

Damian Leverett, as Roger, plays while  
Mimi, played by Camila Alfonzo, dances  
in the background in the McLean High  
School production of "Rent."

# McLean High Performs 'Rent'

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## Youth Talent On Display

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## Sequester's Impact in Fairfax County? TBD

NEWS, PAGE 4



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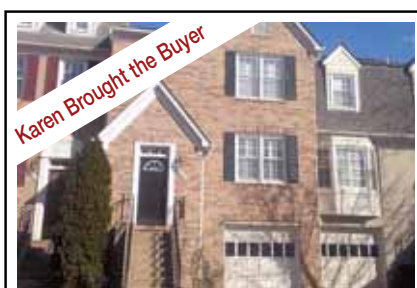
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## A Voice for the Voiceless

### Q&A with SALT Coordinator John Horejsi.

**O**n Saturday, Social Action Linking Together (SALT) held its annual Richmond Wrap-Up session in Vienna. One of the most active nonpartisan advocacy groups in Northern Virginia, SALT, has 1,200 members who bring the social, economic and justice teachings of their faith to bear on public policy and legislation. SALT has had an impact shaping public policy for more than 20 years. SALT Coordinator John Horejsi talked with The Connection about some of the group's legislative victories and losses during the 2013 General Assembly "short" session.

For more information, visit [www.S-A-L-T.org](http://www.S-A-L-T.org) or contact John Horejsi at [jhorejsi@cox.net](mailto:jhorejsi@cox.net) or 703-938-9535.

#### Q: What drives SALT's legislative advocacy?

**A:** "Our activism springs from the principles of faith and responsibility. Our activism on behalf of the vulnerable does not make us better than anyone else—but it does make us very lucky persons. Our appeal is to people of faith: 'Out of the pew and into the lobby. Be a voice for the voiceless.' Involvement in the political field is clearly a part of the vocation and activity of the lay faithful. Advocacy is part of everyone's job description—even if you're retired. By working together we generate sufficient activity to have an impact. Our community activism, to us, is simply democracy in action.

We seek to serve; not to be served. We are not lobbyists, we are service providers. Our service is our advocacy for the neediest. To us advocacy is the ultimate service—'service on steroids.'

Through our advocacy we seek to keep social justice issues front and center at the Virginia General Assembly. Through our advocacy, legislators are made aware that there is a responsibility to the needs of vulnerable people—measuring every policy by how it touches the least, the lost and the left-out among us."

#### Q: What do you consider some of SALT's most important victories?

In the past, SALT has advocated successfully for many issues, including:

- ❖ repeal of the sales tax for food stamps each year in 19 states, increasing food aid by \$9.5 million in Virginia;
- ❖ securing \$4 million in TANF stimulus funding for emergency assistance to 2,500 Fairfax County families during the recent recession;
- ❖ establishment of a permanent statewide Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) with \$5.3 million funding;
- ❖ persuading the General Assembly to pass the Virginia Income Tax Credit (VITC), which boosts the income of 190,000 low-income workers;
- ❖ making Virginia the first state in the nation to create a system in which 100 percent of child support from the non-custodial parents goes directly to the child and custodial parent rather than to the Virginia General Fund.

#### Q: What were the most important SALT initiatives this legislative session?



**John Horejsi of Vienna, coordinator of Social Action Linking Together (SALT), testifies in the public hearing of the Fairfax Delegation to the Virginia General Assembly in January 2013.**

**A:** "The ban on shackling pregnant inmates and Medicaid expansion. While anti-shackling legislation was defeated in the Militia, Prison and Public Safety Subcommittee, there has been progress by SALT and anti-shackling coalition groups to prohibit shackling through the regulatory process. There is still a need for legislation to stop this practice. Protection is still needed for some of Virginia's most vulnerable women from being unnecessarily restrained—a practice that not only violates a woman's dignity, but can detrimentally affect her health and the health of her pregnancy. SALT is currently a partner in this Medicaid Expansion Coalition. Right now, the governor has Medicaid expansion in his hands. He has the ability to create a path to Medicaid expansion, or the ability to veto that provision. Medicaid expansion will provide more than 30,000 Fairfax County residents with access to health care coverage. The expansion is a common-sense policy that will help over 400,000 Virginians. Ultimately, we hope the governor will make the right choice for Virginia and Fairfax County and work toward expanding Medicaid as soon as possible. We would like a clear statement that he plans to expand Medicaid. Every day's delay costs Virginia \$5 million in lost funding.

#### Q: You and other SALT members were in Richmond almost every day during this session. What do you think people would be surprised to learn about the way things work in Richmond?

**A:** "I would say with regard to human services, the bipartisanship that is attributed to the success for transportation funding this year doesn't exist or

SEE RICHMOND, PAGE 6



**Voters wait their turn at the Lewinsville Center Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2012.**

PHOTO BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION

## Better Training, More Technology

### The bipartisan commission released findings, recommendations regarding long lines on Election Day.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**A**fter learning that dozens of frustrated voters waited for hours in long lines to cast their ballots on Election Day, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) called for the creation of a bipartisan commission to figure out why and make sure it doesn't happen again.

At the March 19 Board of Supervisor's meeting, the commission—jointly chaired by Former Board of Supervisors Chairman Kate Hanley and Stuart Mendelsohn, former Dranesville supervisor—released its final report. They recommended additional poll workers, more training and better technology to keep lines moving.

Recommendations encompassed a variety of training, technology, and process improvements, ranging from using more Electronic Poll Books (EPBs) to providing additional parking spaces at polling places.

"I am pleased that the Election Commission has completed its work," Bulova said. "It is important that the county implement measures to reduce long lines, decrease wait times and streamline the election process in Fairfax County. The commission has identified a variety of improvements and efficiencies to ensure access and convenience for voters in future elections."

Additional recommendations included using electronic poll books at every precinct, and asked the county to create a fund that would pay for upgrad-

ing voting equipment. The report also suggested that county officials find larger polling places where voters can form lines inside precincts rather than outside during bad weather.

Voter turnout in Fairfax County on Election Day was at an all-time high in November's presidential election, with 81 percent of registered voters casting their ballots in 2012 compared to 78.7 percent in 2008. In the 2011 state and local elections, just 32 percent of registered voters cast their ballots, while 49 percent turned out for the 2010 congressional contests.

Lines and wait times varied throughout the county's 237 precincts last November. Voters at Vienna's Flint Hill Elementary School reported ample parking and virtually no lines. At other locations, however, lines snaked around elementary school parking lots and through buildings, and it was not unusual for voters to have to wait over an hour.

Election officials said a shortage of poll volunteers coupled with complicated ballot questions and bond issues meant some voters took much longer to finish their ballots.

While the long lines created headaches for many Fairfax County voters, some voters in Prince William County faced five-hour waits before casting their ballots.

A copy of the report can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/electioncommission/election-commission-report.htm>.

## THE COUNTY LINE

# Sequester's Impact in Fairfax County? TBD

Local leaders say “uncertainty” biggest fallout of sequester so far.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**F**airfax County businesses have been feeling the chilling effect of the \$87 billion across-the-board spending cuts triggered March 1st for several months.

