

The Old Brogue owner Michael J. Kearney, in festive attire, and General Manager James Monroe made sure the day ran smoothly for St. Patrick's Day guests.

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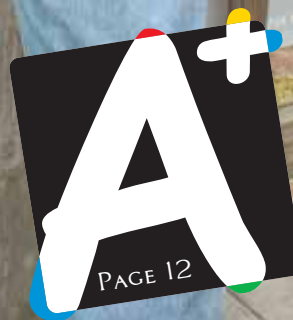
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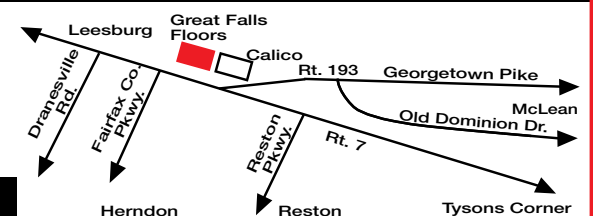
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# NEWS

From left, Langley High School junior Rebecca Pifer, Potomac School senior Britt Nelson, McLean Rotary Club President Jan Auerbach and McLean High School senior Jung Wook Choi. The McLean Rotary awarded the three students \$250 scholarships Tuesday, March 12, for their service to the community.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

## Rotary Presents Youth Service Awards

Three local students honored for "service above self."

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he McLean Rotary Club presented its annual Youth Service Awards to three local students at their Tuesday, March 12, meeting. McLean High School senior Jung Wook "James" Choi, Langley High School junior Rebecca Pifer and Potomac School senior Britt Nelson were each awarded \$250 scholarships in recognition of their efforts serving the community.

"James is the type of student who is always dedicated to excellence, he has a profound thirst for knowledge and a genuine love of learning. He's also a highly principled individual, warm and caring and well loved by all who know him," said Jill Divine, a counselor at McLean. "He's the type of young person that's going to accomplish great things in his life."

Choi has extensive volunteer experience around the world. He volunteers every weekend at the Milal Mission Association, where he works with children with mental disorders. He also volunteered as a translator at the Samsung Hospital in Korea for two summers.

**HE FOUNDED** Silent Outcry of Students, which conducts research and collects information about Korean War veterans. The group interviewed Korean War veterans for a book they published.

"I think every person, regardless of origin, deserves the opportunity that other people get in order to succeed and contribute to the wellness of this society," Choi said. "As students who are able to receive a great education in the United States, I think it's our duty to share our wealth and knowledge with others."

Choi will attend Duke University in the fall to major in a pre-med discipline as he hopes to go on to med school.

Pifer is involved with many local charities in a leadership capacity. She volunteers at Jill's House, a center in Vienna that serves boys and girls ages six through 17 with intellectual disabilities, for the past four years.

She is a board member of Youth Inspire, an organization that provides support to children suffering from cancer. The group visits patients at Fairfax Inova Hospital, makes them cards and brings them other gifts.

"In the last few years, we've developed the con-



Choi

Pifer

Nelson

cept of 'Saxon Country' where we're trying to get the students to think of themselves not as individuals, but as members of a community. Becca has epitomized what that concept is meant to be from her first day at Langley," said Sonya Williams, Langley's director of Student Services. "She's an inspirational leader, full of energy, integrity, passion and does her best to try and make a difference."

Pifer is also co-chair of Entertainment Relay for Life, an overnight walk that benefits the American Cancer Society. She is working to help bring a Relay to McLean.

"We're trying to get a huge event that Langley has never done before," she said. "And it's one that can do a lot of good."

**NELSON IS THE CO-LEADER** of the Potomac School's Community Service Club, organizing events, collecting donations, setting up fundraisers, finding projects for students and working with other organizations to hold events for Potomac students.

"She's covered the full spectrum of services in our community and internationally as well," said Jason Dwyer, Nelson's advisor at Potomac. "I've always been wrapped up wondering if there is such a thing as a truly altruistic act with no ulterior motive. With Britt, I've come to believe that there can be a completely altruistic act, I've seen plenty of them."

Nelson has spent several summers tutoring underprivileged elementary school students in math and English, participated in the Poder program, which is a big brother-big sister program that works with the Culmore Safe Youth Program.

"A lot of these kids would be falling behind in math or reading skills during the summer, so I really like being able to help them stay on track while also having some fun," she said. "We're always trying to improve our curriculum and come up with fun ways to teach, and it's fun to try and come up with new worksheets and activities."

Nelson said she hasn't decided where she will attend college next year.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) speak at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, March 12.

## Update on State Session

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**S**tate Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) addressed a crowd at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, March 12, on the results of the latest General Assembly session.

The main topic of concern to local residents was the recent transportation bill passed, and the impacts of the new taxes the bill calls for.

Favola said she supported the transportation plan because it represents a way to bring transportation money to the area, particularly for the Dulles Metrorail project.

"It's not perfect, but my job is to solve problems the best way I can, and I determined the plan was good enough to vote for," she said. "It's a new and dedicated source of revenue, which every business group in Fairfax has been begging the General Assembly for."

Comstock said she had some big picture concerns about the plan, particularly in several areas that she felt taxed the Northern Virginia region specifically.

"The first .3 percent of the increase in the sales tax will go to the state, so we will be disproportionately contributing to that, not until you get from .3 up to 6 percent that we get to keep that," she said. "The car sales and hybrid sales is a Northern Virginia tax too. Those were pieces of the bill I was concerned about."

Foust called the bill a "heck of a compromise," and said it would help out with many local issues, including money to widen Route 7 from Tysons Corner.

"We're going to get Route 7 widened because of this bill," he said. "The other thing that this

bill did, which is important to those of us who use the Dulles Toll Road, is put \$300 million into the Dulles Rail project which I expect will be used directly to keep tolls down. The only ones in this funding mechanism who didn't get a voice into who was going to pay what, is the drivers ... we've been working on ways to reduce the burden on users, and this is a huge win for them."

Another chief area of interest was the state's expansion of Medicaid to reach more low-income residents with assistance from the federal government. Comstock said she would like to see larger scale health care reform in order to get costs down.

"If we're going to get good healthcare for people, we've got to have fundamental reforms, and that's what we're trying to do," she said. "Our budget has gone from 5 percent for healthcare to 21 percent, the biggest growing area of our budget. If we want to have money for healthcare, for colleges and for roads, we've got to get healthcare spending under control. If you want to expand it, even with whatever money comes from Washington, we're going to have to have reforms. Right now a third of doctors don't participate in Medicaid because it's a nightmare."

Favola called the plans for the state's participation in expansion "a very attractive framework." If states want to expand Medicaid population, the federal government covers 100 percent of cost for three years and no less than 90 percent for a 10-year period, which has been estimated at around \$23 billion over the 10 years. The current plans involve around a 50-50 split between state and federal government.

Favola also estimated the expansion would create around 30,000 jobs around the state.



