

McLean
CONNECTION

Langley Theatre Explores Dickens

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Langley students
rehearse a scene in
the school's produc-
tion of "The Life and
Adventures of Nicho-
las Nickleby," which
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Children 'Dress Up With Grown-ups'

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Students in Langley High School's production of "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby" prepare a production of "Romeo and Juliet," a play within the play.



PHOTO BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Langley Theatre Explores Dickens

"The Life and Times of Nicholas Nickleby" debuts April 18.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When the plans were announced for Langley High School's spring play, many of the cast and crew weren't familiar with the title. While "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby" isn't at the top of the list of the most popular Charles Dickens works, after doing their research, the cast found plenty to get excited about.

"After we heard about the play, I looked it up and was very interested," said senior Chris Paul, who plays the title role. "I also found out the original British stage production was eight hours long, so obviously we had to do some trimming."

The play is based on Dickens' third novel, which tells the story of a young man dealing with the sudden death of his father, trying to keep his family afloat and deal with an uncle that hates him and a sadistic schoolmaster.

"It's a very multifaceted role, a lot of the character involves putting on a façade and trying to lead his family at the same time," Paul said. "He's a very head-strong character, and I had fun staying angry for so long onstage."

Senior Trevor Coar plays Uncle Ralph, the main antagonist in the play.

"I know it sounds weird, but I've always wanted to play an evil uncle. Chris is one of my good friends, so it was even more fun to sit up there and glare at each other," he said. "My final scene was probably my favorite, a big monologue leading up to a big dramatic finish, which I've always wanted to do."

LIKE MANY DICKENS STORIES, males dominate much of the story. Kirsta Hackmeier, a sophomore, plays Kate Nickleby, the younger sister.

"It was a little scary at first, but interesting, because as a female I've got to play off a stage full of guys, but she also stands out more in scenes and really makes an impact," she said. "She's supposed to be strong, but quiet, submissive but rebellious, which is difficult to show onstage."

Hackmeier said she especially enjoyed a scene when Kate fends off a male attacker.

"That wasn't something that was too common in the time the story was written, but it was good to be able to show some strength and fight the attacker off," she said.

Showtimes

Langley High School will present "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby" from Thursday, April 18, through Saturday, April 20, with shows at 7:30 p.m. each night. All shows will take place at the Langley High School Auditorium. More information and ticket purchasing information can be found at www.saxonstage.com.

The students present the play in highly narrative form, meaning the background players take turns narrating the actions onstage, with actor's dialogue filling in the spaces.

"It's a really interesting way to present a play, but it's definitely not easy," Cour said. "But I like how it incorporates a lot of people, and when it all comes together, it comes across well."

Stage manager Shannon Keene, a senior, said the challenge gives the play a unique presentation.

"There's always something going on, but that also makes it tough to keep track of, because we need every single person onstage to be in the right place and know which part of the narration they'll be reading," she said. "It moves very fast, there are no breaks."

While much of the play is dark in subject matter, the actors said they did have fun during a part of the play when characters put on a comically bad rendition of "Romeo and Juliet."

"Putting on the production of 'Romeo and Juliet' was a lot of fun, because that was our fall show, and after spending so much time trying to turn that into a great show, this was one where we had to make it as terrible as possible," Paul said. "It was especially fun for me, because I play Romeo in both productions."

Sophomore Andrew Rhee plays Vincent Crummels, the head of the theater company.

"I like being the comedic one that brings some lightness to the play. I think the role has a universal appeal, with a lot of loud histrionics and pushing other actors around," he said. "Everyone knows somebody like that, and by that point in the play the audience is looking for some comic relief."

The students will also take away about half of the Langley auditorium's 800 seats to create a more intimate environment.

THE STAGE is made up into a series of elevated platforms, each at a different height and each becoming a self-contained location during the play that can be vastly separate than the other levels, even within the same scene.

"By shrinking the auditorium, the audience will be connecting a lot better with the actors and much closer to what's going on," said senior Alex Swann, the tech director. "With the different levels, there are a lot of scenes within scenes, and the end result is a very dynamic show."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

MCC Director of Special Events Sam Roberts, 2012 H. Gordon Randall Outstanding Volunteer Award winner David Sanders, Old Firehouse Teen Center volunteer Craig McKenzie, MCC Executive Director George Sachs and MCC Governing Board Chair Kevin Dent.

Outstanding Volunteer McLean Community Center honors David Sanders.

The McLean Community Center's (MCC) ninth annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception was held on Sunday, March 24, in the Community Hall. The theme was "Aloha" and center volunteers were treated to a catered lunch by Makakoa Catering and live music by The Aloha Boys. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

The 2012 H. Gordon Randall Outstanding Volunteer award was presented to David Sanders for his volunteer contributions to the center. MCC Special Events Director Sam Roberts and MCC Governing Board Chair Kevin Dent presented the award.

More than 30 years ago, David Sanders began to work as a volunteer for the center. In 1976, Sanders first ran for and won a seat on the MCC Governing Board, while he was a student at McLean High School and only one year after the center was opened. Sanders was active in making the Old Firehouse Teen Center a reality, taking it from a meeting room at the center to Redeemer Lutheran Church, and finally in the 1990s, to the Old Firehouse on Chain Bridge Road. In total, Sanders has served seven terms on the MCC Governing Board, for a total of 19 years of service. In 2010, in conjunction with the center's 35th anniversary, he crafted a proclamation on McLean's Centennial, which was adopted by the board. A plaque with the proclamation is mounted at the entrance to the center.

In his acceptance speech, Sanders thanked his wife Kathie

'PROCEED TO IMPROV' AT TEEN CENTER

On Thursday evenings, April 11, May 9 and June 13, from 7-9 p.m. The Alden Hosts "Code 20: Proceed to Improv," evenings of improv, comedy and music at The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road in McLean.

Studio Rep, the only professional teen repertory company in the McLean area, hosts this ongoing event where high school students and adults can come to watch and join in improv comedy games, perform at an open mic and be entertained by some of Washington's best professional improv teams.

For more information, contact The Alden's Performing Arts Assistant Jeff Virchow at 703-744-9353 or jeffrey.virchow@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit the website: <http://bit.ly/14Tgz52>.

and son Donny for "sharing" him with the community by allowing him the time needed to work on the board.

In addition, the staff of the Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC) made a special presentation during the reception. Youth/Family Programs Director Ryan Brookes and Camp and Youth Programs Specialist Michael Fisher announced the establishment of the Craig McKenzie Legacy Award. Named in honor of long-time center volunteer Craig McKenzie, the award will recognize teens that make outstanding contributions to OFTC and the community. Brookes and Fisher presented McKenzie with a framed copy of a proclamation on the establishment of the award.

For more information, call the center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit <http://bit.ly/14KOjRW>.

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, McLean Citizens Association President Sally Horn, Dranesville School Board Representative Janie Strauss, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Marty Smith, Cluster I assistant superintendent, speak to parents at McLean High School Monday, April 8.