In anticipation of the original “fiscal cliff” deadline at the end of 2012, apprehensive business owners had begun taking preemptive measures, such as tightening budgets, and implementing hiring and pay freezes.

“Small and large companies are taking more conservative approaches to hiring, and government contractors, a large segment of the Fairfax County economy, could see their contracts reduced or terminated,” said Sharon Bulova (D-at-large), chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

But what has rattled Fairfax County businesses is not specific cuts in the sequester, but the uncertainty of what the cuts will be and when they will take effect.

“One of the most impactful effects of sequestration thus far has been the uncertainty that is preventing growth in the local economy,” Bulova said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who is a founding partner of the Fairfax law firm Cook Craig & Francuzenko, said his practice and Fairfax County are hurt by the uncertainty factor.

“The biggest problem in Fairfax County is not the sequester, per se, it’s the uncertainty. If this continues, that’s huge,” Cook said. “Businesses can deal with bad news. They can adjust to declining revenues, increased costs, what have you ... but not knowing what will happen is crippling. Congress and the president can’t do their job, and you and I are going to be paying for this for a long time.”

“From the perspective of business community, businesses are adept when they understand what’s coming. They see a problem; they solve it,” said Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA), “The uncertainty is driving them crazy. Prime contractors, such as SAIC and Northrop Grumman, they can translate their skill sets to non-federal applications. My fear is for the sub-contractors and the sub-sub-contractors, where a single contract can make or break a business.”

## Economic Forecast: Grim and Grimmer

While every state stands to lose, Northern Virginia’s close ties to Washington and the federal spigot have the region squarely in the crosshairs of the sequester.

“With nearly 40 percent of our region’s economy tied to the Federal Government, Northern Virginia will be especially hard hit,” said Congressman James Moran (D-8) in a recent letter to constituents.

While only 1 percent of Fairfax County’s General Fund revenues come from the Federal Government, the human services system in Fairfax County receives 20 percent of its revenue base from federal funding. In 2011, Fairfax procured more than \$26 billion in federal contracts.

“The Washington Area economy has grown tremendously thanks to Federal Government spending. In 2010, total federal spending accounted for nearly 40 percent of the region’s GDP,” said economist Stephen S. Fuller of George Mason University’s Center for Regional Analysis.

The region’s strength is also its “Achilles heel,” Fuller said and warned the area “faces a sea change” as federal spending decreases.

According to economic forecasters, the outlook is grim and grimmer. Most of the fiscal apocalypse, they say, is related to government-worker furloughs, which could begin as early as next week. In addition to eroding consumer confidence, the furloughs could trigger a domino effect that impacts everyone.

“If the feds are furloughed two days a week, no more housing purchases, no more dinners out, everyone hunkers downs, consumer housing starts to slow down and things come to a grinding halt and everyone is affected,” Gordon said.

Some economists take the worst-case scenario further. If the sequester lingers, they predict airport-security lines will get longer because TSA agents will work one fewer day every two weeks; fewer commercial planes will fly because of furloughs to air-traffic controllers; prisons will be locked down because Bureau of Prisons staff will be sent home; terrorists may go undetected because fewer FBI agents and counterterrorism analysts will be working.

While Fairfax County has its weak points, Gordon said the county is still entering the sequester from “a position of strength.”

“Our unemployment is only 3.6 percent, far lower than the national average of 7.7 percent,” Gordon said. “We’ve been working toward a diversified economic base for more than 20 years. We are a center of information technology, software development, telecommunications, aerospace and the Internet. Our workforce is highly skilled. We have an outstanding public school system. ... All this has factored into the development of an economy based on technology and professional services. Yes, I think we’re going to take hits, but we’re in a better position than in most communities.”

**“From the perspective of business community, businesses are adept when they understand what’s coming. They see a problem; they solve it. The uncertainty is driving them crazy.”**

**—Jerry Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA)**



**Danny Vargas, CEO and founder of VARcom solutions, during a 2012 mock debate in Spain.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF VARCOM SOLUTIONS

## Local Perspective

### Small-business owner tackles the sequester.

**R**aul Danny Vargas has beaten the odds all his life.

The son of Puerto Rican immigrants, Vargas, 47, was raised by a single mother on welfare in Brooklyn. At an early age, he faced poverty and hunger. “We lived in a ramshackle apartment, and there were days when I would eat ice cubes to curb hunger. My mother never learned to read or write, and she didn’t speak English.”

In spite of the strikes against him, Vargas said he was “blessed” with an older sister who encouraged him to stay in school and reach for more.

“I was running as fast as I could. I always tell my children now that the outcome may not be guaranteed, but the opportunity is,” he said.

Never afraid of hard work, Vargas had his first job at 12, selling snow cones from a pushcart on the streets of Brooklyn. “I would scrape shavings from this huge block of ice, and then put it in a cup and pour syrup over it. I remember that vividly. I did every job you can think of. I moved displays in big office buildings, did temp jobs... hard work was the never issue.”

He became the first person in his family to earn a college degree, eventually serving in the Air Force. But he always dreamed of owning his own business and launching a career in politics.

In 2004, after a career in the telecommunications industry, Vargas started VARCom Solutions in Herndon. The award-winning company provides strategic marketing and high-profile public relations services to small businesses and major corporations.

As a small business owner, with 15 to 20 contract employees at any given time, Vargas

thought he had weathered the worst business crisis when the economy shattered in 2008.

But sequestration—and its uncertain ripple effects—are more challenging, both personally and professionally, Vargas said.

“The uncertainty is the stake in the heart,” Vargas said during an interview Monday.

He said he has already noticed agencies, such as the Department of Defense, shelving projects after his company expected to be awarded the contract.

“I would say the issue that we’ve faced is that we’re bidding on something, it’s basically a done deal, and then, as we’re getting close to moving forward, because of the uncertainty of sequestration, the contracts were put on hold, so we can’t keep people on the bench,” Vargas said.

“Those of us just trying to move ahead, and keep the economy humming, are dealing with the headwind of a dysfunctional federal government.”

Vargas is also a politically active business leader. He was appointed by the U.S. Congress as a commissioner on the National Museum of the American Latino Commission and by Governor McDonnell to the Virginia Workforce Council. He also served as chairman of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce, the first Hispanic to chair a mainstream chamber in the history of Virginia.

His political connections have given him a sobering perspective on the events in Washington.

“Everyone I’ve talked with on Capitol Hill says they are frightened over our fiscal situation,” he said.

“I do agree that cuts need to be made. We need to be able to rein in spending. But this is the most absurd way of going about it. This blind slashing is inefficient. Honestly, I think a 12-year-old with a lemonade stand could do a better job.”

