

Former Virginia governors, Democrat Timothy M. Kaine and Republican George Allen, are fighting to secure the seat of retiring Sen. Jim Webb (D). In spite of hurricane Sandy, voters in Virginia have important choices to make next Tuesday, Nov. 6.

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News



Photos by Victoria Ross/The Connection



“The attempt to dive into wedge issues wedges us apart. We’re wedged apart about as far as we can go.”
— Timothy M. Kaine

“[Virginians] deserve a strong independent voice, not an echo.”
— George Allen

Elections 2012

Allen v. Kaine for Senate

Voters have stark choice between candidates to replace U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D).

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Candidates for U.S. Senate George Allen and his Democratic challenger Timothy M. Kaine have powerful things in common. Both were popular governors of the Commonwealth of Virginia; both have long political resumes; and both men are passionate about the success of their adopted home state.

Now locked in a high-stakes race that could determine control of the U.S. Senate, both candidates are fighting to secure the seat of retiring Sen. Jim Webb (D), spending a record \$55 million-plus on an avalanche of ads to sway swing voters in Northern Virginia and across the state. The message from both candidates is simple: voters have a stark choice.

Kaine, 54, has portrayed himself as a bipartisan bridge-builder who supports gender equality and believes that access to higher education and investing in what he calls the “talent economy” are critical to the success of Virginia and the nation.

Allen, 60, has portrayed himself as the small-business champion, a job creator who will unleash American energy resources and stop defense cuts that could cost 200,000 Virginians their jobs.

On the Issues

For more: To read more about what the candidates are saying on the issues, go to their official websites at: www.kaineforva.com/issues www.georgeallen.com (Click on Blueprint)

JOB CREATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

KAINE: “I served as Governor of Virginia during the worst national recession in 70 years. But our unemployment rate was among the nation’s lowest, and our median income was near the top. We recruited numerous businesses (MeadWestvaco, Hilton, CSC, SAIC, VW of North America) to move their headquarters from other states to Virginia. ... First, America needs a commitment to being the Talent Society. Just as Virginia’s innovative investments in education—from pre-kindergarten to post-graduate and workforce training—have turned the state into a magnet for talent, America needs to commit to being the best in the world in educational opportunities. Talented people create ideas, companies and jobs. And great businesses locate in places where they know they can hire talented people. America used to be #1 in the world in the percentage of young adults with college or technical degrees. Among developed nations, we are now 12th, and more nations are poised to pass us by. We have to look at reforms — broader early childhood education, more rigorous K-12 curriculums, renewed attention to career and technical education, dramatic efforts to make college more affordable — to return America to tops in the world in educating our population.

ALLEN: “Key to America’s growth is reducing the U.S. tax on job-creating businesses — currently one of the highest in the world — to a competitive 20 percent. With this one policy change, America can begin attracting new investment and expansion in the U.S. and allow U.S. businesses, large and small, to raise wages and create over 5 million more jobs over the next 10 years. The Blueprint further helps the economy grow and create jobs with • a tax code that is more fair and simple, including a Flat Tax option for individual taxpayers; • new tools to put a check on overzealous regulators; and • a focus on educating and training Americans to compete for and succeed in the good-paying, high-skill, high-knowledge jobs of the 21st Century.”

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Viewpoints

Why are you voting for Tim Kaine?

Asked at an Oct. 16 women’s roundtable held at the Dulles Marriott in Chantilly.

—Victoria Ross

Joana Garcia of Fairfax Station

“I believe he is concerned, just as we are, that the rights women fought so hard to achieve are maintained. What’s disappointing about what happened in Virginia this year is that Republican lawmakers should have been focusing on the economy...instead, they were forcing through social legislation targeting women. My big concern is that we are not going to have separation of church and state; we are going to become a nation of Christian ‘Sharia’ laws.”



Mary Cotton of Burke, a retired U.S. Army officer

“My number one reason for voting for Kaine is this incident with our current governor on the ultrasound bill. In this day and age, that’s the dumbest thing I’ve heard. We thought this kind of madness was over in the in the 1950s. I remember my parents talking about the days of the poll tax, a different way to suppress the vote. I don’t want to go back to those days, and I think Gov. Kaine will make sure we keep moving forward. I thought we were making progress, but it’s three steps up and two steps back, as we used to say in the military.”



Eleanor Smeal of Arlington, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation

“This is one of the most important Senate races for women in 2012. There is a stark difference between the candidates on women’s issues. Kaine will support policies to increase women’s access to affordable health care; support women’s pay equity and work expand educational opportunities for everyone. He’s right that these aren’t just women’s issues; they are economic and healthcare issues that affect everyone.”



Why are you voting for George Allen?

Asked at an Oct. 22 veteran’s issues roundtable at the City of Fairfax American Legion Post #177

John Jenkins

“I used to be a chauffeur for Gov. Allen’s father. I believe he hears the Clarion call to serve. He was the best thing to happen to Virginia, and he will be the best thing to happen serving as our next Senator. He’s concerned about keeping promises this nation made to our veterans and their families... I also believe he will be better for the economy. He has a track record of creating jobs and working for Virginians.”



Brad Watkins, an American Legion Rider

“It’s not just what you say on a bumper sticker. We’re at a point where politicians are “up here,” and the rest of us are just “down here,” the little people. It’s important to feel like we can come to the table with George Allen. He’s been here three hours, and he wants to listen and learn from us? That kind of commitment and interaction from a politician is amazing. The American Legion is apolitical, and we will listen to everybody. But I am voting for (George Allen) because I believe he will hold Congress accountable. He will work for veterans, and he keep his promises to Virginians on job creation and financial responsibility.”



Cindy Wilson of Fairfax, a Vietnam veteran

“George Allen is forthright and honest. He takes the time to actually listen to people. My husband died in Vietnam and I had to raise two children. I believe he will fight to help our veterans, many who are jobless and homeless. He was an excellent governor, and I believe he will keep America strong.”





Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) speaks at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, Oct. 23.



Democratic congressional candidate Kristin Cabral speaks at the Grange in Great Falls Tuesday, Oct. 23.



Independent congressional candidate Kevin Chisholm speaks at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, Oct. 23.

Photos by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

The 10th District Candidates Speak at Great Falls Grange

Rep. Frank Wolf, challengers Kristin Cabral, Kevin Chisholm hold forum.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

Democratic challenger Kristin Cabral faced off with Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, Oct. 23, in a community forum designed to answer questions about the next two years of the 10th district.

In Fairfax County, the new district contains parts of McLean northwest of Dolley Madison Boulevard, all of Great Falls and parts of Oak Hill and Chantilly.

Wolf, who has represented the district since elected in 1980, said he is running based on his past accomplishments, and his knowledge, which will help get things done in the future.

"I will continue to be a fighter for this congressional district, whether it's creating jobs, dealing with our nation's debt and deficit, dealing with terrorism and other crime issues, fixing regional transportation problems," he said. "Working together in a bipartisan manner is how I have approached my job... I have never signed any political pledge to any lobbyist, and I never will."

THE DEBATE was filled with many Wolf supporters, but many from outside of Great Falls.

"I know the district has changed shape, but I think Frank Wolf is still very intimately aware of the problems we face, and not only can he solve them on the federal level, he is connected enough locally that he can help there," said Andy Colitas of Chantilly. "I don't think he says things he doesn't mean, and I applaud the way he has balanced the needs of this community with his federal government responsibilities."

Cabral said she is running for office because the 10th district needs a change.

"I am running to bring fresh leadership to a broken Congress. A congress that is mired in stalemate and gridlock," she said. "Growing the American

dream means increasing educational and job opportunities... and this is done by ensuring access to such opportunities to those in need."

Cabral is a resident of McLean, and a trained lawyer who has worked as a federal prosecutor, a clerk for a federal judge and taught legal writing at Georgetown University.

Some at the forum said they believed Cabral was a first step toward finding a congress that can get things done.

"Congressman Wolf said himself that he had supported legislation on term limits, so I'm not sure why he doesn't follow his own example," said Ernest Muya of McLean. "This district has changed so much in recent years, and with a lot more to come, and I feel like Kristin is our chance to enact that change."

OTHERS SAID while they liked Cabral and thought she made some good points, that she isn't ready to represent the 10th district at the federal level.

"She seemed like a very nice, very accomplished, very intelligent lady, but I felt she was a little out of her league," said Annie Childress of McLean. "Frank has done a lot of good, and laid out his future plans, but I feel like Ms. Cabral only said she would 'fix' the problems, without giving many examples. And as the challenger, I think she needs to provide those."

Independent candidate Kevin Chisholm did not participate in the forum, but spoke for several minutes before it began. Chisholm, an engineer with a background in environmental sciences, said "It's such a mess in Washington, such a wreck, and it has been for a long, long time, in terms of fiscal things and priorities" he said. "I hear this hyperbole in national politics and it just sickens me."

He said the military, and much of the federal government needs to "trim its belt," citing his government experience as an example of the government's inefficiency.

"I send, and you all send, a lot of tax dollars to the U.S. government, and we want value," he said.

First-time Voters Viewpoints Who are you voting for and why?

