and exhibits focusing on education, sport and fitness, the environment, public safety and personal health; among those are a farmers' market, pony and hayrides, scare-crow making, pumpkin decorating, a carnival and dozens of shows for children. 703-324-3247 or www.fallforfairfax.com.

Fairfax Prize Presentation:

Michael Chabon. 6:30-8 p.m., Concert Hall, Center for the Arts George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Novelist whose works include *Telegraph Avenue* and *The Yiddish Policeman's Union* accepts the 2012 Fairfax Prize for literary achievement. www.fallforthebook.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 5

Oktoberfest Reston. 3-11 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Northern Virginia's largest outdoor fall festival with seasonal beer and wine, 17 restaurants, family carnival, live entertainment, chilli cook-off and the Great Pumpkin 5k. \$1-20 for food tickets; \$1-20 for carnival tickets. www.OktoberfestReston.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 6

Second Annual Fairfax Festival of the Arts. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. National and international artists sell artwork—90-plus artists offer more than 10,000 pieces for sale—and provide the opportunity for you to meet painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers, digital artists, glass, fiber and ceramics artists. www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax/.

Country Fair. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The 30-year-old fair features a quilt show and giveaway, musical performances, silent auction, "treasure trove" flea market, book sale, plant sale, food and children's games. 703-759-2082 or www.thecountryfair.org.

Oktoberfest Reston. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.;



There are a panacea of activities, not to mention the farmers' market and palatial pumpkin patch, at the 18th Annual Fall Festival.

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During the month of October, Sundays through Thursdays from 9 a.m.-8 p.m. and Fridays through Saturdays until 9 p.m., at 9401 Burke Road, Burke, there will be pumpkins galore and hayrides all day—from a pumpkin fort, a ghost

tunnel slide, rope swing and farm animals, to the fall produce market and the carveable pumpkins that comes with admission, the festival has something for everyone. \$9-12. www.pumpkinplayground.com.

www.OktoberfestReston.com. **Lake Anne Plaza's 6th Annual Jazz Festival.** Noon-8:30 p.m., at Lake Anne Plaza, 11402 Washington Plaza W, Reston. Singer-songwriter-musician Rashida Jolley headlines

SEE FALL FUN, PAGE 15

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Race for a Cause: Come be a Superhero!

We're partnering with Acumen Solutions for their 4th Annual Race for a Cause™ 8K and 1 Mile Fun Run race on Sunday, October 14, 2012 in Arlington, VA. Alexandria and Fairfax Region Boys and Girls Club will be one of 10 charities benefitting from the race and it's up to the runner or walker to pick which charity their donation will benefit. \$2,000 in combined prizes will be awarded to top race winners. Please choose the Boys and Girls Club – Alexandria Olympic and Fairfax as your charitable preference!

Location: Arlington, VA

Date: October 14, 2012 • **Time:** 8:00 A.M.

The race will be on a fast out-and-back, flat course that begins and ends on North Quincy Street near the intersection of Wilson Boulevard. Runners of all levels, as well as walkers, are encouraged to participate. For more information and to register, visit: <http://communications.acumensolutions.com/Theraceforacause/index.html>



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FALL FUN 2012

FROM PAGE 14

among six other artists at the family-friendly festival.
www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 7

Clifton Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Clifton. The Boyle School of Irish Dance, musician Steve Hudson, rock and roll and rock/Americana all perform; train riding, children's activities including a petting zoo, pony rides, Civil War reenactments and food.
www.cliftonday.com.

Second Annual Fairfax Festival of the Arts. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at Fairfax Corner, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. National and international artists sell artwork—90-plus artists offer more than 10,000 pieces for sale—and provide the opportunity for you to meet painters, sculptors, photographers, jewelers, digital artists, glass, fiber and ceramics artists. www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax/.

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SATURDAY/OCT. 13

Fall Festival in Old Town Historic Fairfax. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Downtown Fairfax, 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax. The traditional festival brings unique crafts and gifts, activities from local art groups and businesses,

more than 400 juried crafters, children's rides, music and food. 703-385-7949 or www.fairfaxva.gov.