—VICTORIA ROSS



## News



PHOTO COURTESY OF GC MARSHALL OCTAGON CLUB

### Joining Empty Bowls Drive at Marshall High

In February 2013 the GC Marshall HS Octagon Club organized, glazed and delivered 20 hand thrown ceramic bowls to the Empty Bowls Charity, under the direction of Juie Veenstra (GCM Sci/Adv) and assisted by student Delaney Conway. The Empty Bowls Benefit was held Feb. 28, 2013, at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. GC Marshall HS Octagon Club Empty Bowl contributors: Front row, from left—Dany Chaillo, Caroline Vaughn, Jordan Arbuckle, Angela Zadrima, Anna Shipman, Katrina Uher, Hannah Barker. Second row: Doreen Nidizeye, Angela Heltberg, Emily Hoang, Prayasha Chaudhary, Barsha Bhujet, Will French, Ms. Veenstra (GCM Sci/dir) Back Row: Mr. Conway/potter, Delaney Conway, Drew Friedman, Lindsay Charters, Kelly Mills, Will Ferrer, Bevy Daniel, Owen Crizer and Brian Weiss.

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[www.fairfaxcasa.org](http://www.fairfaxcasa.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.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Information Session.** 11 a.m.-noon, at the Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn more about advocating for abused or neglected children. 703-273-3526 or

### ONGOING:

**Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI) Scholarship Program.** Those enrolled in a Virginia college or university who are pursuing a degree in the field of criminal justice are eligible for a Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI) Scholarship Program, available to both full- and part-time students. Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry must submit a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. To obtain a letter of recommendation, please contact Lieutenant Steve Elbert at [shf-pio@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:shf-pio@fairfaxcounty.gov), <http://vasherriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/> or 703-246-3251.

**Girls and Boys State.** For students finishing their junior year in high school, the American Legion Post 180 sponsors Girls State and Boys State expenses, including bus and transportation, for the week-long program; high school juniors interested should talk to their guidance counselor as selection is made by schools. 703-242-7651.

**Oakton Cougar Baseball Camp.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. daily during weeks from July 8 through July 25 at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna. The Oakton Cougar Baseball Camp teaches players solid fundamental baseball skills necessary to raise their level of play (ages 6-11 and 11-plus, grouped by age and skill). \$150.

**Fairfax Adult Softball Teams.** FAS is accepting applications for adult softball teams for men's, women's, coed, corporate coed, Reston, senior's (age 50-plus) and women's fast pitch leagues before March 1. 703-815-9007, [www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com](http://www.fairfaxadultsoftball.com) or [office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com](mailto:office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com).

## Richmond Favors Rich

FROM PAGE 3

doesn't extend to human service priorities. Constituents know they are out-gunned by the special interest lobbyists. But, it would come as a shock to them to know there are 1,200 registered lobbyists at the state level, and there are more than eight special-interest lobbyists per legislator.

However, 'never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has,' as Margaret Mead said. This is certainly true for all of the SALT successes listed earlier—starting with the lifting of the sales tax on food stamps.

I think readers would be surprised to know that all the success listed above—even the no-brainers such as removing the sales tax from food stamps—took anywhere from three to eight years to achieve success. Incredible persistence is required. We persist because justice demands it.

When it comes to issues and priorities for the poor it takes longer because resistance is built into the committee and subcommittee system where bills to help the needy

are routinely killed by a majority of four or five subcommittee members. Equally frustrating is the fact that votes are voice votes—not recorded votes—making it difficult to identify opposition for vigorous education unless you can see every legislator and lip-read.

When there are bills affecting the wealthy the committee rooms are filled to capacity, but when issues affecting the needy, the hearing rooms are empty."

**Q: Describe your experience as an advocate in the General Assembly.**

**A:** "The legislature has become more partisan and contentious. It is no longer possible to get widespread legislator support. In Richmond legislation is passed and defeated when viewed through a partisan lens. Our recent experience is that to hope for any possible success we must enter into coalitions with other statewide groups. SALT has become partners in and out of coalitions to realize success for the EIC Expansion and the Medicaid Expansions."

—VICTORIA ROSS





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# OPINION

## More Obstacles to Transparency

General Assembly puts more information out of public reach, but other factors also limit access.

**T**he first paragraph of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.”

It doesn’t add, “except when we don’t want to,” although that provision does seem to be available in many cases. Individual government entities have a variety of ways of making it hard for the public to access public information.

One such way is simply to require that the information seeker file a “FOIA request,” a written request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Most public information should be readily available, handed over on request. The written query allows the entity, a school system for example, to parse the request to provide as little information as possible. It is a method of foot-dragging, of just hoping that the requestor will give up.

A growing obstacle involves fees. Many government agencies respond to any request for public information with a bill, sometimes for thousands of dollars. The bills can cover staff time to calculate the answers, to locate the data. The staff time involved is already on the public payroll, and charging fees to provide

### EDITORIAL

public information to the public when the public is already paying for the existence of the information is double dipping. Again, it’s a method designed to discourage access. And it is often effective. And while many citizen groups in our area can cough up \$3,000 or \$6,000 or more for access to the email correspondence of public officials on a decision that affects the public, for example, many cannot. It is inequitable to charge this sort of fee.

The existence of email correspondence between public officials is another concern, allowing for discussion that, while usually FOIA-able, takes place outside the public eye. Local governments could develop a public archive for email correspondence that would do much to enhance transparency and sunshine in the commonwealth, and reduce embarrassment on the part of emailing officials because they would recognize in advance that their email is public.

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act includes an exception that allows police to withhold, without justification, “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.” Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexan-

dria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should. But no public entity should be allowed blanket exemptions. Withholding public information, if it is allowed, should be on a case-by-case basis. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other source documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

So with many systemic roadblocks to public access to public information, it is discouraging to say the least to see the General Assembly add significant new obstacles.

The Virginia Coalitions for Open Government reports that the General Assembly passed exemptions that “will limit access to some correspondence of legislative aides, to evacuation plans for hospitals operating under certificates of public need, to certain flight plans filed at regional government airports, to records and meetings of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and to bank self-assessments. All concealed handgun permit applications will now be off-limits, too, thanks to a bill that was radically amended from its original purpose and reported from committee to House floor in less than 24 hours,” limiting public comment.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Confusing Response To Lyme Disease

To the Editor:

The letter applauding the Lyme disease bill (“On Lyme Disease Awareness Bill,” Connection, March 20-26, 2013) may make its advocacy group happy, but does not live up to what Virginians deserve. And while well intended, this solution is simplistic and rife with potential for confusion and dangerous consequences. Simply, it requires that physicians give patients a piece of paper that states that Lyme disease lab tests may not be accurate. It mandates that this be done for five years, regardless of changes and accuracy of new tests as they become available. This was not a solution the medical community supported and the four physician legislators at the GA voted against this bill. Many lab tests are not precise and need to be interpreted carefully, with an awareness of what is being evaluated. Giving someone a piece of paper will do more to confuse than enlighten and may delay correct diagnosis, create an inappropriate demand for dangerous treatments, and open the door for an untrained and un-

licensed legislature to further codify mandates that alter scientifically developed medical care and to try to impose themselves on the patient-physician relationship. It is unfortunate that this prevented them accepting a substitute bill that missioned our public health infrastructure with increasing professional and citizen awareness, education and on-line resources about Lyme disease, a much more fruitful and logical alternative.

This law is a “victory” for an advocacy group and their sympathetic legislators who want to do something to help, but it has limited benefit with a significant downside. Lyme disease is not a new problem and will continue to be an issue for years to come. Education, research and a better approach to controlling the vectors that spread disease are what need the focus and the support of our legislators.