**Musician Ted Garber performs for pub-goers throughout the day on Sunday. Having known The Old Brogue since he was a boy, Garber has performed for St. Patrick's Day at the pub nearly a dozen times since 1996. "I've played in close to 4,000 shows and hundreds of venues," said Garber, "and of all the place's I've played, this is my favorite."**



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER BENITZ/THE CONNECTION

# St. Patrick's Day at The Old Brogue

BY JENNIFER BENITZ  
THE CONNECTION

**C**ool temperatures and gray clouds didn't stop the Saint Patrick's Day crowd from hitting The Old Brogue for some fun and friendly celebration on Sunday. Deep-rooted in tradition, the Irish pub attracted hundreds of loyal fans—young, old and everyone in between—for a day full of food, drinks and friends.

"This is a Great Falls tradition," said John Traynor of Potomac Mills, who has been coming to celebrate the day at the Irish pub for 25 years.

The Great Falls hot spot remained busy throughout the weekend, but saw its largest crowd on St. Patrick's Day—its busiest day of the year next to Thanksgiving Eve. The doors to Katie's Coffee opened at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast, while the rest of the pub opened at 10 a.m. It was an early start for many—some having stood in line since 6 a.m. to get seats when the pub opened four hours later.

The crowd reportedly started to get noticeably larger as early as 11 a.m., and by mid-afternoon, the line was well out the door, with the wait ranging from an hour-

and-a-half to three hours at its peak. Inside, the bustling atmosphere was thriving with chatter, laughter and live music by Ted Garber.

"This is the best party in town," Great Falls resident Rich Curd said. "The people are wonderful. The food is terrific. I've been coming here for 30 years."

Reservations for lunch and dinner, the first seating being at 12:30 p.m. and the last at 7:30 p.m., were situated in the backroom. With not an empty seat in the house, attendees—many having made reservations up to two weeks in advance—enjoyed delicious meals and music performed by Pennywhistle with Barry and Donal Nelson.

"This is the most festive place in town," said Pam Hess of Potomac Mills, adding her favorite part of being at The Old Brogue is "the happy people." Outfitted in green pants, yellow suspenders, a green tutu, an oversized hat and large bowtie with green clover leaves, restaurant owner Michael J. Kearney was dressed to fit the part as he mingled with pub-goers.

"They come back for the camaraderie and to celebrate the day," said Kearny. "If these walls could talk—oh, the stories they would tell!"

**Manassas residents (from left) Gabriel Scheetz, 17; Roisin DuFrain, 17; Stephen Foeckler, 18; and Courtney Hickey, 16, of the Boyle School of Irish Dance, performed for pub-goers awaiting entrance into The Old Brogue on Sunday afternoon.**



**Locals talk amongst themselves as they wait in line for The Old Brogue St. Patrick's Day celebration Sunday afternoon.**



**Pennywhistle with Donal and Barry Nelson performed for diners during an afternoon seating.**



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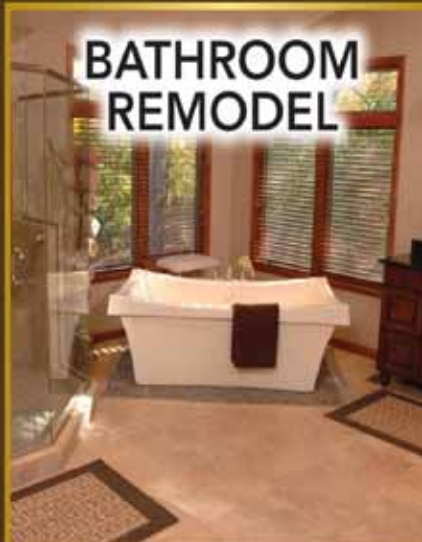
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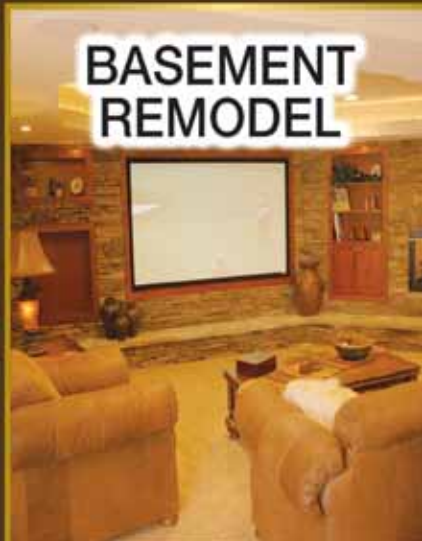
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To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

**McLean Community Center's Annual Public Hearing.** 7:30 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Come to the meeting and share thoughts on center programs and services. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 21

**Avoiding Divorce Court II.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. An overview of provisions of settlement agreements covering standard provisions and creative provisions. \$40; \$30 for members; \$70 per couple; \$50 per member couple. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

**Youth & Education Reception and Mini Expo.** 6-8 p.m., at The Gannett Building, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The 2013 mini expo focuses on entrepreneurs celebrating future leaders; the reception showcases the accomplishments of students in the Vienna and Tysons Corner area and highlights opportunities for schools and businesses to partner. [info@tysonschamber.org](mailto:info@tysonschamber.org).

**Reclaiming Your Future.** 6:30-9:30 p.m., at the Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Get the practical information needed from a certified divorce planner to make educated financial decisions; covers all financial components of the property settlement agreement. \$50; \$40 for members. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

**Travel Smart.** 7 p.m., at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Vienna branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host "Travel Smart," a presentation on how to travel safely and wisely. 703-321-7499.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 23

**The Targeted Job Search.** 10 a.m.-noon at the Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Learn new ways to approach job searching from professional with 25-plus years helping people get the job they want. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 28

**Historic Vienna Inc. Membership Meeting.** 7 p.m., at Dyer-Gunnell American Legion, Post 180, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. A brief membership meeting precedes local Civil War historian and reenactor John Vrana, who speaks on the evolution of the railroad running through Vienna from 1855 to 1968, now the path of the W & OD Trail; refreshments follow. 703-938-5187 or [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org).

### TUESDAY/APRIL 2

**Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Presentation.** 7 p.m., at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust holds a town hall meeting to give residents an opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed FY 2014 budget. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb).

### TUESDAY/APRIL 9

**Explore Your Inner Monologue.** 7 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Vienna branch of the American Association of University Women hosts a presentation in which Capital Fringe Festival entrant Carol Campbell discusses how she crafted her personal narrative. 703-321-7499.

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THE CONNECTION  
NEWSPAPERS





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Forestville's winning teams from the regional Odyssey of the Mind Competition.**

## Three Forestville Teams Win Odyssey of the Mind Competition

Three teams from Forestville Elementary School won first place in their categories at a regional Odyssey of the Mind competition. Their success in the contest, which took place this month at Oakton High School, qualifies them to advance to the state level.

Last year, Forestville won the most prestigious award at the Odyssey of the Mind's

national competition. Forestville's advisor from that contest, Jeff LeLoup, was on board this year as coach of one of Forestville's three winning teams. Alex Newman and Jennisse Silvestri also led successful teams in this month's competition. Forestville will compete in the statewide contest in April.

—DAVID KROEGER

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

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# OPINION

## Say Yes to Health Coverage

Governor, state panel must accept coverage for 400,000 Virginians without health insurance.

**M**ore than 140,000 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. That's more than 13 percent of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation. Arlington and Alexandria have similar percentages of uninsured residents.

These are some of the 400,000 people in Virginia who could receive health coverage under an expansion of Medicaid if only officials in the commonwealth are gracious enough to accept on their behalf.

