

State Senator Janet Howell (D-32), left, with SafeSpot founding board members Bridget Rainey (center) and Bootsie Humenansky (right), both of Great Falls. Senator Howell, a long-time supporter of the children's advocacy center concept, spoke to the crowd of nearly 300 runners at the start of the race.

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From left, Stella Koch of Great Falls and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova at the annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Thursday, April 18, where Bulova presented Koch with a Community Champion award.



From left, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) names Bill Sudow of McLean the Dranesville Community Champion at the annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards.

Dranesville Volunteers Recognized

Bill Sudow, Stella Koch named Community Champions by supervisors.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Two Dranesville District residents were honored at the annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Thursday, April 18. The annual awards ceremony recognized individuals and groups across the county who dedicated their time to others.

"Volunteerism is very serious business. It makes a difference in the community, it is a statement of our values," said Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). "Fairfax County would not exist without volunteers, from the libraries to volunteer firefighters and auxiliary police and mentors, and everything in between. In honoring the people here today, we honor that incredible tradition of volunteerism that makes Fairfax County such a rich and caring community."

The 154 honorees at the ceremony performed a total of 150,224 hours over the past year, which equates to a donation \$3.2 million.

"Fairfax County is unique and does have a culture of volunteerism and a culture of engagement, that we take in Fairfax County to an art form," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the county's Board of Supervisors. "I think that's a sign of a very healthy and engaged community."

Each member of the Board of Supervisors named a "community champion," which recognizes volunteers who continuously work to further the quality of life for county residents.

Bulova named Great Falls resident Stella Koch as

her Community Champion. Koch has lived in Great Falls since 1984, and has been a constant environmental advocate throughout the county.

She serves on the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council, and founded the Fairfax League of Conservation Voters and the Fairfax Environmental Network.

"Stella personifies environmental leadership in Fairfax County," Bulova said. "She is extremely knowledgeable, hardworking and uses her skills to assist the board to realize the county's environmental vision."

Koch has also spearheaded several stream clean ups in the Great Falls area, and currently serves as co-chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association's environmental committee.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) named Bill Sudow, a McLean resident, as Dranesville's Community Champion. Sudow, an attorney, has served on the board of the McLean Revitalization Corporation for the past five years.

According to Foust's nomination, Sudow has "a special talent for getting things moving." The corporation is a nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing the downtown business area of McLean.

"Mr. Sudow used his dedication as well as his invaluable real estate and development experience to make things happen," the nomination reads. "Through his involvement with the McLean Revitalization Corporation, he has been instrumental in bringing about the McLean Utility Undergrounding project, which will ultimately result in putting utilities underground in the busiest intersection in downtown McLean this summer."

Sudow helped collect the required easements for the undergrounding project. He also represented the McLean Revitalization Corporation in helping the McLean Community Center search for a possible new downtown location.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Kaitlyn Arcari, Maggie Bellaschi, Lauren Markwart and Elizabeth Hoeymans, seventh graders at Cooper Middle School, try out the live Angry Birds game at the school's 50th anniversary Saturday, April 20.

Cooper Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Alumni, students come together to celebrate golden anniversary.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

James Fenimore Cooper Middle School opened its doors in the fall of 1962 and will wrap its 50th school year up in June. On Saturday, April 20, they welcomed back alumni, faculty, staff and administrators to look back on the school's history.

"I figured I might be the oldest alumni here when I realized the only people I recognized were the retired principles," said Douglas Goralski, who graduated Cooper in 1971.

Goralski had at least one classmate at the anniversary celebration Saturday, one who is still a part of the school's community. Eighth grade Assistant Principal Frank Stevens also graduated from Cooper in 1971.

"I think it's great that so many current students made the trip here today. Many of them are involved in sports and other activities today, but so many made time to stop by," he said. "I always tell the kids that some of the friends they'll have for the rest of their life can come from middle school. The best man and a groomsman at my wedding are guys I met here at Cooper, and they're my closest friends in the world."

Principal Arlene Randall said she learned a lot about the school's anecdotal history by talking to former administra-

tors and staff.

"I learned that years ago the faculty loved to play pranks on each other," she said. "I heard one story about a teacher who was waiting to hear the results on a test for a class she was taking, and other teachers conspired with her husband to put a fake notification in the mailbox."

Tracie Becker helped coordinate the celebration, and she credited the school's faculty and staff for their interest in celebrating the anniversary.

"We didn't want the celebration to be too taxing on school time and resources, but the staff and administration were a dream to work with," she said. "Their only concern was that everyone had a good time."

The day also featured the burial of a time capsule. Students planted a time capsule in the 70s, but it hasn't been found since then. This year, the school has taken measures to ensure this capsule can be found when needed.

"We joined the International Time Capsule society," Stevens said. "We give them the GPS coordinates of where we're planting the capsule, and they'll track it and give us updated coordinates every few years."

The capsule contained items such as CDs and cell phones, as well as copies of a survey filled out by students with their favorite movies, music, foods and books.

Autism Speaks Volumes for Student Volunteers

Fairfax County Public Schools use latest techniques to teach autistic students.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In many ways, the three best friends—Anna Kate Martin, Devin Martin and Sarah Carmen—are typical sixth-grade girls.

They listen to Taylor Swift, play soccer, and enjoy sleepovers and shopping.

They can tell you what's cool (Dance Moms) and what's so over (Gangnam Style).