**Russell C. Libby, M.D., F.A.A.P.**

President, Medical Society of Virginia  
McLean resident

## Metro: Not Ours

To the Editor:

I could not help but read the “Metrorail Phase 1 Nears Comple-

tion” [Connection, March 20-26, 2013] article in last week’s paper without... well... anger? I should be excited for the Metro’s completion. After all, we live just 1.5 miles from the Greensboro Metro station and have never found it very convenient to drive to one of the Orange Line Metro stops in order to take Metro going to work, so we have always driven to work... right through Tysons. This new Silver Line is so much more convenient, and finally we will be able to take advantage of our metro benefits, keep our cars off the roads, and metro to work! Or not. I continue to be dumbfounded at the narrow-minded thinking of the planners who insisted that there should be no parking at any of the four Tyson’s Metro stops in order to make Tysons a more walkable urban center. That may work fine in an area with dense housing in immediate proximity to the metro, but the area around Tysons hardly meets that description with its acres upon acres of car dealerships, malls and office buildings. And how does not having parking make Tysons more walkable? I, and many others, will have to continue to drive our cars through their nice urban village... leaving our carbon emissions in their nice pedestrian air... in order to get to work... or get our-

selves to a Metro that does provide parking so we can take advantage of our mass transit system. We cannot have a walkable community if we must take our cars everywhere rather than use mass transit. Clearly, this metro rail was not meant to assist local residents. It won’t help us get to work, and it won’t help us get to the airport. I guess area residents were quite purposefully left out of the equation. This is someone’s Metro for sure... it’s just not ours. Oh, and did I mention the folks who looked at the house for sale nearby but opted to buy elsewhere once they found out that they could not Metro to work on the new Silver Line? You lose any benefit of living by the Metro if you can’t get to it.

**Lynn Spencer**  
Vienna

## Lyme Disease Bill Hits Home

To the Editor:

The passing of the Lyme Disease Testing Awareness Act by Governor McDonnell really hit home for me. Because I didn’t see a tick or have the bulls-eye rash, my Lyme disease

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

McLean  
**CONNECTION**

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

diagnosis was not an easy one. I had to go to three different medical practices before some took my symptoms and suspicions of Lyme disease seriously. The first doctor ordered an Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test, which came back negative. The next two tests I had done were called the Western Blot, which is considered a very sensitive testing method. My test results showed only two bands and the Center for Disease Control requires three

bands for a positive diagnosis of Lyme disease.

The blood sample test works most effectively when your antibodies begin mounting a response to the infection. It is essential to know that it takes several weeks from the time when an infected tick releases the infection into one's body for an anti-body to react in that way. So even with the most advanced testing methods, awareness of the test's shortcoming are important for each patient to understand. I

have many friends with Lyme

disease and they too had issues with their initial diagnosis, which delayed their proper treatment during a critical time period.

I want to applaud my Delegate Barbara Comstock for taking on this issue on behalf of our Great Falls community. The new legislation will provide others the opportunity for a complete understanding of the test's shortcomings, and hopefully lead to more accurate and early diagnosis from re-testing.

**Laurel A. Gainor**  
Great Falls

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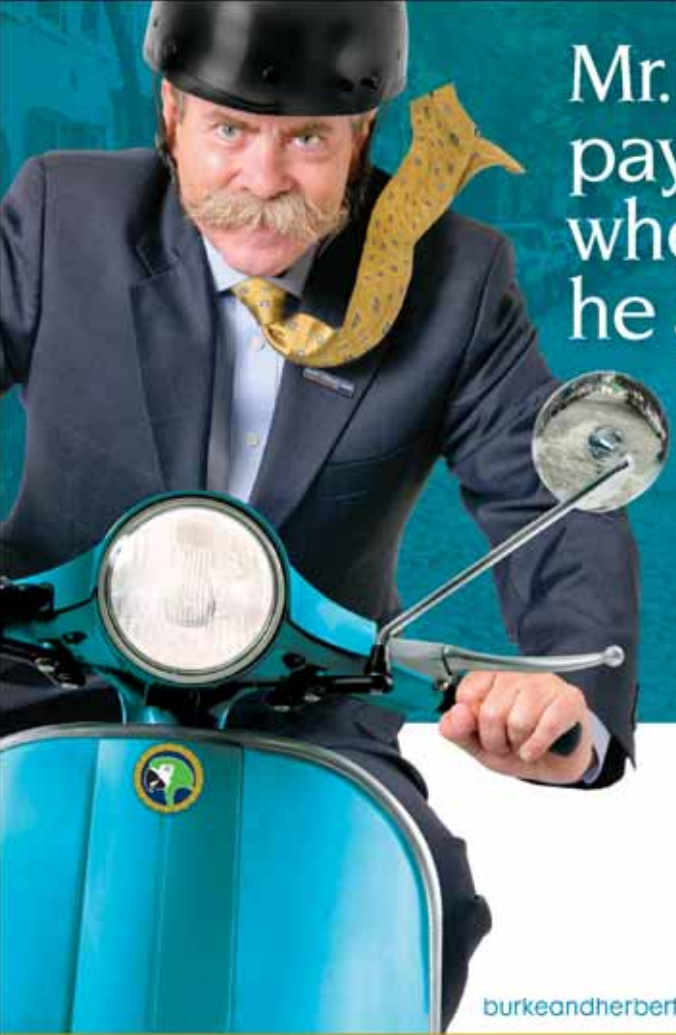


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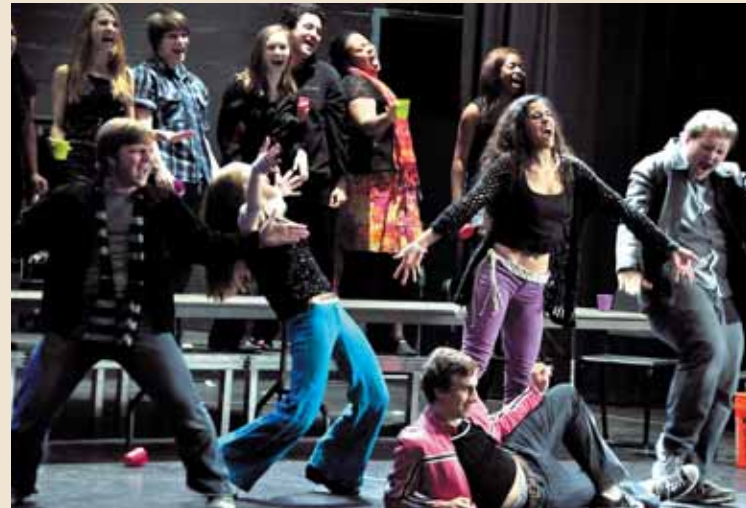
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## SPRING FUN



From left, Camila Alfonzo, as Mimi, shares a moment with Damian Leverett, as Roger, in McLean High School's production of "Rent."



Cast members in McLean High School's production of "Rent" perform "La Vie de Boheme."

# McLean High Performs 'Rent'

Theater department will present award-winning musical.

By ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

McLean High will present "Rent School Edition," a rock musical version of the Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning play that tells the story of a group of young artists living in New York City, starting April 4.