Virginia's current eligibility requirements for Medicaid are so strict that although it is the 11th largest state in terms of population and seventh in per capita personal income, Virginia ranked 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending, according to a 2013 Fairfax County report.

Virginia has the option to add new coverage, at least 90 percent funded with Federal dollars, that would extend to individuals earning less than about \$15,000 per year and families earning less than about \$31,000 per year, to low income teens who lose Medicaid when they turn 19, and adults with disabilities not currently eligible.

### EDITORIAL

It isn't as if there is no health care cost for these currently uncovered residents. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room, where the hospital spreads the cost of care around. But this is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow far less expensive preventative care and lead to better health outcomes. Uninsured people don't receive preventative care; they seek treatment later in illnesses when the costs are much higher, and the consequences in terms of lost days at work and other productivity are also much higher.

Expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level would generate state general fund savings and new revenues that would total more than \$2 billion and more than offset the state's share of expansion costs over the next eight years, plus provide significant numbers of new jobs and economic growth, according to multiple reports including the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association. Expanding health care is a job creator, and would add tens of thousands of new jobs.

Virginia stands to lose more than \$9.2 billion in federal funds over the first five years of the new law if it opts out of the provision that expands Medicaid.

Turning away federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation because you don't like the feds telling you to wear your seatbelt.

If Gov. Bob McDonnell and members of a General Assembly panel considering whether to accept funding to expand Medicaid decide against this benefit for 400,000 Virginians, perhaps they and their families should go for a year without health insurance as well.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

lutions that are sound, equitable, and constitutional. Unfortunately, this transportation bill does not meet that test.

**Anne C. Gruner**  
McLean

## An Overlooked Aspect of Homelessness

To the Editor:

Thank you for the well written article, "Putting a Face on Homelessness," by Victoria Ross (The Connection, March 6-12, 2013). There were also articles and stories in local media, including The Washington Post, local radio and TV stations. One thing each of these media left out was that over one quarter of the people surveyed by the army of volunteers were over age 55. Much was said about the 23 percent of those surveyed that fell into the 18-34 age bracket. I think most would agree that people in this age bracket are physically more able to withstand the rigors of being homeless than people over the age of 55—and especially more so than those over the age of 70. People age 18-34 are also much more able to gain employment than seniors. I could go on, but am just curious why not one media outlet (including The Connection) chose not even to

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

Great Falls  
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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Transportation Bill: Possibly Unconstitutional

To the Editor:

The Connection on February 27, 2013, reported that former State Delegate Margaret Vanderhye said she was "outraged" that some Northern Virginia legislators had voted 'no' on the \$6.1 billion comprehensive transportation funding plan (HB 2313) because of an alleged no-tax-increase pledge. However, bipartisan opposition to the bill by Northern Virginia legislators was prompted by fundamental flaws in the bill. Vanderhye's earlier letter to The Connection on January 22, 2013 ("Getting Back to Business"), shows she too was against the bill before she was for it, for some of the very same reasons:

- ♦ It replaces the 17.5 cents-a-gallon tax at the gas pump in part by imposing an additional sales tax that shifts the burden from road users (including from out-of-state) to Virginia shoppers. (Note that the gas tax also is replaced by a tax on gasoline wholesalers of 3.5 percent for unleaded and 6 percent for diesel fuel, costs likely to be passed on to consumers.)

- ♦ It assumes tax revenue from an Internet Tax bill that is languishing in the US Congress, and if not passed by January 1, 2015, will result in automatic tax increases for Northern Virginia.

- ♦ It punishes good practices aimed at achieving energy independence by imposing a new \$100 fee on hybrid vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles, and electric motor vehicles.

State Senator Chap Petersen called the bill, which adds some 11 new or additional taxes, a "train wreck" and a "grotesque combination of tax cuts, tax rebates, tax increases, and new taxes, old taxes which are phased out and reappear elsewhere ..." He and State Delegate Scott Surovell, both attorneys, also question the constitutionality of essentially imposing a two-tiered tax system:

- ♦ In Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads the state sales tax increases from 5 percent to 6 percent, while in the rest of the state it increases only to 5.3 percent.

- ♦ A new "regional congestion-relief fee" of 0.25 percent is imposed on home sales in Northern Virginia, amounting to a tax of \$1,250 on the sale of a \$500,000 home.

- ♦ A hotel tax of 3 percent is imposed in Northern Virginia.

- ♦ For Northern Virginia only, if the above mentioned Internet Tax is not enacted by Congress, the wholesale gas tax for unleaded gasoline automatically increases from 3.5 percent to 5.1 percent.

In The Connection on February 28, 2013, Delegate Surovell wrote, "Balkanizing Virginia into regions of haves and have nots is dangerous policy, illegal under the Con-

stitution of Virginia, and antithetical to the concept of a commonwealth which is premised upon addressing statewide problems collectively and not regionally. We help downstate schools and the rest of the state helps with our roads."

In a February 25 jointly-authored op-ed in the Washington Post, Paul Goldman, former Democratic Party chair in Virginia and Norm Leahy, a Republican, argued that Virginia's transportation bill cannot survive a legal challenge because Article X, Section 1 of Virginia's Constitution requires that all taxes "levied and collected under general laws" be "uniform upon the same class of subjects within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax." Article X, Section 4 of the Virginia Constitution also requires that real estate taxes be subject to "local taxation only"—and the 0.25 percent tax on home sellers was imposed by the General Assembly in Richmond, not local Boards of Supervisors.

Everyone agrees that Northern Virginia desperately needs more transportation funding. However, this was not the way to do it. I appreciate that our Delegate Barbara Comstock stood with a bipartisan group of other Northern Virginia legislators, including State Senators Adam Ebbin and Chap Petersen, plus Delegates Tim Hugo, David Ramadan, and Scott Surovell in voting against this bill. Virginia needs transportation so-



## FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

On Palm Sunday, March 24, the **Antioch Christian Church**, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna, will hold one combined celebration worship service at 10 a.m. led by the Antioch Praise team and Antioch Chancel Choir. The morning will include the musical story of Easter; childcare is available. 703-938-6753 or <http://www.antiochdoc.org/>.

**Christ the King Lutheran Church** offers Holy Week Services at 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, on Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m., on Good Friday, March 29, at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and on Easter Sunday, March 31, at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., following an Easter breakfast from 7:30-10:45 a.m. 703-759-6068.

**St. John's Episcopal Church**, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, welcomes the community to a Good Friday service on March 29 from noon to 3 p.m. with a meditation given by Rector and Reverend Edward O. Miller, Jr. on the seven last words of Christ. The sermon precedes a rendition of The Seven Last Words of Christ, sung by the choir; all are welcome to attend

any portion of the service. The St. John's Choir will sing St. John Passion Oratorio by George Frederic Handel at 7:30 p.m. The church also offers Holy Week worship services on Holy Saturday, March 30, with an Easter Vigil at 7:30 p.m. with the Holy Eucharist and baptism; and on Easter, March 31, at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. services with music. 703-356-4902 or [www.stjohnsmclean.org](http://www.stjohnsmclean.org).

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive, Vienna, holds an Easter Egg hunt, rain or shine, on Saturday, March 30, at 10 a.m. open to students in preschool through sixth grade. 703-938-3494.

