

Helping Children in Honduras

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Public Comment Open for Riverbend Master Plan

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A Chorus of Praise

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Maguire DiLenge, Luke Bennett, Olivia Dennen and Chloe Bennett at the Interact Bake Sale on the National Day of Service, Saturday, Jan. 19.

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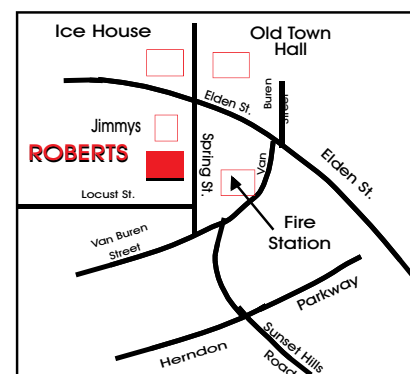
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Fairfax County and Virginia Department of Transportation staff cut the ribbon on a new scenic pull-off at Langley Forks Park Wednesday, Jan. 23.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Langley Forks Pull-off Open

Scenic pull-off features historical marker, 22 parking spots.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

McLean's Clemyjontri Park was founded in 2006 to provide a place for all children, regardless of ability, to play. While that goal has been achieved on the playground itself, the parking situation has been another story. Weekends often find the parking lot packed to capacity while open, with parents forced to park at nearby Langley Forks Park and walk along Georgetown Pike to Clemyjontri.

Fairfax County took a step toward improving that situation Wednesday, Jan. 23, opening a pull-off featuring 22 new parking spots (two handicapped) directly across Georgetown Pike.

"We're very thankful to the Virginia Department of Transportation as well as Fairfax County for supporting this project," said Kevin Fay, the Dranesville representative on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board. "Clemyjontri is a victim of its own success, drawing youngsters and families year-round."

Maura Boss of McLean says that Clemyjontri is a favorite of her children, but she is often hesitant

"Clemyjontri is a victim of its own success, drawing youngsters and families year-round."

— Kevin Fay, the Dranesville representative on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board

to go, knowing the parking woes waiting for her.

"This playground, in my opinion, is one of the best in the entire region, it's clean, modern and a lot of fun. But on weekends it sort of turns into a shopping mall during Christmas, every spot full and people idling, waiting for a spot to open up," she said. "I'm glad some more spots opened closer, I'd like it to be many more, but I understand they're limited by space. Kudos to the county for not standing pat on this issue, every extra spot helps."

The Virginia Department of Transportation administered a \$300,000 Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant to fund the project, with the county providing \$75,000 and the park authority providing \$75,000 for clearing the site and landscaping, which will take place in the spring.

In 1999, the grant was requested to help with traffic calming measures along Georgetown Pike, and a portion was set aside for the pull-off in 2006.

The pull-off was originally supposed to be only five spots, along with a historic marker, but Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), along with the park authority requested the expansion to 22 spots.

The historic marker mentions several nearby historic buildings, including the Langley Toll House, Langley Ordinary, Mackall House, Gunnell's Chapel, Langley Friends Meeting House and Hickory Hill, which has housed former Supreme Justice Robert Jackson, as well as then-Senator John Kennedy and then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

Lauren Mollerup, Transportation and Land Use director for VDOT, said they are looking at future safety improvement projects for the site, specifically a crosswalk from the pull off to Clemyjontri.



The new scenic pull-off at Langley Forks Park will provide 22 additional parking spots for Clemyjontri Park, which is located across Georgetown Pike and has chronic parking issues.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH

The McLean Community Center Governing Board delayed their vote on possible downtown expansion, to wait for a proposal that could include a land swap with the current Old Firehouse Teen Center, and allow the center to get a downtown facility that combines a teen center with other needs.

MCC Board Delays Expansion Vote

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Community Center board delayed their Jan. 23 vote on expansion and renovation after a development proposal was brought to their attention a mere 10 hours before their monthly meeting. The vote, which was supposed to decide whether the center would continue to pursue a new downtown facility and renovate the current building on Ingleside Drive, could happen as soon as the board's Feb. 27 meeting, provided the development proposal contains enough information for the board to decide its merits.

"I received a call from Supervisor [John] Foust (D-Dranesville) this morning, asking us to postpone our vote until we can see the proposal," said Kevin Dent, chair of the MCC board. "Supervisor Foust said he is not trying to sway our vote one way or another, but we've had a lot of input from our citizens and community groups, and we don't want to short change their efforts if there's new, relevant information that's going to come to light."

The board has been discussing the future of current and new facilities for more than a year, with hopes to add sections to the current center, as well as build a downtown facility that would combine the current teen center with a recreation and fitness center.

Bill Sudow, a board member with the McLean Revitalization Corporation, a nonprofit that seeks ways to shape the future of McLean's downtown, said the proposal could be an excellent opportunity for the MCC to

achieve its expansion goals, should they choose to pursue them.

"I believe this is a very serious proposal, one that would pair the county with the developer in a public-private partnership," he said. "It should incorporate the program goals that this group wants with a building and favorable location."

Sudow said the details were unavailable at the moment, but said the proposal involved a land swap with the current site of the Old Firehouse Teen center and a parcel near the intersection of Chain Bridge Road and Elm Street.

"From my perspective, this is an opportunity to locate the community center downtown that will not come up for many years, this parcel will not be available in the future," he said. "This is a chance to combine a teen center with recreation areas, and it's a tangible plan that will be on the table."

Within 30 days, the developer's proposal, including a summary of the proposed facility, description of public-private partnership, a schedule and budget, should be available to the MCC's board.

Expansion to a downtown facility could include fitness center facilities, which was identified as an area of need in a community survey conducted by the MCC.

The majority of the board's expansion work took place before Fairfax County voters approved a Park Authority bond in November's election, which included money to add a fitness center at Spring Hill Rec Center. Construction is expected to begin this summer, and it could affect community need for more fitness facilities.

THE COUNTY LINE



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION



Stanton (center) with his adoptive parents Mike and Freda Delgado of Fairfax during Fairfax Families4Kids National Mentoring Month Celebration on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Pinn Center in Fairfax. “This isn’t easy, but you can’t give up. Michael and I always say to Stanton that no matter what, we’re not giving up on you,” Freda said.

Fairfax Families4Kids hosted a luncheon for mentors to celebrate National Mentoring Month on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Pinn Center in Fairfax. (From left) Alexandra LaJoux; Joan Brady, Paris, 16, a foster teen who was recently adopted; Molly Pell; Carmen Jordan, Carissa and Beverly Howard, the director of the program.

A Chorus of Praise

Fairfax County mentors celebrated during National Mentor Month.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Second article in a three part series.

Can we get an “amen?” The joyful noise coming from the David R. Pinn Center in Fairfax on Saturday wasn’t a gospel revival, but it was just as inspiring and enlightening.

“C’mon now. I want to hear from everybody. Give me an adjective to describe your mentor... How about amazing?” asked Beverly Howard, the “dynamic” director of Fairfax Families4Kids.

“How about chill!” said Stanton, 14, sporting yellow sunglasses and a baseball cap, making everyone laugh.

“Supportive,” shouted one teen. “Caring and helpful,” shouted another.

The boisterous call-and-response session was part of a special luncheon hosted by Fairfax Families4Kids, a foster-mentoring program run by Fairfax County’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, to celebrate National Mentor Month. Created in 2005, the program’s mission is to build bonds between volunteers and foster children, a majority of whom are 14 years old or older.

“Mentors can truly make the difference between struggle and success,” Howard said. “Our mentors are all heroes.” She said research has shown that volunteer mentors can play a powerful role in reducing drug abuse and youth violence as well as boosting academic achievement.

While Howard was more than willing to praise mentors, many of the mentors and youth were just as enthusiastic about her.



Alexandra LaJoux, of Fairfax, holds up a poster created by one of the youth she mentors. She attended the Fairfax Families4Kids luncheon for mentors to celebrate National Mentoring Month on Saturday, Jan. 26, at the Pinn Center in Fairfax.

teach a class.

“And let me add that I love the name Paris,” LaJoux said with a mischievous grin, before snapping her fingers and serenading Paris with the Cole Porter classic “I love Paris.”

