

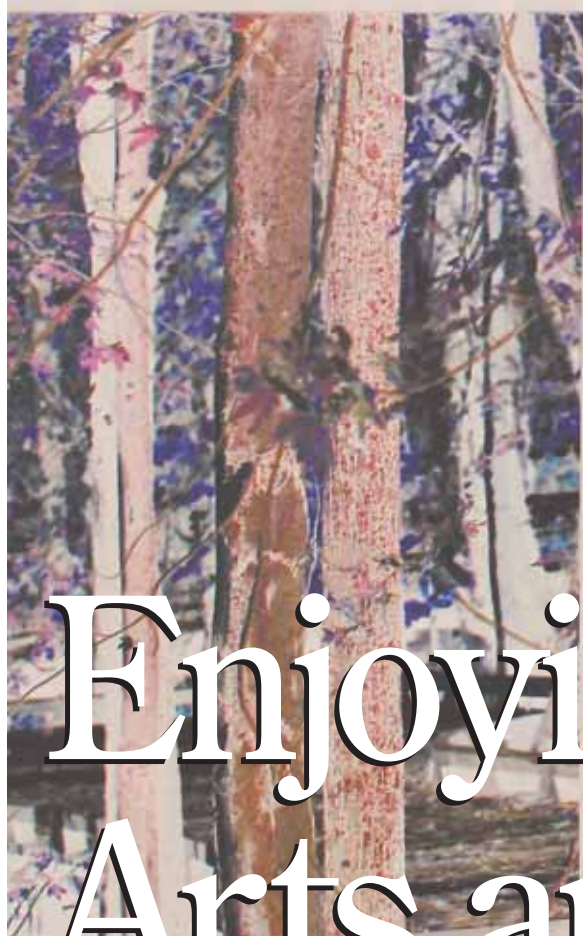
TERRI PARENT

A Positive Reflection

THE COUNTY LINE, PAGE 4

Great Falls Senior Center Sets Goals

NEWS, PAGE 3



Photographer Terri Parent, who organized the Valentine-themed show at the Artists' Atelier in Great Falls, stands by the wall displaying her work.

Enjoying Arts and Chocolate

NEWS, PAGE 5

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Parents, administrators and other community members discuss Fairfax County Public Schools' student rights and responsibilities at McLean High School Thursday, Feb. 7.

PHOTO BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION



Community Sounds off On School Discipline

County collects feedback on students' rights and responsibilities.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Dozens of administrators, teachers, parents and community members gathered at McLean High School Thursday, Feb. 7, to share their feedback on the Fairfax County Public Schools Students Rights and Responsibilities manual. The county is in the process of trying to simplify the document's language, "substantially" reduce its size and match policies more closely with the community's wishes.

"We want to know: what are the good points, what are the bad points with the FCPS process? What's working well? What needs to be improved upon?" said Steve Stuban, chairman of the committee.

Stuban lost his son Nick to suicide in the aftermath of the disciplinary process several years ago, an event which spurred the county to start thinking about re-imagining the process.

A 40-member committee was approved in June of last year by the school board, which holds weekly meetings to examine about 75 issues they came up with in the school system's policy.

It consists of representatives from schools around the county, and it meets weekly to work on the process. They have come up with several working points for the community to address, which is what the McLean High School meeting addressed.

THE MCLEAN HIGH MEETING was one of several around the community to gather stakeholders together to break down issues piece by piece, all while giving the county feedback on the policies.

"We like to break people down in working groups, and it's a productive process," Stuban said. "We've seen that people come into these meetings with their own thoughts about what things should look like, but by the end of the night, they've heard from others and gained insight to other points of view."

The tone of the document, which many thought was too harsh, was a big sticking point of the community.

"I think it comes across as very negative, like it's a big list of warnings and threats," said Kathleen Murphy, a community member who attended the

meeting. "I'd like to make it more than just a list of transgressions and penalties."

The document lays out the punishment for possession of alcohol, a minimum of five-day suspension, and marijuana, which is a 10-day suspension and recommendation for expulsion.

Several people in the group felt that the penalties were outdated.

"I'd like to see alcohol and marijuana possession treated a little bit more progressively in the school system. To someone in our schools, they're both illegal, so maybe the penalty for a first time violation should be the same, and then get more progressively severe for repeat offenses," said Matthew Ragone, principal of Langley High School. "I think many of the penalties we have are very well thought out, but these two substances seem to be more static compared with the way things are now."

Westfield High School Principal Tim Thomas said he would like to see a more thorough records review for offenders.

"I'd like to see us differentiate more between a first time offender and someone for whom this is a habitual behavior," he said.

Thomas also said he would like to see the document itself be a little less cumbersome.

"I'd like to see it condensed so it can be more easily digested and gone over with students," he said. "The easier something like this is to comprehend, the better."

PARENTS WERE CONCERNED about the notification process when something happens, while principals mentioned a need to speak to students immediately in some cases, such as when a weapon might be present or there are large numbers of students involved.

"I understand where the principals are coming from when they might need to find out who has a weapon right away, or if there was a fight involving students and it's hard to get a hold of 20 sets of parents before interviewing them," said Jan Smith, parent of a high schooler in the county. "But speaking personally as someone that knows my son, it makes me feel a little uncomfortable that he could be caught up in something and then questioned in a way that could have major consequences without me or my husband being present."

More information on the committee can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/ips/srr/committee/index.shtml> and comments about the Rights and Responsibilities document can be submitted to community_dialogues@fcps.edu.



PHOTOS BY BOB LUNDEGARD

Chef Jacques Haeringer of L'Auberge Chez Francois shows guests at the Great Falls Senior Center February event how to make chocolate truffles.

Senior Center Sets Goals

After incorporation, Great Falls Senior Center plans to become nonprofit, name board by end of year.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Senior Center has big plans for 2013 after getting off the ground as a working group of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

The center was founded with the "center without walls" concept, meaning there isn't a brick-and-mortar venue dedicated to senior activities. Instead it rotates between churches and other venues within Great Falls for its monthly activities.

"I think our monthly events are quickly becoming signature events in this community," said Bob Lundegard, one of the founders of the group. "People are coming to see old friends and meet new friends, and we're getting new people every month in addition to new guests."

The group received a charter from the Board of Supervisors

in September and was incorporated as the Great Falls Senior Center in November. Recently the group filed paperwork to become incorporated and named officers. In December they will elect a full board of 13 members, and they hope to have 501(c)3 nonprofit status as soon as possible.

"We're not here for the short-term, we want this group to be a major part of this community for five, 10, 20 years down the road," Lundegard said. "This is a big growth year for us, and a year where we'll be putting a lot of the building blocks in place. By next year we should have a really solid foundation. We want members to establish ownership in the group."

Membership to the group is \$10, and they also collect donations at each event. They are also actively seeking out sponsorships from the Great Falls business community.