— Michelle Kain

David Rice, Age 18, McLean, Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology, Senior

"I'll be voting for Barack Obama for several reasons. First of all, I've been pretty liberal all my life and I've grown up overseas in France, Belgium and Greece and it's no secret that Europe is pretty liberal also. It put American politics into perspective for me and helped shape my views. Also, I'll be going to college next year and it's increasingly expensive. Romney's plan has loans relying on the private sector more than Obama's plan and that idea concerns me. As a person, Mitt Romney is obviously a great businessman but as a president, he flip-flops on several topics and changes his views so often that you don't know if you'll have a moderate Mitt Romney or a severely conservative Mitt Romney. Also, I have two very bright younger sisters and they deserve good opportunities in their futures. Obama's platform involves more gender equality and equal pay for women. After taking several classes where I learned about alternative energy, I am a firm believer in alternative energy and although drilling in Alaska would create jobs, we would be depleting resources and taking away from America's beauty. I believe that jobs can be created with alternative energy as well. Obama is doing a better job of focusing on alternative energy, which is the way of the future. In terms of foreign policy, Romney put politics over national security in his criticism of Obama's actions in Libya. Romney also used and abused the death of the Navy Seal that was killed during the attack in Libya along with the US Ambassador as a political advantage. Additionally, Romney and Ryan don't have the necessary foreign policy background. I have taken Chinese all four years in high school and between sophomore and junior year, I traveled to China where I stayed with a host family and went to a small town where I talked to people and learned more about the culture. I think that Romney has treated China as a cheater from the beginning and cutting down on America's #1 trade partner is not good for the economy. There are steps that need to be taken but his stance is too harsh."



Maddie Stearn, Age 18, Vienna, The Madeira School, Senior

"For me it's a simple choice: I'm voting for Obama because I feel that he makes this country a safer place for me, especially as a woman. People often say that you can't be a 'one-issue voter', but they don't realize that all of the issues are connected in complex ways. I'm voting for the candidate that believes in gender equality because it's the right thing for our country, not just the right thing for women."



Ashley Hadjis, Age 18, Alexandria, The Madeira School, Senior

"I am voting for Mitt Romney in this election because I believe that Obama has not met any of his promises and the economy is still dismal. He focused too much time on Obamacare, which I believe, like Mitt Romney, should be repealed. Romney's time at Bain Capital and as Massachusetts's governor gives him the experience as a businessman that we need to get our country back on track."



Clayton Shepherd, Age 18, Broad Run High School, Senior, Ashburn

"I'm voting for Mitt Romney and it's for a number of reasons. For one, I come from a DOD family and in Obama's first year in office, my father's pay was frozen as a civilian of the Navy. And the second reason is the faltering economy, especially as a soon to be college student with a #1 priority of having a job that can fit my skill set that I acquire at whatever university I attend. I feel like the status quo isn't good enough as proven by the tension in the election."



Ian Rand, Age 18, Northern Virginia Community College, Vienna

"I am voting the Libertarian ticket in this upcoming election. While third party votes generally don't take much hold, I believe in the Libertarian party's conservative government values like states' rights along with Liberal social policies, such as avocation of gay marriage and drug law reforms."



Chelsey Foster, Age 18, The Madeira School, Senior, Purcellville

"I'm voting for Mitt Romney because I believe that his ideas and views are ones that will benefit America, fix the economy, and allow our country to thrive again. Right now in our country, babies are born with over \$35,000 of debt because Obama chose not to cut spending or create a budget. To me, it seems obvious that the right choice for president is Mitt Romney, because America needs to be restored to the principles that once were the core of our prosperity, and he can do that. As the Romney campaign says, 'What we need is a real recovery.'"



Allen v. Kaine for Senate

From Page 3

WITH LESS THAN A WEEK before Election Day, both candidates have spent time in Northern Virginia, emphasizing their differences.

"I have an Irish temper that I usually keep in check," Kaine said, during an Oct. 18 women's roundtable appearance in Chantilly. "During a debate at the Fairfax Chamber last month, my opponent was asked about the Blunt amendment, the personhood bill. His response was 'I don't know why the other side keeps bringing up divisive social issues.' I kind of got mad at that," Kaine said.

Kaine said Allen and others in the GOP want to take away women's choices, and then "step back from the issues."

"The attempt to dive into wedge issues wedges us apart. We're wedged apart about as far as we can go," Kaine said.

Allen has chided Kaine for his 2009-2011 stint as chairman of the Democratic National Committee, calling him an "absentee governor" and an "Obama clone."

"I want to be Virginia's senator. Tim wants to be President Obama's senator," Allen said during the candidate's fifth and final debate on the campus of Virginia Tech on Oct. 18. "[Virginians] deserve a strong independent voice, not an echo."

During five debates, including one last month sponsored by the Fairfax Chamber, they have clashed

over pending defense cuts, tax policy, education and over who has the right prescription to avert the "fiscal cliff" which endangers defense-related jobs in Virginia.

Kaine claims a strong record of bipartisanship, including working with Republican President George W. Bush on strengthening campus security in the wake of the 2007 Virginia Tech massacre. At the final debate, held Oct. 18 on the Virginia Tech campus, Kaine said, "We are all Americans; we are all Virginians."

While meeting with veterans in Fairfax on Oct. 22 at American Legion Post 177, Allen emphasized his record of working on behalf of veterans and their families. "I believe the federal government should lead by example in providing job opportunities for veterans as intended by current veterans' preference hiring laws, as well as the law requiring federal agencies to do business with small firms owned by service-disabled veterans."

BOTH CANDIDATES have tied their campaigns to the national battle for control of the U.S. Senate.

According to Toni-Michelle Travis, a GMU associate professor of government and politics and editor of "The Almanac of Virginia Politics," Kaine's lead in some polls is driven by a strong support among women voters.

"I think this race is still neck-and-neck, but I believe it's a race that will be decided by women in Fairfax County who will vote to protect (their rights)."

On the Issues

From Page 3

HEALTHCARE

KAINE: "I support the Affordable Care Act as a first step to put patients in charge of their health care decisions and put the brakes on runaway health care costs that were crippling patients and businesses. I am proud that millions of children can now stay on family insurance policies until they are 26, that millions of small businesses are eligible for tax credits to help them purchase insurance for their employees, that millions of seniors are receiving free preventive care and lower prescription drug prices, and that key protections are in place to stop insurance companies denying care to those with pre-existing conditions and from abusing their customers."

Going forward, we have to do more to bring down health care costs while improving the quality of care. The experience of other nations shows that it can be done."

ALLEN: "Repeal Obamacare and replace it with portable, affordable health insurance, including options for personalized Health Savings Accounts. Americans do not want the federal government running their health care."

IMMIGRATION

KAINE: "America is a nation of immigrants. Our strength and international competitiveness has continually been augmented by the skills and talents of people coming to this nation from around the world. But for far too long our immigration system has been broken and for more than a decade Congress has been unable to work in a bipartisan manner to find a way forward that reflects our American values and tradition."

ALLEN: "I have said throughout this debate that we should not reward illegal behavior and this includes allowing individuals who used fraudulent identification or Social Security information to then receive Social Security benefits. I was supportive of [the amendment] and I will support other efforts in Congress to strengthen our security and ensure that only individuals with legal status receive Social Security benefits. If anyone who is here illegally desires the benefits of citizenship they should become citizens legally."

EDUCATION

KAINE: "In the last sixty years, Virginia moved from a low-income, low-education state to one with a dynamic economy that is effective at attracting new businesses, great schools and

a wonderful quality of life. I believe the key to this progress has been our ongoing commitment to expanding and improving educational opportunities in our Commonwealth."

ALLEN: "Public education in America has for too long has been hindered by a federal government that believes Washington bureaucrats know better than parents and local and State school boards how our children should be educated. I believe that education policy should be decided and implemented at the State and local level, where it can be most responsive and accountable to parents and schoolchildren."

ENERGY

KAINE: "America's long-term goal should be to expand the use of low polluting forms of energy. It's good for the economy, good for America's security and good for the environment. We need to be on the cutting edge of new clean energy technologies like wind, solar and nuclear power."

ALLEN: "America can and should do more to conserve energy and apply our ingenuity to bring affordable alternative or renewable sources of energy to market. At the same time, let's not forget that we have the most plentiful resources in the world right under our land and water. Reversing current counterproductive energy policies not only will put America on a path toward energy freedom, it has the potential to create over a million new jobs, add over two trillion dollars to the revenue side of the government's balance sheet without raising taxes, promote national security and help preserve our quality of life which is being threatened by skyrocketing gas prices."

ABORTION

KAINE: "I strongly support the right of women to make their own health and reproductive decisions and, for that reason, will oppose efforts to weaken or subvert the basic holding of Roe v. Wade. We all share the goal of reducing unwanted pregnancies and abortions. The right way to do this is through education and access to health care and contraception rather than criminalizing women's reproductive decisions."

ALLEN: "My commitment to protecting innocent human life is firm. I believe that life begins at conception and support legislation declaring the personhood of every individual life. I oppose abortion except in the rare cases where the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest, and when necessary to save the life of the mother."

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After the Storm

Thousands of residents without power as clean-up efforts continue and residents deal with downed trees, closed roads and schools in wake of Hurricane Sandy.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Hurricane Sandy battered the region Monday night, shutting down Fairfax County schools, governments, roads and voting precincts. The mammoth storm made landfall near Atlantic City around 8 p.m., according to the National Hurricane Center, with maximum sustained winds of about 80 miles per-hour.

Driving rains and powerful winds knocked down trees and power lines, leaving at least 70,000 people in Fairfax County without power Monday night.