Parents Sound Off on School Issues

McLean Citizens Association hosts education discussion at McLean High School.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Parents from around the McLean and Langley High School pyramids gathered at McLean High Monday, April 8, to participate in an education forum hosted by the McLean Citizens Association. Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Dranesville district school board representative Janie

Strauss and Cluster I Assistant Superintendent Marty Smith spoke to parents about the current and future states of Fairfax County Public Schools.

The schools will have a \$2.5 billion operating budget as currently proposed for FY2014, a 2.17 percent increase over the FY2013 budget. With a projection of 184,393 students in FY2014, that averages out to \$13,680 per pupil.

"Student populations are continuing to increase. Our projections are, by the beginning of next year, we'll have 15,000 more kids than we did at the beginning of the recession," Strauss said. "That's the equivalent of six or seven high schools or 15 elementary schools."

SEE CLASS, PAGE 19

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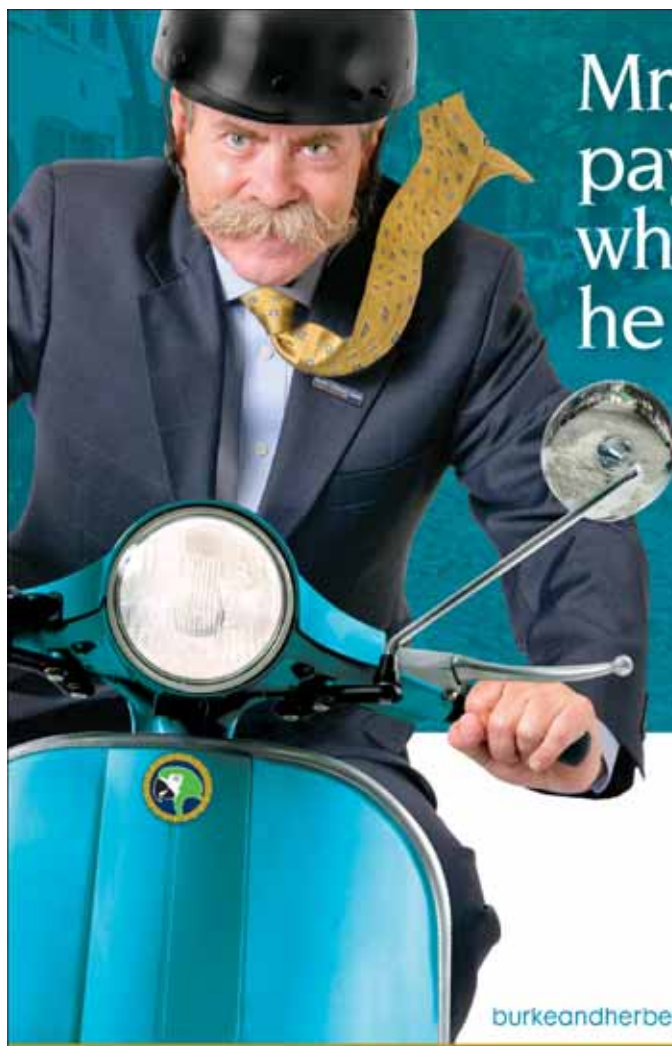
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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/APRIL 11

UPS Store Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting. 9 a.m.-7 p.m., 12:20 p.m. Ribbon Cutting, at The UPS Store, No. 6306, 8300 Greensboro Drive, McLean. Food and entertainment surround the ribbon cutting at the new store owned by Peter Huang. 703-992-9020 or www.theupsstorelocal.com/6306.
ESL Registration. 7 p.m., at the St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Register and get tested for class placement;

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

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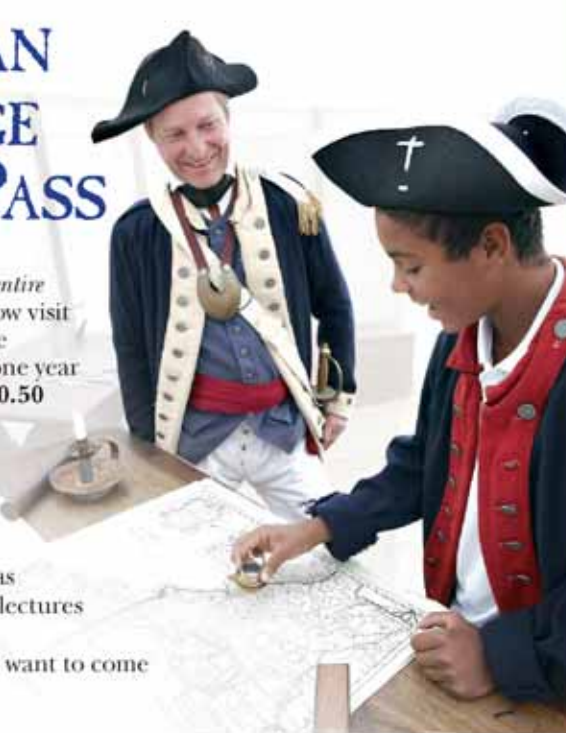
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THE COUNTY LINE



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN HAYES/THE CONNECTION



Aubrey Beasley, 4, dances with her mom, Jessica Tadlock of Fairfax, during the M CCP “Dress Up with Grown-ups Gala,” held Saturday, April 6, at the Mason Inn on the Campus of George Mason University.

Dr. Tehreem Butt, who started Family Dentistry of Fairfax in 2008, received the Dr. Jorge Arnoldson Award for his “compassion and willingness to provide free dental services to children in need.” He attended the gala with his wife and children. (From left) Amna Tehreem, a student at George Mason University, Dr. Tehreem Butt, wife Naima Tehreem, Labibah Tehreem, a sophomore at Centreville High School, and Zukhruf, 14, a freshman at CHS.

Children ‘Dress Up With Grown-ups’

Medical Care for Children Partnerships funds medical, dental care for children of uninsured working families in Fairfax County.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Men donned tuxedos; women wore glittering formal dresses, and children dressed in their co-tillion finest.

But stuffiness was not invited to this black-tie gala.

As MC Andrew laid down hip-hop, old school and swinging Sinatra tunes, dozens of children and their parents danced and partied at the annual “Dress Up with Grown-ups Gala,” hosted by the Medical Care for Children Partnerships (MCCP) at the Mason Inn Saturday night, April 6.

Former Redskin player Charles Mann, the master of ceremonies, and Dr. Angel Cabrera, president of George Mason University, welcomed 250 guests to the annual fundraiser, which included many Northern Virginia business leaders and local legislators.

“Children’s health is our mission, and children are a special part of our celebration tonight,” said Alan Harbitter, president of the MCCP Foundation Board of Directors.

“We really want everyone to have a fun and memorable time.”

Judging from the laughter and smiles on the dance floor, they did.

Although the gala was a child-centered celebration—featuring a magician, caricaturist and fire truck—the MCCP Foundation has a serious mission.

THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP funds healthcare for the children of uninsured working families in Fairfax County. MCCP-eligible children, many of whom are immigrants, have working parents who don’t have access to health insurance and whose incomes are too high for Medicaid but too low for adequate, regular healthcare. For a family of four in Fairfax County, the annual income level cut-off is about \$55,000, said MCCP Executive Director Margery Leveen Sher.

“We want these children to have the care that any other child has,” Sher said. “It’s a great cost savings for the community, because without MCCP, they would go to the emergency room, and probably be a lot sicker and need more care. We are often the last safety net.”

Sher said the nonprofit foundation currently provides medical and dental care to approximately 2,500 uninsured children in low-income families in Fairfax County, and last year spent \$172,000 on children’s dental care alone. She said approximately \$600 covers the dental care needs for one child, and estimates about 9,000 children need the help of MCCP.

The MCCP Foundation also marked a milestone at the gala: providing \$1 million in healthcare costs to Fairfax County’s children of low income, uninsured families.

“I like the combination of corporations, healthcare providers and public entities coming together to provide a leveraged model for taking care of the healthcare needs of Fairfax County’s working poor. ... It’s an enriching, rewarding, innovative organization,” MCCP Foundation board member Harry Klaff said.

Partners of MCCP include Fairfax County government, corporations and individual financial supporters. Kaiser Permanente and 300 doctors and dentists provide low or no-cost care to MCCP children. Sher said Fairfax County provides case management for families, and support that includes transportation, language assistance and help accessing specialty care.

“MCCP is a unique partnership between healthcare service providers, like Kaiser Permanente, the county and the foundation that

fills a critical need in our county—health and dental care for children that would not otherwise have access to it,” said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who attended the event with his wife Nancy.

Herrity said MCCP “has a special place in my heart” because of his father’s involvement in its formation more than 25 years ago. “It is a great example of personal and corporate responsibility and giving.”

ONE OF THE EVENING’S HIGHLIGHTS was the presentation of the Dr. Jorge Arnoldson memorial award. Arnoldson, a pediatrician who passed away in 2009, was one of the original doctors of the MCCP program in 1988. The award is given to a person who embodies Dr. Arnoldson’s credo that “giving is a matter of conscience.”

Dr. Tehreem Butt, of Fairfax Family Dentistry, received the award.

“Dr. Butt has provided a welcoming dental home to our children for many years, and he is always willing to provide care in an emergency,” Harbitter said. “He always treats our children just like other patients in his practice, with kindness and compassion.”

“I like to see children smile,” Butt said as he accepted his award. “I want to help them stay out of pain. When they come to my office, sometimes they are kicking and screaming, but they leave happy. That’s the best part of my profession.”

Born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan, Butt attended dentistry school at the Nishtar Medical College in Multan. In 1986, he emigrated to the United States and completed a two-year dental program at New York University. In 2007, he and his family moved to Centreville, and he opened his Fairfax practice in 2008.

“Since then I have had the pleasure of treating children referred by MCCP. This experience has given a totally new meaning to my dental profession,” Butt said. “To me, children are the most beautiful creatures of God and there is nothing comparable to being able to give them a healthy and happy smile.”

Event sponsors included: Kaiser Permanente, Jones Lang LaSalle, Quest Diagnostics, INOVA, ICF International, Reston Hospital Center, and CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

To find out more about MCCP and how to support it, visit mccpfoundation.org.

OPINION

Voting Again

Every year is election year in Virginia, and it's a bit much.

The most hotly contested race for statewide office in Virginia, the Republican contest for lieutenant governor, will be decided at a statewide convention on May 18. That's about a month from now.

A statewide Democratic primary will take place June 11.

On Nov. 5, all eyes will turn to Virginia to follow the conclusion of a fascinating race for governor. Democrat Terry McAuliffe will face Republican Ken Cuccinelli in a contest that will appeal to more conservative Republicans and more liberal Democrats.

The race will feature massive efforts to turn out the vote. Mailboxes will fill up with glossy mailers. Airwaves will no doubt reflect the election.

Wait, didn't we just do this?

Yes, but in 2013, Virginia will choose governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and all 100 members of the House of Delegates. Arlington voters will also elect one member to the county board and one member to the school board. City of Alexandria voters will also elect a commonwealth's attorney and sheriff.

And it won't be simple.

Right now it appears that there are seven Republican candidates, two Democratic candidates and an Independent Green candidate running for lieutenant governor.

Republicans will choose from their seven candidates at a statewide convention on May

18. Here are the names of the seven: Jeannemarie Devolites Davis (R), former state senator and wife of former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis; E.W. Jackson Sr. (R); L. Scott Lingamfelter (R), state delegate; Steve Martin (R), state senator; Jeff McWaters (R), state senator; Pete Snyder (R); Corey Stewart (R), Prince William County Board chair, and Susan Stimpson (R), Stafford County Board chair.

Democrats will choose a candidate for lieutenant governor in the statewide primary on June 11; candidates are Aneesh Chopra (D) and state Sen. Ralph Northam (D).

EDITORIAL

Two Republicans and two Democrats appear to be running for attorney general: Democrats Justin Fairfax and state Sen. Mark Herring would face off in

the June 11 primary. Republicans would choose between candidates Del. Rob Bell (R) and state Sen. Mark Obenshain (R) at the state-wide convention May 18.

Town of Vienna voters will elect three members of its town council on May 7.

Virginia has a General Election every year on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November; that's Nov. 5, this year. Federal offices are elected in even-numbered years. State and local offices are elected in odd-numbered years. If primaries are called by the political parties, they are held on the second Tuesday in June; that's June 11, this year.

This is a formula for election fatigue, alternating record voter turnout with tepid voter

turnout. Realigning Virginia's election calendar so that the critical statewide races took place in presidential election years would increase voter participation, although this change is not simple and not likely.

The Virginia General Assembly voted this year to impose much more stringent voter identification requirements starting in July 2014, an unnecessary step that suppresses the votes of poor, elderly and minority voters. Instead, they should fund an annual mailing to all registered voters that summarizes what and who will be on the ballot. This would increase the integrity of elections, giving all voters a chance to arrive at the polls informed and engaged.

Here are some good sources for information on upcoming elections:

Virginia State Board of Elections, <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/>.

Virginia Public Access Project, <http://www.vpap.org/candidates?display=state>.

Fairfax County Board of Elections, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/ecalendar.htm>.

Alexandria Board of Elections, <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections>.

Arlington Board of Elections, <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>.

— MARY KIMM,

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alarmed by School Names

To the Editor:

Am I the only one alarmed by the presence of high schools named after confederate leaders? After our nation's long and divisive war, symbols of bigotry abound; this, however, is only amplified as a problem when the symbol is a high school.