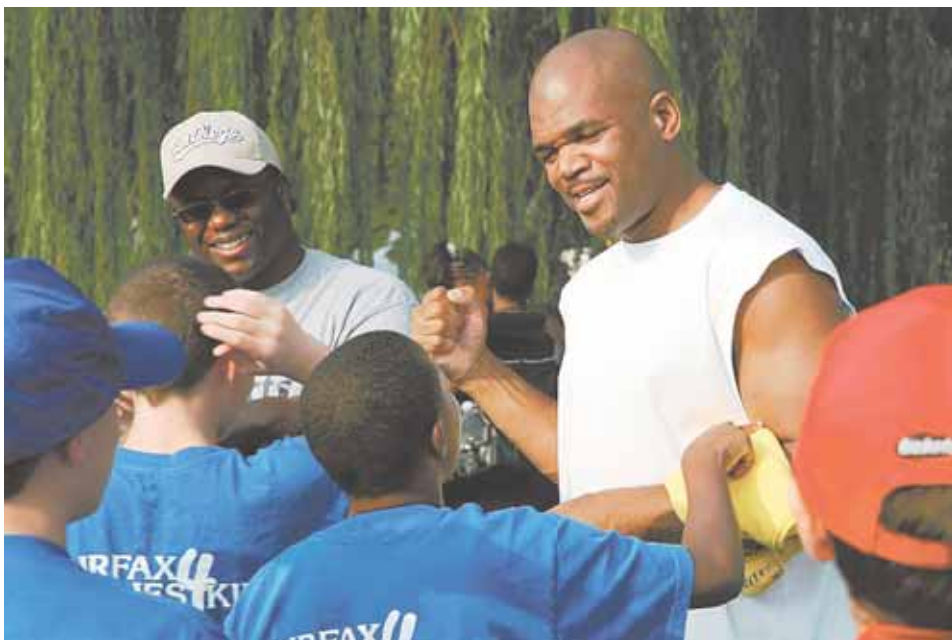
SEE SENIOR CENTER, PAGE 7

Jacques Haeringer, executive chef of L'Auberge Chez Francois in Great Falls, prepares to sign a copy of one of his latest books for a senior center guest, Audrey Wild.



THE COUNTY LINE

During a fundraising walk in 2006, youth in Fairfax Families4Kids were greeted by rapper Run DMC, who grew up in foster care. Pastor Dan Rhodes (left) organized the event.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOAN BRADY

A Positive Reflection

Joan Brady gives foster children needed exposure.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The last in a series.

On Monday, Sept. 10, 2001, Joan Brady of Great Falls had just started a three-month sabbatical from her job with an Internet company. Newly-married, Brady, who was 36 years old at the time, was exhausted from 80-hour work weeks in a rigid corporate environment. She wanted time that fall to contemplate what to do next with her life.

The next day provided answers and a sense of urgency. It was Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

The terrorist attacks, and the moving stories of heroism and tragedy on 9/11, indelibly left their mark. Brady, like many Americans, was inspired to do something new, to take more chances, to change direction.

"After that tragic day, it was hard to imagine going back to a job that had seemed critically important, but now felt largely meaningless," she said.

She thought she might become a social worker or a teacher, a job where she could make a difference in other people's lives. She decided to volunteer as a homework tutor at a group home for foster children.

As she struggled to find a way to motivate her students, she began "bribing" them with her photography. "Some teachers gave kids candy in exchange for com-

pleting homework assignments. I thought I'd try taking their photos and giving them copies," Brady said.

Their reaction to having their photos taken surprised her. "It made me realize that they didn't have pictures of themselves, other than the one snapshot for their official file," Brady said. "I came to understand the connection between their having their picture taken and self-esteem."

According to child development experts, photos say "I'm important in this family." They show a child he or she is meaningfully connected to others, and provide a visual symbol of nurturing, love and caring. Foster children, who are frequently shuffled from one home to the next, rarely have family photos.

"In those days, I actually wasn't a professional photographer, just a gal with a point and shoot digital camera, trying to get through a three-month commitment I had made," Brady said. "I took pictures of the kids in the group home, mugging for the camera, playing basketball, bike riding, playing on the playground and occasionally holding up a good report from school."

She gave her students little \$1 photo albums she purchased at Michaels so they would have a place to store their photos.

She realized just how important the photos were to her students when she showed up at school one day and learned the photo albums had caused some trouble.

"It turned out that the kids weren't allowed to take anything to bed with them and several had been caught taking their little photo albums that we were filling with pictures to bed with them," she said. "It was in that moment that I realized I was doing something more than getting through the three-month commitment that I had made to be a homework tutor. I stayed on well beyond my three-month commitment."

By 2004, she combined her love of photography with her ability to connect with children and started Joan Brady Photography. She also began photographing foster children featured on Wednesday's Child. During a shoot in 2005, she met Beverly Howard, the director of a small Fairfax County foster-mentoring program called Fairfax Families4Kids.

In Fairfax County, about 400 children are in foster care, and about 20 children, most of whom are 14 and older, are in the Fairfax Families4Kids program. According to Howard, these children are considered more difficult to place in adoptive homes because they are typically teens who have a range of special needs. Mentors provide one-on-one support and participate in monthly group activities.

"I got involved with the program when I met Beverly Howard, the director. She is a force of nature, a person no one can say no to. I have learned so much from her and have been so inspired by both her wisdom and her spirit," Brady said.

She became the group's volunteer photographer, shooting the children during their outings with mentors. Many of the children, especially the girls, didn't like to



Fairfax Families4Kids hosts a number of events for foster youth and mentors. In the photo, a 14-year-old boy in the program is getting his face painted at a Fairfax festival.

Consider Mentoring

Fairfax Families4Kids is actively seeking mentors to connect with older children in foster care, those most at-risk for homelessness. To find out more about the Fairfax Families4Kids program or to become a volunteer or mentor, contact Beverly Howard, Ph.D., coordinator of the Fairfax Families4Kids program at 703-324-7518.

be photographed. They thought they were ugly, unworthy of a photographer's time.

Brady often carries photographs of the program's children with her. In one photo, Kenny, a 14-year-old from Reston who was recently adopted, is high in the air, all legs and arms, about to make a powerful slam dunk. In another photo, Serena, 17, flashes a warm smile, her face framed in a cascade of long brown curls.

"Serena is a really interesting story. She's a tough girl whose initial reaction of 'don't take my picture!' evolved into 'take a picture of me!' and 'How come there aren't more pictures of me in the book!' She is such a sweet and thoughtful girl," Brady said.

Howard said Brady's photos capture the children's creativity and give them a positive reflection, something most of them have never had. She said the children are empowered by getting their photos taken.

"Joan sees well beyond the labels that so many of our youth have gathered along their journey

in foster care," Howard said. "She can see the gifted artists, the aspiring scientists, the comedians, the athletes, and the beautiful children waiting for an opportunity to bloom."

Becoming an Advocate

Brady doesn't look like a fighter. She is petite, quick to laugh, and looks younger than her 48 years. But spend five minutes with her, and one quickly finds out how passionate and relentless she is about Fairfax Families4Kids.

"Actually, [fighting for children] started when I became a court appointed special advocate for a 9-year-old boy in foster care from DC in 2002. And yeah, I was surprised ... surprised that doing what was right by children was something that most often required a fight," she said during a recent breakfast.

"This is not just mentoring.

SEE MENTORS, PAGE 17

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



"Tea lady" Laurie Bell talks to attendees as she demonstrates how to pair various types of chocolates and teas on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 10.

Enjoying Arts and Chocolate

The Artists' Atelier in Great Falls hosts Flowers and Chocolate show.

BY JENNIFER BENITZ
THE CONNECTION

An eventful weekend filled with sweet delights for both the taste buds and the eyes at the Artists' Atelier Studio reception proved to be a popular outing among Great Falls residents and art enthusiasts alike. On Saturday, Feb. 9, and Sun-

day, Feb. 10, the Artists' Atelier in Great Falls opened its studio to the public for its show, "Flowers and Chocolate"—a theme inspired by Valentine's Day.

During the two-day reception, visitors were able to check out paintings, collages and photography on display by the studio's 13 artists while tasting chocolate samples and talking to many of the artists who were present.