“*I love Paris in the spring time; I love Paris in the fall; I love Paris in the summer when it sizzles; I love Paris in the winter when it drizzles...*” I sang that song to her the first time I met her,” LaJoux said, laughing. “You can see, we’re just one big family here.”

“Yeah, one big crazy family,” Paris said, smiling. The celebration ended on a high note, as mentors gathered around a chocolate cake with candles.

“Blow out the candles and make a wish,” said Howard. “I wish all of you loving families.”

“Miss Beverly is fun and funny,” said William, a 13-year-old in the program who was recently adopted. “When we’re sad, she brings us up.”

“She uses her soft, inside voice with us,” said a 16-year-old foster youth. “She doesn’t yell. I like that.”

Another foster child spoke movingly about his mentor, “Mr. Keith” Foxx, one of the program’s first mentors. “He’s a great basketball player. He’s smart, and he’s always happy to see me.”

Paris, a 16-year-old singer/songwriter, praised all the mentors by leading the group in singing “We Are The World,” playing her jazz interpretation of the song on a guitar. After several years in the program, Paris was recently adopted.

“Paris is so talented. She’s an avid reader and she writes poetry,” said Alexandra LaJoux, a mentor who lives in Fairfax. LaJoux—known for her exuberant personality, and her penchant for bursting into song—is a music teacher who became involved in the program when she volunteered to

VIEWPOINTS

Inspired to Mentor

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recently recognized January as National Mentoring Month. “As a nation, we need to ensure that all of our young people are well equipped to lead healthy and productive lives. You can help a young person prepare for a successful future

by volunteering with a local mentoring program,” said General Colin L. Powell, the spokesperson for the national campaign, during an event in Washington, D.C. last week. As part of National Mentoring Month, we asked mentors with Fairfax Families4Kids, a Fairfax County foster-mentoring program

“What Inspires You to be a Mentor?”



Alexandra R. Lajoux

“Joy! After songwriting with creative teens in foster care, I wanted to spend more time with them and to mentor. Paraphrasing a prayer: “Child of God, my mentee dear, to whom God’s love commits me here. Ever this life, I’m at your side. To light, to guard, to love, to guide.”

Kathy Moore

“When my younger child left home for college, I realized that I had time, energy, and love to give to teenagers who had no caring adults in their lives. The challenges are great, but seeing the kids become confident, happy and trusting through the mentor relationships is incredibly rewarding.”



Keith Foxx

“It’s simple. These kids need mentors like any other children, but they also need an adult figure in their lives that can help guide them like a parent would. I had a desire to help young people, which soon turned into a love for mentoring, friendship and our kids!”

Molly Pell

“I can’t pinpoint a specific reason that I became a mentor. I had a little bit of free time and I like teenagers, so I thought I’d give it a shot. Six years later, I’m still here. The kids inspire me to stick with it. They’re like family to me, and I look forward to seeing them as often as I can. I am inspired by their strength, resilience and their open hearts.”



Yusef Jamaludeen

“What inspired me to mentor was the overall need for positive non-parental role models for our youth. Mentors are the ‘life coaches for the adolescent.’ In addition, it takes little amounts of effort to be a mentor and it has such a significant impact to the mentees. As a youth with a stable home life, I can’t remember how often I saw my mentor but I will never forget him. Knowing someone cares about you who isn’t related to you or paid to do so makes all the difference in the world sometimes.”

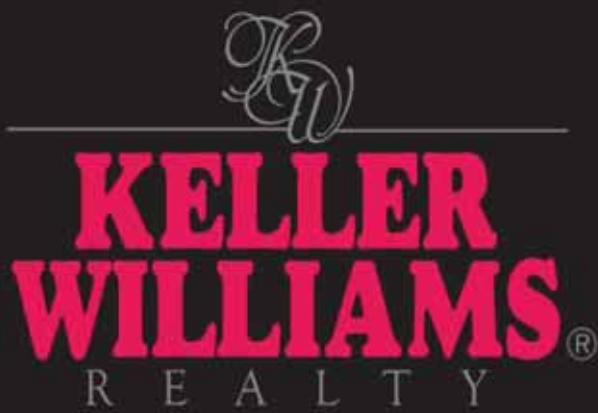
Chavon Rogers

“I started mentoring because I wanted to give back to the community by doing something I love, which is working with children. I continue to mentor because I love working with kids and the program. I mentor some amazing and resilient kids who bring much joy to my life.”



—VICTORIA ROSS

Photos of mentors courtesy of Joan Brady of Great Falls. Brady, a professional photographer, volunteers as a mentor, photographer and videographer for Fairfax Families4Kids.



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NEWS

Getting Their Market Share

Langley sophomores market school, nonprofit events.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

While sitting in their Introduction to Marketing Class, several Langley High School sophomores decided that they enjoyed it so much, they would try it in real life. Almost a year later, the members of the Pyramid Marketing Group are finding success working to promote local charity and school events.

"A lot of us found that marketing was something we wanted to do after college, so we got some interested people together and tried to get some experience," said Haley Falkenberry, a member of the club. "Since then, we've been learning a lot of ways to reach out to all kinds of groups in the community, from students, to families and businesses."

Falkenberry, Alex Grieco, Mary-Hagen Grow, Lainey Dooley, Caroline Jackson and Amanda Baird make up the group, which aims to eventually work with all the schools in the Langley pyramid, which also includes



From left, Langley High School sophomores Caroline Jackson, Haley Falkenberry, Amanda Baird, Alex Grieco, Mary-Hagen Grow and Lainey Dooley, members of the Pyramid Marketing Group, a student-run marketing group that is assisting local schools.

Cooper Middle School, Colvin Run, Churchill Road, Forestville, Great Falls and Spring Hill Elementary Schools.

SEVERAL MEMBERS attended Colvin Run, so that was the first place they reached out to, and they've already found events to work on.

On Saturday, Feb. 9, the school will host a Stop Hunger Now Event, which packages

nonperishable meals for hungry people around the world.

"The goal for the Feb. 9 event is to package 100,000 meals, so we've been printing up flyers, and we designed cans to place at local businesses," Dooley said. "We leave them on the counter, and they collect donations, like change, which will go to supporting the event."

Designing the change jars has also given

"A lot of us found that marketing was something we wanted to do after college, so we got some interested people together and tried to get some experience."

— Haley Falkenberry

the group a chance to work on graphic design, trying out different logos, fonts and other elements.


"We'd never done any of that stuff, but it was a lot of fun trying out different designs and seeing which ones grab the most attention," Grieco said.

The school will also host its 10th anniversary gala Saturday, March 16, and Pyramid has already been hard at work collecting donations for the fundraising auctions, as well as other sponsorships.

"It's been fun actually getting out there and doing marketing work," Grieco said. "Colvin Run is using their auction to raise money for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Math lab, as well as new fitness equipment, which is a good cause, and we want people to know about that."

Another special event the Pyramid Marketing Group is working on is a


SEE MARKETING, PAGE 7



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NEWS

Marketing at Langley High

FROM PAGE 6

sports equipment consignment sale.

"We've been able to use more traditional ways to market the consignment sale, sending out e-mails to parents and families," Grieco said. "We've also been reaching out to the sports leagues and going door-to-door in some cases to let people know about what's happening."

The group is also getting experience bringing awareness to more long-term initiatives.

Spring Hill Elementary has started an environmental initiative, collecting unused food and donating it to local food banks, as well as recycling and composting.

"We've been helping Spring Hill out with internal marketing efforts, trying to make the parents and students in the school community aware," she said. "It's really been taking off for them this year."

THE GROUP is already learning the ways to market to different groups within the community.

"We've found that students get a lot of information from the morning announcements, but we've gotten the stronger responses from parents," Dooley said. "Fundraising is obviously something that is easier with parents as well."

Grow said that the skills they're learning will help them in future marketing endeavors.

"Doing it in real life will help all of us if we want to make it into a career," she said. "We've made a Twitter and Facebook account for the marketing group, and we've been using those to help promote the Stop Hunger Now event. Hopefully after this we'll be able to expand our reach further as we get more projects under our belt. We've also learned how to be prepared when contacting businesses, you have to be ready to answer any questions they're going to ask."