But when most of their classmates at Oakton Elementary School are outside during recess, the girls are inside doing something not so typical: volunteering with the school's 20-plus autistic students.

"I love the kids. I love interacting with them and all the special bonds that we've formed," said Anna Kate Martin, who began working with autistic students when she was in the fourth grade. Devin Martin (no relation to Anna Kate) began working with autism students this year, and they recruited Carmen, a new OES student who previously attended Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna.

"When I first started volunteering, I was worried they wouldn't like me. But I'm happy they gave me a chance," Anna Kate said. "Now, when they see us, they smile and get excited, and it makes your day."

On April 2, OES participated in "Light It Up Blue Day," a national day of awareness and acceptance of people who are affected by "Autism Spectrum Disorder" (ASD). According to Autism Speaks, one of the leading autism advocacy, awareness and research organizations, ASD is characterized by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

Children on the autism spectrum are making the kind of progress previously thought impossible. "I think when people hear the word autism, they automatically think of the character from 'Rain Man,'" said Jonelle Shipley, the school's speech-language pathologist, who works closely with the school's autism teachers. "What's important to know is not all autistic children are the same. They have various strengths and weaknesses and sometimes they just need a chance to be good at something."

THE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS do a number of activities with the autistic students, who are in the school's enhanced autism classes with special education teachers Anna Siller and Mary Lou Marcantuono. Some days the girls help them read; other days they blow bubbles or play Bingo. The goal is to give the students a chance to engage with their peers, and make them feel



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

On April 2nd, Oakton Elementary School participated in "Light it up Blue Day," a national day of awareness and acceptance of people affected by autism. Sixth-grader volunteers Devin Martin, 12; Anna Kate Martin, 12, and Sarah Carmen, 11, have given up recess to volunteer with autistic students.

Did you know...

AUTISM

- ❖ is a developmental disability that can significantly impact communication, social skills and behavior;
 - ❖ is four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls;
 - ❖ affects 1 in 50, children in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control;
 - ❖ is considered an urgent public health concern by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- What works:
- ❖ Early identification and treatment can significantly improve long term outlook;
 - ❖ Intensive intervention using the scientific principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) is effective in teaching adaptive and academic skills;
 - ❖ FCPS serves students with autism using ABA at the preschool, elementary and secondary levels.
- Information provided by Fairfax County Public Schools
- ❖ The FY 2013 budget for the ABA program is \$3,246,836, which includes funding school-based positions, professional development, support positions and allocation of instructional resources. A detailed description of budget allocations for this program can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/approved/FY13/FY2013ProgramBudget.pdf>
- For more information about Fairfax County Public School's autism services, go to the following sites:
- <http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ABA/FAQs.shtml>
<http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/newsletter/docs/AutismAwarenessResources.pdf>

comfortable in the social, school setting.

"The students really teach you not to judge a book by its cover," said Devin Martin. "I've learned you have to be a little more patient, and maybe go over things a few extra times, but it helps them stay focused."

"I think they show you that they may do things in a different way, but that's okay," said Sarah Carmen. "It's really cool to see the students do things people thought they couldn't do."

The girls agreed that interacting with someone with special needs has taught them to have more patience and respect for anyone who is "different."

"What's great about Oakton is that the kids here are very accepting," Anna Kate Martin said. "They will go up to kids with autism and say hi. It makes them feel welcome."

"Our students gain so much from being around these girls. They have more self-assurance, and they learn different ways of communicating," said Marcantuono.

Although the three girls volunteer every school day, a number of OES students participate in other related activities, such as P.E. buddies, where a student volunteers to pair up with an autistic student during gym



Drama teachers Bernie DeLeo (Thoreau Middle School and West Springfield High School) and Stacey Jones (Luther Jackson Middle School) have produced plays and school news spots for Autism Awareness Month.

class.

"We teach the children we receive, whether it's autism, shyness or whatever," said kindergarten teacher Julia Rastelli, who produces a popular annual kindergarten musical that includes autistic students.

"Our school has a culture of compassion and acceptance, and these girls really take that to heart," Shipley said. "We're lucky to be in Fairfax County, where we have programs that students can benefit from at a very early age. No child is hopeless, and that's reflected in the way we teach."

April is Autism Awareness Month

As autism awareness has skyrocketed, the disability—which experts are now calling an "epidemic"—has become a national priority.

The latest report, co-authored by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found autism spectrum disorder affects one in 50 children, well above the one in 88 number that had been used by the CDC just last year, and three times the rate the CDC found a decade ago.

According to a recent survey by the Florida Institute of Technology, nearly two-thirds of young moms and dads are concerned their child will be diagnosed with ASD.

"Since the average school bus holds 50 to 55 children, that means, statistically speaking, on average there is one child with parent-reported ASD on every school bus in America," reported the National Institute of Mental Health.

The increase, experts say, is largely due to improved diagnosis of ASD by doctors or other health professional in recent years, especially when the symptoms were mild.

Along with increased awareness, the social landscape has changed dramatically for students diagnosed with autism.

Politically, autism is a hot-button issue that's on the agenda of many lawmakers, who advocate a range of services, from respite services to mandated health insurance coverage for various therapies like applied behavior analysis (ABA).

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), whose brother-in-law has autism, has been a long-standing advocate for expanded health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder, and co-patroned several bills that address the issue.

Politics aside, most parents want to know what education services are available for their autistic child.