"I always enjoy the interaction between the artists and visitors," said photographer Terri Parent who organized the weekend's show. "Some people come to see specific artists, others come to see everything and some people just come to socialize. It's just fun

SEE PAIRING, PAGE 6



A painting by Jill Banks on display in the studio.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER BENITZ

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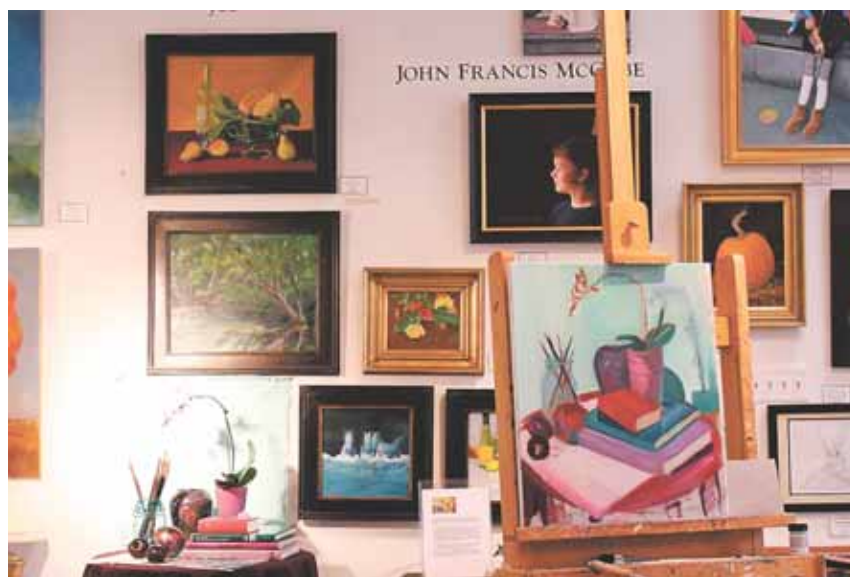
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NEWS

A painting by
Judith St.
Ledger-Roty
was on display
while she
worked in the
studio on
Sunday after-
noon, Feb. 10.



Pairing Arts, Tea and Chocolate

FROM PAGE 5

to see people enjoying themselves.”

The reception also included a presentation by “tea lady” Laurie Bell on Sunday afternoon. Twelve visitors listened to Bell as she demonstrated how to pair various types of chocolates and teas while getting a taste for themselves.

While Saturday afternoon was busier than Sunday, the studio remained buzzing with chatter and visitors throughout the weekend, with about 50 visitors coming through in all.

“We had both existing customers come by and new people, not necessarily just Great Falls [residents] which was nice,” said painter and long-time Great Falls resident Judith St. Ledger-Roty as the show wrapped up.

Also in the studio was photographer Walt

Lawrence with many of his photos on display, particularly from his series “Images of Great Falls.” The other artists, some of whom were working on various pieces while visitors walked around, include Jill Banks, Michela Mansuino, Mollie Vardell, Chris Rollins, John Francis McCabe, Elaine Elinksy, Roberta Pruett Beasley, Jennifer Duncan, Tina Learned and Brenda Drake.

“My expectation isn’t that they come and buy,” said St. Ledger-Roty, “but that they come and enjoy themselves. [The show] is a social outlet as well.”

With various shows occurring throughout the year, the Artists’ Atelier welcomes the public to enjoy art among talented artists of differing interests and skills. The Artists’ Atelier’s next reception will be for Tina Learned’s solo exhibit, “Botanical Gardens,” on Friday, March 8.



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NEWS

Senior Center to Become Nonprofit

FROM PAGE 3

Part of their efforts to become an official nonprofit, where donations become tax-deductible, include being accepted in the Friends of the Fairfax County Senior Centers, an advocate for centers around the county.

Their February event featured Chef Jacques Haeringer of L'Auberge Chez Francois showing guests how to make chocolate truffles for Valentine's Day. Other events have been at Riverbend Park, Dranesville Tavern and the Great Falls Library, in addition to local churches.

The monthly events are only part of the group's outreach to area seniors.

"We've launched a series of exercise classes, right now we've got a six-week Tai Chi class, which costs \$5, with about 20 participants and a certified instructor, thanks to the county's office of Neighborhood and Community

Services," Fernald said. "We thought Tai Chi would be a very appropriate thing to start with, it's serene, helps clear the mind, not a lot of jumping around. In the future we'll be looking at exercise classes, computer classes and others sponsored by the county."

Their next event will take place Tuesday, March 5, and it will be a question and answer session with Ric Edelman, chairman and CEO of Edeleman Financial Services.

"As a fellow resident of Great Falls, it's a genuine pleasure to support the Great Falls Senior Center," Edelman said. "Seniors today face crucial issues and I'm glad to offer answers to their personal finance questions."

The event will take place from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 1020 Springvale Road in Great Falls.

Reservations must be made to Fernald by calling 703-759-3721, or via e-mail at linda.fernald1@verizon.net.

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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:

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OPINION

On Transportation

Compromise, in the works, should include indexing the gas tax to inflation.

Virginia needs more options, not fewer, in developing revenue to pay for roads and transportation. Compromise on a plan to increase transportation revenue should not include making Virginia the only state in the nation without a gas tax. The current, ridiculously low gas tax should be indexed to inflation. The last thing the commonwealth needs is to do away with an existing, major source of money for roads.

Sen. Dick Saslaw proposed raising the tax, now 17.5 cents a gallon, by five cents each of the next two years and then indexing it to inflation. At the least, the tax should be indexed to rise with inflation from its current level.

Possible proposals to cut the tax in half along with increases in the sales tax miss the point, but are still far preferable to eliminating it.

The gas tax is a user fee. It raises money for roads from people and businesses who are using the roads, including drivers who pass

through Virginia from out of state.

We agree with Del. Scott Surovell, who says: "Funding roads exclusively with sales taxes disproportionately burdens the elderly who drive less than others and people who do not own cars."

Medicaid Expansion Progresses

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce said it well when it issued a statement in favor of the commonwealth embracing \$10 billion in federal money to expand the number of people eligible for health insurance under Medicaid:

"Northern Virginia businesses and taxpayers are already paying for health reform through new taxes levied by the Affordable Care Act. If we do not take advantage of Medicaid reform [and expansion], roughly \$10 billion in Virginia taxpayer dollars will go to the federal government to fund coverage extension in other states. If the General Assembly approves the reform and extension plan, nearly all those taxpayer dollars will remain in-state where they can be put to good use for the benefit of the commonwealth, its businesses and its citizens."

Sex Trafficking in Our Backyard

Northern Virginia is seeing increasing numbers of reported cases of sexual trafficking.

BY TIMOTHY D. HUGO
STATE DELEGATE (R-40)

A couple of years ago, I became aware that sex trafficking of children was not solely an international issue, but one that was happening in our own backyard. Unfortunately, the truth is that it is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, in the United States and, yes, here in Virginia. In 2011, I began working with Shared Hope International. This organization strives to prevent sex slavery, restore victims of sex trafficking, bring justice to vulnerable women and children, and strengthen Virginia's laws.

Since that time, the fight against human trafficking has become a top priority of mine. I am committed to fight against those who would do harm to our young people by enacting harsher penalties to those convicted of these horrendous crimes and by increasing public awareness.

According to the Polaris Project, a leading organization in the global fight against human traffick-



ing, over 100,000 children alone are victims of the sex trade in the United States each year. It ranks Virginia seventh in the nation in the percentage of calls received reporting human trafficking. This is not a top ten category that any state seeks. Northern Virginia itself is seeing increasing numbers of reported cases of sexual trafficking occurring in massage parlors, online escort services, and gang-related activities among other av-

enues. Just last year, members of a Fairfax-based gang were arrested for soliciting Fairfax County high school girls for sex trafficking.

Virginia lawmakers have responded and enacted several pieces of legislation including my HB 1898, which raised the penalty for abducting any individual for the purposes of prostitution or abducting a minor for child pornography. In addition, the General Assembly currently has before it my HB 1606, which would stiffen the penalty for soliciting a minor for prostitution. I will continue to look for ways to make Virginia one of the least desirable states for those who seek to harm our young people.

I am not alone in combating this evil. I will continue to work closely with Governor McDonnell, Attorney General Cuccinelli, my colleagues in the General Assembly, Shared Hope International, the Polaris Project, the Richmond Justice Initiative, law enforcement agencies and others to increase awareness of this issue and to institute harsher punishments for those who seek to harm young

Call for Photos for Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish at the end of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, Feb. 21.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Please identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of what is happening in the photo and of your pet, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name). We also welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, and drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

To see our last pet edition, visit:

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Great%20Falls.pdf>

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Herndon.pdf>

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/McLean.pdf>

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Reston.pdf>

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Vienna.pdf>

Residents from Vienna-Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston, or Herndon areas should send submissions to:

north@connectionnewspapers.com.

people for financial gain.