**Great Falls United Methodist Church**, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, holds an Easter sermon series based on Adam Hamilton's The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus. The series focuses on baptism and temptation, healing ministry, proclaiming the kingdom, calming the storm, sinners, outcasts and the poor, from Lent, Feb. 17 to March 24, at the 10 a.m. service. 703-759-3705 or [www.greatfallsumc.org](http://www.greatfallsumc.org).

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# Mediterranee Gets Behind Local Arts

## Restaurant launches in-house art exhibition series with Frank James Ellis' paintings.

By CHELSEA H. BRYAN  
THE CONNECTION

The new owner of Mediterranee is kicking off a series of local art exhibitions at his restaurant with a painter whose work features scenes from Great Falls and other nearby parks.

The vibrant colors in Frank James Ellis' landscapes drew the eye of Ashraf Hussein, the Mediterranee owner responsible for the series of in-restaurant exhibitions. The first is a solo exhibition featuring eight of Ellis' impressionistic, modern paintings. Among the pieces on display are "Hazel Mountain Overlook," a vibrant Skyline Drive scene done in fall colors, and "The Flute Player," a contemplative piece with impressionistic, bold color depicting a flautist performing alone in nature at a cabin.

Ellis' work is held in private collections throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Europe and Japan.

The paintings will be part of a yearlong series at the restaurant featuring the work of local artists. "As a community restaurant—and as members of the community—we really feel it's important to support local culture," said Hussein's business partner Eddie Marine.

"Ellis' paintings really give you a flavor of the community," Hussein said. "We're excited to have his work on display."

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Southern Maryland, Ellis is a product of the informal art classes of public education. He studied the works of great impressionists like Monet, Van Gogh and Cezanne while at-



"The Flute Player," a painting by Frank James Ellis.

tending the local community college. Mostly self-taught since, this emerging contemporary artist maintains his studio in the Parkview area of Washington, D.C. Prior to this exhibit, Ellis had a show at MOCA Gallery in the district.

Mediterranee serves American bistro cuisine with Mediterranean

influences—and lots of art on the walls to go with. The menu features seasonal ingredients and local produce. All Ellis' work will be for sale. Prices range from \$300 to \$900.

Mediterranee Restaurant is at 123 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

**Our Feathered Friends.** 10:30 a.m., at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. First day of spring stories and activities; ages 2-3 with an adult. 703-356-0770.

**Book Discussion Group.** 10:30 a.m., at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title. 703-757-8560.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 21

**Computer C.O.R.E. Business to Business Networking.** 5-7 p.m., at DaDomenico Ristorante, 1992 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. A networking event with light appetizers and door prizes and a cash bar; two hours of networking and meeting new people. \$10 (cash or check). Gina@ComputerCORE.org.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 22

**"Never the Sinner."** 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststage Tysonson.org](http://www.1ststage Tysonson.org).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 24

**29th Annual Children's Spring Festival.** 1:30-4:30 p.m., at Great Falls Village Centre, 768 Walker Road, Great Falls. Adelger Jewelers and the Great Falls Optimist Club put on the fest with games, ride, food and more. [info@adelgerjewelers.com](mailto:info@adelgerjewelers.com).

### TUESDAY/MARCH 26

**Stick Figure, Jordan Miller & DUB Campaign.** 8 p.m., at Jammin' Java, n227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Stick Figure, Jordan Miller and Dub Campaign bring the IRIE vibes with the live bands. \$13 advance, \$15 door. <https://jamminjava.com/events/stick-figure>.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 28

**Catie Curtis With Jenna Lindbo.** 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The 12-album-deep International Songwriting Competition award-winner with a penchant for singing about the highs and lows of life welcomes singer/songwriter and storyteller Jenna Lindbo. \$22. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 29

**The Iguanas.** 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A progressive Americana trio plays their mix of rock 'n' roll, roots, jazz, blues and Mexican conjunto music. \$22. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 30

**America's Next Top Dog Fashion Photo Contest.** Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring in a photo of your dog (real or plush) decked out in the latest fashions, and your pooch could be awarded the title "America's Next Top Dog. 703-938-0405.

**Friends of Nottoway Easter Egg Hunt.** 9:30 a.m. (registration), 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and noon, at Nottoway Park Picnic Shelter, 9357 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Egg hunt times arranged by age of child participants (1-2 years at 10:30 a.m.; 3-4 years at 11 a.m.; 5-7 years at 11:30 a.m. and 7-9 years at noon); bring your own basket. \$8, cash only; cost to benefit Nottoway Park improvements. 703-324-8566.

**"Never the Sinner."** 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststage Tysonson.org](http://www.1ststage Tysonson.org).

**Sean Rowe.** 7 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Singer Sean Rowe promotes his album The Salesman and the Shark. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**John Eaton.** 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Wolf Trap regular returns to perform the final segment of his three-part jazz piano series; Eaton together with bassist Tommy Cecil will improvise Great American Songbook numbers and take audience requests. \$25. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 31

**"Never the Sinner."** 2 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststage Tysonson.org](http://www.1ststage Tysonson.org).

### FRIDAY/APRIL 5

**2013 Asian American Chamber Gala.** 6-10 p.m., at The Westin Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

As a leading interpreter of music, a jazz enthusiast and nationally-recognized pianist, John Eaton has been performing across the country for over 40 years. He will be performing on Saturday, March 30, at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna.

Falls Church. AACCC Chamber Award Gala recognizing businesses and leaders of Asian & Pacific Island descent who have made outstanding contributions to the D.C.-are business community and economy; cocktails, dinner, auction and cultural performances included. [www.asian-americanchamber.org/2013gala](http://www.asian-americanchamber.org/2013gala).

**"Never the Sinner."** 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststage Tysonson.org](http://www.1ststage Tysonson.org).

**A Night of Music with Peter Kolkay.** 8 p.m., at The Barns, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Wolf Trap National Park presents the bassoonist and first-prize winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition, Peter Kolkay. \$35. [http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?agency=WOLF\\_TRAP&pid=7295869](http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?agency=WOLF_TRAP&pid=7295869).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 6

**"Never the Sinner."** 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststage Tysonson.org](http://www.1ststage Tysonson.org).

**Asphalt Orchestra.** 8 p.m., at the Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The street band that plays processional music from Frank Zappa, David Byrne, Annie Clark, Tatsuya



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

## Spring Festival in Great Falls

Children are unleashed to the Great Falls Village Green to hunt for Easter eggs on April 1, 2012, during the annual egg hunt. This year's 29th Annual Children's Spring Festival will be held on Sunday, March 2, 1:30-4:30 p.m., at Great Falls Village Centre, 768 Walker Road, Great Falls.

Yoshida and the like performs in their Virginia debut. \$25; \$18 for MCC residents. 703-790-0123, [www.asphaltorchestra.com](http://www.asphaltorchestra.com) or [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org).

### Gustafer Yellowgold's Rock Melon

**Tour.** 10:30 a.m., at the Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Equal parts pop rock concert and animated storybook, Gustafer Yellowgold concerts are a truly different multimedia experience. \$10. 703-255-1566 or <https://jamminjava.com/events/gustafer-yellowgold-april6>.