"Because of the size of Fairfax County, we are able to offer programs that few schools districts in the nation can provide, which help guide both students and parents through the education process," said Fairfax County School Board member Ryan McElveen. "Fairfax County uses Applied Behavioral Analysis with Pre K-12 students. The primary objective of ABA is to prepare students with autism and related disorders to function as independently as possible," said McElveen.

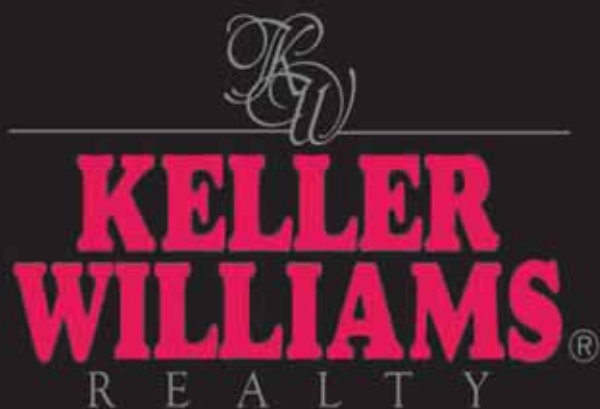
THE APPROACH emphasizes the importance of looking at the ABC's (antecedents, behaviors, and consequences) of behaviors and teaching new skills and behaviors.

New skills are taught through techniques such as reinforcement, shaping, prompting, and data is analyzed to measure progress on the acquisition of new behaviors and new skills.

"When you hear the 'A' word dropped, you think the worst, that your child won't be able to communicate and will never live an independent life," said Bernie DeLeo, a former special education teacher and drama teacher at Thoreau Middle School, who now teaches drama at West Springfield High School.

He said he and his wife, who grew up in McLean, moved back to Fairfax County from New York City in 2002 because of the programs and services offered by Fairfax County Public Schools.

"It's important for parents to be advocates, and to keep their expectation levels high. My wife and I were very hands on with our son. We expected more out of him, and he's surprised us at every turn."



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Kim Roellig (fourth from the left), member of the Champions4Children Race Committee, recruited her Great Falls friends to run in the race together as Team Baxter, named after none other than her dog.



Mom Bridget Rainey, SafeSpot founding board member, with members of The Rainey Family Team, all of Great Falls, huddle among the blue and silver pinwheels "planted" in the grass near the Champions4Children Race location at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston.

Runners Line Up to Stop Child Abuse

Three hundred runners gathered at 9 a.m. at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston, grouped in teams with names like "Peggy's Posse," "Kids4Kids" and—a favorite—"Team Baxter" (named after organizing member Kim Roellig's dog). The running teams present on Saturday, April 13, were there under the auspices of the first annual Champions4Children 5K Walk/Run, hosted by what will be the county's first child abuse investigation center, the SafeSpot Children's Advocacy Center of Fairfax.

While 15 other jurisdictions throughout the commonwealth have created children's advocacy centers for their child abuse victims, Fairfax County, the state's wealthiest and most populous county, has none.

State Senator Janet Howell (32nd District), told the crowd, "I have long supported programs that protect children from abuse. I am committed to supporting a new child abuse investigation center for Fairfax County and will continue to advocate for funding for this important facility."

Fairfax County Child Protective Services investigated and assessed nearly 2,600 cases of child abuse and neglect in 2011. Currently, the county does not have a center where child victims can feel safe to disclose their trauma and receive assistance



Jon Paul, owner of Megawatt, brought his equipment and his skills to the race to provide musical encouragement to runners and walkers. Jon Paul and his wife live in Great Falls.

and therapy that will help them heal. Money raised by the Champions4Children Walk/Run will aid efforts to open a new center for Fairfax children as soon as possible



Kim Spear of The Spear Realty Group and husband Ed Spear pose with the SafeSpot sponsor sign. The couple lives in Great Falls.

Nationally, statistics show there are 3 million reported cases of abuse annually. One in four girls and one in six boys will experience sexual abuse before age 18.

"This is a problem in our community that cannot be ignored," said Bootsie Humenansky of Great Falls, co-founder of SafeSpot CAC, a newly formed nonprofit whose mission is to partner with Fairfax County professionals to provide a safe, child friendly place where child abuse investigations can take place and where child victims and their families can receive follow-on therapy and services. "Since child abuse is a community problem, community support is crucial. We are grateful for all those who took time to walk or run in today's race. We must work together to stamp out child abuse."

Formed in October 2012 under the umbrella of The Safe Children Foundation, SafeSpot CAC will be a one-stop center where the needs of the child are first and all the Fairfax County services for child abuse victims are under one roof. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Corporate sponsor teams racing for the cause included ASG Security and e+, Farhoumand Dental of Reston, Colliers International, Cochran & Owen, and The Spear Realty Group, among others. News reporter Whitney Wild of ABC7 was grand marshal for the Race. To learn more about the county's up-and-coming child abuse victims center go to www.safespotfairfax.org.



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OBITUARY

Lynne Roots of Great Falls, 70, Dies

Lynne Roots, of Great Falls, died Thursday, April 18, at the age of 70 after a 20-year fight with breast cancer. A native of Dallas, Texas, she was born to former Navy corpsman and Kodak photographer Robert and nurse Henrietta Waddell. An active member of her high school drill team, Lynne attended Southern Methodist University where she studied acting and speech and where she met her future husband, John. She maintained a vigilant letter-wiring campaign to John while he was deployed to Vietnam and the two married in 1968, 10 months after his return.