The group can be found on Facebook under Pyramid Marketing Group, at www.twitter.com/PyramidMrkting and at www.pyramidmktgroup.weebly.com.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Seven students from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) have been named semifinalists in the 2013 Intel Science Talent Search. The students, with their project names, are:

❖ Arrush Choudhary of Chantilly High School, A Novel Method to Increase the Lipid Yield of *Chlorella vulgaris*: An Exploration of the Role of Cofactors on the Inhibition of Starch Synthase (E.C. 2.4.1.21).

❖ Alec Brenner of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), Viscoelastic Modeling of Tidal Heating in Terrestrial Exoplanets.

❖ Suhas Gondi of TJHSST, Investigating microRNA-Mediated Regulation of Class Specific Dendrite Morphogenesis.

❖ Katherine Ho of TJHSST, Real Time Apoptosis Imaging by an EB Conjugated Caspase 3 Activatable Probe.

❖ Jennifer Peng of TJHSST, Investigating Rhodopsin Organization in Native and Model Membranes by Atomic Force Spectroscopy: A Computational Study on Its Feasibility.

❖ Nalini Singh of TJHSST, Derivation of a Kirchhoff-Like Combination Law for the Quantum Capacitances of Molecules.

❖ Katherine Wu of TJHSST, The Hydrolysis Engine Concept for Motor Proteins.

More information about the competition can be found at www.societyforscience.org/sts/.



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- Sun. Feb 3** Sound of Sleat, the quartet of well-known local artists: master piper Bob Mitchell, Tabby Finch on accordion, cellist Karin Loya, and Pat Egan on vocals.
- Sun. Feb. 10** Al Petteway & Amy White. This celebrated duo performs their evocative combination of traditional and original Celtic and Appalachian tunes and songs. www.alandamy.com
- Sun. Feb. 17** Beth Patterson. A Louisiana native joins her Cajun/Celtic stylings with Connemara native Patrick O'Flaherty's Gaelic musical traditions in song and dance. www.bethpattersonmusic.com
- Sun. Feb. 24** Seán Tyrrell. Coming from a family immersed in the musical traditions of his native Galway, Sean was described by Billboard Magazine as "the genuine article!" www.seantyrrell.com Sean's tour is sponsored in part by: Culture Ireland.
- Sun. Mar. 3** Shannon Dunne, Graham DeZarn & Sean McComiskey. Combining Sean Nos dancing with rollicking traditional music!
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OPINION

Extreme, But Brief, Volunteering

More than 150 volunteers needed to survey chronic homeless for three days in February.

The real solution to homelessness is housing. This week in Northern Virginia, a point-in-time survey will record all of the “literally homeless” individuals and families in the region. Last year, on Jan. 25, 2012, there were 1,534 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community; 697 of them were single individuals and 837 were people in families. A third of the total number of homeless were children. Nearly 60 percent of the adult members of the homeless families were employed.

Later in February, the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to End Homelessness will embark on a new, intensive approach to identify the nearly 300 people who are chronically homeless, living on the street or in the woods around the county. This is part of a national effort, 100,000 Homes.

Volunteers will create a registry, including names, photographs and personal stories of all

individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in the area. The information gathered will identify particularly vulnerable people, and help prioritize housing and support resources. The county’s goal is to get half of them in housing within three years.

EDITORIAL

The effort is not without precedent. Arlington’s registry week was in October 2011, and identified 153 homeless individuals, with more than half at risk of dying on the streets. Since then, more than 30 homeless people identified as vulnerable have been placed in permanent housing. Arlington’s campaign is on target to fulfill the goal of housing 100 people in three years.

The Fairfax effort, 100,000 Homes Fairfax, kicks off on Feb. 23 with Registry Week, a multi-day event where volunteers go out on the streets and gather information to create a name and photographic registry.

It will require the work of more than 150 volunteers countywide. Most will help conduct surveys with homeless individuals on the

streets for three days during registry week. Others will help with data entry and other support roles.

It’s a big commitment but also an opportunity to be a part of real change for some of the area’s most vulnerable people. Volunteer efforts on those days will most certainly lead to saving lives.

Survey volunteers make a four-day commitment, a half-day of training plus working three mornings (4-7 a.m.) in teams of four to interview homeless individuals for the registry. The same team of four must survey the assigned geographical area all three days. Survey volunteers will need to be available: Saturday, Feb. 23, overview and training, noon-4 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 25, 26, 27, team survey, 4-7 a.m.

The Registry Week will wrap up with a presentation to the community on March 1.

Other volunteers will help set up for the volunteer training and/or assist at headquarters each survey morning by setting up food, helping with cleanup and answering volunteer questions. You can register online and learn more at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/100khomes/registry-week.htm>.

Searching for ‘The New Virginia Way’

Need to change the way Virginia supports people with disabilities.

BY RIKKI EPSTEIN AND
KYMBERLY DELOATCHE

In light of Virginia’s settlement with the Department of Justice over Virginia’s state institutions for people with disabilities, also known as training centers, it is time for us to enter “The New Virginia Way.” We must focus on building community supports and capacity for those leaving the training centers and for the 7,500 families on waiting lists for state Medicaid waivers.

“The New Virginia Way” means changing the way Virginia supports people with disabilities from an under-funded, complicated system to a comprehensive community support structure. Right now, there are not enough supports available for every individual in the community. In fact, this lack of community options was a large part of the reason the DOJ investigated Virginia and found it violates the civil rights of people with disabilities.

The DOJ settlement and “The New Virginia Way” will ensure community supports are done correctly. The settlement is a legally enforceable agreement that holds Virginia responsible for making

sure every person transitioning to community-based care has the supports they need lined up before they move. If the Independent Reviewer overseeing implementation feels that Virginia is falling short, the case goes back to court. Judge John Gibney, who is overseeing the settlement, has made clear his commitment to protecting the rights of everyone involved and ensuring all requirements are met.

It is worth noting that since the settlement, the General Assembly has funded more waivers than the minimum mandated by the settlement. The governor’s current budget proposal includes rate differentials for individuals who have intense behavioral and nursing needs, and the state is hiring a consultant to redesign the waivers to provide more comprehensive services with adequate reimbursement rates. This demonstrates a step forward.

Increasingly, service providers have dedicated themselves to supporting individuals with significant needs. Some specialize in helping individuals with a history of significant behavioral challenges and others have nurses on staff to support individuals with

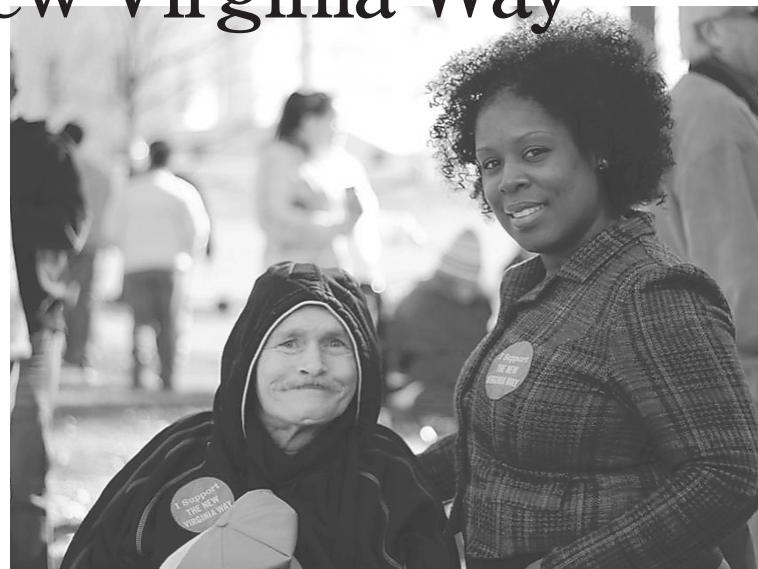


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARC OF VIRGINIA

An individual with a disability and his caregiver wearing “I Support The New Virginia Way” stickers at the Martin Luther King Day Rally in Richmond.

complex medical concerns. Several have begun to expand since the settlement to help individuals transition.

The settlement encourages creativity and smaller, customized supports. We need to consider sponsored placements and apartments with 24-hour staffing. These housing models are already working in Virginia and can be established affordably and quickly.