SUNDAY/OCT. 14

Festival on the Square. Noon-5 p.m., at Reston Heights, 11790 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Live entertainment, food samples, farm animals, fancy cars, a maze made of hay and much more. 703-476-9377 or www.festivalonthesquare.com.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Crisp local apples, warm savory meat pies, hearty breads, entertainers, candle-dipping, mulled wine, holiday shopping, and tradesmen and the militia make it a big celebration of fall. \$6, adults; \$3, seniors and children ages 3-12. 703-442-7557 or www.1771.org.

Halloween Family Fun Day. Noon-2 p.m., at RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Infants through 8-year-olds dress in their favorite costume and enjoy performances for the whole family; featuring Peter McCarty, the "Monster Madness" show and carnival games. 703-476-4500 or www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

McLean Orchestra: Phantoms and Fantasies. 8 p.m., at Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. A night of Halloween haunts, with Mussorgsky, Debussy and Hector Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique; post-concert cake and champagne reception. www.mclean-orchestra.org.

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

FRIDAY/SEPT. 28

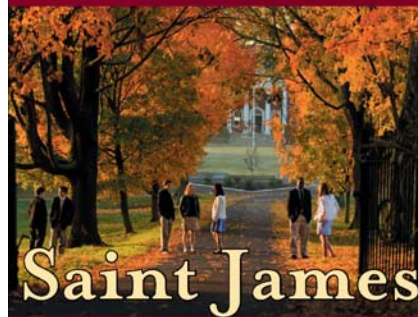
Fall/Winter 2012 Collections. 7 p.m., at 8000 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Emmy Award-winning costume designer Eric Daman of Gossip Girl and The Carrie Diaries at his runway show and reception; standing room available to those without invitations. www.tysonsgalleria.com.

Noche de Arte. 7-10 p.m., at McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Latin music, food and "the luck of the draw"—a chance to leave with a work of art by an MPAartfest artist. \$200. 703-790-1953 or streanor@mpaart.org.

TUESDAY/OCT. 2

Suits and Sneakers Home of the Business Community Awards. 5:30-9 p.m., at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The McLean Orchestra plays at the extravaganza with area restaurants' gourmet fare, a silent auction, and beer and wine tastings. 703-356-5424 or www.mcleanchamber.org.

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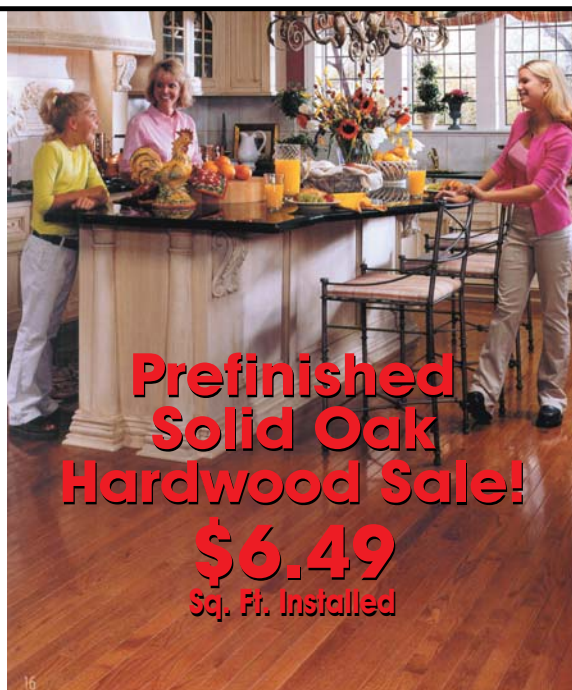
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2014 Budget

Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
at the Center.

The current fiscal year (FY 2013) has a tax rate of 2.2 cents per \$100 of real estate assessment, reduced from the previous fiscal year's rate of 2.3 cents.