Corporations are also participating in efforts to battle human trafficking. Just last year, AT&T granted the Richmond Justice Initiative \$25,000 to develop educational programs to help prevent human trafficking in the Richmond area.

I believe there is no worse crime than one committed against a child. I am dedicated to ensuring child sex traffickers remain behind bars longer for such horrific behavior, so that no child falls prey to those who seek them harm.

One child taken from his/her home, one young person falling prey to this evil, is one too many.

If you would like additional information on this issue, please contact me at 703-815-1201 or delthugo@house.virginia.gov

The writer is a majority caucus chairman at the Virginia House of Delegates.

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Home Remodeling Projects Continue to Rise

Updating kitchens and bathrooms are homeowners' priorities.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RJK CONSTRUCTION

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Home remodeling projects continue to rebound, and kitchens and bathrooms are at the top of the project list, according to a new report for the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

"I was personally surprised [by] the number of really high-end projects, like those over \$150,000," said Nikki Golden, NARI spokeswoman.

When the owners of a Fairfax Station home decided to turn their outdated master bathroom into a modern spa retreat, they added a black granite vanity, matching shower bench and custom glass shower doors. "This master bathroom has been completely transformed into an oasis," said Fairfax-based contractor Robert Kalmin of RJK Construction. "Immediately as you walk in, you are greeted by a large double vanity. The cabinetry door style is Centennial from Bertch Bath. Two mirrors with matching trim are hung above each sink and add continuity."

Kalmin, who is also a board member of the Washington-region's National Association of the Remodeling Industry chapter, said that a creative use of lighting helped set a relaxing, spa-like tone. "Three sconce lights add direct lighting and flare to this bathroom," he said. "The Key West soaking tub ... would make anyone jealous. A unique feature in this bathroom is the extra cabinet that is adjacent to the bathtub. It adds extra storage space and creates more countertop space for decorative items like candles."

WHEN IT COMES TO kitchens, NARI says homeowners are expressing a desire to expand. For example, when the owners of a Reston home decided to remodel their kitchen, they removed a wall that separated the kitchen from the living area and created a open, free-flowing space that allowed for casual entertaining.

"Removing a partition wall allowed us to bring out a peninsula into the living area, expanding the kitchen and providing the opportunity for additional cabinetry, countertop space and a bar top," said Suzanne Kalmin of RJK Construction. "The [cabinetry] creates a contrast in the kitchen. The door style is a full overlay, called Pem-



The owners of this Fairfax Station master bathroom decided to turn their outdated space into a modern, spa retreat.

broke and the finish is 'Raven' on cherry wood."

The homeowners wanted a durable counter surface so they chose quartz. In addition, "a section of butcher block next to the cook-top serves as a convenient prep space

for cutting vegetables or bread," Suzanne Kalmin added. "This kitchen is packed with professional grade appliances, [including] a Viking professional cooktop and oven-microwave combination."

The homeowners chose stainless



The owners of this Reston kitchen chose stainless steel appliances to create an earthy but luxurious atmosphere.

steel appliances to strike an earthy but luxurious tone, she continued. "[They] are complemented by the stainless steel backsplash ... behind the range and between the countertop and bar of the peninsula. A staggered glass natural stone combination tile is featured

in the backsplash. The front of the bar is covered with a staggered natural stacked stone."

To complete the project, the wood flooring the adjacent living room was refinished to match the flooring in the remodeled kitchen to create a seamless finish.

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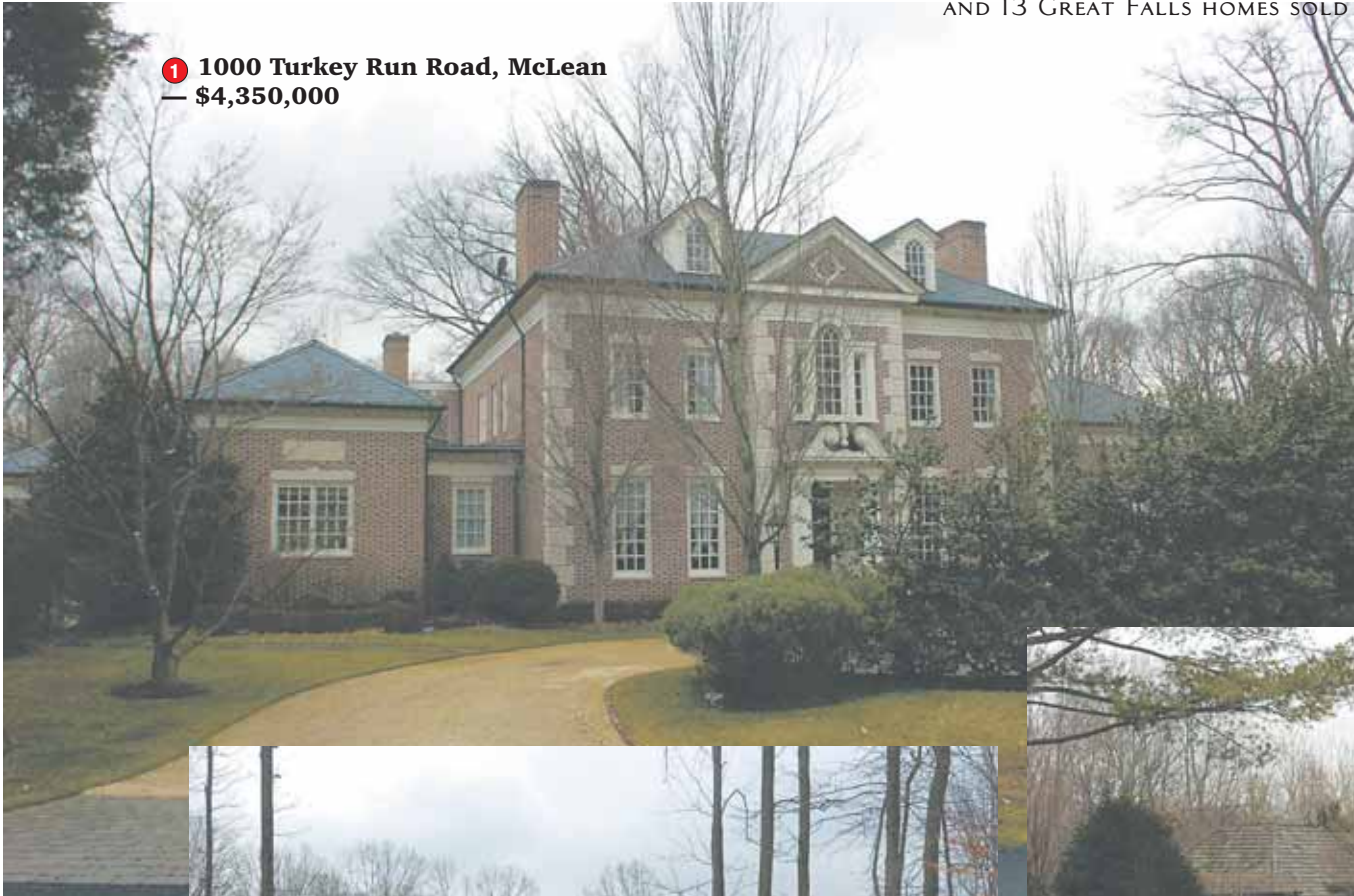
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Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

IN DECEMBER 2012, 98 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$4,350,000-\$138,000 IN THE MCLEAN AND FALLS CHURCH AREA,
AND 13 GREAT FALLS HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$3,900,000-\$600,000.