Lynne was extremely active in the Dallas Repertory Theater during the late 60s and early 70s. From "The Glass Menagerie" to "Blythe Spirit," she performed in a wide variety of roles, however her greatest was that of mother and wife to her family.

Lynne left an impact in every city in which she lived. Whether teaching at Village Green Day School during its early days or serving as the Ice Empress for the Anchorage, Alaska, annual ice carving competition, Lynne's dynamic and vibrant personality touched the lives of many. Known for her wild sense of fashion, big, Texas smile, and her artistic fingernails, Lynne brought a ray of sunshine into the lives of everyone she met.

She is survived by her family, friends, and the entire village of Great Falls.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests charitable donations be made to Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066, or the Armed Services YMCA, 7405 Alban Station Court, Springfield, VA 22150.

A ceremony celebrating her life will be held at 11



Lynne Roots

a.m. on Saturday, April 27, at Christ the King Lutheran Church. In the spirit of Lynne, cowboy boots and pink will be in fashion as appropriate attire.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



The U10 Girls Pride Blue team, of Great Falls. Back row, from left: Emma Cole, Ali Rumpel, Morgan Stup, Ellie Costello, Coach Apostolos Georgiou; front row, from left, Haley Smith, Dani Grieco, Olivia Elkas, Tessa Hunt, Alyssa Costigan, Maya Perelli, Rachael Keenan and Aubrey Augustine.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE AUGUSTINE

DC United Nods to Great Falls' Pride Blue

The Great Falls U10 Girls Pride Blue team participated in the Arlington Spring Invitational Tournament March 8-9 and played against several local teams from Reston, Alexandria and Arlington.

The U10 Bride Blue girls beat every team in the bracket and went on to the championship game to play the Herndon Hurricanes. The Pride Blue came out on top in the championship match, 8-2.

The team was invited to the Sunday, April 21, DC

United game where they were recognized for their accomplishment in the tournament.

The weekend following the March championship games, the Pride Blue traveled to Richmond to play in the Jefferson Cup Tournament. The team played elite teams from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and even local team Braddock Road.

The Pride Blue team was short one goal of making it into the championship game.

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NEWS

PHOTO COURTESY OF LUBBOCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

New Superintendent Named

Karen Garza
selected as
superintendent of
Fairfax County
Public Schools.



Dr. Karen Garza

The Fairfax County School Board unanimously approved educator Karen Garza of Texas to be the next superintendent of the 181,000 student district at its April 18 school board meeting.

For the past four years, Garza has been the superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District, which serves approximately 30,000 students in Lubbock, Texas. She will succeed retiring Superintendent Jack Dale on July 1, 2013. Her four-year contract runs through June 30, 2017, and she will earn \$265,000 in her first year.

"I'm thrilled that we have been able to finalize the appointment and contractual arrangement with

Dr. Garza," said Ilryong Moon, Fairfax County School Board chairman. Moon said several school board members visited Lubbock early last week and "all of us came away extremely impressed with the community's observations regarding Dr. Garza's tenure as its superintendent."

"I could not be more pleased with the outcome of our extensive search process for a new superintendent," said school board member Ryan McElveen (at-large.) McElveen said one of the primary characteristics the community hoped to see in a new superintendent was the willingness to engage with the community.

"Although that can be extremely difficult in a county as large and congested as Fairfax County, we could not have found someone more ready and willing to do so than Dr. Garza. Our site visit last week to Lubbock, Texas, proved her ability to engage and positively transform an entire community," McElveen said.

Garza flew to Fairfax last Thursday to accept the appointment in person, and toured several schools on Friday, meeting with teachers, students and administrators.

"I am very humbled and excited to be selected by this board," she said. "It is truly an honor and a privilege to join such a renowned school system." Garza said she will be "responsive and accountable" to all FCPS stakeholders and will support efforts already underway to provide FCPS students a world-class education.

"As superintendent, I plan to be very visible. The best part of my day will be when I'm in schools to be with children and to better understand the needs of our schools," she said.

SEE GARZA, PAGE 11

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Garza to Lead County Schools

FROM PAGE 10

Prior to her role in Lubbock, Garza served as the chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the country. As chief academic officer, the district's second position to the superintendent, Garza was responsible for both instruction and fa-

cilities for more than 200,000 students.

"She comes to Fairfax County with a deep commitment to openness and engagement and is eager to work collaboratively in the best interest of all students," Moon said. "As Dr. Garza knows, the bar is set high in Fairfax County. The board looks forward with great excitement to working with Dr.

Garza as it builds upon past successes and moves forward in a new era for FCPS."

The school board will begin planning a series of transition activities and public meetings for Dr. Garza before she begins her tenure as FCPS superintendent on July 1.

—VICTORIA ROSS

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Connection Guide to Parks Wins ‘Best in Show’

Investigative reporting, in depth coverage, education writing, photography, art, design, sports, garner Virginia Press Association honors.

The Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards from the Virginia Press Association, with winners announced on Saturday, April 20, in Norfolk.

The Connection project, Insiders Guide to the Parks of Fairfax County, published in our Newcomers and Community Guides, won a top honor of Best in Show for Art. The project also won first place for informational graphics. Spearheaded and researched by Jean Card, who also designed the pages, with photography by Craig Sterbutzel and map design by Laurence Foong, Insiders Guide to the Parks led judges to say: “This is chock-full of information. It probably leaves readers with no unanswered questions. Colors and typography work well together. The down-page photo and text wrap features are nice touches.”