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Written comments may be delivered to the Center's address (shown below), marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to ellen.barial@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available during the public hearing.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org



Flint Hill junior Erica Narel swings against two Oakton blockers during a Sept. 21 match at Oakton High School.



Flint Hill sophomore Ally Ford had a team-high 14 kills against Oakton on Sept. 21.



Flint Hill senior Haley McClure had 10 kills against Oakton on Sept. 21.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Trio Leads Huskies to 9-1 Start

Flint Hill volleyball sweeps Oakton.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Five-foot-11 Erica Narel was a force at the net, using her long arms to put away kills and disrupt Oakton hitters. Five-foot-10 Ally Ford pounded kills with violent swings and 5-foot-9 Haley McClure displayed versatility.

The tall, talented trio led the Flint Hill volleyball team to a 3-0 (25-23, 25-14, 25-20) victory on Sept. 21 during a Vienna private-public school matchup at Oakton High School. The victory improved the Huskies' record to 9-1, a start similar to those of the Flint Hill teams that won three consecutive VISAA state titles from 2008-10. Last year's team struggled in comparison, finishing 19-16 and losing in the state semifinals, but the return of Narel, the addition of Ford and the leadership of McClure have the Huskies playing at a high level.

Narel, a junior middle blocker who is committed to North Carolina State, sat out her sophomore season. On Friday, she finished with 11 kills against the Cougars.

"She's so athletic," Flint Hill head coach Carrol Anderson said. "She touches 10 feet, she gets up, [and her] blocking is huge for us. She has an eye and a feel for the ball, so our setters are still learning how to connect with her."

Ford, a sophomore outside hitter, transferred to Flint Hill from Tuscarora High School in Leesburg. She tallied a team-high 14 kills against Oakton, many of which were of the high-velocity variety, and had four aces.

"She's so confident," Anderson said. "She's confident about taking a swing from the back row, from the outside, anywhere ... and she's pretty much unstoppable."

McClure, a senior outside hitter, had 10 kills and four aces.

"Haley's our captain, our leader," Anderson said. "The girls look up to her and we go, in a lot of ways, as Haley goes. If Haley's energetic [and] charged up, I know it's a good day for us. She's very dynamic. She hits the ball well [and] serves the ball well, but it's her



Oakton volleyball coach Dan Courain said senior Emma Olson "does everything."

leadership on the court that's just as important as those things."

Narel and Ford each had six kills in game one, which Flint Hill survived, 25-23. The Huskies had an easier time in game two, building a 10-3 lead en route to a 25-14 victory.

"Last year, I came from public school ... so personally I get real pumped when we play [public schools], especially [because] the ISL, it's not as much competition," Ford said. "The [public school] atmosphere is just crazy, so it really pumps you up."

Flint Hill held a slim 11-10 lead in game three before starting to pull away with six straight points, including three consecutive Ford aces. The Huskies improved their record against public schools to 7-1.

"We're just really underestimated when we play public schools," McClure said. "People have never heard of us and we're such a small school. Every time we go out there, no matter who we're playing, we always have something to prove."

Anderson said Friday's match was Flint Hill's first against Oakton in her 10 years with the Huskies.

"I thought our girls responded really well and handled the atmosphere," she said. "I told them, when I was in your shoes, I would love to be out there on the court in this [environment] and to come out and beat a team on their home court ... I think it was a big win and a satisfying win for our team."

Meanwhile, Oakton, led by first-year head coach Dan Courain, dropped to 11-5.

"There were moments where I thought that we showed that we could play with them, but [we struggled due to] inconsistency," Courain said.

Senior outside hitter Misa Mori finished with a team-high eight kills against Flint Hill. Senior Emma Olson had six kills while handling setting duties.

"She does everything," Courain said about Olson. "The fact that she's second on our team in kills and she's pretty much a primary setter [shows her versatility]."

Oakton will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27. Flint Hill will host Sidwell Friends at 5:45 p.m. on Thursday.

"I still think that teams think we're a good team, but they think we're beatable and that's OK," Johnson said. "That's good because that gives us a motivating factor."