As of 11 a.m. Tuesday morning, Dominion Power reported that there are 57,000 customers without power County-wide. The Virginia Department of Transportation gave an update at 7 a.m. Tuesday morning, reporting that about 143 secondary roads in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties remained closed due to either high water, downed trees and/or power lines. The majority of these roads are in Fairfax County. VDOT also reported there were 107 signal outages in Northern Virginia, and to treat these outages as four-ways stops.

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"Our crews are working throughout the day and night to assess storm damage, remove debris and work closely with emergency responders and utility companies to reopen roads closed due to downed trees and power lines," said VDOT spokesperson Joan Morris.

VDOT estimates that it will take several days to reopen all roads.

Many residents who were driving this morning said the roads are still slick and there are leaves and debris everywhere.

Last night, Vienna resident Wolf Gottshalk reported he drove down Hunter Mill Road past Hunter Station Road to get to his neighborhood.

See State of Emergency, Page 15



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Nearly a foot of floodwaters remained on the field of Anjelica Run Horse Farm in Vienna Tuesday, Oct. 30 around 9 a.m. Although Hunter Mill Road was closed, cars were skirting the barriers to go across the bridge that was reconstructed near the farm after it sustained severe flooding last September during Tropical Storm Lee.

Some see nothing more than a staircase. **EMPTY SPACE.**
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The O'Sullivan sisters of Great Falls—Anna, 6, Cecilia, 9, and Evelyn, 3—carved their Halloween pumpkins during Saturday's pumpkin-carving workshop and contest at Wildfire in McLean. A portion of the proceeds from the event benefits Food for Others in Fairfax.



NBC4 Weekend Anchor Angie Goff brought her daughter Adora, 23 months, to Wildfire's pumpkin-carving workshop and contest on Saturday in McLean. Goff, who lives in Reston, helped Wildfire's Executive Chef Eddie Ishaq lead the workshop and judge the contest. A portion of the proceeds from the event benefits Food for Others in Fairfax.

Photos by Victoria Ross/The Connection



Vienna children donned their chef's aprons and clowned around with their carved pumpkins during Saturday's pumpkin-carving workshop and contest at Wildfire in McLean. (From left) Ashton Cain, 9; Elizabeth Kuhlkin, 9; Ransom Cain, 12, Preston Cain, 9, and Patrick Kuhlkin, 11. A portion of the proceeds from the event benefits Food for Others in Fairfax.

Eat, Drink and Be Scary!

Children carve pumpkins for a good cause at Wildfire in McLean.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Armed with knives and other sharp implements, more than 50 children butchered, chopped, gouged and chiseled with glee at Wildfire restaurant on Saturday, leaving a slimy trail of orange guts across the tables.

But their victims didn't scream or cry; some even wore gap-toothed smiles after the slaughter.

Fortunately, the butchery was all in the name of good fun and a worthy cause as Wildfire, the upscale eatery in McLean's Tysons Galleria, hosted its third annual pumpkin-carving workshop and contest.

For the \$15 per child registration fee, each child received a pumpkin, a set of plastic carving tools, stencils and a goody bag to take home. Wildfire also donated a portion of the proceeds to Food for Others in Fairfax, the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia.

Wildfire Executive Chef Eddie Ishaq said the restaurant has been donating to Food for Others for several years. "We try to give back to our neighbors and community as much as we can," Ishaq said, noting that Wildfire hosts several holiday-themed events

that benefit the nonprofit food bank.

"What I thought was awesome was seeing families do this together, as well as doing something for a good cause. Food for Others is a wonderful community resource," said NBC4 Weekend Anchor Angie Goff. "I hope this event becomes a family tradition."

Goff and Ishaq led the hands-on carving session, and judged the contest.

Children of all ages spent the afternoon carving sweet, scary and zany pumpkins and munching on gourmet roasted pumpkin seeds as their parents helped with the carving duties.

"I liked that the pumpkins were pretty much already gutted," said Erin Ackerman of Great Falls. "Everything was set up and ready to go."

Mary-Margaret Herndon of Berryville said this is the third year she and her family have traveled more than two hours for the event. "It's a fun family thing to do with the girls. They really love it."

The O'Sullivan sisters from Great Falls—Anna, Cecilia and Evelyn—debated which stencils to use for their pumpkins, but they all agreed on the best thing about Halloween. "Candy, candy, candy!" the girls chanted.

When all the pumpkins had been carved, Ishaq announced the winners. First place: Ethan Choi, right, of Chantilly; second place: Zach Sylvester of McLean; and third place: Skyler Brown of McLean. They all received gift certificates to the restaurant.

"This was so much fun, and my pumpkin turned out pretty cool," said Choi.



And the winners are... First place: Ethan Choi, right, of Chantilly; second place: Zach Sylvester of McLean; and third place: Skyler Brown of McLean. The winners received gift certificates to Wildfire in McLean during Saturday's pumpkin-carving workshop and contest.

Meghan (left) and Natalie Ackerman of Great Falls get some pumpkin-carving tips from mom Erin during Wildfire's pumpkin-carving workshop and contest on Saturday in McLean. A portion of the proceeds from the event benefits Food for Others in Fairfax.



From left, Gwen Quinnan, and brother Griffin, 10, get some help from grandparents Rita and Bill Crabill of Vienna during Wildfire's pumpkin-carving workshop and contest on Saturday in McLean. A portion of the proceeds from the event benefits Food for Others in Fairfax.

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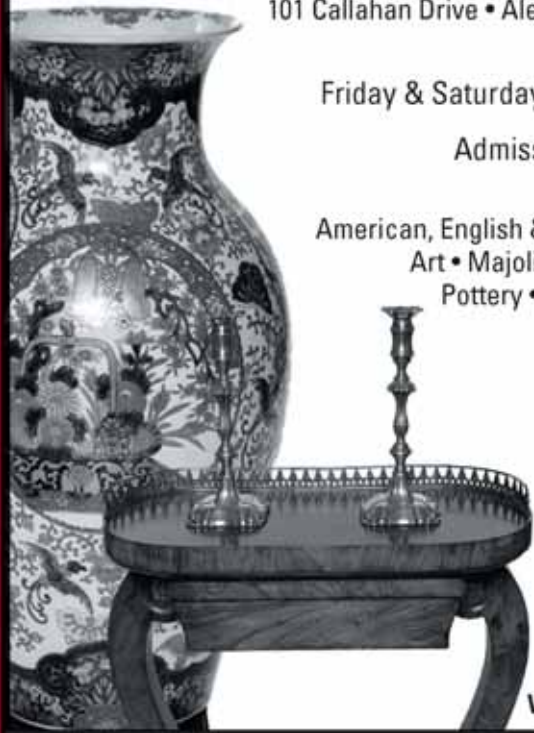
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- **CREATING JOBS:** To attract businesses and create jobs, they will work to build a talented and educated workforce that makes Virginia globally competitive.
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Mark R. Warner

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News

Chamber Honors McLean Orchestra, Awards Past President

The McLean Orchestra was honored as this year's "beneficiary" of proceeds from the Greater McLean Chamber's third annual Suits & Sneakers event at Claude Moore Colonial Farm on Oct. 2.

As it has for many prior Chamber events, the orchestra provided two musical ensembles to entertain the large crowd. Following the event, President Marcia S. Twomey presented the orchestra Executive Director John Huling with a charitable donation of \$1,500. Huling noted that this would help the orchestra to continue its community outreach efforts including the provision of ensembles for community events. Two orchestra ensembles performed at the McLean Project for the Art's Artfest in the McLean Community Park on Oct. 14.

A key feature of the third annual Suits & Sneakers event, which was attended by over 250 business leaders and elected officials, was the presentation by Greater McLean Chamber Chairman Merritt Green of the 2012 Business and Community Award Winners. In keeping with the theme of honoring the McLean Orchestra, Immediate Past President Wayne Sharp, under whose leadership the excellent collabora-



Wayne Sharp receiving the award from Marcia Twomey, president of the McLean Chamber of Commerce

tion with the Chamber had developed, received the Chairman's Award.

In addition to leading a revitalization of the orchestra as president after the "Great Recession" that adversely affected non-profits, and especially the performing arts, Dr. Sharp is a long time leader in community service. He has served as president of the community associations in McLean where he and his wife Linda have resided since 1972, first in Potomac Hills and then in Chain Bridge Forest, for which he was honored as director emeritus and is currently the senior advisor. Adopted at birth, Sharp is active with the National Council for Adoption, currently serving as Treasurer and on the Executive Committee. He is president of the Foreign Agricultural Service Retirees, and for many years served on the Gift Planning Council at Inova Hospitals. During his 25-year career in the US Foreign Service, Sharp twice received the president's Meritorious Foreign Service Award.

As new orchestra president, Aileen Pisciotta, Esq., thanked the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce for the generous donation, and promised to further strengthen the collaboration that Wayne Sharp and John Huling have established.

Free Remodeling & Design Seminars!

Sat., Nov. 10th — 10am-2pm

Where: 5795B Burke Centre Pkwy, Burke, VA 22015 (behind Kohl's)

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Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

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Opinion

As Sandy Rolls in, Still Plan to Vote

Variety of choices in political landscape.

Hurricane Sandy means that the week preceding the election will not be what we were expecting. This editorial is being written Sunday night, Oct. 28, as forecasters predict five inches of rain and 65-mile-per-hour winds over the next two days.

With some predicting that power could take a week or more to restore, we have to worry about what the likely condition of the Eastern seaboard will be on Election Day, Nov. 6. Absentee voting in person had been cancelled for Monday, and most government offices were closed in anticipation of the storm. What will this mean for voter turnout, for access to voting places on Election Day?