1 1000 Turkey Run Road, McLean — \$4,350,000

December, 2012 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean

4 1463 Kirby Road, McLean — \$3,800,000



3 524 Innsbruck Avenue, Great Falls — \$3,900,000



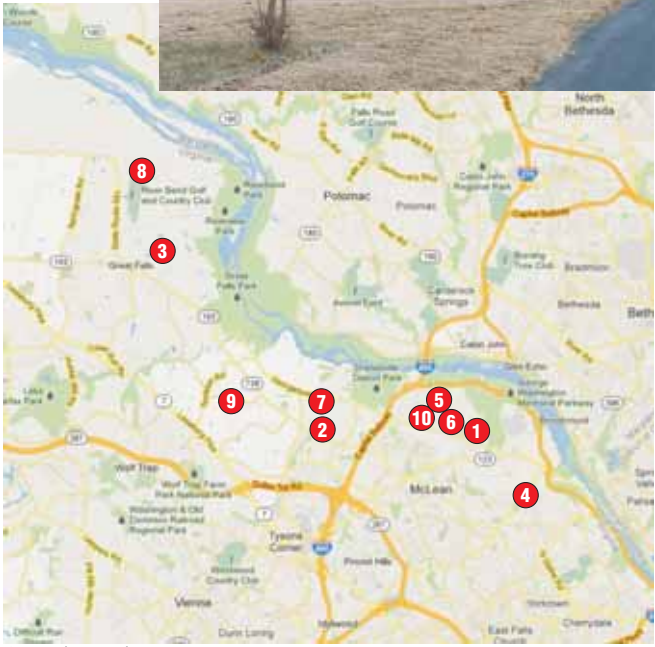
8 9801 Beach Mill Road, Great Falls — \$2,514,531



7 871 Centrillion Drive, McLean — \$2,820,000



6 917 Whann Avenue, McLean — \$3,400,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	...	Sold Price	....	Type	.....	Lot AC	PostalCode	.....	Subdivision	.....	Date Sold
1 1000 TURKEY RUN RD	4	..	4	..	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$4,350,000	.....	Detached	....	1.50	.....	22101	.....	12/28/12
2 1017 FOUNDERS RIDGE LN	6	..	7	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$4,200,000	.....	Detached	....	1.28	.....	22102	.....	12/27/12
3 524 INNSBRUCK AVE	6	..	6	..	3	...	GREAT FALLS	...	\$3,900,000	.....	Detached	....	5.00	.....	22066	..	12/21/12
4 1463 KIRBY RD	4	..	5	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	...	\$3,800,000	.....	Detached	....	2.00	.....	22101	.....	12/17/12
5 6723 LUCY LN	5	..	5	..	3	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$3,650,000	.....	Detached	....	0.87	.....	22101	.....	12/18/12
6 917 WHANN AVE	6	..	6	..	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$3,400,000	.....	Detached	....	0.96	.....	22101	.....	12/21/12
7 871 CENTRILLION DR	5	..	6	..	3	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,820,000	.....	Detached	....	1.56	.....	22102	.....	12/12/12
8 9801 BEACH MILL RD	4	..	3	..	1	...	GREAT FALLS	...	\$2,514,531	.....	Detached	....	1.93	.....	22066	.....	12/21/12
9 8894 WINDY RIDGE WAY	5	..	5	..	2	MCLEAN	...	\$2,120,000	Detached	1.73	22102	12/10/12
10 6900 BENJAMIN ST	7	..	7	..	1	MCLEAN	\$2,000,000	Detached	0.97	22101	12/04/12

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DANDELION PATCH

Chocolate-scented soaps and candles are a delicious way to celebrate Valentine's Day, says Laura Smith of the Dandelion Patch in Vienna and Reston.

Last Minute Valentine's Day Ideas

Subtle accents for the most romantic holiday of the year.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Still looking for Valentine's Day home accents? Local design experts say it is not too late to add touches of romance in time for Cupid's big day.

Laura Smith of the Dandelion Patch in Vienna and Reston suggests chocolate-scented candles, soaps and shea butter. "They are very pretty and you could put them in a guest bathroom and the candles in the living room," she

SEE VALENTINE'S, PAGE 12



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Home Life Style

Valentine's Day Ideas



PHOTOS BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Heart wreathes are a simple and stylish way to make one's home reflect the most romantic day of the year.

FROM PAGE 11

said. "They smell delicious — almost edible."

Next on her list is a napkin box with cupcake napkins and paperweights. "They are perfect for entertaining, but also beautiful enough to leave out all year round," said Smith. "Napkins and weights can be changed out to make this perfect for any event or time of year."

Judy Philactos of Periwinkle Gifts recommends miniature glass hearts displayed on a tiny serving tray. "Feather heart wreaths also make nice displays," she said.

When it comes to Valentine's Day bouquets and centerpieces, floral designer Evelyn Kinville of Behnkes Florist in Potomac, Md., says there are plenty of options.

"While Valentine's Day is almost exclusively rose-based, it doesn't have to be," she said. "There are French tulips, which are larger and longer-stemmed than traditional tulips. You can use hyacinths, fragrant hybrid lilies and freesia."

"While Valentine's Day is almost exclusively rose-based, it doesn't have to be."

— Evelyn Kinville, Behnkes Florist Potomac, Md.

Tiny glass hearts displayed on a miniature, silver serving tray set a romantic tone on Cupid's day.



OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 & 17

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**

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8653 Huddersfield Way...\$345,000...Sun 1-4...Suzanne Burch...Century 21...703-328-5606

Burke

6308 Swan Landing Ct...\$609,000...Sun 1-4...John Hilton...Century 21...703-599-1351

Centreville

13849 Wakley Ct...\$349,900...Sat 1-4...John Hilton...Century 21...703-599-1351

Fairfax Station

6321 Barsky Ct...\$729,900...Sun 2-4...Pat Fales...RE/MAX...703-503-4365

Leesburg

43074 Shadow Terr...\$395,000...Sun 1-4...Ritu Desai...Samson Props...703-625-4949

Springfield

7262 Linden Tree Ln...\$449,950...Sun 1-4...Kathleen Quintarelli...Weichert...703-862-8808

Vienna

620 Tapawingo Rd SW...\$1,199,900...Sun 1-4...John Saab...Saab...783-288-4877

9811 Oak Valley Ct...\$875,000...Sat/Sun 1-4...Robin Butler...Prudential...703-281-8500

Woodbridge

2919 Truffle Oak Pl...Contact Agent...Sun 1-4...Bob Frazier...Samson Props...703-407-4053

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.

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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

THURSDAY/FEB. 14

Valentine's Day at Lofty. 2-5 p.m., at Lofty Salon and Wellness Center, 354 Maple Ave. W., Vienna. Visiting Valentine's will be showered with roses, wine and sweets; a complimentary makeup application and scalp treatment are available in addition to 50 percent off closet sales and a gift bag provided with purchase. 703-242-0609.

Valentine's Day Dinner. 5:30-9:30 p.m., in Bistro, at The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. An elegant evening of gourmet culinary creations in an intimate setting with live music duo accompaniment—or eat at the Sushi Bar where chefs prepare a customized meal. \$125 per person for gourmet dinner. www.ritzcarlton.com.

Wildfire Valentine's Day Weekend. 5-10:30 p.m., at Wildfire, 1714 International Drive, McLean. For a romantic dinner in a cozy booth or a special treat while celebrating with the family, the four course menu offers gourmet choices in the starter, salad, main course and dessert portions of the meal, offered every evening through Sunday, Feb. 17. Reservations. 703-442-9110.

FRIDAY/FEB. 15

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.1ststagetysons.org.