To be clear, the "War of Northern Aggression" (as it is ridiculously called in some areas), and Virginia's part in it, are things to be ashamed of, not to glorify. Forcibly legitimizing treasonous villains, and allowing our children to be the recipient of our preposter-

ous revisionism is wrong.

For example: The following high schools should be changing their names immediately:

Robert E Lee High School
JEB Stuart High School
Fairfax High School (Rebels)
Stonewall Jackson High School

To erroneously fight your country is wrong. To erroneously fight your country for your right to enslave is worse. To glorify those who have erroneously fought their country for their right to enslave is the worst thing we could be doing.

Kiran Hampton
Great Falls

A Photo ID: Victory for Voters

To the Editor:

The voters of Virginia won a great victory when Governor McDonnell signed SB 1256, which changes Virginia's law to require a recent photo ID as the only acceptable identification for voting. Thus, a positive identification can now be made with a visual check to verify that the person coming to vote is actually who he claims to be. The existing law allows a number of passive identifiers such as a voter registration card or even a utility bill which proves nothing other than that the person has in his possession a piece of paper with a name and address on it. The person's identity is not verified.

Voters across the commonwealth now can be assured that their individual vote will not be nullified by a fraudulent vote. Opponents of this bill will argue that there is no evidence of fraudulent voting and thus SB 1256 attempts to solve a problem that does not exist. However, when non-verifiable identification is al-

lowed, it is virtually impossible to identify and convict fraudulent voters except in the most flagrant of cases where multiple votes are proven to be cast by a single voter or where the person attempting to vote is clearly known not to be the voter listed in the registration book.

Photo identification has become a necessary requirement for many of our routine daily activities. Yet, somehow opponents of this bill believe that proving our identity to exercise our constitutional right to vote is less important than proving our identity before boarding an airplane or cashing a check at a bank or donating blood. Since the new law provides for free photo IDs to be issued to those few without one, it is meaningless to claim that requiring a photo ID for voting will disenfranchise various groups such as the poor, the elderly and minority groups. In fact, studies from other states have shown just the opposite result. Voter registration and turnout have actually increased within these groups after enactment of a photo ID law.

Anne Damon
Fairfax

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

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HomeLifeStyle

Virginia Historic Garden Week Celebrates 80th Anniversary

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Virginia will be in bloom later this month when more than 250 of the state's picturesque gardens, homes and historic landmarks open to the public for Historic Garden Week. The statewide event, which is in its 80th year and runs April 20-27, includes sites in Alexandria and Fairfax Counties.

"Virginia is especially beautiful during Historic Garden Week," said Lynn McCashin, executive director of the Garden Club of Virginia, which sponsors the statewide house and garden tour. "Every year is different, and this one is extra special because of the anniversary."

Karen Cauthen Miller, Historic Garden Week state director, says the event will feature approximately 32 separate tours throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The event raises money to restore and preserve Virginia's historic landmarks.



Historic Garden Week is scheduled for April 20-27 and will include sites in Alexandria and Fairfax Counties.

"Historic Garden Week has transformed the landscape of Virginia over its 80-year history. It's really an incredible accomplishment," said Miller. "One-hundred percent of proceeds go to the restoration and preservation of the state's most important public properties. The list is a

who's who of any place your kids would visit on a school fieldtrip. We restored the Bowling Green at Mount Vernon with funding from the Historic Garden Week, for example."

Miller added that Historic Garden Week is the largest ongoing volunteer effort in

Celebration raises money to restore and preserve Virginia's historic landmarks.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

Virginia and is put on by 3,400 volunteers who work year-round.

"The restorations are of such a scale that they require the combined efforts of all 47 clubs that make up the Garden Club of Virginia. In Northern Virginia alone, the projects that have benefited from Historic Garden Week include Mount Vernon and Green Springs, the state's only Beatrix Farrand garden," said Anne Geddy Cross, chairwoman of Historic Garden Week.

There are 78 special events throughout the commonwealth of Virginia planned during the weeklong celebration. In Alexandria, for example, those who

purchase tickets to the Old Town Alexandria tour will also have admission fees to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens waived on April 20.

Ticket prices for Historic Garden Week vary. For a tour schedule and ticket information, visit www.vagardenweek.org.

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Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

February, 2013 Top Sales in Great Falls, McLean, Reston, Herndon, Oakton and Vienna



1 9697 Mill Ridge Lane, Great Falls — \$3,022,457



6 1200 Ballantrae Lane, McLean — \$2,000,000



2 1200 Carol Raye Street, McLean — \$2,270,000



12 3228 Navy Drive, Herndon — \$920,000



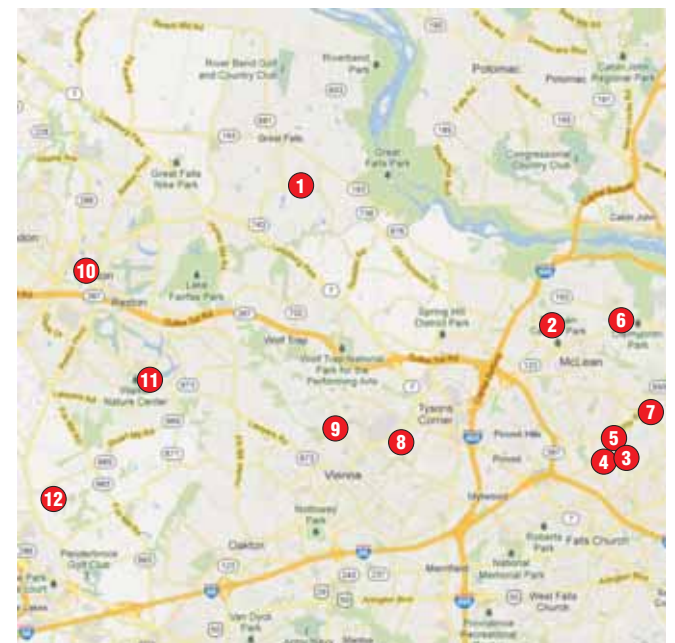
8 1006 Polly Street SE, Vienna — \$1,400,000