### Freeman Store and Museum

**Dedication Celebration.** 10 a.m., at the Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Celebrate the placement of the store on the Virginia Landmarks Register and in the National Park Service National Register of Historic Places; the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile, a nation-wide, mobile artwork display and interactive exhibit, the "Roads to Rails to Trails" exhibit and the Little Library and Caboose are open while the James Madison Madrigals and the Vienna Community Band play until the 2 p.m. dedication, to be followed by an old-fashioned picnic. [www.vienna.gov/index.aspx?NID=1024](http://www.vienna.gov/index.aspx?NID=1024).

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2015 Programs

Wednesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2015, which runs July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: [ellen.barial@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ellen.barial@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**The McLean Community Center**  
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)





PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

**Local musicians and music educators say parents can encourage and inspire children's musicality with simple activities at home.**

# The Sound of Music

**Enhancing your child's music education during Music in Our Schools Month and beyond.**

always singing."

Lasko encourages parents to allow children to experiment with instruments. "As kids, we used to sing with our grandmother's player piano," she said. "Singing with recorded music is another option. Learning songs from different eras and genres can open up new worlds to kids." According to Lasko, inexpensive percussion instruments like shakers or tambourines can help children develop rhythm while having fun.

Shannon Melideo, Ph.D., chair of the Education Department at Marymount University in Arlington, says exposure to music should be a priority. "[It] is critically important," she said. "Sure, you want them to listen to 'your music' as a parent, but listen to as much diverse music as possible and talk about it informally."

Lasko agrees and encourages parents to look for local performances that are designed for young audiences. "Lots of children love to attend musical performances that are geared toward their own age, especially if there is fun interaction between the performers and the audience," she said. "Many communities offer inexpensive performances. Some [are offered] at schools. Seeing kids their own age or slightly older perform music can be very inspiring for children."

Parents don't even have to leave home to find musical inspiration. "For young children, simple, everyday household items can be used to make a functional musical instrument that the child can decorate and compose a song on," said Wuttke.

He added that parents should encourage their children to participate in school music programs. "Praise the student for their efforts," he said. "Ask the student to sing or play a song on an instrument they are working on in school for family members."

Finally, technology offers convenient options. "There are many iPad applications, for instance, that are musical in nature and help kids learn about different instruments and how to record music," said Lasko.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

From the powerful sounds of a high school band to the soothing melodies sung in a kindergarten music classroom, local music educators are using the month of March to raise awareness of the benefits of learning music.

In fact, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) designates March as Music In Our Schools Month, and local music educators echo the significance of the annual celebration.

"The reason Music in our Schools Month is so important is because it heightens awareness ... that school music programs help provide important and healthy musical alternatives to the sometimes disturbing messages that children inadvertently hear in the ... music they may encounter in popular culture," said Brian C. Wuttke, Ph.D., director of music education at George Mason University in Fairfax.

Even if formal music lessons are not an option, local musicians and music educators say that parents can encourage and inspire their children's musicality with simple activities at home. "Research suggests that parental involvement in a child's music activities can not only pique a child's interest in music, but it can positively impact motivation and achievement in music," Wuttke said.

So how can parents support a child's musical talent or interest? "I think playing music with your kids would be the number one way to enhance their musicality," said Elizabeth Lasko of the National Association for Music Education. "Of course, a parent may not play an instrument, but there is

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The Route 244/ Route 27 Interchange is a limited access facility whereby its use is for through traffic and its access is restricted. Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) has requested that the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation (VDOT) transfer to the Department of Defense a parcel of land located within infield of that part of the cloverleaf in the northwest quadrant (approximately 1.7271 acres) of the Route 244/Route 27 interchange.

The purpose of this request is to improve safety security and traffic flow in and around the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial (Pentagon Memorial) and South Parking. The Pentagon Memorial is located in the southwest corner of the Pentagon Reservation and is visited by hundreds of thousands of members of the public each year. The requested land located within the cloverleaf would provide additional support for the Pentagon Memorial and would be accessed only by pedestrians, with restricted vehicular traffic permitted during off-peak hours. This request will require changes in the limited access control for the northwest quadrant of the Route 244/Route 27 interchange.

Written public comments regarding this proposed change in limited access control must be submitted by March 29, 2013 to the Northern Virginia District Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will consider the proposed limited access change at a future meeting.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT at 800-367-7623 or TDD/TTY 711.

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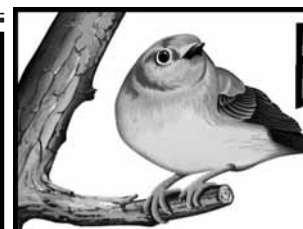
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## Just Wondering



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having never attended medical school (and not really having had the grades or commitment to do so), and having only completed 10th-grade Biology and freshman-year Astronomy, and rarely even driven by a medical school growing up, my understanding and/or instincts regarding how a medical professional plans and/or prepares for his day is as foreign to me as sugar-free chocolate (if I'm going down, I'm going down swinging; in truth however, considering the anti-cancer, alkaline diet I'm following, I do need to swing a little less frequently).

Nevertheless, having had multiple appointments with doctors/health care professionals over these last four cancer-centric years, I've often wondered how much preparation occurs before each appointment. There's a schedule certainly, but does the doctor review it daily/weekly - in advance, to determine the course of his possible action/discussion with the patient? And if so, does he review/study/research said patient's medical chart/history to better prepare for these discussions or does he sort of "wing it," professionally speaking, and instead wait to hear what the patient has to say? Moreover, if there's been lab work, diagnostic scans, etc. completed previous to the appointment, does the doctor receive indications - electronic or otherwise, before the appointment, with enough time to evaluate the results/read the reports or does he see it for the first time sometime during the day of the appointment? And while this curiosity exists in my head, is the doctor likewise preoccupied (even a little bit) with my ongoing health situation beyond the 30 minutes or so we spend together every few months or his time too precious, respectfully speaking? I realize he's busy, but do I rank in his file? And if so, what does he know and when did he know it?

Not that I've ever felt unknown or disrespected when visiting either my primary care doctor or my oncologist, but I have felt a little distance when I've seen specialists: pulmonary, thoracic, nephrology, surgery, to whom I've been referred, who previous to seeing me face-to-face had never met and/or spoken to me. Now I never took it personally; I took it professionally, as in: I suppose this is the process. However, how do they know a patient they don't know, let alone advise with proper consent?

Over time though, my thinking has evolved. Now I'm thinking/wondering if they are even supposed to prepare for me - and not by reading my file for the first time when I'm sitting on an examining table directly across from them or through study the night before, but at all? Perhaps my situation - as serious as it is to me, is not as serious to the doctor? And by that I mean, he's not ruled by his emotions - he's not terminal, that I know of, anyway. It's just another day at the office - so to speak. I understand that he likely has many patient histories on his mind/in his head and focusing/preparing too much for one somehow has adverse consequences for the others. Maybe the treatment protocols, as complicated as they are to me, are fairly mundane to the doctor and don't require that much homework, so discussing my chart as he reads it for that first time is no big/complicated deal and standard operating procedure?