Over a dozen states have no institutions and most have closed at least one. We have great role models for institutional closure, an Independent Reviewer with

decades of experience in making transitions a reality, a settlement that mandates safe and appropriate supports, and thousands of advocates dedicated to making sure we support everyone the right way.

This settlement is a landmark opportunity to ensure Virginia is changed for the better forever. That will happen when we all put our energy towards making “The New Virginia Way” reality.

Rikki Epstein is executive director at The Arc of Northern Virginia. Kymberly DeLoatch is executive director at the Autism Society of Northern Virginia.

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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LETTERS

Taking Exception on Medicaid Expansion

To the Editor:

Your recent editorial ["Expanding Medicaid Good For Virginia," The Connection, January 23-29, 2013] is noble in its desire to "extend health coverage to more than 400,000 residents who currently have no health insurance."

If public policy making were just that easy. The editorial then goes on to indifferently say, "the Federal government picks up the tab." As if a reminder was needed, that tab is, in fact, picked up by the taxpayer through either more borrowing or more taxes, and not by the ubiquitous "Federal government." (Plus, states lack a further financing tool the federal government has—printing more money.) There is no proverbial "free lunch."

Then, the logic and math of later offering an explanation of how the cost will be financed requires a complete suspension of common sense to accept. The editorial cites "new analysis by the Commonwealth Institute showing that expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level would generate state general fund savings and new revenues that would total \$2.08 billion and more than offset the state's share of expansion costs ... plus provide significant numbers of new jobs and economic growth."

If "expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level" could conceivably generate that kind of revenue, jobs and economic growth, why stop there? Why not expand it to 150, 175, or even 200 percent of the poverty level? By the editorial's logic, if the 133 percent figure will get Virginia over \$2 billion in revenue, then expanding it to 200 percent should earn the state hundreds of millions more—right? So why in reality doesn't it work that way? Because on the flip side—and unwritten in the editorial—are such factors as increased taxes to foot the bill take money from the taxpayer that could otherwise be spent elsewhere in the economy to generate jobs and economic activity.

One last point. The editorial says that "expanding health care will add tens of thousands of new jobs." No. It is a healthy, vibrant and expanding economy that will add the "tens of thousands of new jobs" as more dollars become available for everyone to make their choice to obtain adequate health coverage.

Chris J. Krisinger
Burke



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PHOTO BY TRACI J. BROOKS PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY OF THE McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

McLean Community Players “next to normal” cast members: Back row from left to right—Quinn McCord, Nicky McDonnell, Nick DuPre, Brent Stone; front row from left to right—Alex Stone and Catherine Callahan.

Provocative Lyrics, Rock Score

McLean Community Players present award-winning musical “next to normal.”

By DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

A ground-breaking rock musical, “next to normal,” winner of the 2010 Pulitzer for Drama along with three Tony Awards, is coming to the Alden Theater courtesy of the McLean Community Players.

Co-producer Linda Stone described “next to normal” as “one of the best written and most compelling pieces to appear on the stage of late. Theater goers attending this production will appreciate the intelligence with which ‘next to normal’ is written and, undoubtedly, find themselves impacted by the experience of this seminal theatrical work.”

Stone indicated that the show depicted not only the strong emotions of a family confronting tough truths and rough times, but how generous people can be when confronted with difficult family situations.

For director Lisa Anne Bailey and her six-actor cast, the show is a “multi-layered story of love, loss and family and the choice of coping mechanisms” as it delves deeply into a family’s struggles with a mother’s bi-polar disorder.

Ultimately “next to normal” is about “how to learn to love and stay in love even with enormous changes in one’s life,” said Bailey.

“The imaginative, soaring music score of over 30 songs not only supports the spoken dialogue, but gives a sense of each character’s moods over the course of the show,” said David

Where and When

McLean Community Players present “next to normal” at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Performances: Feb. 1-16, 2013, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18-\$20. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleanplayers.org. Note: Mature themes and language, most suitable for ages 15 and up.

Rohde, musical director. There will be a six-piece rock-infused band; including keyboards, both electric and acoustic guitar, electric and acoustic bowed bass, violin and viola to give solid verve to the music.

“next to normal” ran on Broadway for over 730 performances from April 2009 to January 2011. It has music by Tom Kitt, with book and lyrics by Brian Yorkey. The musical has strong DC area roots. The show was first performed Off-Broadway to tepid reviews. It then arrived at Arena Stage, when it was performing in Arlington for revisions and retooling. “next to normal” made its way back to New York, but this time on Broadway for its Tony and Pulitzer award-winning edition.

Nicky McDonnell, new to the McLean Community Players, is featured as Diana, the wife and mother at the heart of the family struggling with her bi-polar disorder in “next to normal.” McDonnell called the musical “an epic piece, almost operatic in its structure and subject matter.”

Director Bailey invited theater-goers to see an emotional powerhouse of a musical. And to follow each of the characters “as they each attempt to achieve their own normal.”

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 30

Great Falls State of Mind. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Vienna Arts Society Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W., Vienna. On display with other original artworks of the Vienna Arts Society are Jeff Gorrell’s large and small paintings featuring panoramas and close-ups of the nuances of Great Falls; open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through March 2. 703-319-3220 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 31

David Wilcox. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Ohio-born singer/songwriter brings his folk sound and smooth baritone voice. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 1

Next to Normal. 8 p.m., at McLean Community Center’s Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. This ground-breaking musical shows how far two parents will go to keep themselves sane and their family’s world intact. \$18; \$20. www.mcleanplayers.org or 866-811-4111.

Proposals. 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 127 Center St. S., Vienna. The Neil Simon comedy recalls the Hines family gathered at their retreat in the Poconos in the summer of 1953; romantic entanglements coalesce in one idyllic afternoon in the elegiac memory play. \$11 for students and seniors 65-plus; \$13. 703-255-6399.

Italian American Reconciliation. 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A romantic comedy from the author “Moonstruck” and “Doubt” follows Huey Bonfigliano as he takes to the arts after his divorce, but bad poetry isn’t enough and he decides to try and win back his ex with the help of friends. \$25; \$15 for students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysonson.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 2

Mardi Gras Fundraising Gala. 8 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St. N, Vienna. A costume contest, heavy hors d’oeuvres, silent auction and music by Terry Lee Ryan benefit the Dan Dellinger campaign for national commander of the American Legion. \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. 703-938-9535 or www.Legion180.net.

Sixth Annual McLean Jewelry Showcase. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A juried event featuring handmade jewelry collections and designs by exhibitors region-wide. \$3. 703-790-0123 TTY 711

Italian American Reconciliation. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A romantic comedy from the author “Moonstruck” and “Doubt” follows Huey Bonfigliano as he takes to the arts after his divorce, but bad poetry isn’t enough and he decides to try and win back his ex with the help of friends. \$25; \$15 for students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysonson.org.

Interfaith Peace Celebration. 7-9 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Rd., Oakton. An interfaith celebration in conjunction with the opening of the 64-day Season for Nonviolence, celebrated internationally Jan. 30-April 4; representatives from 12 spiritual traditions present readings,

Critique Paves Way for Upcoming Photo Contest

Washington photographer Rob Sewall shares his perspective on photographing architecture at the Vienna Photographic Society’s Feb. 6 meeting; author of a book on the C&O Canal, Sewall critiques member’s photos in preparation for the architectural photography competition later in the month. The lecture is from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. www.vps-va.org.



Rob Sewall



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jenny Oaks Baker

McLean Orchestra to Perform for Alternative House Children

On Sunday, Feb. 3, at 3 p.m., the McLean Orchestra and the McLean Youth Orchestra will do a first ever “side-by-side” concert at the Oakcrest School in McLean. This free concert, which will be an abbreviated version of the McLean Orchestra’s Feb. 2 concert titled Musical Fairy Tales, will unite musicians of the McLean Orchestra and McLean Youth Orchestra under the baton of Maestra Miriam Burns. Grammy-nominated violinist Jenny Oaks Baker (www.jennyoaksbaker.com) will perform a tribute to Walt Disney on both the Saturday night and Sunday afternoon concerts.

As part of this special concert, the McLean Orchestra is working with Alternative House, a local nonprofit organization that serves homeless and at-risk youth, to bring the young people in their programs to this concert. Speaking about this concert, Executive

reflections and music on the theme of peace. www.unityoffairfax.org/season-nonviolence.