11 2260 Compass Point Lane, Reston — \$1,089,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 9697 MILL RIDGE LN	5	5	1	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$3,022,457	Detached	2.62	22066	LANE AT FOUR STAIRS	02/08/13
2 1200 CAROL RAYE ST	5	5	1	...	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,270,000	Detached	0.50	22101	HANSBOROUGH	02/04/13
3 2109 VIRGINIA AVE	6	6	1	...	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,245,000	Detached	0.40	22101	FRANKLIN PARK	02/28/13
4 2119 ELLIOTT AVE	7	6	1	...	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,100,000	Detached	0.49	22101	FRANKLIN PARK	02/14/13
5 1928 MACARTHUR DR	6	4	1	...	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,065,000	Detached	0.48	22101	KENBARGAN	02/08/13
6 1200 BALLANTRAE LN	5	6	1	...	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,000,000	Detached	2.04	22101	BALLANTRAE FARMS	02/19/13
7 10692 CHESTERWOOD GLEN LN	5	4	2	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,925,000	Detached	1.76	22066	CHESTERWOOD ESTATES	02/28/13
8 1006 POLLY ST SE	5	3	1	...	VIENNA	.....	\$1,400,000	Detached	0.39	22180	FAIRWAY MANOR ESTATES	02/28/13
9 601 MCKINLEY ST NE	5	4	1	...	VIENNA	.....	\$1,390,035	Detached	0.29	22180	AYR HILL HEIGHTS	02/15/13
10 11990 MARKET ST #1804	3	2	1	...	RESTON	.....	\$1,160,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		20190	MIDTOWN@RESTON TOWN CTR	02/18/13
11 2260 COMPASS POINT LN	3	2	1	...	RESTON	.....	\$1,089,000	Detached	0.30	20191	RESTON	02/21/13
12 3228 NAVY DR	5	5	0	...	HERNDON	\$920,000	Detached	0.70	20171	DARTMOOR WOODS	02/28/13

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© Google Map data

McLean Kitchen And Garden Tour Planned for May 1st

On Wednesday, May 1 (rain date: May 2), the Woman's Club of McLean will mount the community's first Kitchen and Garden Tour. The hours of the tour will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Set in Countryside Estates in west McLean (the same area that was featured in the club's 2010 Holiday Homes Tour), the event will focus on the kitchens and gardens of six large homes situated on one-acre lots.

Each lot has enough space, often in front as well as in back, for extensive gardens, along with decorative arbors, borders and winding paths; small and large pools; patios; and decks. In many cases, professional landscapers have helped to design the layout and content of the gardens. The tour booklet will list in detail the varieties of plants, shrubs and trees present, as well as other landscape features. The Countryside area is known as one of the most beautiful neighborhoods of McLean when the gardens are in bloom.

The tour houses are located on Holyrood Drive and Countryside Court, near Balls Hill Road and Georgetown Pike. Woman's Club organizers hope that the closeness of the area to the Beltway (Exit 44) will make it easily accessible. Parking will be available on the street.

Tickets for the Kitchen and Garden Tour will be \$25 if purchased before the day of the tour and \$30 if purchased on the tour day. Tickets are for sale at three local businesses: Flowers and Plants, Etc. (1378 Chain Bridge Road, McLean), Karin's Florist of Vienna (527 Maple Ave., E., Vienna) and Great Dogs of Great Falls (9859 Georgetown Pike), in addition to Vinson Hall Retirement Community (6521 Old Dominion Drive, McLean). On the day of the tour, tickets will also be available at the tour houses.

All proceeds of the tour will go to the Wounded Warrior Transitional Housing Project at McLean's Vinson Hall Retirement Community. For more information, contact a McLean Woman's Club member at 703-556-0197 or sheridan2@cox.net.

—LAURA SHERIDAN

OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 13 & 14

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

Centreville			
14177 Royal Oak Ln.....	\$299,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Janice Farr.....Samson Props..703-618-8358
Chantilly			
42344 Astors Beachwood.....	\$800,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662
13425 Melville Ln.....	\$574,500.....	SUN 1-4.....	Barbara Blumer.....Coldwell Banker..703-405-5993
Clifton			
12130 Sangsters Ct.....	\$1,425,000.....	Sun 12-3.....	Leslie Thurman.....Long & Foster..703-895-6000
6817 Compton Heights Cir.....	\$619,900.....	Sun 2-4.....	Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365
Fairfax			
3783 Penderwood Dr.....	\$959,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Bill Hoffman.....Keller Williams..703-309-2205
Fairfax Station			
8309 Crestridge Rd.....	\$1,495,000.....	Sun 2-4.....	Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365
6205 Simpson Patent Ct.....	\$710,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986
Great Falls			
10906 Great Point Ct.....	\$1,400,000.....	Sat 12-3.....	Leslie Thurman.....Long & Foster..703-895-6000
1003 Riva Ridge Dr.....	\$774,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Christine Richardson.....Weichert..703-231-1812
10001 High Hill Pl.....	TBA.....	Sun 1-4.....	Carol Ellickson/Molly Decker.....Weichert..703-862-2135
Herndon			
2612 Litchfield Dr.....	\$509,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Mike Lefevre.....Weichert..571-228-5050
1106 Treese Ln.....	\$449,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Mary Miceli.....Long & Foster..703-362-2242
2534 James Madison Cir.....	\$445,000.....	Sat 1-4.....	Dean Moore.....Samson Props..571-278-9161
12913 Alton Sq.....	\$1,600 per month.....	Sun 1-4.....	Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662
Franconia/Kingstowne			
6304 Walkers Croft Way.....	\$439,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Jim Souvaxis.....Long & Foster..703-919-9191
Oakton			
3702 Waples Crest Ct.....	\$1,899,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Brenda Davis.....Weichert..703-938-6070
Reston			
2054 Swans Neck Way.....	Call Agent.....	Sun 1-4.....	Anne Lefevre.....Weichert..703-402-7595
Sterling			
21211 Edgewood.....	\$689,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Mary Miceli.....Long & Foster..703-362-2242
Vienna			
9860 Palace Green Way.....	\$1,199,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Dean Yeonas.....Yeonas & Shafran..703-790-3330
402 Meadow Ln SW.....	\$1,175,000.....	Sun 12-3.....	Casey Samson.....Samson Props..703-508-2535
1908 Aubrey Place Ct.....	\$759,900.....	Sun 11-2.....	Debbie Kent.....Cottage Street..703-740-7654

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Trisha at 703-778-9419, or trisha@connectionnewspapers.com. All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

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FROM PAGE 5

classes will meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings beginning April 16. 703-300-3936 for English or Spanish; 703-505-0123 for Korean; or 703-237-0085 or st.mark.esl@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

Entrepreneurs Panel. 8:30- 10:30 a.m., at the Wolf Trap Education Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. A panel of entrepreneur CEOs discuss the latest innovations, trends and developments in entrepreneurship focusing on Northern Virginia. 703-425-9225 or jmitulla@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Annual Great Falls Stream

Cleanup. 9 a.m.-noon, at Difficult Run from Colvin Run to the Potomac, meet at 8801 Georgetown Pike or on Leigh Mill at Ramey's Meadow, Great Falls. Bring workgloves and work to the restore the natural beauty of the Difficult Run stream; service hours for students are available and bags are provided. RSVP. 703-628-6983, smkoch@aol.com or bcanis@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

Literacy Means Business. 7:30-9:30 a.m., at Gannett/USA Today

Headquarters, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. A 90-minute forum beginning with a report from the Commonwealth Institute on the state of Northern Virginia's workforce followed by a panel discussion on literacy and STEM. Register. www.lcnv.org/registration.

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 www.fairfaxcasa.org.