I've actually experienced this sensation a couple of times with my oncologist. When I was a more frequent visitor to the Infusion Center - every three weeks, occasionally I would see him tending to other patients; he didn't seem to know I was going to be infused that day (in fairness, the infusion appointment does not directly involve the oncologist), even exhibiting surprise at my presence. Still, I would more often than not ask him a question about my specific health situation. However, if I didn't have a non-infusion appointment scheduled that day, he wasn't comfortable answering my questions. He would say: he wasn't prepared to answer the question. Apparently, he couldn't pull my information out of thin air. I came to understand and accept that if it wasn't my day to be examined, it wasn't a good day to ask him health-related questions about yours truly.

Still, I wonder, as much from lack of knowledge as anything: are my expectations unreasonable? I know, in my head anyway, as concerns my cancer treatment, it's all about me. But what about in my oncologist's head? Am I on his radar or am I out of sight, out of mind? And if so, is there any harm in that, or is it just me wondering too much about too much (the bane of this cancer patient's existence)?

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

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## News



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CLARE GIROLAMO

**Clare Girolamo and Matt Gentile, event organizers, explain the running route to children about to run 26 laps, a total of 3.2 miles, in honor of Sandy Hook victims Sunday, March 3.**

# Community Honors Sandy Hook Victims

The gray skies, frigid temperatures, and howling winds were not enough to deter 100 people from coming out to honor the Sandy Hook victims last Sunday, March 3, at Lake Fairfax Park as they ran and walked 26 laps for each of the lost lives.

Clare and Chris Girolamo wanted to do something after the Dec. 14 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Conn., to show support for the community and to advocate for changes to prevent future tragedies. Through their running program "Yes You Can" and their children's school, Forestville Elementary, they sponsored a lap-a-thon at the Water Mine parking lot. Friends, neighbors and families came from Reston, Great Falls, Fairfax, Alexandria and Bethesda to participate. Children got sponsors for the number of laps they ran as well as flat donations. The runners and

walkers raised \$2,000 and all proceeds went to the Sandy Hook Promise organization, a non-profit started by some of the parents and other members of the Newtown community.

Girolamo read the Sandy Hook Promise's Mission and then the runners/walkers took off. All of the children, ranging in age from 5 to 16, ran all 26 laps (totaling 3.2 miles) and some even more. Many of their parents joined them running or walking.

"This was more than just a fundraiser. This was an opportunity for a community to get together and acknowledge another community's heartbreak and devastation. It was a chance for us to honor those 26 beautiful lives," Girolamo said.

For more information about The Sandy Hook Promise Organization, go to [www.sandyhookpromise.org](http://www.sandyhookpromise.org).



**From left, Erika Chung, Sydney Southworth and Juan Blanco run one of their 26 laps taken in honor of each life lost at Sandy Hook on Dec. 14, 2012.**



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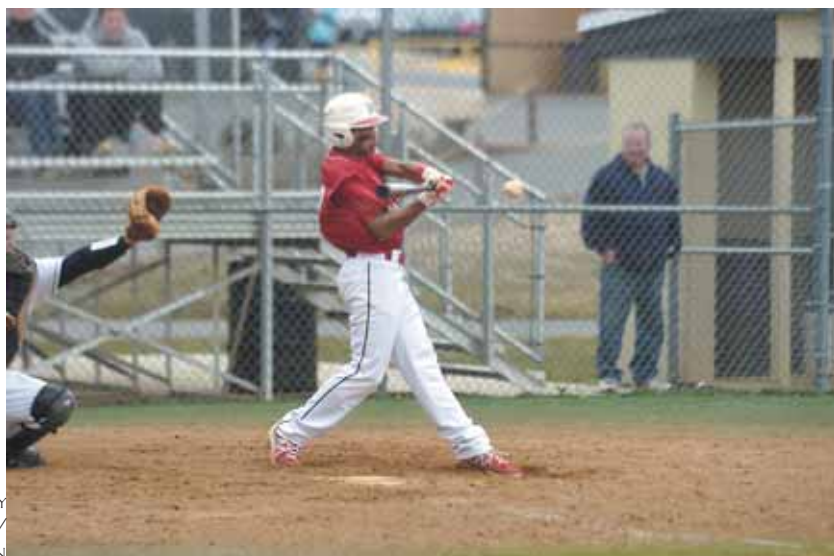
**SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 11:00 AM  
CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM-10:30AM  
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM**



# SPORTS

**McLean freshman outfielder Matt Collins went 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI against Westfield on March 16.**

PHOTOS BY  
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/  
THE CONNECTION



## Sullivan Leads McLean Baseball to Victory

**Highlanders beat Westfield for first victory.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he McLean batting order isn't loaded with sluggers, but the Highlanders showed Saturday that strong pitching and putting the ball in play is enough to get the job done.

The McLean baseball team earned its first win of the season on March 16, beating Westfield 4-1 at Westfield High School. The Highlanders totaled seven hits—including six singles—and struck out just three times. Meanwhile, the Bulldogs committed five errors, including four in the third inning, which led to three McLean runs.

Four runs were plenty for McLean starting pitcher Joey Sullivan. The junior right-hander allowed one earned run and five hits while walking one and striking out eight in six innings. Westfield put two runners on base in the bottom of the sixth, but Sullivan got out of trouble with a strikeout and a fielder's choice.

"Joey Sullivan has got a big-time arm," McLean interim head coach Ray Zdanczewicz said. "He just came out and did a super job. Getting him on the mound, throwing strikes, kind of putting them on their heels a little bit and getting that run early kind of set the tone a little bit."

"We just did what we've been preaching pretty much from day one ... to put the ball in play. Be tough two-strike hitters because we don't have anybody that's going to knock the ball out of the park—we have maybe one guy that even has the chance—so we need to be a little tougher and be productive."

McLean took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second. Senior Jack Fant led off the inning with a single and, two batters later, freshman outfielder Matt Collins delivered a two-out, run-scoring single.

McLean added three runs in the third, thanks to four Westfield errors.

"[McLean] put it in play, that's the biggest thing," Westfield head coach Chuck Welch said. "They put it in play and we didn't. I give them a lot of credit for [what] they did. I thought they did a tremendous job. We certainly didn't make all the plays, but in high school, if you put the ball in play hard, your chances are pretty good of something happening ..."

Fant had two singles for McLean. Sullivan, senior center fielder Hunter Eckrod and junior Sam Pierce each had one single.

Collins finished 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI.

"I think the sky is the limit for this kid, I really do," Sullivan said about Collins. "I've never seen anyone that likes baseball more than he does."

Fant is McLean's number one pitcher. Sophomore catcher Caleb Beatty will be looked upon to provide the Highlanders with power in the middle of the order.

McLean opened the season with a 3-2 loss to Chantilly on March 13. The Highlanders were scheduled to face South Lakes on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. McLean will travel to face Stone Bridge at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 22.

"We know Westfield's real good," Sullivan said after Saturday's game. "The past couple of years, we've gotten our butts kicked by them, so we came in a little bit more focused today than we did [against] Chantilly. When we played Chantilly, our team wasn't in it. We weren't focused. Today, I could tell we were much more focused and we were ready to play and we knew we wanted it."



**McLean pitcher Joey Sullivan struck out eight in six innings during a victory against Westfield on March 16.**



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Oakton junior Alana Peters pitches against South County on March 15.**

## Oakton Softball Drops Season Opener

**T**he Oakton softball team lost its season opener to South County, 4-0, on March 15 in a rematch from last year's Northern Region semifinals. Oakton head coach Ray Gordon resigned on Friday due to an "irreconcilable differing on staffing," Director of Student Activities Pat Full said Tuesday.