We don't believe that there are significant numbers of undecided voters in Northern Virginia. There are voters who know who they would vote for if they did vote, but they might not be committed to voting if circumstances are difficult. The outcome of the national election, both who will be president and which party controls the U.S. Senate and by what margin, could depend on voter turnout in Virginia. Make a commitment to have your vote counted, no matter how many days you might be without electricity.

We are not endorsing candidates for elected office this year. We do recommend that voters support local bond questions for investments in libraries, schools, transportation, parks, stormwater management and public safety.

Four years ago in the presidential election of 2008, there were 5,034,660 voters registered in Virginia, and 3,752,858 actually voted. On Oct. 3, Fairfax County reported 723,967 total voters registered. Arlington reported 163,919 total voters. Alexandria reported 104,947 registered voters.

At the top of the ticket, in addition to choosing a president and vice president, Virginians will choose a new U.S. senator. Tim Kaine (D), former governor will face George Allen (R), also former governor and former U.S. senator, to replace U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D) who is re-

tiring from the Senate after a single term. Webb defeated George Allen six years ago. Connection coverage of the U.S. Senate race is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Election/National/Senate.

Two constitutional questions will appear on all Virginia ballots, one about the use of eminent domain and one about the timing of a particular session of the General Assembly to consider overriding vetoes by the governor of

parts of Fairfax County including Mount Vernon, Lorton and parts of McLean, Tysons and Falls Church.

In the 10th District, Frank Wolf (R), elected to office in 1982, will face Democrat Kristin A. Cabral and independent J. Kevin Chisholm. The 10th district sprawls from McLean to Winchester, and includes Great Falls, Chantilly, parts of Fairfax Station, the Town of Clifton, part of Burke and Springfield.

In the 11th District, Gerry Connolly (D), former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, elected to congress in 2008, will face Republican Chris Perkins and Independents Joe Galdo, Peter M. Marchetti and Mark T. Gibson. The 11th district now includes the City of Fairfax, the Town of Herndon, Reston, central Fairfax County including parts of Burke, Springfield and Lorton.

In Fairfax County, we recommend that voters support investment in infrastructure based on four bond questions, answering yes to support \$75

million for parks, \$55 million for public safety facilities, \$25 million for library facilities and \$30 million for stormwater and sewer improvements. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/nov_2012_county_bond_issues.pdf

In the City of Alexandria, voters will also choose a mayor; members of the city council and school board. If you are voting by paper ballot, don't forget to vote both sides of the ballot.

In Arlington, voters will choose one member of the County Board and one member of the School Board. Both Arlington boards are made up entirely of at-large members, so both races will appear on all Arlington ballots.

Arlington voters will also decide yes or no on four bond questions, whether to authorize raising \$32 million for public schools, \$28 million for community infrastructure, \$50 million for local parks and recreation, and \$32 million for Metro and transportation. www.arlingtonva.us/departments/voterregistration/forms/Bonds2012ENG.pdf

There is more information on our website under www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections/

Stay safe during the storm.

For More Election Information

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
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www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.html

legislation that was passed by the assembly. See www.sbe.virginia.gov/webdocs/201211ConstitutionalAmendmentsPoster.pdf.

Coverage of the eminent domain question in particular can be found at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections.

In the races for U.S. House of Representatives, it's worth noting that redistricting resulted in significant changes in Northern Virginia in terms of who your U.S. representative will be. If you live in Reston, for example, in the last election you were represented by Jim Moran and the 8th district, now you are in the 11th district where the incumbent is Gerry Connolly. See the map for details. Fairfax County is represented by three Congressional Districts, 8, 10 and 11. Connection coverage of congressional races is available at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Election/National/Representatives.

In the 8th District, incumbent U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D), seeking his 12th term since being elected in 1990, will face Patrick Murray (R), and two independent candidates, Janet Murphy and Jason Howell. The 8th district includes all of Alexandria and Arlington, plus

Letters to the Editor

A Danger of Moving Backwards

To the Editor:

It is especially timely that certain Republican candidates for Congress have spoken and clearly stated what their true opinions are regarding rape specifically and women's health issues in general. The words they speak, as scientifically inaccurate, insensitive and seemingly irrational as they are, raise a deeper issue in terms of the society in which we live. The

deeper issue is that if we allow people like these to be in positions of power and leave it to them to create policy based on their beliefs, our pluralistic and tolerant society will move backwards. We need to think carefully about these candidates and what they really stand for. We need to elect representatives who will promote sensitivity towards women, work hard for fair and equal treatment of them, and reject turning back the clock to a time when women had few rights and were not treated equally. To quote Mao Zedong, "Women hold up half the sky." I believe the people in the various

states throughout the country, Virginia included, will make the correct decisions when they vote in two weeks. We will be able to celebrate another step towards equality for women.

Robert Cox
McLean

Kudos to Connolly

To the Editor:

Kudos to Congressman Gerry Connolly for his strong remarks about women at the rally with

President Obama last week at George Mason University. Congressman Connolly personalized his strong support for women's rights when he talked about his own daughter and how he was able to cast a vote for the Lily Ledbetter Act to ensure that she and other daughters will have the right to equal pay.

Gerry Connolly's comments were in stark contrast to the Republican War on Women and their repeated attacks on women's health services, Planned Parenthood, contraception, and equal pay and equal rights. Republican

See Letters, Page 11

McLean
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
To discuss ideas and concerns,
Call: 703-778-9410
e-mail:
mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Chelsea Bryan
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
cbryan@connectionnewspapers.com

Alex McVeigh
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9441
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com
[@AMcVeighConnect](https://twitter.com/AMcVeighConnect)

Victoria Ross
County Reporter ♦ 301-502-6027
rosspinning@yahoo.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
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Trisha Hamilton
Display Advertising
703-778-9419
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Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising
703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Jean Card
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
703-778-9436
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
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CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

Letters

From Page 10

candidates are now backing away from their past votes and statements, but let us not forget that actions speak louder than words.

Gerry Connolly's record is clear on women. He talks the talk and walks the walk. His voting record in Congress is a record of respect for women and a clear understanding that we must continue to fight for the future of our daughters and our sons.

I encourage Connection readers to join me in voting to reelect Congressman Gerry Connolly. He has stood with us and we should stand with him.

Patricia Leslie
McLean

Vote Yes on Eminent Domain Amendment

To the Editor:

As I'm sure most of you know, Virginia voters will have an important say this election in who becomes the next president and which party will control the Senate. But, this year Virginia voters will also get to vote on adding an eminent domain amendment to the state constitution. I'm writing to ask readers to vote YES for the eminent domain amendment.

The earliest English settlers came to Virginia in 1607 for, among other things, property rights. Since that time many have come to American fleeing totalitarian regimes in search of these same rights. Property rights

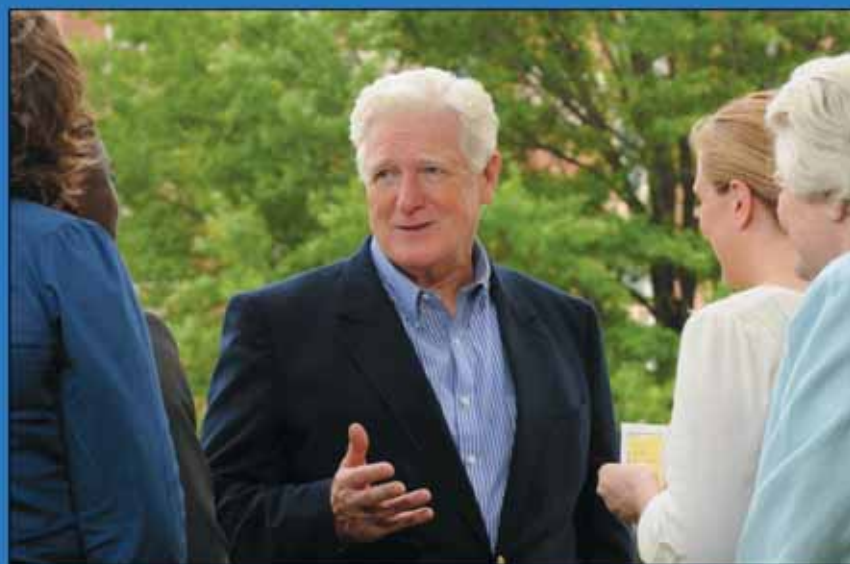
are a foundation of our democratic freedoms and must be protected. When the exercise of eminent domain is necessary, it is in society's best interest that property can only be taken for public use and just compensation is paid for the loss of private property. However, with the Supreme Court's ruling in *Kelo v. New London* (2005), the government now has the power to transfer land from a homeowner to a private company in the name of furthering economic development.

This year voters can put a halt on government overreach and put more power back in the hands of Virginians by supporting the eminent domain amendment. The amendment states that: (1) The right to private property is "fundamental" right. (2) The taking or damaging of private property must be for a "public use." (3) No more property may be taken or damaged than is necessary for the stated public use. (4) Just compensation for property taken is expanded and defined to be "no less than the value of the property taken, lost profits and lost access, and damages to the residue caused by the taking."

I would like to thank Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli for his advocacy on this issue and his defense of private property rights of all Virginians. Ownership of private property is vital to our personal rights and a cornerstone to a free society and that is why I urge all Virginia voters to vote yes on Question 1 on Nov. 6.