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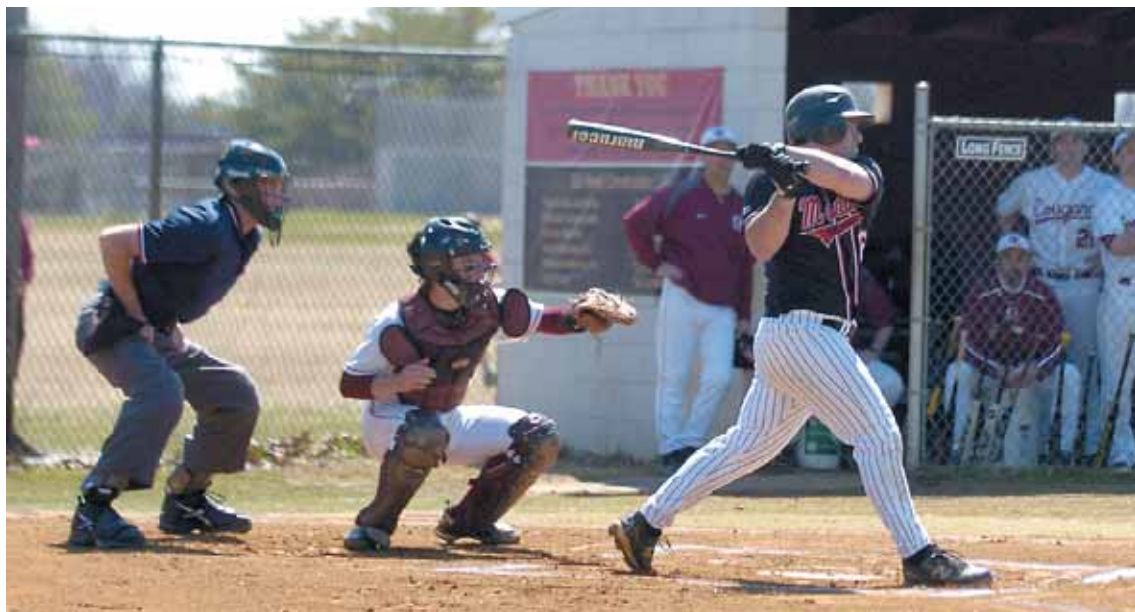
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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Madison right fielder Ben Socher had a double and a two-run homer against Oakton on Saturday, April 6.

Madison Wins Battle of Vienna

Warhawks overcome three-run deficit to beat Oakton.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Oakton baseball team started strong on a sunny Saturday afternoon, April 6, scoring three runs in the first inning. But while the Cougars came out with a bang, it was a blast by Madison senior Ben Socher that put the finishing touch on a lopsided Warhawks victory.

Socher launched a two-run homer in the top of the seventh inning, putting an exclamation point on an 11-3 Madison victory during the battle of Vienna at Oakton High School. The Cougars came into the contest undefeated and ranked No. 4 in the Northern Region, but failed to hold a 3-0 lead as the No. 1 Warhawks came storming back.

"We knew Oakton was hot coming into this game being undefeated," Socher said, "but we knew if we just kept at it, kept with our hitting approach at the plate, kept playing defense, we'd be fine."

Madison improved to 9-1, earning its ninth straight win after dropping its season opener to Fairfax on March 20. The Warhawks took the lead for good with four runs in the third inning, including a two-run single by third baseman Dan Powers.

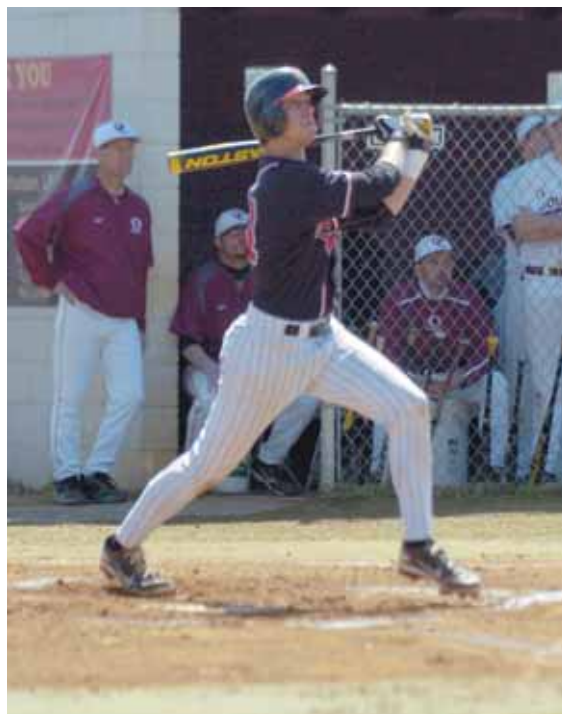
"We know they're a good team, but this is always a fun game to play," Powers said. "Everyone's grown up in Vienna and we know all the guys on that team. It's just a fun game to play."

Madison added three runs in the fourth, including a two-run single by designated hitter Michael Nielsen, who finished with two hits. Socher, Powers, shortstop Andy McGuire and first baseman Patrick Eason also had two hits.

Oakton suffered its first loss after a 7-0 start.

"[Madison] answered back, they did what they needed to do and then we just couldn't get it going again," Oakton head coach Justin Janis said. "... We need to take the right lessons from it. We need to learn how to respond when things aren't going our way."

Third baseman Dale Good had two hits and an RBI for Oakton. Shortstop Mitchell Carroll had a two-



Dan Powers and the Madison baseball team beat Oakton 11-3 on Saturday, April 6.

run double.

"We have 10 [Concorde District] games coming up," Good said, "and we have to realize this game doesn't mean anything for that part of our season."

Sophomore Brian Eckert started on the mound for Madison and pitched three innings, allowing three earned runs. Junior Nick Brady pitched three-and-a-half perfect innings of relief before sophomore John DeFazio got the final two outs.

"This one's for pride," Madison head coach Mark Gjormand said. "... It's good for the school, good for the community, good for the region."

Madison remained No. 1 in this week's edition of the Northern Region coaches poll. The Warhawks hosted Langley on Tuesday, April 9, after The Connection's deadline. Madison will host McLean at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12.

Oakton moved up to No. 3 in the poll. The Cougars hosted Herndon on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Oakton will host Chantilly at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Hunter Yates (35), seen against Robinson earlier this season, and the Langley boys' lacrosse team defeated McLean on April 5.

Langley Boys' Lax Edges McLean

The Langley boys' lacrosse team beat rival McLean 10-9 on April 5.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Weston Simonides, Luke Salzer and Brian Ochoa each scored two goals for the Saxons. Robbie Byrne, Will Carbaugh, Brad Dotson and J.T. Meyer each scored one.

The win improved Langley's record to 4-3, including 1-0 in the Liberty District. McLean defeated Thomas Jefferson 14-5 on Monday, improving the Highlanders to 3-2, including 1-1 in the district.

Langley, the four-time defending state champion, will travel to face Madison at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, April 12. McLean will host Washington-Lee at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10.