Proposals. 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 127 Center St. S., Vienna. The Neil Simon comedy recalls the Hines family gathered at their retreat in the Poconos in the summer of 1953; romantic entanglements coalesce in one idyllic afternoon in the elegiac memory play. \$11 for students and seniors 65-plus; \$13. 703-255-6399.

Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m. lesson. 9-11:30 p.m. dance, at the Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Waltz, rumba, tango, foxtro, cha-cha, samba and extra swing to live music by Helmut Licht & Andre playing tunes from the 1930s on; dance includes sodas and light fare, attire is ballroom casual. \$15 for dance; \$5 for lesson. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

Musical Fairy Tales. 8 p.m., at 850 Balls Hill Rd., McLean. Rossini, A Tribute to Walt Disney, Grieg and Stravinsky performed by the McLean Orchestra. \$40 for adults; \$30 for seniors; \$15 for youth 18-and-under.

www.mclean-orchestra.org/tickets.

SUNDAY/FEB. 3

Christ Church Vienna Opening. 10 a.m., at Christ Church Vienna, 2500 James Madison Dr., Vienna. The church is moving to their new location at Madison High School and the public is welcome to join. 703-865-7929 or www.ChristChurchVienna.com.
Italian American Reconciliation. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A romantic comedy from the author “Moonstruck” and “Doubt” follows Huey Bonfigliano as he takes to the arts after his divorce, but bad poetry isn’t enough and he decides to try and win back his ex with the help of friends. \$25; \$15 for students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysonson.org.
Musical Fairy Tales. 3 p.m., at 850 Balls Hill Rd., McLean. A free, 45 minute side-by-side concert with the McLean Youth Orchestra and the McLean Orchestra performing Rossini, A Tribute to Walt Disney, Grieg and Stravinsky. www.mclean-orchestra.org/tickets.

Proposals. 3 p.m., 8 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 127 Center St. S., Vienna. The Neil Simon comedy recalls the Hines family gathered at their retreat in the Poconos in the summer of 1953; romantic entanglements coalesce in one idyllic afternoon in the elegiac memory play. \$11 for students and seniors 65-plus; \$13. 703-255-6399.

Traditional Irish Musical Concerts. 4 p.m., 6 p.m., at the Old Brogue Irish Pub, Rte. 193 and Walker Road, Great Falls. Pat Egan, Tabby Finch, Karin Loya, Bob Mitchell, a.k.a The Sound of Sleat, play at two different seatings. \$17; \$12 for children 12 and under. 703-759-3309 or www.ionamusic.com/brogue.shtml.
Superbowl Showing and Buffet. 5-9 p.m., at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Dr., McLean. A big game buffet with football favorites and the option to root for either team in a private room with HD TVs. \$45. 703-442-9110.

TUESDAY/FEB. 5

Great Falls Senior Center Event. 11 a.m.-1 p.m., at Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Executive Chef Jacques Haeringer of L’Auberge Chez Francois will discuss the connection between food and love, then demonstrate how to make his chocolate truffles. 703-759-3721 or linda.feraldi@verizon.net.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 6

Rob Sewall on Architectural Photography. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Washington photographer Rob Sewall shares his perspective on photographing architecture; Sewall critiques member’s photos in preparation for the architectural photography competition later in the month. www.vps-va.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 7

Solas. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. America’s premiere Irish folk ensemble plays songs narrating the life of band leader Seamus Egan’s great-great uncle in his immigrant struggle during the Industrial Revolution. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 8

Veal Parmesan Dinner. 5:30-8 p.m., at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St. N, Vienna. Enjoy veal parmesan on spaghetti with salad and garlic bread with the community. \$10. 703-938-9535.

Italian American Reconciliation. 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A romantic comedy from the author “Moonstruck” and “Doubt” follows Huey Bonfigliano as he takes to the arts after his divorce, but bad poetry isn’t enough and he decides to try and win back his ex with the help of friends. \$25; \$15 for students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysonson.org.

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Winter Fun in McLean

McLean residents share how they like to spend winter days in McLean.

—LORI BAKER



Wesley Romary, ninth grader at McLean High School

“I have a lot of friends who go skiing and snowboarding on the weekends. That’s really big. Other than that, it’s kind of cold. There’s not really a lot to do. Just staying indoors. We play a lot of FIFA on Xbox. When it’s not snowing, we play outdoor soccer. It’s cold, but it’s still fun. It’s mostly people that play on the high school team; but not really organized.”



Mary Salter, 36-year McLean resident, and her dog Gracie

“My kids had a good time living here. That sledding hill [behind Franklin Sherman] is one of the wonderful things here. We’ve been here since 1976. I’m very happy here. I like to walk, and I don’t do any sledding or anything like that. I’m a little past all of that. Walking is what I do most. Occasionally we go to the McLean Community Center for something. The Capitol Steps were there, so we went to that. It’s kind of an under-used resource. They do a lot of cool stuff, especially for little kids. They have a lot of children’s performances there.”



Pamela Saunders, part-time art teacher at Brookfield School, and stay-at-home mom, from McLean

“We go to Clemjontri. It’s usually empty on winter days like this. And it’s my children’s birthday, and they love the outdoors. So we like to spend time outdoors, finding nature trails. We also go to the library or the community center, or the playgrounds.”



Emma Saunders, second grader at Franklin Sherman Elementary School

“In the winter I like to go sledding with my friends. I also like to drink hot chocolate and eat pancakes.”



Michelle Laino, deputy CFO for a nonprofit, from Arlington

“What my girls and I like to do in the wintertime is go to the mall in Tysons Corner. We go to the movie theater there. There are other theaters around, but Tysons theaters are the nicest. It’s a clean, nice theater. And they always have the best movies there. And then if you want to eat there, you have a lot of choices, from the food courts to the restaurants. There are just lots and lots of choices.”



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703-790-0123, TTY: 711



SCHOOLS



Korean teachers from the Daegu Metropolitan Office of Education posed with Principal Donald Hutzel outside Churchill Road Elementary School at the conclusion of their visit.



Churchill Road sixth graders Nadia Jo, Paul Kim, Brian Kim, Tia Choi, Yurim Kim and Irene Choi—all of whom are bilingual in English and Korean—created a poster to welcome the Daegu educational delegation to Churchill Road.

PHOTOS BY KIM MORAN

Korean Teachers Visit Churchill Road

On Friday, Jan. 11, Daegu Metropolitan Office of Education, a delegation comprising 45 Korean teachers. The purpose of their visit to the United States is to visit American landmarks and tour American schools. After Principal Don Hutzel welcomed them, Corinne Reilly, Churchill Road's Advanced Academic Resource teacher, shared an overview of FCPS's program and highlighted the work of the Churchill Road students.

A group of sixth grade students hosted the delegation's tour of the school, which included visits to the art room and some of the sixth grade classrooms. The Korean educators enjoyed seeing the American educational system in action and comparing it to their nation's education systems.



Visiting Korean educators enjoyed the opportunity to visit Churchill Road students during an art lesson.

6th Annual McLean Jewelry Showcase

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MUSIC BY
TOM KITT

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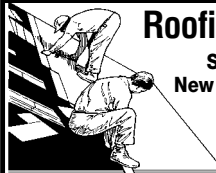
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE

Property Address: 3400 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Virginia

Parcel Numbers: Parcel 1, Pike 3400 Subdivision, as the same is duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 4581 at page 604 among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia.

Parcel 2, Pike 3400 Subdivision, as the same is duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 4581 at page 604 among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia.

VRP Participant: Penrose Columbia Pike Associates, LLC, successor to

Penrose Property Company LLC
8330 Boone Boulevard
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In accordance with the Virginia Administrative Code (9 VA 20-160-120), notice is provided by the VRP Participant for the approximately 4.75-acre property referenced above under the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (the "VRP"). A site characterization was performed on the property due to historical releases of petroleum and chlorinated solvents. Contaminants were identified in the soil and groundwater within the property boundaries. The main contaminant of concern at the site is volatile organic compounds and mercury. The releases are due to historical site use as a dry cleaner and auto dealership and service facility. Levels of volatile organic compounds are decreasing, and are expected to continue decreasing, due to natural attenuation in the groundwater. The onsite impacted soils are currently being excavated for off-site disposal and the buildings have been demolished. A risk assessment evaluating the potential risks to human health and the environment was completed in accordance with Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations and guidance. The risk assessment found that the future use of the property for residential purposes would be protective of human health and the environment provided that the property is restricted to prohibit the use of groundwater beneath the property (other than for environmental monitoring and testing).