A multi-part series on immigration spearheaded by Victoria Ross won first place for in-depth or investigative writing. The Connection devoted multiple pages in multiple editions for multiple weeks to exhaustive reporting on immigration. “This entry clearly stood out above the rest in this category,” said judges of Ross’s work. “The author portrayed an excellent mix of data and human stories in covering all of the facets of this topic. It was obvious she spent a great deal of time working on this in-depth series. This was extremely comprehensive, well rounded and objective. This was not just reports, numbers and data but a terrific compilation of human stories, personal experiences, challenges and a great deal of hope.” See the entire immigration package at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/.

Alexandria Gazette Packet reporters took all three awards for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division, one circulation category above the Connection papers. Nicholas Horrock won first place, In-depth or investigative reporting, for a multi-part series on Potomac Yard. “Great reporting job and extremely thorough,” said judges.

Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet, won second place also for In-depth or investigative reporting for Guns From the South. Michael Lee Pope, won third place in the same category, for Looking Behind the Numbers.

Kenneth Lourie won first place for Column Writing. Judge’s comment: “An exceptionally friendly, down-home writing style. The best of the group without a doubt.”

Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, first place, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics.

Nikki Cheshire, an intern for the Great Falls Connection, garnered a first place award for her dramatic breaking news photo, a helicopter rescue at Great Falls Park. See the award winning photo at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2012/jun/11/18271/.

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for public safety writing in the Centre View and second

place for public safety writing in the Fairfax Connection. Judges said: “Although the cases featured in these entries were sensational, which made them interesting in and of themselves, the writer maintained the readers’ interest by her excellent storytelling ability. The stories not only conveyed facts but also emotion. The coverage was comprehensive and thorough with no questions left unanswered.”

Alex McVeigh won first place for Education Writing, first published in the Oak Hill-Herndon Connection.

Photographer Deb Cobb won first place for an online slide show of coverage of daily patrols on the water in the Mount Vernon Gazette. See it at www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/galleries and search for Daily Marine Patrols. Cobb also won first place for general news photo for her photo of “Freezin’ for a Reason,” the polar bear plunge into Lake Anne.

Mike Pope won first place for breaking news for coverage of “New Leadership at Gunston Hall.”

Pope also won third place for continuing coverage for “Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening” in the Mount Vernon Gazette, and third place for Mount Vernon Health, Science and Environmental Writing Portfolio.

The staff of Great Falls Connection won second place for overall excellence (general makeup). Judges said: “Although the tabloid format and general design has a ‘features’ feel, this is a beautiful paper. The text, use of color and section delineation makes it very easy to read and follow both news and features. All cover selections draw you in.”

Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story for Memorial Day. Judge’s comment: “A variety of great photos neatly presented helps tell the story of this important day.”

Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo * Santiago Valdez. Judge’s comment: “Great Exposure.”

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing. Judge’s comment: “Think you can’t say much in two words? This entry disproves that. I particularly like ‘Bovine Intervention’ with the subhead ‘Del Ray’s Holy Cow, ACT partner for local charities.’

Louise Krafft won second place for picture story or essay for her coverage of the Mount Vernon High School graduation.

Jean Card won second place for page design in the Mount Vernon Gazette.

The Mount Vernon Gazette won second place for special section for the August Insiders Edition, Community and Newcomers Guide; and third place for special edition for the Children’s Gazette.

Mary Kimm, third place, editorial writing for a package of education-related editorials.

Find all of the award-winning coverage at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, under Awards.

AWARD WINNERS

SPECIAL AWARD: BEST IN SHOW, NON-DAILY ARTWORK

❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County.

FIRST PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Victoria Ross, Springfield Connection: In-depth or Investigative Reporting, Immigration
- ❖ Nicholas Horrock, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Potomac Yard
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County
- ❖ Nikki Cheshire, Great Falls Connection: Breaking News Photo, Rescue at Great Falls
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Mount Vernon Gazette: Online Slideshow, Daily Patrols Take to the Water
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Reston Connection: General news photo, Freezin’ for a Reason
- ❖ Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View North: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Arlington Connection: Column Writing
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection: Education Writing, The Human Element of Learning
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection: Multimedia News Report, Secret Police
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Business and Financial Writing
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Breaking News Writing

SECOND PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Guns From the South
- ❖ Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Page Design
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Fairfax Connection: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Mount Vernon Gazette: Picture Story or Essay, Mount Vernon Graduation 2012
- ❖ Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story, Memorial Day
- ❖ Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo, Santiago Valdez
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Column Writing
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions: Insider’s Guide.
- ❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll and Geovani Flores, Great Falls Connection: General Makeup.

THIRD PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting: Looking Behind the Numbers
- ❖ Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Page Design
- ❖ Laurence Foong, The Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Fairfax Connection: Editorial Writing; five editorials about education
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Arlington Connection: Sports Feature Photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Picture Story or Essay, Celebrating the Irish.
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Multimedia News Report, Schools in Crisis
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Feature Series or Continuing Story, Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Health, Science and Environmental Writing.
- ❖ Jon Roetman, Arlington Connection: Sports Writing.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Jean Card, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong and Stuart Moll, Alexandria Gazette Packet: General Makeup.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions, Children’s Edition.

MDDC

The Potomac Almanac, a Connection Newspaper located in Potomac, Md., competes in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and won at least six press association awards, which will be formally announced on May 17 at the MDDC Press awards luncheon. Susan Belford, John Byrd, Laurence Foong, Ken Moore (2) and Staff were named as winners.