Langley Girls' Lax Beats McLean

After two weeks off, the Langley girls' lacrosse team returned to action with a pair of victories, beating McLean 13-11 on April 5 and Annapolis 9-8 on April 8.

Langley improved to 3-2, including 1-0 in the Liberty District. The Saxons will host Madison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12.

McLean dropped to 2-3, including 1-1 in the district. The Highlanders will travel to face Washington-Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 10.

Langley, McLean Baseball Teams Remain in Top 10

After making its debut in the Northern Region top 10 last week, the Langley baseball team moved from No. 10 to No. 8 in this week's coaches poll. McLean dropped from No. 6 to No. 10.

Madison remained at No. 1 and Lake Braddock held onto the No. 2 spot. Oakton is ranked No. 3, followed by Robinson (4), West Potomac (5), Chantilly (6), Herndon (7), Langley, Centreville (9) and McLean.

The Concorde District has five teams in the top 10, the most of any district. The Liberty has three teams and the Patriot has two.

Stone Bridge, Yorktown, West Springfield, T.C. Williams, South County and Fairfax also received votes.

Madison Girls' Lax Beats Marshall

The Madison girls' lacrosse team bounced back from its first loss of the season with a 24-10 victory over Marshall on April 5.

Senior Melissa Kellan led the way for Madison with seven goals and two assists, including a stretch of four consecutive goals in the second half. Kierra Sweeney and Alex Condon each scored four goals for the Warhawks. Katie Kerrigan, Erin Callahan and Madison Renshaw each scored two goals.

Goalkeeper Sigourney Heerink had nine saves.

Madison, which won the Liberty District title last season, improved to 4-1. The Warhawks opened the season with three straight wins before losing to New Jersey's Westfield High School in Hilton Head, S.C.

The Warhawks will travel to face Langley at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 12.

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McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales

1ST QTR. 2012 COMPARED TO 1ST QTR. 2013

(Based on Final Closed Price)

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$750k~ \$1.25 Mil.	<\$750k
1ST QTR. 2012					
22101	1	8	21	21	30
22102	2	5	9	13	34
22066	2	1	10	15	14
Total	5	14	59	49	78
Combined Total		59			127

ALL SALES 1ST QTR. 2012: 186

1ST QTR. 2013					
22101	3	9	17	25	12
22102	3	1	13	12	44
22066	4	0	14	22	11
Total	10	10	44	59	77
Combined Total		64			136

ALL SALES 1ST QTR. 2013: 200

A Very Good Year

2013 starts on a high note for real estate in McLean and Great Falls: first quarter sales are up 7.5 percent.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The first quarter 2013 numbers are in and the number of sales are up over the same time period in 2012 in McLean and Great Falls by 7.5 percent. Delving deeper into the data, it reveals that all price points experienced a gain in number of sales in this market segment. In terms of my predictions for the rest of 2013, the biggest issues are related to supply versus demand in the various market segments.

In the under \$1.25 million market, there is a shortage of supply in both McLean and Great Falls. Currently in McLean and Great Falls there is a two to three month supply of properties available to purchase in the under \$1.25 million category. A balanced market is considered to be a six-month supply. With supply running at generally one-half of the demand, that is why we are experiencing multiple offers, escalation clauses and contingency-free contracts in this part of the market. This is a great time to be a seller in the under \$1.25 million price range in McLean and Great Falls. Good homes priced correctly for the current market are selling quickly and in some cases with multiple offers.

The upper bracket market segment is generally considered to be that of properties over \$1.25 million market. The good news is that part of the market is showing great signs of recovery as well. The in-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

side-the-beltway McLean (22101) upper bracket market has reached balanced conditions of approximately six-month supply of inventory. The outside-the-beltway McLean (22102) is still at approximately one-year supply and the Great Falls upper bracket market is still over one-year supply.

The typical interim between market cycles is seven years from peak to peak. The Northern Virginia area saw real estate values peak in 2005-2006. Therefore, my prediction for this area that values would return to market peak in some segments beginning in 2012 was right on target. Similar conditions are continuing to prevail, thus 2013 should be a very good year in real estate in McLean and Great Falls.

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WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

Looking (With Film). 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Longtime Northern Virginia photographer Jan Bender exhibits new work, different from her black-and-white landscapes seen in recent years. Using an old-fashioned camera with bellows, a dark cloth, and sheets of film, she isolates subjects on a white background by adjusting photographic lights; open daily through June. www.JanBenderPhotography.com.

THURSDAY/ APRIL 11

Code 20: Proceed to Improv. 7-9 p.m., at the Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Studio Rep, the only professional teen repertory company in the McLean area, hosts an ongoing event where high school students and adults can watch comedy, join in improv games, perform at an open mic and enjoy entertainment from some of Washington's best improv groups. 703-744-9353 or <http://bit.ly/14Tgz52>.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

Chili Cook-off. 5:30-8 p.m. at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. The owner of the crockpot with the best-tasting chili therein goes home with a prize. 703-938-9535.

Father/Daughter Luau Dance. 7-9 p.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Bring a father, grandfather, brother or uncle to share in the festival celebration featuring dancing, DJ, refreshments and a tropical souvenir; proceeds benefit the Marshall H.S. DECA marketing club trip to the international competition in Anaheim, Calif. \$25 per couple; \$8 for extra tickets. Register. jheiden@koonz.com.

MoveMENT: Christopher K. Morgan and Artists. 8 p.m., at the Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. As part of the Artist-in-Residence at the Alden program, choreographers and dancers bring athletic, contemporary dance; a collaboration between male choreographer and composer/cellist Ignacio Alcover perform with special guests. \$25; \$18, MCC residents. www.aldentheatre.org.

"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.1ststageinTysons.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Spring Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Thousands of used books from hardback fiction to non-fiction and everything in between at bottom dollar. 703-938-0405 or FPHL101@gmail.com.

"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.1ststageinTysons.org.

Tylan. 7 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Tylan, previously of folk-pop group



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Marshall to Present 'Legally Blond'

The GC Marshall HS Theater thespians are rehearsing for the musical *Legally Blond*, a family friendly fun musical that will be performed in the new Marshall High School Theater. The musical features live music and performances by the award winning GC Marshall thespians.

According to GC Marshall Theater Director Jason

Tamborini, "The music brings a new sense of life to the characters and really drives the message home. The message(s) being that you have to work hard in order to achieve what you truly want."

The performances: April 11 & 12 at 7:30 p.m.; April 13 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and April 14 at 2:30 p.m. To learn more, go to www.theatreatmarshall.org.

Girlyman, tours with her debut solo record, made in the year after losing her 16-year partner and fellow Girlyman member Doris Muramatsu to leukemia. www.jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

It's a Spring Thing. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society's annual spring show, judged by Jane McElvany Coonce, featuring original art in all media inspired by the season. The exhibition opens April 2 and closes April 27. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Spring Book Sale. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Choose from thousands of used books from hardback fiction to non-fiction and everything in between at bottom dollar; fill a bag with books for \$5. 703-938-0405 or FPHL101@gmail.com.