Kyle McCauley
McLean

Nov. 6 Vote Jim Moran



"I am honored to represent Virginia's 8th District. I work hard to be deserving of this privilege because I believe deeply in the American dream and in the essential role the Federal Government can serve in the fulfillment of that dream. Well-paying jobs, world-class schools, and a clean, healthy environment are what matter most. That's what motivates me to work for you."

- Congressman Jim Moran

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Proposed Constitutional Amendments

To be voted on at the November 6, 2012 Election

Full text of Amendment [Proposed new language is underlined. Existing language that is deleted is shown as stricken (~~stricken~~)]

1 Article I. Bill of Rights.

Section 11. Due process of law; obligation of contracts; taking of private property; prohibited discrimination; jury trial in civil cases.

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Section 11 of Article I (Bill of Rights) of the Constitution of Virginia be amended (i) to require that eminent domain only be exercised where the property taken or damaged is for public use and, except for utilities or the elimination of a public nuisance, not where the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development; (ii) to define what is included in just compensation for such taking or damaging of property; and (iii) to prohibit the taking or damaging of more private property than is necessary for the public use?

EXPLANATION

Current Constitution and Background

Article I, Section 11 of the current Constitution prohibits the taking or damaging of private property for public uses without just compensation. The power to take private property for public uses is known as the power of eminent domain. If a private property owner and the entity acquiring property for a public use cannot agree on the sale of the property, the property may be taken by eminent domain and the amount of just compensation is decided in a court proceeding.

In a 2005 case from Connecticut, the United States Supreme Court upheld the taking of private property and its transfer to a private business for economic development purposes and also said that states could restrict the use of eminent domain (*Kelo v. City of New London*, 545 U.S. 469). Two years later, the Virginia General Assembly enacted § 1-219.1 of the Code of Virginia and set limits on the use of eminent domain powers. For example, § 1-219.1 provides that no more private property may be taken than is necessary for the stated public use, that the public interest for the taking must outweigh any private gain, and that private property cannot be taken for certain primary purposes such as increasing the tax base, revenues, or employment.

Proposed Amendment

The proposed constitutional amendment continues the approach and concepts set out in § 1-219.1. However, while limits in the Code can be amended by any future General Assembly, the proposed amendment, if approved by the voters, could only be changed by a future constitutional

amendment approved by the voters.

The proposed amendment includes the following:

- The right to private property is a “fundamental” right.
- The taking or damaging of private property must be for a “public use.”
- No more property may be taken or damaged than is necessary for the stated public use.
- A “public service company, public service corporation, or railroad exercises the power of eminent domain for public use when such exercise is for the authorized provision of utility, common carrier, or railroad services.” Elimination of a public nuisance may be a public use. It is not a public use if the “primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development.”
- Just compensation for property taken is expanded and defined to be “no less than the value of the property taken, lost profits and lost access, and damages to the residue caused by the taking.” The terms “lost profits” and “lost access” are to be defined by the General Assembly, and it has done so by separate legislation that will become law if this proposed amendment is approved by the voters (Chapters 699 and 719, 2012 Acts of Assembly).
- The entity condemning property, known as the condemnor, has the burden to prove that the property is being taken for a public use.

Amend Section 11 of Article I of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

Article I. Bill of Rights

Section 11. Due process of law; obligation of contracts; taking or damaging of private property; prohibited discrimination; jury trial in civil cases.

That no person shall be deprived of his life, liberty, or property without due process of law; that the General Assembly shall not pass any law impairing the obligation of contracts, ~~nor any law whereby private property shall be taken or damaged for public uses, without just compensation, the term “public uses” to be defined by the General Assembly; and that the right to be free from any governmental discrimination upon the basis of religious conviction, race, color, sex, or national origin shall not be abridged, except that the mere separation of the sexes shall not be considered discrimination.~~

That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, trial by jury is preferable to any other, and ought to be held sacred. The General Assembly may limit the number of jurors for civil cases in courts of record to not less than five.

That the General Assembly shall pass no law whereby private property, the right to which is fundamental, shall be damaged or taken except for public use. No private property shall be damaged or taken for public use without just compensation to the owner thereof. No more private property may be taken than necessary to achieve the stated public use. Just compensation shall be no less than the value of the property taken, lost profits and lost access, and damages to the residue caused by the taking. The terms “lost profits” and “lost access” are to be defined by the General Assembly. A public service company, public service corporation, or railroad exercises the power of eminent domain for public use when such exercise is for the authorized provision of utility, common carrier, or railroad services. In all other cases, a taking or damaging of private property is not for public use if the primary use is for private gain, private benefit, private enterprise, increasing jobs, increasing tax revenue, or economic development, except for the elimination of a public nuisance existing on the property. The condemnor bears the burden of proving that the use is public, without a presumption that it is.

Are You Election Ready?

A new Virginia Voter ID law requires one acceptable form of identification to vote. Acceptable forms of ID include:

- ★ Your Voter Registration Card
- ★ Valid Virginia Driver's License or ID Card
- ★ ID Issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia, a Political Subdivision, or the U.S. Government
- ★ Current utility bill, bank statement or government check with current name and address
- ★ Valid Student ID from any institution of higher learning in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- ★ For additional acceptable forms of ID, visit www.sbe.virginia.gov, or call 1-800-552-9745.

Deadline to Register to vote
October 15, 2012

General Election
November 6, 2012

Voter Registration Cards will be mailed to registered voters in late-September. Virginia citizens have until October 15, 2012 to apply to register to vote or update their registration information. If you have questions, please call the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745.

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Proposed Constitutional Amendments

To be voted on at the November 6, 2012 Election

Full text of Amendment [Proposed new language is underlined. Existing language that is deleted is shown as stricken (~~stricken~~)]

2 Article IV. Legislature.

Section 6. Legislative sessions.

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall Section 6 of Article IV (Legislature) of the Constitution of Virginia concerning legislative sessions be amended to allow the General Assembly to delay by no more than one week the fixed starting date for the reconvened or "veto" session when the General Assembly meets after a session to consider the bills returned to it by the Governor with vetoes or amendments?

EXPLANATION

Current Constitution and Background

After the end of every legislative session, the General Assembly is required by the Constitution to meet again or reconvene in a "veto" session. The only bills that the General Assembly can consider in a veto session are bills that it had passed during the legislative session and that the Governor has sent back to it with his vetoes or suggested amendments.

The Constitution now requires that the veto session must begin on the sixth Wednesday following the end of each session. The veto session usually lasts for only one day and cannot last more than ten days.

Proposed Amendment

The only change to Section 6 of Article IV, proposed by this amendment will allow the General Assembly to delay the start of the veto session for up to one week. The General Assembly will be able to avoid the possible scheduling of the veto session on a religious holiday such as Passover. The proposed amendment does not change the present limits on the business that can be considered in a veto session or on the length of the veto session.

Amend Section 6 of Article IV of the Constitution of Virginia as follows:

Article IV. Legislature

Section 6. Legislative sessions.

The General Assembly shall meet once each year on the second Wednesday in January. Except as herein provided for reconvened sessions, no regular session of the General Assembly convened in an even-numbered year shall continue longer than sixty days; no regular session of the General Assembly convened in an odd-numbered year shall continue longer than thirty days; but with the concurrence of two-thirds of the members elected to each house, any regular session may be extended for a period not exceeding thirty days. Neither house shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn to another place, nor for more than three days.

The Governor may convene a special session of the General Assembly when, in his opinion, the interest of the Commonwealth may require and shall convene a special session upon the application of two-thirds of the members elected to each house.

The General Assembly shall reconvene on the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of each regular or special session for the purpose of considering bills which may have been returned by the Governor with recommendations for their amendment and bills and items of appropriation bills which may have been returned by the Governor with his objections. No other business shall be considered at a reconvened session. Such reconvened session shall not continue longer than three days unless the session be extended, for a period not exceeding seven additional days, upon the vote of the majority of the members elected to each house. The General Assembly may provide, by a joint resolution approved during a regular or special session by the vote of the majority of the members elected to each house, that it shall reconvene on a date after the sixth Wednesday after adjournment of the regular or special session but no later than the seventh Wednesday after adjournment.

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Schools

Langley High School students Julie Sher and Justin Sher perform a dragon dance in the Langley HS auditorium prior to the start of the school's orchestra concert on Oct. 25. The concert entitled, Spirited Away, showcased the Asian culture and music.



Alyssa Katahara, a sophomore at Langley High School, performs a harp solo during the performance of Dance Sacree.

'Spirited Away' at Langley High

School's orchestra concert showcases Asia culture and music.