Great Falls CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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Top row, from left: Alex Lundgren, Symantha Gant, Abigail Spira, Hailey Corkery, Francesco Basti; center row: Kaleigh Mullins, Sophie Young, Emma Choi, Annie Begley, Jessica Ashworth, Zophia Pryzby; bottom row: Charlotte DeWolfe, Talley Murphy, Savanna Salassi. Not pictured: Brian Conner.

PHOTOS BY ADRIANA LUNDGREN

Teen Theater Explores 'Responses'

Dodgeball Theater's "Respond" addresses teens' need for connections, dangers of isolation.

How do teens respond to the changes in their lives? Dodgeball Theater's Teen Ensemble explores this in their latest production, "Respond," which addresses teens' need for connections with others and the dangers of isolation.

"People often marginalize the artistic vision of young people," says Haley Murphy of Great Falls, co-director of Teen Ensemble. "We really want to maximize it."

Each year the ensemble, now in its fifth year, develops and performs an original work that combines monologues, movement pieces, scenes and other theatrical elements, including film.

This year's 15-member ensemble of 13- to 18-year-olds developed the script for "Respond" through improvisation work and writing that they shared every week, guided by Murphy and co-director Heide Zufall. Topics covered include family, religion, drinking, self-image, divorce, fitting in and friendship.

"We have to share a lot and it's about our life experiences, but no one judges," says Langley freshman Abby Spira. "[The sharing] makes you feel like you're not the only one ... and you hear of problems sometimes worse than yours. It's just a nice sense of community."

Working as an ensemble allows the performing

Where and When

"Respond" debuts April 27 at 7 p.m. at the Artory in Herndon. Other performances: April 28, 7 p.m., at ArtSpace, Herndon; May 25, 3 p.m., at Gum Spring Library; June 2, 3 p.m., at Ashburn Library; June 10, 7 p.m., at Cascades Library.

artists to develop a level of trust they might not otherwise have. Teens also get to focus on developing and sharing their individual artistic voice. Senior members of the ensemble establish a broad theme, then the entire ensemble works together to refine that theme in ways that are meaningful to them on a personal level.

This year's theme resonates deeply with Langley senior and fifth year ensemble veteran Savanna Salassi.

"It's about responding to the changes that are happening in our lives, moving away and going to college," says Salassi, who will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall.

For ensemble members not yet college bound, other changes and challenges facing teens are explored, creating a snapshot of teens' feelings, thoughts and ideas about themselves and the world around them that capture the essence of their lives.

—ROBIN DEROSA LUNDGREN



A group discussion of writing prompts which will be used as monologues.

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Walk with Us!

5-K Walk to benefit children in foster care

What: 5-K Walk

When: Saturday, May 18, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. (Registration from 8 to 8:30 a.m.)

Where: Lake Accotink Park (rear entrance) 5660 Heming Avenue, Springfield, VA.

Cost: \$30 registration fee/ Picnic lunch provided



Steps to Walk – or Support the 5-K Walk

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- For more information, visit the Web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hcs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm or contact Beverly J. Howard, Fairfax Families4Kids Coordinator, 703-324-7518, TTY 711. Beverly.Howard@fairfaxcounty.gov



ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

Joe Sample. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The jazz piano legend known for his albums Street Life, Rainbow Seeker and Carmel, plays a gospel-soul-blues-classical fusion show. \$40. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 25

Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." 7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The Pulitzer-winning play set in the small town of Grover's Corners follows the Webb and Gibbs families as their children fall in love, marry, and eventually, in one of the most famous scenes in American theatre, die. \$12 for seniors/students; \$15. 703-714-5700 or www.brownpapertickets.com/event/347032.

John McCutcheon. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The singer/songwriter that Johnny Cash declared "the most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard," known for his Appalachian sound, plays the folk songs that earned him seven GRAMMY nominations. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 26

Hanna Emrich at McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A presentation from GWU graduate and past student of the Corcoran School of Art and Design who has shown her work and received recognition at local juried shows; guests welcome. 703-790-0123.

Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." 7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The Pulitzer-winning play set in the small town of Grover's Corners follows the Webb and Gibbs families as their children fall in love, marry, and eventually, in one of the most famous scenes in American theatre, die. \$12 for seniors/students; \$15. 703-714-5700 or www.brownpapertickets.com/event/347032.

The Hallelujah Girls. 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. vtcshows@yahoo.com or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

Robbie Schaefer and Jake Armerding. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The American folk-rockers, singer, guitarist and Vienna local Schaefer, of Eddie From Ohio, explores spirituality and transition in his music; opener Jake Armerding, Boston-based folk singer, is an energizing artists who has collaborated with Josh Ritter, Nickel Creek and David Wilcox. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Multi-family Autism Fund-raising Garage Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 1101 Drake St. S.W. Vienna. Proceeds of the sale benefit a local pre-school autism class. Multiple families offer up mountain bikes, educational toys, children's clothing and shoes, DVDs, art and the like for a bargain; Whole Foods, Market Fresh and Plaka Grill sponsor the event. 202-262-1483.