Written comments will be accepted on this matter until February 28, 2013. All comments should be provided in writing to Mr. Olav Kollevoll, Penrose Group, 8330 Boone Boulevard, Suite 460, Vienna, Virginia 22182. Additional information may be requested by contacting Mr. Kollevoll at 703-847-5270.

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A Simple Question



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't quite know how to start this column so I'll begin with its ending: "I'm fine."

I am asked as much, if not more, than the next person how I am doing. It's a standard courtesy offered up every day between many unsuspecting askers and most often provides answers an opportunity to nonchalantly move the conversation along without too many fits and starts. For a cancer patient like myself, however, whose status, situation and story is likely known in advance (generally speaking) of most casual meetings that occur, the question/greeting, though well-intended, doesn't exactly fall on deaf ears, and certainly does not conjure nonchalance; at least not in my head, and that's where this problem really starts.

Of course, I want people interested in my health. Of course, I want people to be courteous and respectful to me. Of course, I want people to engage me and treat me like the non-terminal patient I'm not. I aspire to be normal so I want to be treated normally, and normally, being treated as such wouldn't bother me. And it doesn't bother me, really. What it does do however, is jump-start/ remind my brain of my less-than-ideal health circumstances: stage IV non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Hardly the cross I wanted to bear beginning at age 54 and a half – after a life of not smoking, with no immediate-family history of cancer.

And given the fact that I semi pay attention to my surroundings and take notice of what I see and hear, when asked a question of health-related substance – sincerely, I am loathe to answer the question "monosyllabically." If I do control my responses and don't burden the questioner with a brief but humorous accounting of my most recent cancer-related anecdote, in my head I will have already gone there and done that: meaning, just because I don't say anything, don't presume for a second that my brain hasn't already considered how in fact I am doing and reviewed all the gory details. So whether anybody intended it – and I'm not sure anybody did, when I'm asked this most innocent of questions, my reaction is anything but. My reaction is a non-verbal, instantaneous re-living of the past four years, beginning with my visit to the Emergency Room on January 1, 2009. And as much as I think about my circumstances – on my own, what few breaks I allow myself are invariably cut short when someone, anyone has the good nature to inquire how I'm doing.

Still, being ignored is no good. Being treated with kid gloves is no good. Being cautious is no good. Being super-sensitive is no good. Being over-reactive is no good. Being pitied is no good. Being alone is no good. Moreover, being diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer is absolutely no good. As much as I want to live long and prosper and consider all the hope the future has to offer, cancer controls from within, often subconsciously. That's what I hate the most; the changes it causes in your head: your reactions, your assessments, your sense of proportion, your sense of self, etc. It's all different. I can live with it, but it does cause me to sometimes make mountains out of molehills and molehills out of mountains; with very little consideration of the mole.

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

Public Comment Open for Riverbend Master Plan

Master plan revision, first since 1975, is expected to go before park board in April.

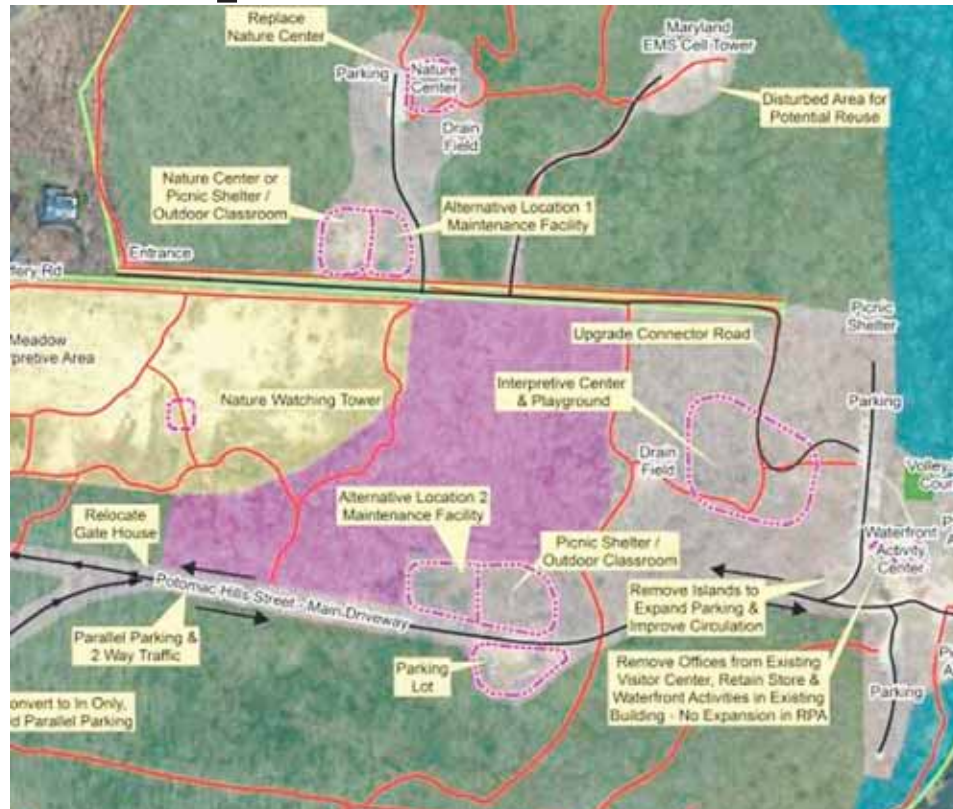
BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Park Authority presented the latest draft master plan revision for Riverbend Park Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Grange in Great Falls. The 411-acre park features two miles of land along the Potomac River. It was last master planned in 1975.

Several items have been removed from the 1975 master plan, such as a camping area, youth hostel and equestrian center, which were in the plan but never built.

The park rules, resource protection, visitor access, trail system, waterfront activities, classes, programs and events will remain the same with the new plan.

A major change will be in the entrance to the park. There will be a one-way street for both entrance and exit, with the gatehouse moved to the intersection of those roads. Up to 200 parking spaces will be added as



The master plan revision for Riverbend Park calls for a few changes to the entrance and exit of the park, as well as additional improved facilities.

well.

"What usually happens is, with the gatehouse being where it was, on busy days

they couldn't let anyone else onto the site when the parking lots were full, causing them to line up on Jeffery Road," said Andy

Galusha of the park authority's planning branch. "We don't want that to happen any more.

MOVING THE GATEHOUSE further into the site will allow for a longer queuing area and prevent some backup on Jeffery Road."

Some residents were happy to see reduction in the traffic on Jeffery Road a priority.

"I know making the park bigger and better might be the way to help fund the park, but I've heard proposals in the past that would increase traffic without addressing the issues we have now, but I see no such problem here," said Dave Armstrong of Great Falls. "It appears that the new uses won't drastically increase use, and they have measures in place to stop the traffic from building, which is what I've hoped to see out of this plan all along."

The additional parking spots were cause for concern for some. Jim Lynch, who lives next to the park and describes himself as a "frequent user" of the park, said he appreciates the thought that has gone into the plan, but also has questions.

"I'm concerned about the intensity of the use, because of the nature of the site, and the nature of the intention of the site as a nature and wildlife preserve," he said. "It doesn't make sense to almost double the

SEE RIVERBEND, PAGE 18

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SPORTS

Langley Tightens Defense, Beats Fairfax

Saxons hold Rebels to seven points in final 11 minutes.

By JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Langley boys' basketball team trailed the Fairfax Rebels late in the third quarter when Saxons head coach Travis Hess shouted: "We have to match up! Who has Robic?"

To that point, none of the Saxons had been able to stop Fairfax guard John Robic, who was on his way to the free-throw line when Hess voiced concern from the Langley bench. Robic would knock down a pair from the foul line, giving him 19 points and the Rebels a nine-point lead.