Sam Newman, a Fairfax County Public Schools employee, is the new Oakton head softball coach and met the team for the first time on Monday, Full said.

With 2012 Northern Region Pitcher of the Year Allison Davis recovering from an injury to her pitching arm, junior Alana Peters pitched for Oakton. Peters was perfect through three innings, but South County catcher Haylea Geer delivered a two-out, run-scoring double on a 0-2 pitch in

the fourth inning, giving the Stallions a 1-0 lead. South County added three more runs in the fifth on a three-run triple by freshman Jade Williams.

Peters surrendered four earned runs on five hits while walking two and striking out seven in six innings.

Oakton finished with two hits. Second baseman and co-captain Becky Cerva's third-inning single was the first hit of the game for either team. Junior Marleigh Hall had a double in the sixth inning.

Davis and shortstop Emily Krisanda are also co-captains.

Oakton defeated South County 3-0 in eight innings during last year's region semifinals. The Cougars finished region runner-up to Stone Bridge.

Oakton will travel to face Battlefield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 22.



**Second baseman Becky Cerva is an Oakton softball co-captain.**



# HOME SALES

In February 2013, 10 Great Falls homes sold between \$3,022,457-\$423,000.

| Address .....                   | BR . FB . HB ...    | Postal City .... | Sold Price ...    | Type .....     | Lot AC .   | PostalCode ..... | Subdivision .....        |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 9697 MILL RIDGE LN .....        | 5 ... 5 ... 1 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$3,022,457 ..... | Detached ..... | 2.62 ..... | 22066 .....      | LANE AT FOUR STAIRS      |
| 10692 CHESTERWOOD GLEN LN ..... | 5 ... 4 ... 2 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$1,925,000 ..... | Detached ..... | 1.76 ..... | 22066 .....      | CHESTERWOOD ESTATES      |
| 1104 DAPPLE GREY CT .....       | 6 ... 3 ... 2 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$1,320,000 ..... | Detached ..... | 0.94 ..... | 22066 .....      | SADDLEBROOK ESTATES      |
| 9337 RAMEY LN .....             | 4 ... 5 ... 0 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$1,275,000 ..... | Detached ..... | 1.46 ..... | 22066 .....      | COLD STREAM FARMS        |
| 11171 RICH MEADOW DR .....      | 4 ... 5 ... 1 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$1,150,000 ..... | Detached ..... | 1.77 ..... | 22066 .....      | RICHLAND MEADOWS         |
| 10610 ALLENWOOD LN .....        | 4 ... 4 ... 1 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$1,100,000 ..... | Detached ..... | 2.03 ..... | 22066 .....      | ALLENWOOD                |
| 11297 LANDY LN .....            | 5 ... 4 ... 1 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$1,035,000 ..... | Detached ..... | 0.77 ..... | 22066 .....      | TIMBERLAKE ESTATES SOUTH |
| 10746 WYNKOOP DR .....          | 4 ... 3 ... 1 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$745,000 .....   | Detached ..... | 0.46 ..... | 22066 .....      | LOCKMEADE                |
| 10860 MONTICELLO CT .....       | 5 ... 3 ... 1 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$525,000 .....   | Detached ..... | 0.23 ..... | 22066 .....      | GREAT FALLS FOREST       |
| 10309 YORKTOWN CT .....         | 3 ... 2 ... 2 ..... | GREAT FALLS .... | \$423,000 .....   | Detached ..... | 0.28 ..... | 22066 .....      | GREAT FALLS FOREST       |

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PHOTO BY CHAS MCKEE

**Langley High School's Robotic Team: (back row) Adam Johnston, Julia Pennington, Nathaniel Speiser, Jacob Barrientos, Hussein Kamoona, Damien Islek, Philip Bui, Abdalla Almazmi, Berkeley Taneja, Patrick McKee, June Choi, Kevin Hajimomenian, Julia Hara, Sepanta Khoshnoud (front Row) team advisor Bob Foley, Zain Qazi, Vishal Erabelli.**

## Langley High Robotics Team Makes Elite Eight

It's March Madness and the Langley High School Robotics Team got to the Elite Eight! Langley's team finished 12th out of 65 teams overall and was drafted as a member of one of the top eight teams to participate in the final round of the competition.

This year's First Robotics Virginia Regional competition, held at Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) Siegel Center in Richmond, drew 65 high schools from New York to South Carolina.

The team advisor is LHS physics teacher Bob Foley.

This year's First Robotics competition required

robots to shoot frisbees into rectangular holes - similar to making freethrows and 3-point shots; dodge other robots whose sole purpose is drive you back; and climb 3 rungs on a jungle gym - analogous to climbing Mt. Everest with only your arms. It sounds simple, which is the reason why you need to see it to appreciate the creativity that goes into each of the robots.

Langley High School Robotics team will compete at the upcoming Washington DC Regional Competition on March 29-30 at the DC Convention Center. For more information, go to: <http://www.dc-first.org/dc-regional>



PHOTO BY BOB FOLEY

**Langley High School's Robotic Team in action: Philip Bui, Sepanta Khoshnoud, Abdalla Almazmi, Nathaniel Speiser, Patrick McKee, Zain Qazi.**

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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](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

### Burke

5969 Mount Burnside Way.....\$434,500..Sun 1-4.....Deb Gorham...Long & Foster..703-581-9005

### Centreville

6544 Skylemar Trail .....\$274,900..Sun 1-4.....Rich Triplett..Samson Props..703-217-1348

### Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood.....\$830,000..Sun 1-4.....Sari Karjalainen.....Weichert..571-643-6039

### Clifton

12646 Water St.....\$1,125,000..Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812

6420 Stonehaven Ct.....High \$600,000s..Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21..703-599-1351

### Fairfax

11951 Appling Valley Rd.....\$635,000..Sun 1-4.....Rod Lantier.....RE/MAX..703-405-3082

### Gainesville

7176 Little Thames Dr.....\$259,900..Sun 1-4.....Mark Slimp...Samson Props..703-400-1553

### Manassas

6525 Davis Ford Rd.....\$625,000..Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812

7755 Glade Ct.....\$560,000..Sat 1-4.....Suzanne Burch.....Century 21..703-328-5606

9819 Cheshire Ridge Cir.....\$285,000..Sun 1-3.....Ann York..Samson Props..571-237-7985

### Reston

11920 Fieldthorn Ct.....\$334,900..Sun 1-4.....Cathy Lanni...Long & Foster..703-615-4237

11556 Rolling Green Ct #100..\$284,900..Sun 1-4.....Peter Burke...Long & Foster..703-786-3334

### Springfield

8103 Ainsworth Ave.....TBD..Sun 1-4.....Ellen Ing.....RE/MAX..703-795-0648

### Sterling

104 Minor Rd.....\$480,000..Sat 1-4.....George Azzouz..Samson Props..703-728-0843

47721 Sandbank Sq.....\$410,000..Sun 1-4.....Rita Desai..Samson Props..703-896-5775

128 Avondale Dr.....\$348,000..Sun 1-4.....John Baird..Samson Props..703-609-1501

### Vienna

314 George St, SW.....\$1,175,000..Sun 1-4.....Mansoor Dar..Keller Williams..703-564-4000

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



## OPINION

# March Madness on Homelessness

While some say programs for the poor will be exempted from sequestration, that is not how things are playing out.