Be Fit McLean Outdoor Adventure Expo. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC), 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The McLean Community Center's annual expo provides participants with a chance to explore outdoor recreation options in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. Information and interactive displays related to a variety of outdoor activities will be available. Bluegrass band and Circa Blue will perform at the event. \$5. 703-448.8336 or ryan.brookes@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Hidden Life of Bees and Plants. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the McLean Project for the Arts, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A presentation by Sam Droege, scientist, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, on the story of how native bees are deeply entwined with our lives. Artist Nils Henrik Sundqvist will also be present. RSVP. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., 400 Center St. S., Vienna. The many excellent restaurants that the Vienna area has to offer will be showcased; proceeds benefit The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. <http://www.tasteofvienna.org>.

Holy Trinity Di Gennaro Hart Pipe Organ Concert. 4 p.m., at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3022 Woodlawn Avenue, Falls Church. Eileen Guenther is a national and international organ recitalist and has performed in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. 703-532-6617, www.htluther.org or [facebook.com/HTLuther](https://www.facebook.com/HTLuther).

Thornton Wilder's "Our Town." 7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The Pulitzer-winning play set in the small town of Grover's Corners follows the Webb and Gibbs families as their children fall in love, marry, and eventually, in one of the most famous scenes in American theatre, die. \$12 for seniors/students; \$15. 703-714-5700 or www.brownpapertickets.com/event/347032.

The Hallelujah Girls. 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who



Iris, Gelatin Silver Photographic Print, by Jan Bender

Old Fashioned Photography at Library: "Looking With Film"

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 and then develops prints by hand in her darkroom. The exhibit is open daily April through June at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. See www.JanBenderPhotography.com.

turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. vtcshows@yahoo.com or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

Ninth annual Vienna Elementary PTA 5K & Fun Run.

8 a.m., at Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center St. S., Vienna. The DC Road Runners Club brings back the chronotrack time chip timing system for runners racing on the USATF certified 5K course, which drew 700-plus participants last year. There is also a 1-mile fun run featured. \$25 before April 23; \$30; \$15 for children under 14. www.vienna5krun.org.

The Hallelujah Girls. 2 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. vtcshows@yahoo.com or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

Fairfax Choral Society and Amadeus Orchestra. 4 p.m., at St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The orchestra and chorus perform "Requiem" by Steve Dobrogosz. The orchestra performs Rossini's overture to "Il Signor Bruschino" and Stravinsky's "Pulcinella." \$30; free for students 17 and under. www.amadeusconcerts.com.

Mosaic Harmony Fundraiser Spring Concert. 4 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. A musical event and silent auction; auction starts at 3:15 p.m. \$25. <http://www.mosaicarmony.org/tickets.php>.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 1

McLean Woman's Club Kitchen and Garden Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., (rain date: Thursday, May 2), at House No. 1, 7110 Holyrood Drive, McLean. A tour of spacious kitchens and gardens in McLean. Tickets are at Flowers and Plants, Etc., Karin's Florist, Great Dogs of Great Falls, Vinson Hall Retirement Community or at tour houses day-of; proceeds benefit Wounded Warrior Transitional Housing Project. \$25 before May 1; \$30 day-of. 703-556-0197 or www.mcleanwc.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 2

Leadership Fairfax 25th Anniversary Celebration. 6-10 p.m., at Sheraton Premiere Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Food stations, dancing, an open bar, raffles, live music by DC Transit with Lindsay Diles of Leadership Fairfax and an evening of mingling; cocktail attire. \$125 for members; \$150. 703-752-7518.

Forestville Team in World Finals

Forestville Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind team will compete at the world level for the second year in a row. Last week, at the Virginia state Odyssey competition held in Aldie, Va., the Forestville Division 1 team co-coached by Jeff LeLoup and Alex Newman won second place in their category, qualifying them to move to the 2013 World Finals competition being held May 23-25 at Michigan State University.

The team's seven members are all fourth and fifth grade students at Forestville. They include Sarina Bell, Cassie Dallas, Caroline Keys, Aditya Khera, Sydney Pham, Jenna Waters and Jake West. The category they competed in was ARTchitecture: the Musical. In 2012, the LeLoup/Newman Division 1 team competed at the world finals and earned the Ranatra Fusca Award for exceptional creativity.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members apply their creativ-



PHOTO BY ALEX NEWMAN

Forestville Elementary School's Odyssey of the Mind Team.

ity to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics. They then bring their solutions to competition on the local, state and

world level. Thousands of teams from throughout the United States and from about 25 other countries participate in the program.

—HALEY MURPHY



McLean Community Center
The Center of It All



Here's What's Happening at MCC



Be Fit McLean Outdoor Expo

Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
\$5; free for kids up to age 12

Sunday Soiree Dance "April in Paradise"

Sunday, April 28, 3-5 p.m.
\$5 at the door

Pushcart Players "Red Riding Hood and Other Stories"

Saturday, May 4, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

For 5th & 6th Graders Cinco de Mayo Dance

Friday, May 10, 7-9 p.m.
\$30, \$20 MCC district residents



Alden Professional Series Furia Flamenco

Saturday, May 11, 8 p.m.
\$25/\$18 MCC district residents

Grey Seal Puppets "Barker Bill's Wagtime Revue"

Sunday, May 12, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



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REAL ESTATE



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design decorated a luxury condominium for a retired couple who wanted to downsize after selling their suburban home. Real estate experts say high-end condominium sales are on the rise.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GOODHART GROUP OF McENEARNEY ASSOCIATES, INC.

Alexandria-based realtor Allison Goodhart says sales of high-end real estate in the City of Alexandria, such as this property, have increased over the past year.

What Housing Slump?