SPORTS ROUNDUPS



Hunter Eckrod and the McLean football team lost to Madison on Sept. 21.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Madison Football Beats McLean

In its first Liberty District game, the Madison football team rolled to a 29-6 win over the McLean Highlanders. With the win, Madison improved its record to 3-1 while McLean dropped to 2-2.

The Warhawks got off to a quick start with an explosive 78-yard touchdown pass from Dan Powers to Ben Stanford on the third play of the game. Madison's second touchdown was set up by Sanford's interception late in the first quarter. Backed up deep in Madison territory, McLean's quarterback tried to force a pass into tight coverage near the right sideline. Sanford stepped in front of the receiver, grabbed the ball, and rambled 20 yards to the 5-yard line. Behind great blocking from his offensive line, Jacob Hall burst into the end zone for Madison's second score. Nick Dorka's PAT gave Madison a 14-0 lead.

In the second quarter, Madison used a long, clock-consuming drive to set up its third score, an 8-yard touchdown pass to sure-handed Kyle Mancini. Dorka added a 32-yard field goal and the Warhawks took a 24-0 lead at the half.

Madison's second half game plan was to run the ball, chew-up the clock, and prevent the McLean offense from completing any big plays. Dorka added a 44-yard field goal in the third quarter to extend the lead to 27-0.

The Warhawks' next game will be on the road against the Langley Saxons at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28.



Hoai-Nam Bui and the Langley volleyball team improved to 8-3 with victories against Robinson and Battlefield on Sept. 22.

Langley Volleyball Beats Robinson, Battlefield

The Langley volleyball team picked up a pair of wins on Saturday, Sept. 22, defeating Robinson, 3-1, and Battlefield, 3-0. The Saxons improved to 8-3.

Langley will travel to face Madison at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27.

Langley Football Blasts Marshall

The Langley football team improved to 3-1 with a 58-8 victory against Marshall on Sept. 21.

One week after the Saxons lost to Chantilly by a point, they set a season high for points against the Statesmen. Langley is averaging 37 points per contest.

The Saxons will host Madison at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28.

Kaine Clarifies Position on 'Minimum Tax'

FROM PAGE 3

confrontational. Kaine positioned himself as a bipartisan problem-solver, while Allen portrayed himself as a small-business champion.

The candidates also found areas of agreement: each stressed the need to preserve the home mortgage interest deduction, and both candidates vowed to reduce the nation's deficit and avoid the looming \$500 billion in defense cuts scheduled to begin in January.

Several times during the debate, Kaine reiterated his proposal to reduce the federal deficit and avert the automatic cuts—or "sequestration"—through a three-pronged approach.

"We will let the Bush tax cuts expire as planned for people making more than \$500,000; we will fix Medicare so we can negotiate to get better prices on prescription drugs; we will let the tax subsidies to the big five oil companies expire," Kaine said.

Allowing tax increases on those earning more than \$500,000 a year is compromise, Kaine said, between Democrats who would let the cuts expire on those earning \$250,000 or more, and Republicans who want to make the cuts permanent for everyone.

Allen repeatedly said he would not entertain any tax increases to keep the government from falling off a "fiscal cliff," and he stuck to his message that "job creation" would solve many of the nation's problems.

"As I stated in the beginning, David, the best social program of all is a job," Allen said. He would repeal President Obama's health care law, and proposed allowing households to choose a flat tax over the existing tax code.

"I want to create more job opportunities. If you want a job, you ought to join the Allen team," Allen said, adding that he should have the backing of "99 percent of Virginians, anyone who pays an electric bill, drives a car or has a job."

He said his return to the Senate would be about "making sure America is ascending once again and is a land of opportunity once again."

THE DEBATE was mostly devoid of headline-making news until Gregory asked Kaine if he thought "all Virginians should have to pay some level of federal income tax."

"I would be open to a proposal that would have some minimum tax level for everyone," Kaine said, "but I do insist, many of the 47 percent that Governor Romney was going after pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes than he does."