America's National Parks Through the Artist's Lens. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A multifaceted presentation of visual arts and music showcase the country's most beautiful places. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

Chocolate and Jazz. 8:30 p.m.-midnight at The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. An evening of live jazz, rich chocolate from the Chocolate Buffet Bar and a bottle of champagne. \$25 per person or \$85 per couple (champagne included). www.ritzcarlton.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 16

50th James A. Bland Music Contest. 1-4:30 p.m., at the Assembly of God Church, 100 Ayr Hill Ave., Vienna. The Vienna Lions Club holds a contest for area high and middle school vocalists and instrumentalists (each student has up to eight minutes to perform); refreshments served during the intermission. 703-938-7716 or n.volpe8@verizon.net.

Comic Book Appreciation Day. 2-6 p.m., at EG Comics, 142 Maple Ave. W., Vienna. Koons Tysons Scion hosts a costume contest with cash prizes, a comic book signing by indie comic Unit 5's creators and complimentary food and drinks. facebook.com/unit5comic.

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 1ststagetysons.org.
Chef Matt's Cooking Class. 5-7 p.m., at The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. An evening of gourmet cooking classes for two teaches couples how to make a full Valentine's Day dinner and offers a space for them to enjoy their creations. www.ritzcarlton.com. \$150 per couple. www.ritzcarlton.com.

Color Wheel Gallery 65 Grand Opening. 5-8 p.m., at Gallery 65, 1374 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The inaugural grand opening of a new art gallery in McLean features sculpture, abstract, figurative, realism and impressionistic art in an auction to benefit Fisher House Foundation, Inc. 703-356-6345 or www.cwgallery65.com.

Casino Night. 7 p.m.-midnight, at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Enjoy a fun-filled night at the Monte Carlo-themed casino night with silent auction, raffle prizes, food from local restaurants and a cash bar; a portion of proceeds benefit the Women's Center of Vienna. \$85 in advance; \$95 at the door. 703-281-1333 or www.tysonsclub.org.

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Jazz pianist and vocalist plays his signature fresh takes on timeless works at a favorite venue. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Chocolate Bar and Live Music. 9 p.m.-midnight at the Entyse Wine Bar & Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Live music and rich chocolate define the evening, where champagne and a chocolate buffet tempt the palate. \$25 per person or \$85 per couple (champagne included). www.ritzcarlton.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 17

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center Street North, Vienna. Omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon and all the fixings open to the public. \$8 for adults; \$3 for children. 703-938-1379.

Brew-ku Book Signing. 2-4 p.m., at Sweet City Desserts, 131A Maple Ave. W., Vienna. Enjoy poetry, coffee and Japanese treats at Tarun Reddy's, author of the coffee-infused haiku book Brew-ku: Where Coffee Intersects with Life, poetry reading and book signing. facebook.com/brewku or sweetcitydesserts.co.

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 1ststagetysons.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 19

Bringing Bees to Your Garden. 9:30 a.m., at lower level Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street N.E., Vienna. Denise Shree, the apiarist for Meadowlark Gardens, will talk of American's native mason bees. 703-988-9324.

Battle of the Wines: California Winemaking Region. 6:30 p.m., at Wildfire, 1714 International Dr., McLean. Starting with appetizers and pairings, Wine & Spirits Director Brad Wermager offers up a five-course menu paired with varietal wines from Sonoma County or Napa Valley, Calif. \$85 per person. 703-442-9110.

SUNDAY/ FEB. 20

Photography Competition Meeting. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar

Lane, Vienna. Andrew Jezioro, digital photography lecturer at the Northern Virginia Community College, will judge Architectural photographs for the Vienna Photographic Society. www.vps-va.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Life as the Daughter of a Vietnam War MIA Father. 7:30 p.m., at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Pam Cain, daughter of Col. Oscar Mauterer, USAF, lost while flying over Laos during the Vietnam War in 1966, shares the story of her life as daughter of a missing-in-action father. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

The Wizard of Oz. 7:30 p.m., at the Madeira Chapel/Auditorium, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Madeira Arts Department brings the classic with puppeteering, colorful misfits and a local wizard in their winter musical. \$10 for adults; \$5 for children. www.madeira.org/wizardofoz.

Chicago City Limits. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Improvisational parodies are the mainstay of New York City's longest running comedic act. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

The Wizard of Oz. 7:30 p.m., at the Madeira Chapel/Auditorium, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Madeira Arts Department brings the classic with puppeteering, colorful misfits and a local wizard in their winter musical. \$10 for adults; \$5 for children. www.madeira.org/wizardofoz.



Drew Kopas as Aldo in the 1st Stage production of "Italian American Reconciliation."



Anne Nottage as Janice in the 1st Stage production of "Italian American Reconciliation"

1st Stage Presents 'Italian American Reconciliation'

"Italian American Reconciliation" at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Performances: Now through Sunday, Feb. 24. Fridays 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$25. Call 703-854-1856 or visit: www.1stStagespringhill.org.

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Lizzy Brown-Kaiser helped McLean place second at the 2013 Northern Region gymnastics meet on Feb. 6 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.



Marshall's Morgan Stahl won vault and floor championships, along with qualifying for states in the all-around competition at the Northern Region gymnastics meet on Feb. 6.

McLean Gymnastics Repeats As Region Runner-Up

Washington-Lee captures second consecutive team title.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After the Washington-Lee gymnastics team finished its bar routines during the third rotation of the Northern Region meet, Generals coaches stood in a small group and watched their primary competitor, McLean, go through its beam routines with a region champion yet to be determined.

W-L moved to beam for the fourth and final rotation. After watching Maia Mandel and Mary Lynn Clark deliver stellar performances, head coach Joe D'Emidio had no doubt the Generals were back on top of the region.

Mandel posted a 9.6 on beam, Clark followed with a 9.65 and Washington-Lee repeated as Northern Region gymnastics champion with a score of 147.15 on Feb. 6 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. McLean finished runner up for the second consecutive season.

D'Emidio said he already knew the Generals had wrapped up the title after their performance on beam.

He wasn't the only one feeling good about W-L's chances.

"I felt we were in pretty good shape because everyone had such solid routines," Mandel said. "Everyone was really confident."

Last year, the Generals became the first W-L sports team to win a region championship in more than three decades. This year, they were even better.

"It was a team effort," said D'Emidio, who called the experience of repeating as region champion "exhilarating."

The top-eight finishers in each event, the top-four all-around competitors and the top-two teams

qualify for states.

One year after edging McLean by less than four-tenths of a point for the 2012 Northern Region crown, W-L widened its margin of victory over the Highlanders. McLean placed second with a score of 143, earning a state berth.

"They did good," McLean coach Courtney Lesson said about the Highlanders. "They fought for everything."

McLean's Jackie Green finished eighth in the all-around with a 37.425. She took fourth on floor (9.475) and sixth on beam (9.55). Lizzy Brown-Kaiser tied for third on vault (9.6) and placed eighth on bars (9.15).

Delaney Gallagher and Madi Schuman also competed for the Highlanders.

Woodson senior and Patriot District all-around champion Simone Freidman won the Northern Region all-around title with a score of 38.35.

"It's unbelievable," Freidman said. "I really wanted this. I really wanted to be able to say I have the district title, I have the regional title ... [and] it means a lot as a senior [to be] leaving and making my mark with the title."

Centreville's Ciara Hoernke and Hayfield's Molly Overstreet tied for second at 38.05, and Marshall's Morgan Stahl placed fourth (37.575).

Hoernke won bars with a 9.9, the highest score by any gymnast in any event. Freidman finished first on beam (9.85), and Stahl won floor (9.725) and vault (9.7).

The VHSL state meet will be held this weekend at Centreville High School. Team competition will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, and individual competition will start at 12:20 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Langley senior defenseman Zach Shames winds up for a shot against Potomac Falls while senior captain Evan Sterling and Senior Derick Paxton look on.

Langley Hockey Remains Undefeated

Saxons clinch the NVSHL Adams Division.

The Langley Saxons hockey club completed its most successful weekend of the 2012-13 campaign with a pair of strong wins against 4-3-2 Potomac Falls and 6-1-1 Briar Woods to reach the 9-0 mark this season.