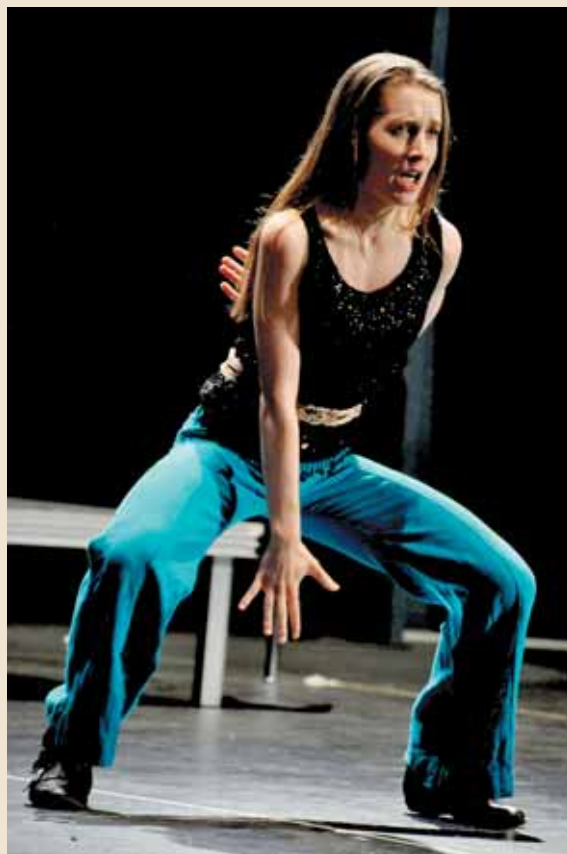
The characters deal with relationship and trust issues, as well as the threat of HIV and AIDS and drug use throughout the play.

"At first it might not seem like a play about struggling artists dealing with cold realities hits that close to teenagers in a wealthy suburb, but the script is so dynamic," said senior Max Johnson, who plays Angel and served as set designer. "People might think a story about AIDS is dated, but it's a way to show how fragile life really is, and how quickly you can lose it. The characters can really stand on their own, and the individual groups within the play say a lot about society."

Johnson's character, Angel, is a drag queen, a role Johnson called challenging.

"I really didn't want to make it a caricature," he said. "I wanted the character to be endearing, but I didn't want to cross the line and make it too over the top."

Senior Damian Leverett plays Roger, a struggling musician



PHOTOS BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION

Madelyn Paquette, as Maureen, performs her one-woman show in McLean High's production of "Rent."

who is HIV positive.

"It's a very emotionally diverse play, that actually is very applicable to serious topics facing high schoolers," he said. "Fundamentally, it's about people going through emotional times and relying on friendship and relationships to get them through it."

**ACTORS SAID** they had to work especially hard to get in character.

"It's hard to play a drug addict without having first-hand experiences about what it's like," said senior Camila Alfonzo, who plays Mimi, Roger's love interest. "That means it takes more work to play it convincingly. 'Rent' is my favorite musical, which made it a fun challenge to show the intricacies of the characters' bohemian

lifestyles, and how they make it through each day."

The show was choreographed by sophomore Marielle Burt, who has danced for most of her life, but had never worked on an entire show before.

"It was a neat experience, and definitely one that helped me to grow and stretch out creatively," she said. "A lot of the cast didn't have much dance experience, which has made the whole show a lot of work, but they're a fun group and they're all willing to try anything. The best part has been to see everyone really embrace their roles as they became more comfortable."

Sophomore Max Joachim, a graffiti artist, helped make the set into an accurate portrayal of urban life.

"To make it realistic, I found a

bunch of symbols and carefully layered them in different colors, finally putting a big piece over everything," said Joachim, who created 10 faux-brick pieces.

The play's production has been compressed. They originally planned to put on "Spring Awakening," a controversial musical based on a German play, but after community objections, they selected "Rent." But the delay caused them to lose stage and production time, meaning actors had to find their characters and develop chemistry quickly.

"There hasn't been much time to work together with other actors, we've been focusing a lot more on dancing and singing, most of the acting was done individually."

**"RENT"** will be McLean High School's Cappies Show, the performance that will be judged by groups of high school reviewers. The school has never done a musical for their Cappies show.

"There's a Cappies category for best song, and one of our goals is to make it a hard decision as to which one they like best from this show," Burt said. "We took some chances with this performance. There's a song at the start of the second act 'Seasons of Love,' that we added ribbon dancers to. Traditionally on Broadway, there's no dancing to that song, but we wanted to defy some expectations and make this a unique performance."

The show will run from April 4 through 6 at 7 p.m., with a show Saturday, April 6, at 2:30 p.m., all shows at the McLean High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students, and can be purchased at [www.mcleandrama.org](http://www.mcleandrama.org).

## ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@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)

### THURSDAY/MARCH 28

**BlackFinn Ameripub Job Fair.** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at BlackFinn Ameripub Merrifield, 2750 Gallows Road, Vienna. The new Dunn Loring area restaurant, located at Halstead Square, two blocks south of Dunn Loring Metro Station, looks to hire 170 positions for its April opening. Positions include: cooks, servers, bartenders, hosts and cocktail servers. 401-855-1248 or [www.facebook.com/BlackfinnMerrifield](http://www.facebook.com/BlackfinnMerrifield).

**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

**BlackFinn Ameripub Job Fair.** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at BlackFinn Ameripub Merrifield, 2750 Gallows Road, Vienna. The new Dunn Loring area restaurant, located at Halstead Square, two blocks south of Dunn Loring Metro Station, looks to hire 170 positions for its April opening. Positions include: cooks, servers, bartenders, hosts and cocktail servers. 401-855-1248 or [www.facebook.com/BlackfinnMerrifield](http://www.facebook.com/BlackfinnMerrifield).

**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.

**National Cherry Blossom Festival Central.** Noon-3 p.m., at Fairfax County Visitors Center (Tysons Corner Center, Nordstrom wing), 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The visitor center hosts a special event with craft demonstrations and more. 703-752-9500.

**"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.jammingjava.com](http://www.jammingjava.com).

**John Eaton.** 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna.



FILE PHOTO

As a leading interpreter of music, a jazz enthusiast and a 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.

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, Falls Church. AACC 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).

**Mason Symphony and the Virginia Chamber Orchestras Concert.** 7:30 p.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. \$20; free for students through grade 12 and Wounded Warriors and their families; \$15 for college students and seniors. 703-993-1380 or <http://music.gmu.edu>.

**"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).

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## FAIRS & FESTIVALS

### April

**FRIDAY/APRIL 19-MONDAY/MAY 6**

#### Spotlight on the Arts Festival.

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**SATURDAY/APRIL 27**

**Taste of Vienna.** 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. The VVFD will host the 2nd annual Taste of Vienna to showcase the many restaurants that the Vienna area has to offer. Visit [www.tasteofvienna.org](http://www.tasteofvienna.org).

### May

**FRIDAY/MAY 17-SUNDAY/MAY 19**

#### Northern Virginia Fine Arts

**Festival.** At Reston Town Center, the three-day event attracts more than 50,000 patrons and provides an interactive experience to view, purchase, and experience art directly from the artists who have created it. Visit <http://northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org>.