Kaine's statement almost immediately ignited a furor by bloggers, tweeters and news reports of the debate.

In interviews after the debate, Allan hammered Kaine for the remark, accusing him of "always trying to raise taxes." In a press release Saturday, the Allen campaign accused Kaine of "doubling down" on the idea of imposing an income tax on all Ameri-



Former Governor and U.S. Senate candidate Tim Kaine rallies supporters at his canvass kick-off in Oakton Sunday, Sept. 23.

cans in his TV appearances.

"It shouldn't be news that somebody who wants to go into the Senate is willing to start from a position of openness and dialogue," Kaine said after the debate. "We can't start with non-negotiable."

Kaine added that while many Americans do not pay federal income tax, low-income individuals are subject to many other taxes. "The lie that some perpetrate that poor people don't pay a lot of taxes is wrong," he said.

"I kind of chuckled about (the furor)," Kaine said Sunday after meeting with volunteers in Oakton and Manassas. "I'm open to dialogue, and I don't see how openness is something controversial."

Del. Mark Keam (D) introduced Kaine to the 70-plus grassroots supporters who assembled in Oakton to hear Kaine as he launched the community canvass. Judy Fisher, a retired Fairfax County teacher, said she was supporting Kaine for several reasons.

"The health care bill is very important. No, it's not perfect, but I have a 97-year-old mother, and health care is a big issue for us," She also said she liked Kaine's positions on abortion rights, education and other issues.

"I'm electing someone to make substantive, deliberative, thoughtful decisions," Fisher said. "The Republicans get hysterical. We need more moderate, thoughtful candidates like Tim Kaine."

Arralean Ellis, a City of Fairfax volunteer, said Virginia's new Voter ID laws concerned her.

"I've worked at polling places, and there was no reason, no justification to make it tougher for people in Virginia to vote," she said.

Kaine told supporters that "the most important thing is to find people who know how to work together. [Republicans] would run the ship aground just to get the captain," Kaine said.

"The differences in this race are very clear," said Kaine. "On the big issues of the day—how we strengthen the economy, how we address the federal budget, and how we break through Washington's partisan gridlock—my opponent and I have a very different record and a very different approach."



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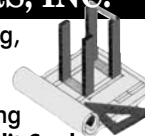


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-Dagobert Runes

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
3800 Powell Lane, #525, Falls Church, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Caroline S. Miner, dated June 10, 2005, and recorded June 15, 2005, in Deed Book 17398 at page 1666 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Wednesday, OCTOBER 10, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Unit 525, LAKESIDE PLAZA CONDOMINIUM with the sole use of the limited common element storage area and limited common element parking space assigned thereto and the undivided interest appurtenant thereto as set forth in the master deed and declaration recorded in Deed Book 5821 at page 1459, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 3800 Powell Lane, #525, Falls Church, Virginia 22041.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 3.75 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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1431 Ironwood Drive, McLean....Listed for \$949,500

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INSIDE!!**

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STUNNING 5br/3 full bath rambler in quiet cul-de-sac location! This home is just perfect! Large granite kitchen; open, bright floor plan with skylights and picture windows; private story-book setting on lovely lot; 2-car garage; walkout LL to flagstone patio!

GORGEOUS COLONIAL IN CHAIN BRIDGE FOREST!

***JUST LISTED* IN CHESTERBROOK WOODS!**



1519 Highwood Drive, McLean....Listed for \$1,199,999

*Chesterbrook,
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5931 Chesterbrook Road, McLean....Listed for \$749,000

**JUST
LISTED!**

This one has it ALL! 5br/3.5 bath, 3-level **RENOVATED** colonial backing to parkland, at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac! Oversized, sparkling granite kit with breakfast area; gleaming hardwoods; renovated baths; walkout LL rec room w/ bedroom & bath!

DON'T MISS all the wonderful opportunities with this Chesterbrook gem located on wonderful .57 acres in the heart of McLean! This 3 finished-level home is ready for you to bring your plans and imagination and boasts tons of potential! Detached 1-car garage!

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