These wins allowed Langley to clinch the NVSHL Adams Division and give the Saxons a chance for the first time in many years to finish the regular season undefeated at 10-0. Both games were taut contests, with Langley coming from behind to seal each victory.

In the Potomac Falls game, Langley scored the final four goals to win 5-3, after being down 3-1 in the middle of the second period. It was a tough, gritty win with the Saxons, wearing down Potomac Falls in the second half, despite a brilliant game by their goalie Franky Daniels, with a barrage of 45 shots. Goals were scored by senior captain Evan Sterling (2), sophomore Sam LaFuria, senior Derick Paxton and junior Jeremy Kim with assists by senior Zach Shames (2), senior assistant captain Logan Pontell, senior

assistant captain Kevin Diner and Evan Sterling.

But, Langley proved its mettle even more in the effort later in the weekend against Briar Woods, which was ranked No. 7 in the Washington Post hockey rankings. The entire team stepped up its game against a very dangerous team, and held on for a 2-1 win. The first goal was scored by Evan Sterling, with assists by Kevin Diner and senior Peter Nam, but the highlight of the game had to be the hustle of the third line and sophomore Colin Dibble's dramatic game-winning goal in the second period, assisted by sophomore Chris Name and freshman Jason Guidi. Junior goalie Ryan Framinan had another great game and kept the Briar Woods team at bay with some strong goaltending for the entire three periods despite some great attempts.

Langley will finish its NVSHL regular season against Osbourn Park this Friday night, and then awaits the playoffs, which begin the week of Feb. 25. The Saxons are ranked No. 10 in the Washington Post hockey rankings.

NEWS

'Bright and Cheerful' Art Exhibit at Katie's Coffee House

Great Falls artist Mary Ellen Mogee is exhibiting paintings at Katie's Coffee House in Great Falls, from Friday, Feb. 1, to Friday, March 1, 2013. The abstract paintings in the exhibit, titled "Bright and Cheerful," have high light, color and energy. The artist selected them to provide a bright and cheerful atmosphere for the customers of Katie's Coffee House as they get their morning coffee and start their day. Katie's Coffee House is located at 760 Walker Road in Great Falls.

Mary Ellen Mogee is a contemporary abstract painter working in acrylic and mixed media who works in the AHH! (Art Happens Here!) Studio in Great Falls. A native of Illinois, Mogee moved to the

Washington, D.C., area to pursue graduate degrees in policy analysis. After working more than 30 years in that field, she took up painting and fell in love with it. More work may be seen online at www.maryellenmogee.com or Facebook at www.facebook.com/maryellenmogeeart. She has taken classes with local artists, including Jennifer Schoechle, Brenda Belfield, Kurt Schwartz, Marsha Staiger, John Blee, and Marise Riddell. She is a Workhouse associate at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, as well as a member of Great Falls Studios, the League of Reston Artists, and the Art League in Alexandria. Contact Mary Ellen at 703-785-5784 or MyArtandSoul@gmail.com.



"Higher Realms," by Mary Ellen Mogee, acrylic and mixed media on canvas.

The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestras



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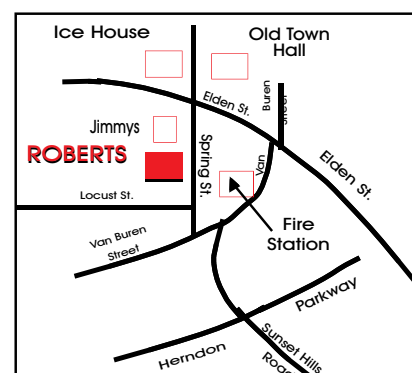
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PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER GOVERNING BOARD SMALL DISTRICT 1A OF THE DRANESVILLE DISTRICT FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

This **NOTICE** of elections to select members of the 2013-2014 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (MCC) is officially given to residents of Small District 1A of the Dranesville District, Fairfax County, Virginia (referred to as "Small District 1A"). The McLean Community Center operates as a Special District Agency of the Fairfax County Government through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and MCC. On February 8, 1984, the Board of Supervisors approved the Memorandum of Understanding, which authorizes the elections. The McLean Community Center is funded by residents of Greater McLean for their use through a real estate tax surcharge, the result of a 1970 Small District 1A-Dranesville bond referendum.

Elections are held on **McLean Day** at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia. This year, McLean Day is on **Saturday, May 18, 2013**.

Voting on McLean Day takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Only Small District 1A residents are eligible to run for seats on the 11-member Governing Board and to vote in the election. Residents are not required to be property owners in Small District 1A in order to run for the Governing Board or to vote in the election.

Candidate Qualifications: Each resident who lives within Small District 1A is eligible to run for a seat on the Governing Board within the appropriate category. (If you need help determining whether you reside in Small District 1A, please contact the Center at 703-744-9348 or elections@mcleancenter.org.)

The Governing Board seats to be filled through the election are:

Three (3) Adult Governing Board Seats: Adult candidates must be residents of Small District 1A and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on McLean Day. The candidates who receive the three (3) highest numbers of votes will serve three-year terms on the Governing Board.

Two (2) Youth Governing Board Seats:

One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the McLean High School boundary area

One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the Langley High School boundary area

Teen candidates must live in Small District 1A and must be between fifteen (15) and seventeen (17) years of age on McLean Day. One candidate from each high school boundary area receiving the highest number of votes will serve a one-year term on the Governing Board. High school boundaries are set by the Fairfax County Public Schools. You can find your high school boundary area by entering your home address in the Fairfax County Public Schools' boundary tool at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary>.

NOTICE TO TEENS: You must live within Small District 1A. However, you *do not* have to attend either McLean or Langley high schools. You may attend another school, including one that is outside of Small District 1A, or you may be home schooled.

In some cases, you might live within the boundary of one of the two high schools, but attend school in the other high school boundary. For example, you could attend McLean High School, but live in the Langley High School boundary, or vice versa.

***You must run for the youth board seat for
the high school boundary area where you live.***

Remember: No matter where you attend school, you must still live within Small District 1A and run for election in the correct high school boundary area. (If you need help, please contact the McLean Community Center at 703-744-9348 or elections@mcleancenter.org.)

Candidate Petitions: Nominating Petitions may be obtained at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, 22101, beginning at 9 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 19, 2013**.

Adults seeking to become candidates for a seat on the Governing Board must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are 18 years old or older (on McLean Day). Teens seeking to become candidates for a youth seat on the Governing

Board must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are between 15 to 17 years old (on McLean Day), **and** who live within the same high school boundary area as the candidate lives.

DEADLINE: Each resident seeking election to the Governing Board shall file a completed petition with the MCC at the address shown below **on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2013:**

McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

All petitions will be certified on **Friday, March 22, 2013**; candidates will be notified whether their petitions have been certified on the same date. The names of certified candidates will be published in newspapers having general circulation in the Dranesville District.

Voter Qualifications: Each resident who *lives* within Small District 1A is eligible to vote in the Governing Board elections (within the adult or youth categories, as appropriate).

When voting in the elections, the qualifications are:

Adults: Any Small District 1A resident who is eighteen (18) years of age or older on McLean Day is eligible to vote in the elections. Adults may vote for up to three (3) adult candidates.

Teens: Any resident who is fifteen (15) through seventeen (17) years of age on McLean Day is eligible to vote in the elections. Teens may vote for one youth candidate from each high school boundary area (but not for two candidates in the same high school boundary area).

High school students who turn 18 on or before McLean Day must vote as adults and may not vote for youth candidates.

Verification of age and residence shall be determined from a driver's license, student identification card, birth certificate, or other satisfactory evidence. A verification process also is required for residents choosing to apply for absentee voting.