BY KERRIE WILSON  
CEO/RESTON INTERFAITH

This year, March is not reserved for sports madness alone. With Congress unable to come to agreement on the federal budget, the “unthinkable” has happened with sequestration and the start of \$85 billion across-the-board cuts on domestic and defense programs. Without a new game plan, the reductions in Federal housing programs at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will fall entirely on highly vulnerable individuals and families, putting them at risk of becoming or remaining homeless and leaving nothing for other basic needs.

With average rent in Fairfax County for a 2BR apartment at \$1,550/month, one would have to earn \$62,000 a year to afford

housing and other basic needs (www.nlihc.org). Nearly one-quarter of Fairfax County households earn less than that, and 8.4 percent or 33,000 households in Fairfax County earn less than \$25,000 per year, surviving on near poverty level wages.

Housing assistance is arguably the most important home court advantage for Reston Interfaith and the Fairfax County Partnership organizations working to prevent and end homelessness. For homeless, disabled, elderly

and low-income working families living in our high cost of living area, subsidies are the stabilizing force, and stable housing the number one predictor of future self-sufficiency, no matter what other challenges an individual or family is facing.

While some say programs for the poor — like housing assistance for the most vulnerable — will be ex-

empted from sequestration, or that the effect will not be immediate, that is not how things are playing out. When the freeze play was called on Capitol Hill, it had the effect of benching our neighbors. Fairfax County, like other jurisdictions dealing with the uncertainty and fickle nature of the current situation, has put a hold on the release of new vouchers that we were counting on to help our neighbors.

Jeri is 70 years old, frail and lost her home after a long illness. Her Social Security payments are insufficient to meet her living expenses without help. She is sleeping on a cot in our overflow program and is effectively unsheltered after March 31 because the landlord is waiting on the release of the project-based voucher that will help pay her rent.

A single mom, Kara has three children under the age of seven and has struggled with



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

**Kerrie Wilson (center), CEO of Reston Interfaith, talks with volunteers about their experiences finding and documenting the lives of homeless individuals during Registry Week in Fairfax County Feb. 25.**

homelessness for years after leaving the abusive relationship with her children's father. She never finished high school but is smart and determined. She tries to think beyond her current situation and talks of going back to school and training to become a bookkeeper. She cries at night because a shelter is no place to raise her children. She had been approved for a voucher and we found a landlord willing to overlook her poor credit and past evictions. He will have to move on to another renter.

Investments in affordable housing provide stability and opportunity for working families and a safety net for extremely low-income households and our neighbors with special needs. At a time when businesses, governments, communities and families are craving certainty and predictability to help adjust to a “new normal,” why aren't we calling a timeout to adjust the call for homeless and vulnerable neighbors like Jeri, and Kara and her children, who are ready to go home? It's madness.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

mention this fact. Like most people, I would like to see homelessness totally eradicated in our county and all counties for that matter.

Seeing senior citizens living on the streets, in their cars and in county homeless shelters is particularly unnerving. Hopefully others will feel the same way.

**Robert Paxton**  
Falls Church

## On Lyme Disease Awareness Bill

To the Editor:

I am thrilled to hear that Governor Bob McDonnell signed the “Lyme Disclosure Act,” House Bill 1933, into law. Raising awareness about this terrible disease would not have been possible without the help of Del. Barbara Comstock, for introducing this important legislation and that of her colleagues, Delegates Ramadan and Hugo, for co-patroning this measure. The debilitating effects of Lyme Disease are difficult to fathom if you have not seen first-hand, as I have, how this illness affects our community and the ones we love.

I have a family friend, a mother of five, who has been infected by this illness on three separate occasions. One of the only chances for recovery is an early diagnosis. Current testing methods don't always provide this opportunity. There is a high rate of false negatives in testing for Lyme because the testing mechanism is based on the evidence of anti-bodies, which are not always present and vary based on the date of infection. Not only that, the test is administered in such a way that the patient may not understand the test's shortcomings. It's not as simple as placing a disclaimer on a box because the test is conducted at a medical facility and not at home while purchased over the counter.

A greater understanding of the test can help with making early diagnoses, increasing opportunities for treatment when necessary, and planning for long term care. While this bill will not help cure those already infected, it will help inform patients of the propensity of high false negative in testing for Lyme, and will encourage a patient to re-test if their symptoms persist. Many patients who live with these symptoms are misdiagnosed as a result of the false negative test and are led to believe their symptoms do not exist or are the cause of another medical ailment. I appreciate the initiative that Delegate Comstock

took in getting behind this issue after learning about it from members in our Vienna community. I also hope my letter will continue to further awareness of Lyme Disease so that beyond testing, possible prevention opportunities can be taken moving forward.

**John Dowd**  
Vienna

## ‘Me’ vs. ‘Us’ at Town Hall

To the Editor:

The Great Falls Citizen Association held a town hall meeting. The panel included Dranesville Supervisor John Foust (D), Delegate Barbara Comstock (R), and State Senator Barbara Favola (D).

The purpose of the town hall meeting was to discuss legislative priorities as well as key legislation passed during the recent 2013 General Assembly Session. I was very impressed with Supervisor Foust and Delegate Comstock's professionalism and coverage of the issues in the 2013 General Assembly. They clearly had their constituents' best interests at the forefront and both showed a bi-partisan approach to the issues concerning the people they represent. I have heard both individuals speak on prior occasion and voted for

both of them in the past election.

Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for Senator Favola. I have never met her, nor have I heard her views or positions. A first impression is always the most important when one holds a political position and Senator Favola made a very strong first impression to many who sat in this meeting. Her initial 15-minute remarks stressed bi-partisanship, yet she took several opportunities to relate stories that threw her Republican colleagues under the bus. She came across as arrogant, derogatory and conceited. She was more about “me,” look what I have accomplished, and less about “us.”

For example, she expressed her own views on abortion clinics and used her time to insult pro-life voters. She pushed her beliefs on gun rights. The senator supported the Federal government's framework and funding for Medicare and the health care exchange that would control our state instead of looking out for our best interest in Virginia. I attended the event to hear what our elected officials had to share about the legislation that was passed and how it would impact our district.

Instead, the senator spent part of her time taking digs at the other party, insulting many of us in the audience, and stressing what Washington wants versus what is

best for Virginians. Many of us came away feeling insulted by the senator. Her colleagues on the panel did a very impressive job of informing us on the key issues and the impact of legislation in our district in a polite and non-abrasive manner.

It was inappropriate to use this event as a campaigning platform for oneself and take jabs at the other party. I shared my impression of her after the event and the senator explained to me that her colleagues would not have taken it personally but would have found humor in her words. As for many of us attending the evening, we did not find the humor in her stories. A slice of humble pie would be a much-appreciated dessert for this senator if she wishes to be perceived as an elected official who is truly working for all Virginians in her district instead of shoving her party and disrespectful humor down our throats.

**Suzanne Pidgeon**  
Great Falls

## Write

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