**SATURDAY/MAY 18**

**McLean Day.** 10:30 a.m. at Lewinsville Park. Festival and rides will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. <http://members.mcleanchamber.org/events/details/mclean-day-2013-430>.

**SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 25-27**

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**THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-JUNE 2**

**Herndon Festival.** The Town of Herndon's Parks and Recreation Department hosts the annual Herndon Festival. This is a town-wide event and attracts more than 80,000 people from the greater D.C. area. There is no admission fee to enter the Herndon Festival. Visit [www.herndonfestival.net](http://www.herndonfestival.net).



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Guests at the 2012 Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival in Reston Town Center examine a piece by mixed media 3D artist David Burton, made up of various action figures and toys.**



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Scott Ramminger and the CrawStickers perform at McLean Day Saturday, May 19, 2012.**



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**Thousands fill the rides section at the 32nd annual Herndon Festival Saturday, June 2, 2012.**



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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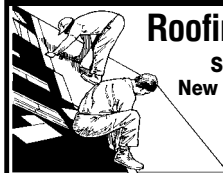
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# 14.8 Percent



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That is the percentage of diagnosed lung cancer patients who survive beyond five years, according to The National Cancer Institute's SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009, in a graph published in the February 26, 2013 Washington Post's weekly Health & Science section. As a non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) survivor beginning his fifth year post-diagnosis, charting my prospects in such a cold and impersonal manner is both chilling and arguable. "Chilling" in that facts speak for themselves and are hardly made up of whole cloth, to invoke one of the late Jack Kent Cooke's more famous quotes. And "arguable" in that charts, statistics, etc. may very well measure the mean, but it sure doesn't measure the man (this man, anyway). Meaning, from my perspective: sure, the chart is scary as hell, but I'm not sure I'm on it, if you know what I mean? (I know you know what I hope.)

Now whether you believe it or not matters not to me, rather what I believe matters most. And I believe in the individuality of individuals and of the immeasurable characteristics that don't show up on two-dimensional graphs. Since I live in a three-dimensional world, I'm loathe – and quite hesitant, to think that I'm just another terminal patient/number. Now, I don't dismiss such statistics out of hand, obviously, but nor do I take them to heart to determine how I intend on living my life. Certainly I'm not going to ignore them; I'm not a blockhead. But neither do I expect them to affect my thinking, my judgment, my preparation and my attitude. I still believe anything is possible and I'd like to think – and continue to think: "I've lived this long. Certainly I can live a little bit longer" (updated daily).

I have to admit though, that reading articles and seeing charts which offer improving but still extremely discouraging life expectancies, particularly for lung cancer patients (12.3 percent was the previous five-year survival rate, the lowest for all cancers charted in this particular graph) doesn't exactly make my day – or night, for that matter. Somehow, I have to find a way to disassociate myself from that population despite being immersed in its culture every minute of every day. Which when you consider that I have my oncologist's phone number programmed on my speed dial and that the chemotherapy-induced neuropathy in my feet offers constant reminders that I'm not in Kansas anymore (if I were in Kansas, I'm sure the neuropathy would be just as bad), the likelihood of my not feeling the effects of my diagnosis, physical, mental or emotional is somewhere between slim and none. Coping is what it's all about and not taking anything too personally, even though this is all very personal. And though I am keenly aware of my circumstances – as most of you regular readers are, finding a way to not let it define me and/or control me totally, is the challenge with which I am most familiar.

As Popeye the Sailor Man so famously said: "I yam what I yam." And so am I. I'm Kenny-with-cancer. So what else is new?

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



# NEWS

## Youth Talent on Display

### McLean Project for the Arts hosts Youth Art Exhibition.

BY NGALULA TSHISHIMBI  
THE CONNECTION

**B**right colors and carefully crafted details tease on-lookers with stories of fantasy and reality at the Youth Art Exhibition. The exhibition is an annual tradition in recognizing artwork by students at Cooper and Longfellow Middle School, and Langley and McLean High School. With support from the Women's Club of McLean, the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) has created a temporary home for over several hundred pieces of artwork. Ranging in type, the exhibition features sculptures, acrylic paintings, photography and much more. The Thursday, March 21, reception saw large crowd of eager observers.

Many of the Longfellow Middle School students showcased their talents through detailed depictions of plant life. Under the guidance of art teacher Delores Wimberly, students chose subjects in the school's Rain Garden for inspiration. Using these subjects, they learned fundamental themes including, "line, shape, texture, form

and color," said Sharon Fishel, ArtReach director with MPA. Fishel and Wimberly collaborate to instruct students on the nuances of creating detailed artwork. It is a combined approach of artistic and scientific observation, providing a platform for students to examine plant life cycles and explore their creativity.

Individualism and personal stories were commonly explored themes in works by the high school students. Raina Amirghaffari described anorexia as a theme that characterizes one of her works. She states that the work shows a contrast between nourishment and malnourishment, evidenced by the contrast between light and dark and represented by intricately detailed thick and thin tree branches. Using a technique called stippling, the final work took 11 hours to complete.

The Youth Art Exhibition is open to the public Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. until April 6, 2013, at the McLean Project for the Arts, at 1234 Ingleside Ave. in McLean.



**McLean High School freshman Raina Amirghaffari poses next to her artwork featuring a hand connected to corresponding tree branches.**



**Longfellow Middle School student Alexis Dejesus poses next to her abstract work featuring a wide array of colors and allusions to the television show, "Dr. Who."**



**The Langley High School string ensemble entertained the crowds at the opening of the Youth Art Show at McLean Project for the Arts.**

PHOTO BY  
DABNEY CORTINA/  
MPA



**McLean High School senior Ariel Chelsy stands next to her artwork depicting her reflections from visiting Hong Kong.**

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for details!





**Oakton sophomore Lydia Montanino scored four goals against Langley on March 21.**



**Oakton junior Tori Anderson scored three goals, including the game-winner, against Langley on March 21.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## Oakton Girls' Lax Beats Langley in Frigid Conditions

**Cougars win rematch of last year's state final.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith temperatures in the low 30s, the Oakton and Langley girls' lacrosse teams braved the elements on March 21 for a rematch of last season's AAA state championship game.

"[The cold weather was] the first thing we talked about down in the locker room," Oakton head coach Jean Counts said. "I said, we can make excuses and really be affected by it, or we can chalk it up to another experience. You're never going to forget this really, really, really cold game against a really, really, great team."

Thanks to junior attack Tori Anderson, the Cougars' memory would not involve overtime.

Anderson scored from free position with

15 seconds remaining, saving the Cougars from additional time on the field while lifting Oakton to an 8-7 victory during a frigid night at Oakton High School.

Last season, Oakton defeated Langley three times, including a 9-7 victory in the Northern Region championship game and a 12-7 win in the state final. On Thursday night, the combination of Anderson and sophomore attack Lydia Montanino helped the Cougars once again top the Saxons.

"[I] just had to make that goal," Anderson said about her thought process in the final minute. "... Composure, composure, composure."

Montanino, a second-year varsity player, finished with four goals and Anderson, a three-year varsity starter, added three.