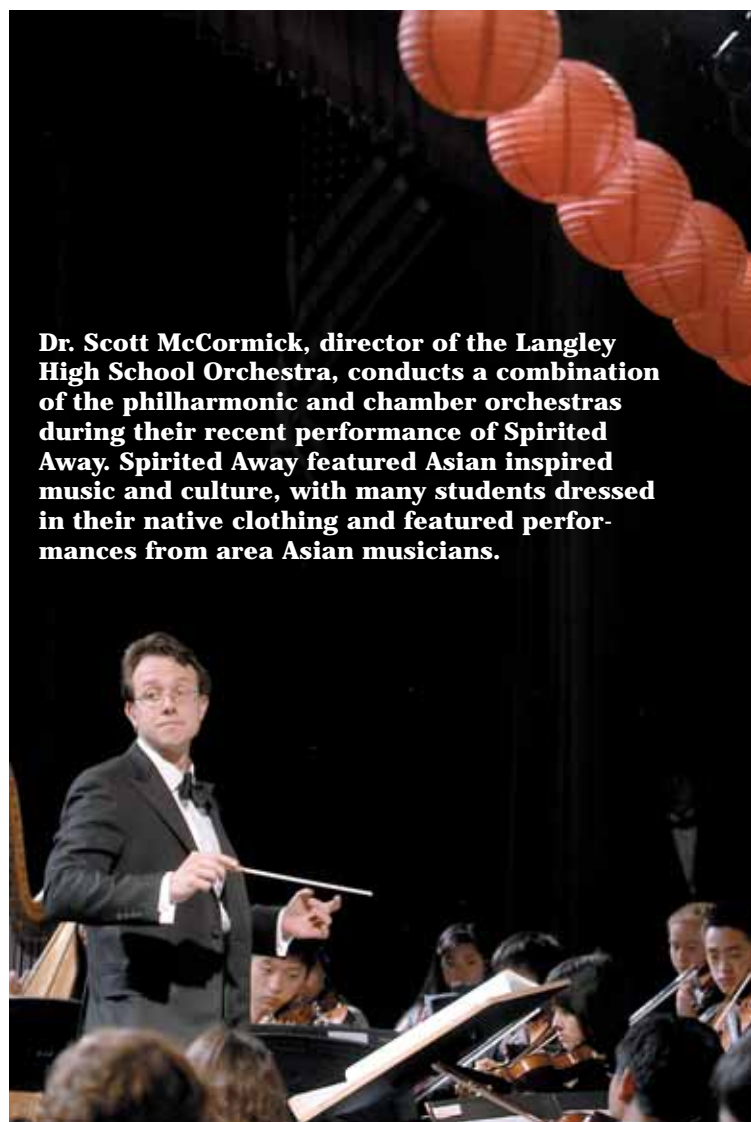
The Langley High School Orchestra presented "Spirited Away: A Celebration of Asian Culture and Music" to a full house on Oct. 25. Music played by the five orchestras included compositions from Japan,

Korea, China, Taiwan, India, and Singapore. Guest performers included Nen Daiko (Traditional Japanese Taiko Drum Ensemble), Indian dancer Pallavi Rudraraju, the Asian American Arts Center (Korean Jang-goh Drum Dance), and the new student rock band,

"Eastward Bound." Many members of the orchestra and audience wore the traditional garments of their native country. An Asian Festival prior to the concert featured food from different countries and exhibits representing China, India, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam. The next concert will be on Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. in the Langley HS Auditorium.

Photos by Robbie Hammer/The Connection

The Langley High School Orchestra performs a selection of Asian music during their performance titled Spirited Away, on Thursday night.



Dr. Scott McCormick, director of the Langley High School Orchestra, conducts a combination of the philharmonic and chamber orchestras during their recent performance of Spirited Away. Spirited Away featured Asian inspired music and culture, with many students dressed in their native clothing and featured performances from area Asian musicians.



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Photo by Jennifer Benitz/The Connection

Riverbend Road is cut off at the corner of Jeffery Road in Great Falls after a fallen tree knocked down a power line. This picture was taken on Tuesday, Oct. 30 at noon, the day after Hurricane Sandy swept through Northern Virginia.

Sandy Leaves Thousands Without Power

From Page 6

"The road was flooded. The bridge is not flooded, but the road on the Hunter Station Road side of the bridge is washed out. I made it through (SUV), but it is very difficult to see and you come up on the water quickly and it is deep," Gottshalk said.

At 5 a.m. Tuesday morning, Hunter Mill Road was still closed, but the floodwaters had receded and cars were driving around the barriers.

Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) held several news conferences on Sunday and Monday with County Executive Director Ed Long, giving status updates on the storm, County updates and safety information.

She cautioned motorists to turn back if they are driving and encounter a patch of road that is underwater.

"It may look like you can drive through the water," she said, "but it's often deceptive how deep and fast-moving the water is. Don't chance it, just turn around."

Tuesday morning, County officials urged residents to stay off the roads to keep them clear for VDOT clean-up crews, utility restoration and public safety personnel.

"Many trees fell across roads last night and by this morning they were largely cleared thanks to their

efforts and the planning and preparation that took place before the storm.

There are still areas without power. Please check with your neighbors to make sure they are alright and do not need help," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield.)

Countywide it is reported that 55 trees fell into homes.

"I saw many trees leaning into other trees, structures and wires this morning. Please keep yourself and kids clear of these trees until they have been assessed and dealt with," he said.

According to VDOT, all interstates in northern Virginia are clear. VDOT officials reminded drivers that HOV restrictions have been lifted today on interstates 66, 95, 395, and the Dulles Toll Road.

VDOT reminds drivers:

- ❖ Treat intersections where traffic signals are out as four-way stops.
- ❖ Since many fallen trees contain power lines, drivers and residents are strongly advised to avoid contact with them.
- ❖ Do not attempt to drive through high water.
- ❖ Slow down on wet roads to avoid hydroplaning.
- ❖ Ensure vehicles have adequate fuel to complete trips during power outages.



Photo by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Cars enter floodwaters on Hunter Mill Road in Vienna Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 9 a.m. The road was closed until 10 a.m. Tuesday.

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Schools



From left, back row: Craig McKenzie, Brian Niu, Ben Yang, Sam Mayman, Jesse Levin, Alfred Lam and Andrew Jones; front row: John Higgins, Emily Gurian, Amelia Welch, Beth Richardson, Kushali Marwaha and Grant Brown.

Virginia Honors Choir to Feature 13 Langley High Students

The 2012 VMEA (Virginia Music Educators Association) Honors Choir will feature 13 Langley High School seniors out of the 131 senior choral students selected from the entire state of Virginia. The seniors were selected during a rigorous audition process held Saturday, Oct. 13 at Longwood College. For the third time in the last four years, Langley High School had the highest number of students selected of any high school in the state.

These top performers include: Kushali Marwaha,

Amelia Welch, Beth Richardson and Emily Gurian singing Alto 2; Brian Niu (1st Place), Alfred Lam (3rd Place) and Craig McKenzie singing Tenor 2; John Higgins, Grant Brown, Ben Yang and Andrew Jones singing Bass 1; and Jesse Levin (1st Place) and Sam Mayman singing Bass 2.

The students will travel to Hot Springs, Va. from Nov. 15-17 to participate in rehearsals for the Honors Choir that culminate in a concert at the VMEA In-Service Conference Event at the Homestead.

Week in McLean

Bringing Healthcare to Ethiopian Villages

The AAUW Branch Program, 7 p.m., Nov. 13 at the McLean Community Center features Nancy Pendarvis Harris who will talk about challenges and successes of bringing life saving preventive and curative health care to rural, under-served families in Ethiopia through the Rural Health Extension Worker Program. Harris recently spent four months in Ethiopia working on one of John Snow, Inc.'s (a public health NGO) 12 projects there, the Integrated Family Health Program, which in turn assists the Government of Ethiopia implement its nationwide Rural Health Extension Worker Program. In addition to her current working experiences in Ethiopia, Harris' perspectives are enriched by having traveled to more than 120 countries and living for many years in Nicaragua and Kenya. The public is welcome to attend the 7 p.m. AAUW program at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

Survey on Drinking and Driving in Fairfax County

Fairfax County residents 18 and older are being asked to complete a brief survey on behaviors and attitudes about underage drinking, binge drinking, and alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes in the county. Data collected in the survey by George Mason University will be used by the nonprofit Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) to develop and implement strategies to reduce the number of alcohol-related crashes for those 18-24. To take the anonymous survey, go to www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org by Nov. 9 and click on "Community Perception Survey."

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Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM
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PARISH WEBSITE:
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Schools



Jan Clark's kindergarteners Erica Dong, Nash Butler, Matthew Troy, John Deringer, Zachary Yellen, Evan Kelly and Carter Cadin perform a rousing rendition of "O Columbus," a song about Columbus' voyage to America.

Celebrating Columbus at Churchill Road

On Friday, Oct. 5, Churchill Road kindergarten classes celebrated Columbus Day by learning about Christopher Columbus. They created hats representing the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria and learned a special song, "O Columbus," commemorating his historic voyage. They also

enjoyed a special "Sailor Snack" of bread, cheese, tomato, orange, lemon, raisins, rice, honey and dried salted beef—the only foods that Columbus and his sailors had on board their ships. Sampling only these foods helped the students understand the differences between long ago and now.



Churchill Road kindergarteners Daniel Zeng and Redda Brigety in Erin Thurston's class enjoyed a "Sailor Snack" of bread, cheese, tomato, orange, lemon, raisins, rice, honey and dried salted beef—the only food Columbus and his sailors had on their voyage.



Erin Thurston's kindergarten class poses for a Columbus day photograph wearing the hats they made to commemorate Columbus' voyage.

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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

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

The Annual Spooktacular. 5-7 p.m., at Great Falls Village Centre Green, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Trick-or-treat with area businesses in the heart of town. Children ages 12-and-under (6th grade) grab popcorn and drinks before going in the Great Falls Haunted House. www.celebrategreatfalls.org/Spook.html.

Halloween Pet Parade. 4-4:45 p.m., at the parking lot by Grandmothers Back Room, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Come with a costumed, leashed pet in tow and parade. Judging is at 4:30 p.m., with prizes for special categories; pets must be cleared from area by 4:40 p.m. www.celebrategreatfalls.org/Spook.html.