Absentee Voting: Residents may vote by absentee ballot. Applications for Absentee Ballot packages will be available at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, 22101 beginning on **Monday, April 8, 2013** at 9 a.m. Applications for Absentee Ballot packages may be requested in-person, by email at elections@mcleancenter.org, and by telephone at 703-744-9348. Please also refer to the Center's Website for updated information regarding the absentee voting process (www.mcleancenter.org). The **DEADLINE** for returning a **completed and signed Application for Absentee Ballot and the Absentee Ballot** to the MCC is **Wednesday, May 15, 2013, at 5 p.m.**

Election Results: Election results will be posted on the door of the McLean Community Center on the evening of the elections. The McLean Community Center's Elections & Nominations Committee will report the results of the elections to Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust, who will present the successful candidates to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at its next regular meeting following the elections. At that meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, after determining that it is in the public interest to do so, shall appoint to the McLean Community Center Governing Board:

The three (3) adult candidates who received the top three (3) highest number of votes

Two (2) youth candidates – the candidate who received the highest number of votes in each of the two (2) high school boundary areas

The appointment of new Board Members shall be effective upon action by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Newly appointed Board Members will take office when they attend their first meeting of the 2013-2014 Governing Board. The 2013-2014 Governing Board's term runs from May 2013 through May 2014.

For more information about the elections, please call 703-744-9348 or email the McLean Community Center at elections@mcleancenter.org.

Chair
Elections & Nominations Committee
McLean Community Center Governing Board



**McLean
Community
Center**
The Center of It All

THE COUNTY LINE

Joan Brady is an award-winning photographer whose images have appeared in many publications.



PHOTO BY ELLEN ZANGLA

Mentors Seen as 'Family'

FROM PAGE 4

Beverly has created a family, a family where one would not otherwise exist. It's a family where kids are loved unconditionally, which, in my experience, is very rare for children in foster care who are most often judged by their worst behaviors with a blind eye turned toward their attributes."

Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey, a champion of the program, was quick to praise Brady's role in the program.

"While the mentors and volunteers are definitely the heart of FF4Kids, Joan Brady is definitely its soul," Frey said. "I can't imagine where the program would be without her."

Neither can anyone else connected to the program.

In 2009, when the program was in danger of being eliminated because of across-the-board cuts in the county budget, Brady marshaled an army of supporters, launched a "save the program" blog, and cajoled, begged and nagged officials to keep the program. (In 2010, the program, fueled primarily by the work of the mentors and volunteers, cost about \$133,000 in a social services budget of more than \$200 million.)

Brady appeared before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during the budget hearings. Her plan was to let the program's youth speak directly to the supervisors.

County officials said no. That answer was not acceptable to Brady.

"That's when we began fighting. I may have led the effort, but it was very much of a group commitment," Brady said. "We knew that these kids were virtually invisible to the community. We knew that they could not stand up for themselves. We wrote letters and emails and met individually with members of the Board of Supervisors. We went directly to the Human Services Council, writing to them as well."

Supporters scheduled their testimony so that they had a block of time, and they coordinated their speeches so that each of them covered a different aspect of the program.

And Brady made sure supervisors heard from the children, by having supporters read comments from their audio testimony.

Molly Pell of Fairfax spoke about adopting one of the children in the program, and included the comments of a youth she mentored

"None of us in this room can fully understand what Families4Kids means to the youth involved, but I

believe one of our youth stated it best, when she told us:

"[If I didn't have FF4Kids], I would lose my mind ... I would lose my sanity. I wouldn't be able to function much. Cause even now I don't have very much. I get teased on at school. I get teased at the place where I'm supposed to call home. If I lost here ... it would be like there was no reason to do anything anymore."

In their short lives, so much has been taken from these youth. Please don't take away Fairfax Families4Kids," Pell said during the hearings.

"We stood together as unified members of the community," Brady said. "We achieved a stay of execution during those budget hearings in 2010."

Being Part of the "Family"

Brady is an award-winning photographer whose images have appeared in many publications, including "The Washington Post," "NYTimes.com," "Washingtonian" magazine, "Children's Voice" (the magazine of the Welfare League of America) and "O Magazine."

She is justifiably proud of her work, and will talk about it when prompted.

But she quickly steers the conversation back to the children, and how much difference mentors make in the lives of foster children. What she is not always quick to talk about is that the children in the program consider her an important part of their "family," too.

During a celebration for mentors last month, Jorge, 17, stood up to address the group: "I don't have a mentor, but Joan is always there for me ... I check in with her and she checks in with me, nagging me about school and work," he said. "I know she cares."

"Honestly, I probably am in touch with him every week-and-a-half, and I think he usually checks in and when I respond, I do totally nag," she said, laughing. "Ok, I do follow the kids on Facebook, so occasionally I check in to admonish, but it's not much."

"But see. Just that tiny bit of interaction he has with me—something that I hadn't even noted—makes a big difference for him. It just takes a tiny bit of attention to make a difference," Brady said. "That's why I want the story to be about what's really important: the children, definitely not me ..."



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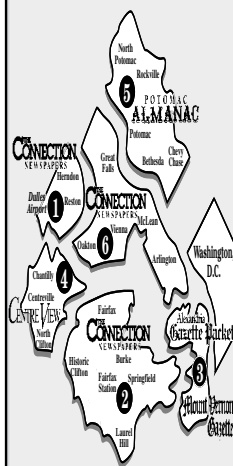
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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For life, absolutely! As to what happens to my mattress in 10 years or my television in five years – as but a few examples, pales in comparison to what I worry (you'll note I didn't say anticipate) will have happened to me in five or 10 years. Nevertheless, I'd definitely pay extra for that warranty. However, there are no warranties for life, extended or otherwise – and no guarantees either, as I discovered in late February, 2009, when I was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer (or as those of us in the know "acronym it": NSCLC). "Death and taxes," as the old joke says, are the only guarantees. The rest are "hope-to-bees" and "wanna-bees."

A cancer diagnosis (and terminal prognosis – for yours truly, anyway) has a way of sharpening your focus and narrowing your perspective. Initially, after meeting with my oncologist, and for a while thereafter, quite frankly, the three most important people in my life were me, myself and I. For many months post-diagnosis, the three of us didn't care or consider – too much, about what might happen down the road, a road never before traveled. Life's discussions – and decisions – were all about the here and now, not the there and later. What might have been was replaced with what it is and what are you going to do about it.

However, as life – and I, have continued, so too has my understanding and appreciation of my amazing good fortune. To have survived for as long as I have is a blessing and somewhat perplexing to my oncologist. And in that continuing survival and evolution, opportunities have regularly presented themselves that have forced me to consider my past, present and future ("what there is of it"). As much as I don't want to – and quite frankly, prefer not to, have every day-type decisions impacted by my cancer diagnosis, they are. If I didn't/don't consider the context of every decision I make, I would be short-changing myself and forfeiting the future for the present. And even though I had my guarantee pulled in 2009, I'm still trying to live as if any thing's possible.

Certainly there are exceptions to every rule, statistical anomalies in every manner of study and research. Life is not a straight line. Sure death is inevitable, but there shouldn't be any hurry to get there. It will happen soon enough (too soon for some), whether you like it or not. Now whether I outlive my mattress or my television or my car is unknown, but as a cancer patient, I sort of think about whether I will or not. This thought process is a problem – for me. It may be a problem of my own making but as far as problems go, it's a Hall-of-Famer. And by that I mean, it dominates.

Garden variety-type decisions become landscape design-type problems. Previously inconsequential, mundane-type presumptive choices become minefields of negative possibilities/regrets. The short version being: do I really need to do that/buy that/warranty that, if I'm not going to be the true beneficiary – meaning/accepting that some of these rather ordinary decisions might not be about me. And for a terminal cancer patient who has often heard "It's all about you, Kenny," on more than one occasion – from more than one person, assimilating an unanticipated future into an apparently productive present where others matter as much if not more than you do, is almost counter-intuitive. Nevertheless, life certainly appears to be worth living; I'm just not sure how much of it I should pay for in advance.

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



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