"They both have this — you can call it boys' style — but they just play [with] a different style," Counts said. "They're the kind of players that [make] you ... do a double take. You're very impressed with what they've done because it's not as conventional on the girls' side. ... They're just

playing so great. ... When [Anderson is] going to goal, it might not always be a goal, but you know it's going to be a quality take and it's so great to see her have the confidence, see her have the strength to do so. Lydia is the same thing. She's got the first-year-freshman-on-varsity [challenge] behind her and she's really starting to mature right in front of our eyes. It's beautiful."

Oakton junior Danielle Palmucci also scored a goal.

Montanino scored a pair of early goals as Oakton built a 3-0 lead in the first 10 minutes. Langley scored four of the next five goals, including two from senior attack Rachel Wagner, but Anderson answered with a goal from free position late in the first half to give the Cougars a 5-4 halftime advantage.

Montanino's second goal of the second half gave Oakton a 7-5 lead with 13:01 remaining, but Langley freshman midfielder Halle Duenkel and senior midfielder Hayley Soutter each found the net to tie the score at 7-all with 5:50 remaining.

Wagner, Soutter and senior midfielder Grace Goettman each scored two goals for Langley. Duenkel finished with one.

The loss dropped Langley's record to 1-2. The Saxons opened the season with a 13-6 loss to Westfield on March 12, and beat Woodson 15-13 on March 14. Langley, which finished Liberty District, Northern Region and state runners-up last season, will travel to face McLean on Friday, April 5.

Oakton improved to 2-1, including a season-opening loss to The Hill Academy on March 12 and a victory against Lake Braddock on March 15. Oakton, the defending Concorde District, Northern Region and state champion, will host Cold Spring Harbor at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 28.

"I want them to connect. I want them to find their own identity," Counts said. "We graduated an excellent, ridiculously talented class last year — not only on the field, but as leaders and personalities. We're more of a subdued group in personalities, but I don't think that makes you any less on the lacrosse field."



**Langley's Olivia Sisson shoots against Oakton on March 21.**



**Langley's Rachel Wagner scored two goals against Oakton on March 21.**



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Contact Helen Kruger (703-748-4068) to make pick-up arrangements  
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Small items and clothing drop-offs may be made to the front of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Tysons Corner with the Bell Staff. Please indicate that the items are for the Boys and Girls Clubs Rummage Sale. Donation receipts will be available at drop-off.

On-site moving company available for hire for large item purchases.  
For more information, visit our event site.  
<http://www.fairfaxbgcgw.org/index.php/rummage-sale>



Admission: \$5 per Person  
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## HOME SALES

In February 2013, 60 homes sold between \$2,270,000-\$226,750 in the McLean and Falls Church area.  
This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,730,000-\$357,000 range.  
For the complete list, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Address .....	BR . FB . HB ...	Postal City ....	Sold Price ...	Type .....	Lot AC .	PostalCode .....	Subdivision .....
1200 CAROL RAYE ST .....	5 ... 5 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$2,270,000 ....	Detached .....	0.50 .....	22101 .....	HANSBOROUGH
2109 VIRGINIA AVE .....	6 ... 6 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$2,245,000 ....	Detached .....	0.40 .....	22101 .....	FRANKLIN PARK
2119 ELLIOTT AVE .....	7 ... 6 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$2,100,000 ....	Detached .....	0.49 .....	22101 .....	FRANKLIN PARK
1928 MACARTHUR DR .....	6 ... 4 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$2,065,000 ....	Detached .....	0.48 .....	22101 .....	KENBARGAN
1200 BALLANTRAE LN .....	5 ... 6 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$2,000,000 ....	Detached .....	2.04 .....	22101 .....	BALLANTRAE FARMS
943 DOUGLASS DR .....	5 ... 4 ... 2 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$1,650,000 ....	Detached .....	1.14 .....	22101 .....	LANGLEY FOREST
947 SWINKS MILL RD .....	5 ... 4 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$1,440,000 ....	Detached .....	1.20 .....	22102 .....	LOUISE R HARTLEY
1339 GUNNELL CT .....	4 ... 4 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$1,395,000 ....	Detached .....	1.78 .....	22102 .....	WOODSIDE ESTATES
6114 FRANKLIN PARK RD .....	4 ... 3 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$1,170,000 ....	Detached .....	0.34 .....	22101 .....	ANNIE S PHILLIPS
6952 KYLEAKIN CT .....	5 ... 5 ... 0 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$1,150,000 ....	Detached .....	1.30 .....	22101 .....	BALMACARA
7201 OLD DOMINION DR .....	3 ... 2 ... 0 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$900,000 ....	Detached .....	2.39 .....	22101 .....	ELMWOOD ESTATES
7468 CARRIAGE HILLS DR .....	3 ... 3 ... 2 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$880,000 ....	Townhouse .....	0.04 .....	22102 .....	MCLEAN RIDGE
8002 BIRNAM WOOD DR .....	4 ... 2 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$849,990 ....	Detached .....	0.35 .....	22102 .....	MC LEAN HAMLET
7205 BAYSIDE CT .....	4 ... 3 ... 0 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$830,000 ....	Detached .....	0.40 .....	22101 .....	WEST LEWINSVILLE HEIGHTS
1347 MACBETH ST .....	4 ... 3 ... 0 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$830,000 ....	Detached .....	0.34 .....	22102 .....	MCLEAN HAMLET
1299 WOODSIDE DR .....	4 ... 4 ... 2 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$820,000 ....	Detached .....	1.04 .....	22102 .....	WOODSIDE ESTATES
6414 OLD CHESTERBROOK RD .....	4 ... 3 ... 0 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$810,000 ....	Detached .....	0.26 .....	22101 .....	TROUT SUBDIVISION
7316 CHURCHILL RD .....	3 ... 3 ... 0 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$810,000 ....	Detached .....	0.39 .....	22101 .....	WEST LANGLEY
1557 EVERS DR .....	5 ... 3 ... 0 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$790,000 ....	Detached .....	0.28 .....	22101 .....	MC LEAN WEST
1205 SWINKS MILL RD .....	4 ... 3 ... 0 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$774,000 ....	Detached .....	0.50 .....	22102 .....	SWINKS MILL
1147 RANDOLPH RD .....	4 ... 3 ... 1 .....	MCLEAN .....	\$765,000 ....	Townhouse .....	0.06 .....	22101 .....	KINGS MANOR
6722 HAYCOCK RD .....	3 ... 3 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$740,000 ....	Detached .....	0.48 .....	22043 .....	NONE
8220 CRESTWOOD HEIGHTS DR #1101	2 ... 2 ... 0 ...	MCLEAN .....	\$740,000 ....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....	.....	22102 .....	ONE PARK CREST
2096 HUTCHISON GROVE CT .....	3 ... 2 ... 2 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$704,490 ....	Townhouse .....	0.04 .....	22043 .....	WHITESTONE MARSHALL HGTS
1800 GREAT FALLS ST .....	3 ... 2 ... 1 ...	MCLEAN .....	\$685,000 ....	Detached .....	0.29 .....	22101 .....	WEST LEWINSVILLE HEIGHTS
6900 MCLEAN PROVINCE CIR .....	3 ... 2 ... 2 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$675,000 ....	Townhouse .....	0.05 .....	22043 .....	MC LEAN PROVINCE
7025F HAYCOCK RD #606 .....	2 ... 2 ... 1 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$615,000 ....	Townhouse .....	.....	22043 .....	GATES OF WESTFALLS
6607 PLACID ST .....	3 ... 3 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$600,000 ....	Detached .....	0.26 .....	22043 .....	MERRELL PARK
1900 ANDERSON RD .....	4 ... 3 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$560,000 ....	Detached .....	0.25 .....	22043 .....	PIMMIT HILLS
2100 GREENWICH ST .....	2 ... 1 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$546,500 ....	Detached .....	0.37 .....	22043 .....	WESTHAMPTON
2134 HAYCOCK RD .....	2 ... 1 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$525,000 ....	Detached .....	0.23 .....	22043 .....	CHURCHILL
7317 SPORTSMAN DR .....	4 ... 2 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$525,000 ....	Detached .....	0.29 .....	22043 .....	PIMMIT HILLS
2127 GREENWICH ST .....	4 ... 2 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$521,000 ....	Detached .....	0.32 .....	22043 .....	WESTHAMPTON
8360 GREENSBORO DR #601 .....	3 ... 3 ... 0 ...	MCLEAN .....	\$515,000 ....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....	.....	22102 .....	ROTONDA
2230 GEORGE C MARSHALL DR#PH B	2 ... 2 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$450,000 ....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....	.....	22043 .....	RENAISSANCE 2230
2010 BURFOOT ST .....	3 ... 2 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$439,500 ....	Detached .....	0.24 .....	22043 .....	ORCHARD CREST
8360 GREENSBORO DR #314 .....	3 ... 2 ... 0 ...	MCLEAN .....	\$420,000 ....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....	.....	22102 .....	ROTONDA
2785 SIKES CT .....	3 ... 2 ... 2 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$410,000 ....	Townhouse .....	0.03 .....	22043 .....	PINEWOOD GREENS
7011 FALLS REACH DR #312 .....	2 ... 2 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$403,000 ....	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22043 .....	PAVILION THE
2802 HYSOIN LN .....	4 ... 2 ... 2 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$401,000 ....	Townhouse .....	0.04 .....	22043 .....	PINEWOOD GREENS
7011 FALLS REACH DR #412 .....	2 ... 2 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$400,000 ....	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22043 .....	PAVILION THE
7068 FALLS REACH DR #301 .....	2 ... 2 ... 1 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$400,000 ....	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22043 .....	VILLAGE THE
7000 FALLS REACH DR #406 .....	2 ... 2 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$388,000 ....	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22043 .....	THE PAVILION
7618 LEONARD DR .....	3 ... 1 ... 0 ...	FALLS CHURCH .....	\$380,111 ....	Detached .....	0.36 .....	22043 .....	PIMMIT HILLS
1808 OLD MEADOW RD #912 .....	2 ... 2 ... 0 ...	MCLEAN .....	\$380,000 ....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors .....	.....	22102 .....	ENCORE OF MCLEAN
1503 LINCOLN WAY #101 .....	2 ... 2 ... 0 ...	MCLEAN .....	\$359,000 ....	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22102 .....	FOUNTAINS AT MCLEAN
1524 LINCOLN WAY #315 .....	2 ... 2 ... 0 ...	MCLEAN .....	\$357,000 ....	Garden 1-4 Floors .....	.....	22102 .....	FOUNTAINS AT MCLEAN