THURSDAY/NOV. 1

You Can't Take it with You. 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. The Providence Players present the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy classic about grandpa and his eccentric family as they clash with the stuffy Kirbys. \$18, adults; \$15, students and seniors. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

Noah Gundersen + David Ramirez. 8 p.m., at Jammin' Java., 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Two two musicians tour together. \$10. www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 2

The Spelling Bee. 7:30 p.m., the Olson Theater at Flint Hill School, 10410 Academic Drive, Oakton. Four young regional spelling winners go to Cincinnati to compete for a four-year college scholarship and one speller goes missing only to return in a wheelchair; see what happens when people will do anything to win. Free with reservations. www.flinthill.org/play.

You Can't Take it with You. 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. The Providence Players present the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy classic about grandpa and his eccentric family as they clash with the stuffy Kirbys. \$18, adults; \$15, students and seniors. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

What I Did Last Summer. 8 p.m., at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The WWII coming-of-age story set in Lake Erie about a rebellious 14-year-old who works as a handyman for a bohemian teacher and develops radical ideas leading to a clash between Charlie's conservative mother and the former member of the upper crust; ages 15-plus. MCP offers a \$200 prize and publication for the winning essay on the subject of the play. \$16; \$14 for seniors, students and MCC members. www.mcleanplayers.org.

Ingrid Fliter. 8 p.m., at The Barn at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The pianist makes her Discovery Series debut with virtuosic interpretations of Classical and Romantic era works. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 3

Flicker of Hope Vienna 5K Fun Walk. 10 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna



Photo Contributed

This year's MCC Children's Flea Market will be Saturday, Nov. 3.

Children's Flea Market

On Saturday, Nov. 3 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, children ages 3 to 15 sell gently used items including toys, electronics, games, jewelry, books, clothing and decorative items at a fraction of the original cost. 703-790-0123 ext. 711 or www.mcleancenter.org/kids/events.

Fire Department, Engine 402, 400 Center Street S, Vienna. The second annual 5K walk to benefit survivors of traumatic brain injuries; refreshments and raffle follow race. \$35 (includes t-shirt). www.flickerofhope.org.

Kiln Club Holiday Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. A dozen-plus artisans and potters offer up platters, bowls, cups, raku vases, vessels and high-fire pottery of all shapes with vivid glassy glazes; cash, check and cards accepted. www.kilnclubwdc.com.

SteveSongs. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. The PBS Kids favorite "Mr. Steve" brings his signature music, playing songs from his Orangutan Van album. \$15; children under age 1, free. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Children's Flea Market. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Children ages 3 to 15 sell gently used items including toys, electronics, games, jewelry, books, clothing and decorative items at a fraction of the original cost. 703-790-0123 ext. 711 or www.mcleancenter.org/kids/events.

Wit and Wisdom of Cole Porter. 1 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Part of the Jazz Masters series with John Eaton, a pianist, scholar and humorist; explore the career and life of Porter via a lecture/recital. 703-790-0123.

Community Harvest Dinner. 4:00-7:00 p.m. St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 7628 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Come attend a community harvest dinner that includes a turkey dinner, dessert and sides. \$10, adults; \$5, children 10-and-under. 703-893-9220.

Evening of Steak, Cabernet & Chocolate. 6:30 p.m., at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, Third Floor, 1714 International Drive, McLean. A reception preceding a three course meal from the chef; owner of Chouquette Artisan Chocolates & Confections talks on chocolate. \$90. 703-442-9110.

Tony Lucca. 7 p.m., 10 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Singer-songwriter and a finalist off The Voice signed to 222

Records; now he's on tour en route to an album release. www.jamminjava.com.

Halloween Dance. 7:30 p.m., lesson; 8:30-11 p.m., open dancing. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Vie for the prize with your best costume and dance the night away with swing, waltz, line, two step, cha cha and speciality dances; DJ, snacks and alcohol-free drinks provided. Couples and singles welcome. \$10, members; \$12, non-members; \$5, children 18-and-under with a paying adult. 703-860-4941 or www.nvcwda.org.

The Spelling Bee. 7:30 p.m., the Olson Theater at Flint Hill School, 10410 Academic Drive, Oakton. Four young regional spelling winners go to Cincinnati to compete for a four-year college scholarship and one speller goes missing only to return in a wheelchair; see what happens when people will do anything to win. Free with reservations. www.flinthill.org/play.

Jonathan Edwards. 7:30 p.m., at The Barn at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The singer/songwriter fills the evening with folk classics and Americana from his latest album My Love Will Keep. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

You Can't Take it with You. 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. The Providence Players present the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy classic about grandpa and his eccentric family as they clash with the stuffy Kirbys. \$18, adults; \$15, students and seniors. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

What I Did Last Summer. 8 p.m., at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The WWII coming-of-age story set in Lake Erie about a rebellious 14-year-old who works as a handyman for a bohemian teacher and develops radical ideas leading to a clash between Charlie's conservative mother and the former member of the upper crust; ages 15-plus. MCP offers a \$200 prize and publication for the winning essay on the subject of the play. \$16; \$14 for seniors, students and MCC members. www.mcleanplayers.org.

See Entertainment, Page 19

Saturday, Nov. 3, 2012
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
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Entertainment

From Page 18

Ballroom Dance at Colvin Run Community Hall. 8 p.m., 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Live music by "The Family," playing all your favorite ballroom dance styles from the 1930s to today. \$5 optional rumba lesson, \$15 dance. www.colvinrun.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 4

Kiln Club Holiday Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. A dozen-plus artisans and potters offer up platters, bowls, cups, raku vases, vessels and high-fire pottery of all shapes with vivid glassy glazes; cash, check and cards accepted. www.kilnclubwdc.com.

What I Did Last Summer. 2 p.m., at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The WWII coming-of-age story set in Lake Erie about a rebellious 14-year-old who works as a handyman for a bohemian teacher and develops radical ideas leading to a clash between Charlie's conservative mother and the former member of the upper crust; ages 15-plus. MCP offers a \$200 prize and publication for the winning essay on the subject of the play. \$16; \$14 for seniors, students and MCC members. www.mcleanplayers.org.

Amadeus Concerts: Idyll. 4 p.m., at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Reston Chorale, Saint Francis Choir, Saint Luke Choir and Amadeus Community Singers present Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll" among others. \$30; \$17, students 17-and-under. www.amadeusconcerts.com.

Fall Concerts of Traditional Celtic Music. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. VA and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 10th season of family friendly, fall traditional Celtic concerts; The John Byrne Band plays the first Sunday. Tickets for all 5 concerts, \$65; \$15 each for individual concerts. All ages. Reservations must be made in advance at the Old Brogue. 703-759-3309.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 7

Wayne Wolfersberger. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2025 Cedar Lane, Vienna. The Vienna Photographic Society hosts the wildlife photographer; he'll talk on the in-the-field techniques needed to make stunning wildlife images. www.waynewolfersberger.com/index.html. 703-451-7298 or www.vps-va.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 8

Flag Placing. 10 a.m., at Flint Hill Cemetery, on Chain Bridge Road between Courthouse Road on Hibbard Street. The Vienna American Legion Auxiliary places flags on veterans' graves; meet at the maintenance shed. 703-938-1379.

Building Blocks: Giving Children a Strong Foundation. 6-9:30 p.m., Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. In honor of the retirement of the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center executive director, faith groups, community organizations and corporations hold a reception and silent auction preceding a dinner and awards ceremony. Reservations by Oct. 15. 703-534-4907 or <http://fcmcc.org>.

Artist Demonstration: Painting in Pastels. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at the Vienna Arts Society Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NE, Vienna. Internationally known artist and author Maggie Price gives a two hour demonstration of her technique. 703-319-3971 or www.MaggiePriceArt.com.



John Byrne plays on Sunday, Nov. 4 as part of the Fireside Celtic Concerts Series at The Old Brogue.

John Byrne at the Old Brogue

The John Byrne Band's Dublin-born Byrne brings an acoustic version of his band to the Brogue, playing Irish songs and tunes on Sunday, Nov. 4 at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. The Celtic Concerts Series is held on five consecutive Sundays in November and December; it is the 10th season of family friendly, fall traditional Celtic fire-side concerts from the British Isles, Brittany, the Celtic areas of Northern Spain and the Americas. \$15. 703-759-3309, www.ionamusic.com/brogue.shtml or www.oldbrogue.com.

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**McLean
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Center**
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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Children's Flea Market

**Saturday, Nov. 3
11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Free admission

Support young vendors, ages 3-15, as they sell their gently used (and totally cool) books, games, electronics, clothes and toys for a fraction of their original prices.

Jazz Masters with John Eaton: **The Wit and Wisdom of Cole Porter**

**Saturday, Nov. 3
1 p.m.**

Free admission

Pianist, scholar and humorist John Eaton explores the career and life of American composer Cole Porter in this lecture/recital.

Alfred Hitchcock's **"North by Northwest"**

**Wednesday, Nov. 7
10 a.m.**

Free admission

All of the suspense you expect from the master, plus some unexpected humor. 136 minutes, not rated.

Hot Club of San Francisco: **"Cinema Vivant"**

**Saturday, Nov. 17
8 p.m.**

\$25/\$18 MCC district residents
Hot Club of San Francisco recreates the French Gypsy jazz of Django Reinhardt, Stéphane Grappelli and the Hot Club de France with original compositions and renditions of hot jazz classics.

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



Oakton's Klimkiewicz Repeats as Concorde XC Champ

Madison girls win Liberty District.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

For the second straight season, Oakton's Allie Klimkiewicz held off Robinson's Macey Schweikert to win the Concorde District girls' cross country championship.