"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.1ststageinTysons.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 16

Tropical Paradise (in a Non-Tropical Climate). 9:45 a.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church on the lower level, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Five Hills Garden Club hosts Joe Seamon, aka Boca Joe, an exotic landscape designer, freelance writer, public personality and co-founder of the VA Palm Society. 703-988-9324.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

Sprays, Dusts, and Aerosols: A Chemical R/Evolution. 7-9 p.m., at McLean Project for the Arts, 1234

Ingleside Ave., McLean. MPA opens a new exhibition of sculptor David D'Orto and printmaker Nils Henrik Sundqvist where they present an alternative version of the world of the pesticides and attempts to control nature. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Art Opening Receptions. 7-9 p.m., at McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Drawings and portraits in Ousia: Drawings by Rula Jones on paper, executed with a surrealist edge are in the Atrium Gallery; Jessica van Brakle exhibits her delicate drawings of cranes and mechanical objects in landscape settings juxtaposing the natural and manmade in the Ramp Gallery. The exhibitions run through June 1. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Nation Building in Iraq: Lessons Learned? 7:30 p.m., at Neighbor's Restaurant in Cedar Lane Shopping Center, 262D Cedar Lane, Vienna. Harold Bonacquist shares, former foreign service officer in Iraq, shares his perspective of the U.S. extended effort to reconstruct Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom; open to the public. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

An Evening With Melissa

Manchester. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The pop icon sings romantic ballads with a powerful voice, featuring international hits like "Midnight Blue" and "Don't Cry Out Loud." \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 19

Paula Cole. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Singer/songwriter Paula Cole plays songs from her recently released album *Raven*, featuring poetic lyrics and a strong voice. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.



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The McLean Community Center
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www.aldentheatre.org



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NEWS

'Rumors' Arriving at the Alden

McLean Community Players are bringing "Rumors," a Neil Simon farce.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

The word farce conjures up frenetic energy, slamming doors, any number of wacky situations and characters to match. To rid audiences of any remaining winter blues or general funk, the McLean Community Players are bringing "Rumors," a Neil Simon farce about the upwardly mobile, professional classes to the Alden stage.

Director Rosemary Hartman noted that the comedy "is slightly different from most of Simon's works because it is a farce, giving the actors an opportunity to perform in a slightly more exaggerated form. It is real people who are caught up in a ridiculous situation that makes them behave in a ridiculous manner."

The basic set-up: four New York City couples find themselves in a rather messy situation that only gets worse with each passing mo-

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



Cookie Cusack (Joan Zeigler) and Ernie Cusack (Steven Rosenthal) on the floor looking for earrings in the McLean Community Players production of "Rumors."

ment. What was supposed to be a gathering to celebrate a 10th wedding anniversary goes quickly awry. This topsy-turvy, fleet comedy spins out of control into confusion, miscommunications and mis-directions with plenty of flirting, jealousy, gunshots, pratfalls, body spasms, difficulty hearing, and other tomfoolery for the audience to behold, along with some fast-talking adult language sprinkled throughout.

Hartman described the Simon script as "just good theater for the audience to sit back and enjoy." And along with the experience that comes with seeing a fast-paced farce "the audience will get to know the characters well. They are well-written, the play well-constructed."

Joan Zeigler and Steven Rosenthal will play "the Cusacks," one of the married couples in the production. Both have a long history with Simon plays. In a recent

interview both mentioned their own New York roots for their personal connections with Simon. In "Rumors" they are a couple late-arrivers to the party. He is a "wounded" psychologist and she is considered "eccentric." Somehow, they unexpectedly prepare the dinner party dinner.

Rosenthal noted that Simon would write his comedies by bringing out humor from the real life pain people can sometimes face. Zeigler spoke of the constant frenetic pace of the production.

Jina Ames, Shannon Benton, Michael Clendenin, Chuck Dluhy, Tom Flatt, Erin Gallalee, Ruth Neaveill, and Stephen Smith round out the 10-member cast.

Inviting the audience to the production, Hartman and her cast said, "this is a great show to get someone out of any funk winter has left or other things going on. There are plenty of belly laughs to go around."

Where and When

McLean Community Players present "Rumors" at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Performances: April 19-May 4, 2013. Friday and Saturday showings are at 8 p.m., and Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$14-\$16. For tickets call 866-811-4111 or visit www.mcleanplayers.org. Note: Contains adult language and is suitable for ages 15 and up.

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Parents speak to school and county administrators Monday, April 8, at McLean High School

Class Sizes a Concern

FROM PAGE 4

Foust said that making sure the schools are properly funded is one of the board's top priorities.

"We know keeping the schools at a top level is the right thing to do for the kids, but it's also the best thing we can possibly do for our local economy," Foust said. "The Economic Development Authority sells our public schools as their product. That's why people come here."

Strauss said the school is in the process of putting together a bond referendum for the fall, which will include money for many McLean-area school renovations.

"The renovation money for Langley High School will be there, the rest of the money for Haycock Elementary School, money for Forestville Elementary will be on the bond," she said. "We are in the process of putting out the construction contract for Thomas Jefferson. That bond money is there and we have advertised the contract. There will be many large construction projects going on next year involving the schools on this end of the county."

Strauss added that all new buildings will be constructed in such a way that they can be renovated from the interior before any new construction takes place.

She also said that, along with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the School Board is planning for more urban-style schools, with the first example being the new school that will be built in Tysons Corner.

CLASS SIZE in McLean-area schools was one of the chief concerns of parents at the meeting. The average class size for all FCPS elementary schools is 22.2 for kindergarten, 21.3 for first through third grade, 22.5 for fourth through sixth grade and 21.9 overall.

"We haven't had money to go back and undo the increases in class size, I think we can all agree it's optimal to be somewhere in the 21 to 22 range."

—Dranesville School Board Representative Janie Strauss

Most McLean schools exceed that by several students. Chesterbrook Elementary has an average size of 25.9, Churchill Road is 25, Colvin Run is 25.9, Franklin Sherman is 23.9, Haycock and Kent Gardens are at 24 and Spring Hill is at 25.7.

"We haven't had money to go back and undo the increases in class size, I think we can all agree it's optimal to be somewhere in the 21 to 22 range," Strauss said. "It's going to be about \$23 million to lower those class sizes, and we just don't have that."

The Federal Government provides \$18.5 million to reduce class size in 38 county elementary schools with low income students, and the state chips in another \$4.2 million to reduce kindergarten through third grade.

"I know there are many schools in the county that serve low income students and it's important to give those students opportunities to learn, but it's hard not to feel shortchanged when you see how our numbers stack up to just the county's averages," said Kevin Jones, a parent from McLean. "If we're way above the average then a lot of schools are probably below the average, and I'd like to see us get close to that median size."





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