Langley was slow in finding a way to defend Robic and fellow Fairfax guard Zack Burnett, who combined for 30 of the Rebels' first 36 points. But the Saxons eventually adjusted and forced Fairfax into a state of offensive ineptitude.

THE SAXONS limited the Rebels to one field goal during the game's final 11 minutes and overcame an 11-point deficit en route to a 49-40 victory on Jan. 26 at Fairfax High School.

Fairfax led by four at halftime and built a 33-22 lead with a seven to zero run to open the third quarter. But Langley outscored the Rebels 27-7 during the final 11 minutes, limiting Fairfax to four points in the final quarter.

After Robic, a six-foot-one guard, was able to score inside against Langley's zone defense in the first half, the Saxons switched to a man defense and applied full-court pressure in the third quarter.

"We talked at halftime and we knew we were in serious trouble if we stayed in the zone," Hess said. "We decided to come out and full-court press and play man, [even though] we haven't played man a single possession this season. That allowed us to get back in the game. Once we got a lead, we threw them a little bit of junk defense and they didn't handle it well and that was the difference in the basketball game."

Robic and Burnett had success in the first half, accounting for all but one of the Rebels' points. Burnett buried a three-pointer with 43 seconds remaining in the second quarter to give Fairfax a 24-20 halftime advantage.

"In the first half, Robic and Burnett had 23 of their 24 points and we said we've got to make somebody else on their team beat us," Hess said. "We were able to do that."

Robic finished with a game-high 19 points but didn't score during the final 11 minutes. Burnett totaled 12 points, including a trio of 3-pointers, but had only one point in the second half. Junior forward Brian Monter added seven points.

"We just didn't know how to react to [Langley's defense]," Robic said. "It was more [that] we were startled. ... We were just confused on offense."

The Saxons stepped up late in the third quarter while Fairfax faded. Langley closed the period on a



Langley's Garrett Collier (22) and Brad Dotson (44) reach for the ball during a game against Fairfax on Jan. 26.

nine to two run, including a pair of buckets by senior Justin Galiani, which cut the Fairfax lead to 36-33 entering the fourth quarter.

A Galiani bucket with 3:17 remaining in the contest gave Langley a 42-40 lead it would not relinquish. The Saxons held the Rebels scoreless for the final 5 minutes, 26 seconds of the contest.

Said Fairfax head coach Mike Barbee: "[Langley] dominated the last 11 minutes of the game."

Junior guard Garrett Collier led Langley with 13 points. His three-point play in the opening minute of the fourth quarter tied the score at 36-all. Junior guard Ross Callaghan scored 12 points for the Saxons, Galiani finished with 10 and senior post Brad Dotson had nine points and 11 rebounds.

Langley finished with 10 and senior post Brad Dotson had nine points and 11 rebounds.

LANGLEY EXTENDED ITS WINNING STREAK to six games and improved its record to 15-3, including a first-place Liberty District mark of eight to two. Fairfax won the earlier meeting between the teams, 49-37, on Dec. 21.

"We kind of focused on this game of all games, even more than the McLean [rivalry] game," Collier said. "We had this one marked and we really wanted to get this win."

Fairfax dropped to 7-11 overall and five to five in the district. The Rebels hosted South Lakes on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Fairfax will travel to face Stone Bridge at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1.

Langley hosted Stone Bridge on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Saxons will travel to face Madison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1.



Langley hockey captain Evan Sterling and junior Drew Schneider score one of their combined six goals during the win over Battlefield/Patriot.

Langley Hockey Wins Again

Langley traveled to Haymarket last week to play eight to two Battlefield/Patriot and came away victorious by the score of eight to three.

Langley is now six to zero for the season, its best start in many years. Battlefield/Patriot made it close in the middle of the second period with two quick goals to make it a four to three game, but then Langley scored the next four goals to put the contest out of reach by the middle of the third period.

Junior Drew Schneider registered his third hat trick of the

season along with three assists to lead the attack. Senior captain Evan Sterling had his second hat trick in a row and also had two assists.

Other goals were scored by senior assistant captain Logan Pontell (also one assist) and freshman Jason Guidi for his first of his high school career. Assists were also registered by Peter Nam, Derick Paxton, Will Clemson, Colin Dibble and Sam LaFuria.

Junior Ryan Guidi won his third game of the season in goal.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Flint Hill Boys' Basketball Edges Sidwell Friends

The Flint Hill boys' basketball team beat Sidwell Friends 47-46 on Jan. 27, giving the Huskies five consecutive victories after a 3-11 start.

Jerrod Reed knocked down a pair of free throws with 7.6 seconds remaining to help Flint Hill pull out the victory. Cole Herdman had 12 points, including 10 in the second half, and seven rebounds for the Huskies. Britton Anderson finished with 11 points and four steals, and Sam Worman had 10 points and four rebounds.

Flint Hill hosted Maret on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Huskies will travel to face St. Andrew's at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 31.

South Lakes Girls' Basketball Gets Win No. 15

The South Lakes girls' basketball team defeated Langley 51-43 on Jan. 22, improving its record to 15-2 overall and 8-1 in the Liberty

District.

The Seahawks' Jan. 25 contest against Thomas Jefferson was rescheduled for Feb. 2 due to inclement weather.

Against Langley, South Lakes junior center Abigail Rendle had 15 points, nine rebounds, eight blocks, five steals and two assists. Sophomore forward Princess Aghayere contributed 10 points and four rebounds.

South Lakes, which is ranked No. 17 in the Washington Post's top 20, hosted Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Seahawks will travel to face Marshall at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1.

Herndon Swimming

Herndon's Conor Cudahy and Ryan Murphy qualified for the state swim meet and several Hornets qualified for regionals at the Concorde District swim meet.

Cudahy finished second with a state-qualifying time in the 500 free, and third with a region-qualifying time in the 200 free.

Murphy qualified for states with his third-place finish in the 100 back, and qualified for regionals by finishing fourth in the 100 free.

NEWS

Slavery to Reconstruction Presented in Great Falls

Professional historian Marion Dobbins discusses the role of slavery in Northern Virginia.

Marion Dobbins is a seventh-generation Virginian, born and raised in Fairfax County. As an African-American child, she sat at her grandmother's knee listening to the rich heritage of her ancestors. Her grandmother's stories of the past inspired her to become a professional historian.

Dobbins's lecture, presented on Jan. 9 at the Great Falls Library, explored the role that slavery played in the plantation landscape of Northern Virginia and the hardships and triumphs of Reconstruction. She provided a hands-on approach to the issue of slavery in the upper South. She also explored the rich heritage of many of the early founders of African-American communities in Northern Virginia during Reconstruction, such as her great-grandfather, James E. Lee, Frederick Foote, Harriet Brice and others.

Dobbins's heritage includes a white great-great-grandfather, a freed African American great-great-grandmother on one side, and slave great-great-grandparents on the other. She was, indeed, every-woman—slave and free, black and white—and she presented her material in a clear, factual, and experiential manner, free from guilt or blame, allowing the audience to experience the realities of slavery with a clear and unbiased receptivity.

February Program: Conn's Ferry River Crossing

This presentation by Debbie Robison on Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. in the Great Falls Library Meeting Room explores events that occurred at the ferry crossing that was located in present-day Riverbend Park. During the earlier years of our history, the Potomac River acted as a physical barrier that required ferryboats to convey passengers across many sections of the river. This transportation challenge created opportunities for historical events to occur at the ferry. Robison will discuss incidents that occurred at Conn's Ferry, including events surrounding the 1793 yellow fever epidemic, the capture and escape of a Conn family slave, and brief remarks regarding James Madison's crossing of the river at Conn's Ferry during the War of 1812.

Robison is a preservation consultant who manages the historic preservation/restoration program for an architectural and engineering firm located in Herndon. She serves on the Fairfax County History Commission and is a member of the board of the Historic Centreville Society. She has written numerous articles about general aspects of Northern Virginia's past and the history of specific sites. To promote preservation and facilitate local history education, she hosts a history website <http://www.novahistory.org/> and Facebook page titled Northern Virginia History Notes.