After edging Schweikert by three seconds in 2011, Klimkiewicz beat her opponent from Robinson by one second on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park. Klimkiewicz finished with a time of 17:36, leading Oakton to a third straight team title.

"I knew she was there," Klimkiewicz said. "I was pretty sure she was close because you can kind of see shadows."

Schweikert finished second with a time of 17:37, helping Robinson to a runner-up team finish and a berth in the Northern Region championship meet, scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 1 at

Burke Lake Park. Oakton finished with a score of 40 at the district meet. Robinson finished with 45, followed by Chantilly (72) and Centerville (100).

Hailey Dougherty placed fourth (18:22) for Oakton.



Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz, seen earlier this season, won her second consecutive Concorde District cross country championship on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park.



McLean's Katie Montgomery, seen earlier this season, finished third at the Liberty District cross country championships on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park.



Langley's Jacquelyn Hulett, seen earlier this season, finished 35th at the Liberty District cross country championships on Oct. 24 at Burke Lake Park.

Kristi Carrigan finished ninth (18:56), Briana Stewart was 12th (19:22) and Kara Kendall was 14th (19:24).

Langley's Jessica Miles finished

second with a time of 19:21. McLean's Katie Montgomery (19:28) and Megan McCormack (19:40) finished third and sixth, respectively. South Lakes' Devin

Nieusma (19:56) and Monica Lannen (19:59) were 10th and 13th, respectively.

IN BOYS' ACTION, Oakton

placed fourth, grabbing the final regional berth. Chantilly won the event with a 19. Robinson finished second with a total of 64, followed by Westfield (92) and Oakton (95).

Oakton's top boys' finisher was Jack Stoney, who placed eighth with a time of 15:52. Chantilly's Sean McGorty won the event with a time of 14:38, one minute faster than his nearest competitor.

Later in the day, a pair of Madison harriers captured the individual Liberty District boys' and girls' championships.

Laura Sullivan won the girls' championship with a time of 19:11, helping the Warhawks capture the team title. Sullivan and her coach said they didn't expect such a strong performance. As a freshman last season, Sullivan placed 20th at districts.

"It came out of nowhere," Sullivan said. "I wasn't expecting it at all. I wanted to medal; I wanted to get top five. I got to the halfway point and I was in first and I didn't think much of it. It didn't process until the two-mile mark and I was like, 'I'm in first.'"

"Laura definitely stepped up," Madison coach Craig Chasse said. "That was a surprise. I wouldn't have predicted her winning. If you ask any of the other coaches, I don't think they would have guessed it. They would have guessed somebody else."

Madison's Amanda Swaak finished fourth (19:37). Christina Galiano placed seventh (19:47), Morgan Wittrock was 15th (20:02) and Anna Stone was 22nd (20:17).

In boys' action, Madison's Matthew Calem took home the individual title with a time of 15:43, edging Stone Bridge's Brady Guertin.

"He ran a smart race," Chasse said about Calem. "Nobody in the boys' race really wanted to take the lead, it looked like. They were pretty slow—5:17 at the mile—it's a little hot today; it became tactical ..."

MADISON FINISHED FIFTH, one spot away from a regional berth. Stone Bridge won the team title with a score of 43, followed by Thomas Jefferson (73), McLean (89) and South Lakes (95).

McLean's David Galdo (10th, 16:36) and Lewis Millholland (13th, 16:41) earned all-district. South Lakes' Ashkan Mohammadi (fourth, 16:12), Michael McHugh (11th, 16:39) and Andrew McCool (14th, 16:42) were also all-district.

Marshall's MacKenzie Haight finished third with a time of 16:08.

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News



Photos by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

From right, Will Dempsey, 13, Pastor Sandy Kessinger, Michael Petersen, 15, and Christian Markwart, 13, run around the Lutheran Redeemer Church in McLean Saturday, Oct. 27 to raise money for Stop Hunger Now.

Raising Funds to Stop Hunger

Lutheran Redeemer hosts fundraisers for Nov. 10 Stop Hunger Now event.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

As McLean prepares to package 250,000 meals for needy people throughout the world, members of the Lutheran Redeemer Church helped raise funds last weekend for the event.

The church hosted a fun run around the parking lot for those in costume Saturday morning, and an opera concert Sunday afternoon.

Saturday, Nov. 10 will be the fourth event McLean has hosted for Stop Hunger now, a nonprofit that provides nutritious, nonperishable meals that are shipped to education-based food programs in countries all around the world. Each meal contains rice, vegetable protein, dried vegetables and a seasoning that contains essential vitamins and minerals.

Volunteers at events are grouped into stations where they sort the rice, vegetables, seasoning and protein into sealable bags, which are then packaged for shipping from a Stop Hunger Now warehouse.

Each meal costs approximately 25 cents apiece, and are packaged together in servings of six. Organizers are hoping to raise at least \$62,500. The McLean Rotary Club has hosted events that packaged 100,000, 150,000 and 200,000 meals over the past two years.

"We thought we were shooting very high in November 2010 when we went for 100,000 meals, but this community has responded so well it's made it easy for us to continually aim higher," said Bob Hahne, a member of the McLean Rotary Club who has organized the past events.

Hahne said they are looking for 900 volunteers for the Nov. 10 event, 300 for each two-hour shift that will start at 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. They are also looking for a cleanup shift from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

In the past, groups from local Boy and Girl Scout Troops, Langley and McLean High Schools, local



Members of the Lutheran Redeemer Church and the McLean Rotary Club host fundraising events Saturday, Oct. 27 for Stop Hunger Now, a charity event coming up Nov. 10.

faith-based organizations and seniors from Vinson Hall have all participated.

"One of the best things about these events is that they bring the entire community together, from the younger children that help refill supplies to the seniors who help seal the bags," said Pastor Sandy Kessinger of Redeemer Lutheran.

The Nov. 10 event will also be collecting donated nonperishable items for local nonprofit Share. Items in high demand are laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, white rice, coffee, tea, white sugar, canned fruit, canned fruit juice, disposable diapers (in sizes 2, 3, 4 and 5) and personal toiletries such as deodorant, soap, shampoo and feminine hygiene products.

Those interested in donating or volunteering can contact Hahne at 703-790-5319. More information on Stop Hunger Now can be found at www.stophungernow.org.

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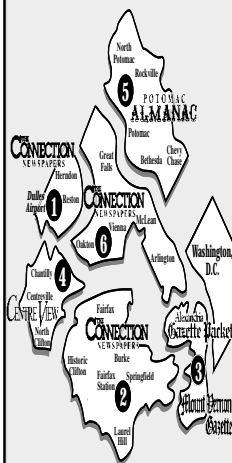
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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

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

Monday, November 5, 2012 at 11:30 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.

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

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Hands of Time



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

On the one hand, I want to take note every month on the 27th as yet one more notch on my living-with-cancer belt. On the other hand, maybe I don't need a belt to be notching but rather a life to be living. Perhaps it's time, nearly 44 months post-diagnosis - at press time, to stop counting backwards and try more living forwards. It's not as if keeping a running total in my head (as I do), gets me any closer to some sort of finish line where life can begin anew. Hardly. I'm not exactly cancer-free, more like cancer-stalled. Nevertheless, my monthly total does indicate how far I've come, how long I've lived, but it doesn't necessarily translate into how much longer I may live. In fact, it might suggest the exact opposite (only so much time left on the clock, hypothetically speaking), so why bother tracking time? Why not track the future instead? Go somewhere! Do something! Live a lot, not just a little.

Unfortunately, survivability in the terminal cancer world may simply be the means to your end. If you can't beat it, then you can only join it. Although you hope to outlast it, stay one step ahead and try to keep it from catching you. Perhaps I should consider - and embrace - the words of the great Satchel Page: "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you." Still, for me, totaling up the number of months since I received my official diagnosis/prognosis, gives me confidence that having survived this unexpectedly long (original prognosis was "13 months to two years"; median life expectancy is eight months) somehow means something positive going forward. Not that there's any statistical relationship between the past and the future. As Starfleet Captain, Kathryn Janeway said to her first officer Commander Chacotay on an episode of Star Trek: Voyager: "I swore I'd never let myself get caught in one of these Godforsaken paradoxes. The future is the past, the past is the future. It all gives me a headache." Certainly they weren't discussing cancer, but for me, wondering if counting the months I've lived with cancer might possibly have an effect on the months I have yet to live with/hopefully without cancer is beneficial somehow to surviving, is sort of how I roll. Whereas choosing the alternative approach: not counting and/or considering anything/everything, gives me a headache.

How do I stay ahead of cancer without betraying who I am or compromising my principles? As Curly Howard of The Three Stooges said while harnessed like a horse and pulling a wagon in an episode called "G.I. Wanna Go Home": "If I'm gonna work like a horse, I'm gonna eat like one, too" (as he began eating an extra-large sandwich). However I do this (live with cancer), I have to do it my way, or at least in a way that doesn't make me miserable. Because being miserable is all it's cracked up to be, and having a bad attitude likely fuels the cancer that unfortunately burns inside me. But I never want to think that I've learned all there is to learn to help my body/my mind fight the cancer. Maybe looking forward to potential accomplishments might extend life more than taking stock of previous achievements? On the one hand, those accomplishments (still living 44 months post diagnosis) might breed a certain confidence that bodes well to be well. On the other, focusing on the past may compromise the future?

I hope this column wasn't too confusing. If it was, welcome to my world. If it wasn't, "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din," (Cary Grant from the movie of the same name).

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

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