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# Some Crimes Never Fade Away

## "Never the Sinner" at 1st Stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

It was the "trial of the century" that mesmerized the nation in 1924. Two teenage college students, Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, went on trial for the murder of a 14-year-old boy. They were defended by the most famous defense lawyer of the day, Clarence Darrow. These facts and the ultimate outcomes are easily found on Wikipedia.

Yet with so many later trials of the century with their own lurid details for new generations, perhaps interest in Leopold and Loeb has faded, except for a very few?

The 1st Stage production of "Never the Sinner" by John Logan shows that a good tale, no matter how well known, still with some mysteries left to explore, can be absorbing in the right hands. "Never the Sinner" is well worth a visit, even with script flaws that drag the piece with some cumber-



From left, Stephen Russell Murray as Nathan Leopold, Michael Kramer as Clarence Darrow, and Alex Mandell as Richard Loeb in the 1st Stage production of John Logan's "Never the Sinner."

some details.

Under the deliberate, laser sharp, almost restrained direction of Jeremy Skidmore, the audience becomes both witness and jurors as "Never the Sinner" unfolds to its foreordained conclusion. Thankfully playwright Logan has left one meaty mystery item for the last line; one that brings an unexpected twist to who did what and why.

### Where and When

1st Stage presents "Never the Sinner" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, showing now through April 14, 2013. Performances: Fridays 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 & 8 p.m., Sundays 2 & 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$25. Call 703-854-1856 or visit [www.1ststagetysons.org](http://www.1ststagetysons.org).



PHOTOS BY TERESA CASTRACANE

Stephen Russell Murray, left, and Alex Mandell as Leopold and Loeb in the 1st Stage production of John Logan's "Never the Sinner."

Who could imagine a nickname could have such significance.

Skidmore's almost hushed approach to the production delves deeply into the personal relationship between Leopold and Loeb, their thinking, their feelings, how they speak, even their kisses. They are treated as living without arousal even as they intellectually contemplate taking someone's life, just to see if they can do it.

The actors are up to the task. Leopold (Stephen Russell Murray) and Loeb (Alex Mandell) are cool in their throttle-down mode and mood. Voices are rarely raised, though at times more emotion might have added some menace. As Clarence Darrow, Michael

Kramer is whip-smart folksy. He comes across as a man who wants to reshape how punishment is meted out in his aria-like monologues with an unseen judge and his debates with the prosecutor (Eric Lucas).

The technical aspects of the 1st Stage production are of a sepia tone in this jazz age radio style drama. The set, lighting and sound design are seamlessly one. They fit together like handsome, bur-nished, expensive wood.

For those who crave stimulating theater, with something to chew on and a challenge to their regular entertainment fare, "Never the Sinner" is a good catch. And it's in the neighborhood.

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|--|--|--|

### Saint Ann Catholic Church

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4142 N. River Street

McLean Listed for...\$1,299,900  
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### Listed in The Dogwoods at Langley!



1313 Merrie Ridge Road

McLean Listed for....\$1,499,000  
BEAUTIFUL and STATELY colonial in sought-after McLean neighborhood! Featuring 6 bedrooms/3 full and 2 half baths; custom-designed gourmet kitchen!

### In the heart of McLean!



7000 Symphony Court

McLean Listed for...\$1,350,000  
STUNNING colonial w/ contemporary flair in the heart of McLean! Beautiful 2-story foyer, oversized isl. kit; huge MBR suite w/ luxury bath!



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1058 Rocky Run Road  
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FOR  
SALE!

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COMING SOON!



COMING  
SOON IN  
McLean!

COMING SOON!



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UNDER  
CONTRACT!

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\$849,900



SOLD!

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