Dobbins is a professional historian and Living History Interpreter for Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. She has also worked with historians at Colonial Williamsburg, Gunston Hall, Sully Historic Site, Colvin Run Mill, and the National Park Service's Manassas Battlefield. She is a board member of the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation, which works to raise awareness of the contributions of African Americans to local development. Dobbins recently graduated with honors from the University of Virginia. She is currently a graduate student at George Mason University, majoring in United States history.



Marion Dobbins shows Mildred Hardman the tool slaves used to work the field.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Marion Dobbins came in period costume to demonstrate the realities of slavery and the joys and challenges of reconstruction.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Beginning Sunday, Feb. 3, the **Antioch Christian Church** will explore the purpose for every person's life, answering the question, "Why am I here?" The exploration will include sharing in the book *What on Earth Am I Here For?* The church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna and worship service times on Sundays are at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Child care is provided. 703-938-6753 or <http://www.antiochdoc.org>.

Great Falls United Methodist Men invite you to their annual pancake dinner Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Dinner is free and donations are accepted. All proceeds will be sent

to The Society of St. Andrew to help feed the hungry. For more information call the church at 703-759-3705.

Emotions Anonymous, a 12-step recovery program, offers weekly step meetings in Vienna for recovery for couples from a wide range of problems. Join on Mondays from 8-9 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Rd., Vienna. 703-209-0658.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers three Sunday services and a host of musical, educational, outreach, and fellowship ministries to enrich spiritual growth. 7:45 a.m. Worship Service without music; 9 a.m. Worship Service, Children's Chapel and Children's Choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum; and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Adult Choir. 703-759-2082.

Visit These Houses of Worship To Highlight Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

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Assembly of God

Vienna Assembly of God ... 703-938-7736
Cristo Es Mi Refugio...703-675-0144

Baha'i

Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ...
703-821-3345

Baptist

Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church
... 703-757-8134
Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075
Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516
First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525
The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

Church of the Brethren

Oakton Church of the Brethren
... 703-281-4411

Catholic

Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555
St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

Charismatic

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

Church of Christ

Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

Disciples of Christ

Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

Episcopal

Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521
Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991
St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church...703-938-2119
Christ The King Lutheran Church...703-759-6068
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

Methodist

Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509
Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987
The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336
Epiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494
Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705
Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233
Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594
Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700

Non-Denominational

Celebration Center for Spiritual Living
... 703-560-2030
Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

Presbyterian

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ...
703-560-6336
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

Quaker

Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394
Seventh-Day Adventist
Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ...
703-242-9001

Unitarian Universalist

Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ...
703-938-8383
Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230

United Church of Christ

Emmanuel United Church of Christ ...
703-938-1555

Unity

Unity of Fairfax ... 703-281-1767

HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

or mail to:

Calendar, Connection Newspapers
1606 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314.

For more information, call 703-778-9410.

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NEWS

Chloe Bennett, Ashley Baradari, Olivia Dennen, Thompson Brownlee and Hayden Owens sold baked goods to benefit children in Honduras through their international youth project on the National Day of Service, Saturday, Jan. 19.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Helping Children in Honduras

The Great Falls Middle School Interact Club bakes for Honduras on National Day of Service.

The Great Falls Middle School Interact Club, a youth organization of the Great Falls Rotary Club, took to the local sidewalks on the National Day of Service, Saturday, Jan. 19, and Sunday, Jan. 20, to raise money and awareness for their international youth project—helping children in Honduras. The club members, mostly 12 and 13-year-olds, raised nearly \$600 by selling baked cakes, cookies and other treats in front of the Great Falls Safeway grocery store. The Great Falls Rotary Club agreed to match the money raised by The Middle School Interact group. The \$1,200 will go to

buy new sports equipment to send to children in Honduras. While the Interact group was working at the bake sale, Great Falls Rotary Club President Carlos Berrios and Rotarian member Sean Plunkett were in the Honduras delivering the sports equipment the Interact members had already collected at Langley High School football games in the fall. The Rotary Club's past president Jeffrey Thinnies said there is a possibility that the Great Falls Rotary Club may launch a long-term relationship with a local club in the Honduras. "Our hope is that in the coming years, we will have many opportunities to practice Rotary's motto of 'Service Above Self' by

assisting people in Honduras."

The Interact members said the service projects bring the group together for a great cause. "It feels great to give back to others, especially when they are your own age," said Interact member Ashley Baradari, a seventh grader at Cooper Middle School. "Knowing that you could have brought a smile to a child's face by a small act of kindness is a great feeling." All middle school and high school youth are welcome to join Interact. For more information on these service organizations go to <http://www.rotarygreatfalls.org>.

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 & 3

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

Aldie

42074 Byrnes View Terr...\$407,000.....Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Burch.....Century 21...703-328-5606

Fairfax Station

7513 South Reach Dr.....\$839,950.....Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert...703-862-8808

Leesburg

543 Edmonton Terr NE...\$359,900.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX...703-503-4365

Oakton

2914 Gray St.....\$889,000..Sat/Sun 1-4.....Cindy Marcum.....TTR Sotheby's...703-319-3344

Springfield

7262 Linden Tree Ln.....\$459,950.....Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert...703-862-8808

8625 Madley Ct.....\$435,000.....Sun 1-3.....Kay Hart.....Long & Foster...703-503-1860

Vienna

2316 Riviera Dr.....\$895,000.....Sun 12-3.....Paul Ebert..Farms & Acreage...703-590-7020

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or salome@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

Riverbend Plan Open for Comments

FROM PAGE 15

parking spots if the intention is to use the site more intensively . . . my concern is that it doesn't become a Great Falls Park overflow park."

Other new features in the revision include the eventual construction of a new Visitors Center, with the current center slated to become a Waterfront Activity Center.

"The current visitor center, with its nice glass front and wide open deck everybody loves to sit on, happens to be built within the flood plain of the river. It's also in the Potomac River Resource Protection Area. Both of these things preclude any additions or building onto the site," Galusha said. "This building has been flooded several times, and we have to bear in mind that one day the river will claim it, and deposit the remnants down in D.C. somewhere. We will continue to use it until we can't any more."

A new interpretive facility will be built further away from the flood plain, which will include an improved exhibit area, demonstration areas, rent-

able program space, office space, restrooms and other support facilities.

"I had no idea we might be on limited time with the Visitors Center, the deck there is one of the best places to sit and enjoy the view in this whole area," said Edna McKnight of McLean. "I'm sorry to hear they

can't expand on the deck in any way, I hope that if the building is eventually washed away that there will be some sort of scenic sitting area around that area, because it's a shame not to take advantage of that view."

According to the park authority, there is little funding for these developments, so they are not planned for the immediate future.

THE PLAN will be open for public comment until Feb. 25, after which the park authority will make revisions and present to the park authority board, which they expect will be around April.

"It appears that the new uses won't drastically increase use, and they have measures in place to stop the traffic from building, which is what I've hoped to see out of this plan all along."

— Dave Armstrong of Great Falls

More information on the process, including the plan revision and ways to comment, can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/riverbend.htm>.

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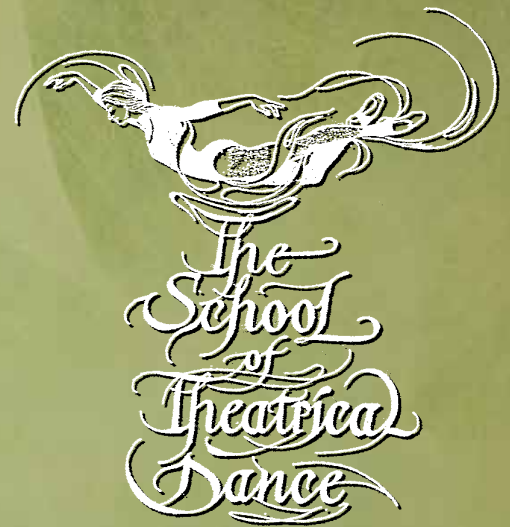
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- **Summer Co.III (Ballet and Contemporary)**
July 22- 26, 5-8pm
- **Summer Co. IV (Ballet and Contemporary)**
July 29-Aug 2, 11-2pm
- **Summer Company V (Broadway)**
Aug. 5-9, 11-2pm
- **Summer Company VI (Pointe and Variations)**
Aug. 12-16, 5-8 pm
- **Summer Co. VII (Hip Hop and Jazz)**
Aug. 19-24, 5-8pm

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