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When a retired couple decided it was time to leave their sprawling suburban home, they wanted to downsize without giving up luxury. As a result, they purchased a high-end condominium and hired Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design to create a serene and sophisticated space.

"The couple are retired professionals, empty nesters who lead active lives and didn't want the maintenance of a single family home," said Proxmire. "[They] wanted to blend the furniture, accessories and mementoes they had each collected. ... They wanted a home that was elegant, comfortable, and that also allowed them to lock and leave on a moment's notice."

Proxmire's clients are part of rebound in the high-end condominium market. The National Association of Realtors® reports that condominium purchases are on the rise, and says that sales are 13.9 percent higher than they were at the same time last year.

David DeSantis, a partner at TTR | Sotheby's International Realty says his company has seen an increase in luxury condominium sales in the Washington region in recent months. "In the past several months we have broken records for high-end condo prices, and we recently sold the most expensive condo ever sold in the Washington region, which was \$7.5 million," he said. "We sold a number of condos at Turnberry Tower in Rosslyn [Arlington]."

COMMUNITIES LIKE the Oronoco in Old Town Alexandria; Market Street at Town Center in Reston, and Quarry Springs in Bethesda attract those who want both luxury and convenience. "The appeal of these buildings is the fact that you've got these large apartments that are like homes except with a health club and concierge service," said DeSantis. "The close-in suburbs are good places to live. There are good stores, good restaurants and you don't have

the issue of a long commute to work."

Realtors say that properties close to public transportation are in demand. "Reston is on fire. The condos are turning very quickly there because the Metro is coming," said Great Falls-based realtor Dianne Van Volkenburg of Long & Foster Companies. "Reston is one of the places where inventory is extremely limited, so you're getting multiples offers over list price."

Alexandria-based realtor Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group of McEneaney Associates, Inc. said, "Sales and showings for properties have really picked up across the board in Alexandria City. The Oronoco is all high-end, one-level condos near the Old Town [Alexandria] waterfront and those are selling very well."

Bob Wulff, Ph.D., director of the Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship and the master's in real estate development program at George Mason University in Fairfax, says there are two primary types of buyers who are drawn to condominiums. "There are first time homebuyers and move-down homebuyers who've sold their large suburban homes," said Wulff. "Move-down buyers are looking for luxury in a walkable neighborhood that is near mass transit."

DeSantis agrees. "A big portion of those clients are the empty-nester crowd," he said. "Their kids have graduated from college and they are looking for a lifestyle change. These people were not pinched by the recession, but it also wasn't a good time to sell their big house in suburbs."

In addition to empty nesters, DeSantis says that high-income professional singles and couples often choose luxury condominiums. "Those two groups are leading to the up-tick in sales," he said.

Walter Molony, economic issues media manager for the National Association of Realtors, says the boost in condominium sales is the result of a stronger economy. "It is part of the rising tide that is floating all boats," he said. "After four years of a sluggish economy that impacted people's confidence, affordability conditions have improved and people

Real estate experts explain the rise in luxury condominium sales.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design decorated this luxury condominium for two empty nesters who lead active lives and didn't want the maintenance of a single-family home.

SEE LUXURY CONDOS, PAGE 17

REAL ESTATE



Sales of condominiums built with luxurious materials, such as those used in the bathroom of this condominium at Turnberry Tower in the Rosslyn neighborhood of Arlington, are on the rise.

Luxury Condos in Demand

FROM PAGE 16

have the wherewithal and the confidence to buy. There is less inventory in the low-end market, and there are more buyers than sellers, which is driving demand up."

DeSantis said, "For the most part, the Washington, D.C., area was not hit as hard, so we're coming

back faster. One of the things that we've seen in the real estate industry is that there's no shortage of people in this market who have the resources to buy high-end housing. They held off on buying while the direction of the economy ... was unclear, but people are now willing to spend the money that they've had all along."



David DeSantis, a partner at TTR | Sotheby's International Realty, says his company has seen an increase in the sale of high-end condominiums such as this one at Reston Town Center.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TTR | SOOTHEY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Local realtors say that condominiums near public transportation, such as these at Reston Town Center, are in demand.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood..\$800,000....Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662

Clifton

7242 Archlaw Dr.....\$1,075,000....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

Fairfax Station

7612 Rustle Ridge Ct.....\$849,950....Sun 1-4.Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Herndon

1141 Bandy Run Rd.....\$800,000....Sun 12-3.....Leslie Thurman...Long & Foster..703-895-6000

12200 Meadowstream Ct.....\$615,000....Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Gaibler.....Weichert..703-851-5600

1530 Hiddenbrook Dr.....\$385,000....Sun 1-4.....Pat Orend...Long & Foster..703-407-3300

12913 Alton Sq.....\$1,600/mo....Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662

Lorton

9040 Swans Creek Way..\$1,050,000....Sun 1-4.....Dane Work.....RE/MAX..703-869-4567

McLean

1332 Skipwith Rd.....\$1,475,000....Sun 1-4.....Jane Price.....Weichert..703-628-0470

Reston

11016 Solaridge Dr.....\$595,000....Sun 1-4.....Suzanne Gaibler.....Weichert..703-851-5600

1445 Park Garden Ln.....\$559,900....Sun 1-4.....Cristina Dougherty...Long & Foster..703-969-0471

11500 Fairway Dr #506\$400,000....Sun 1-4.....Peter Burke...Long & Foster..703-786-3334

Vienna

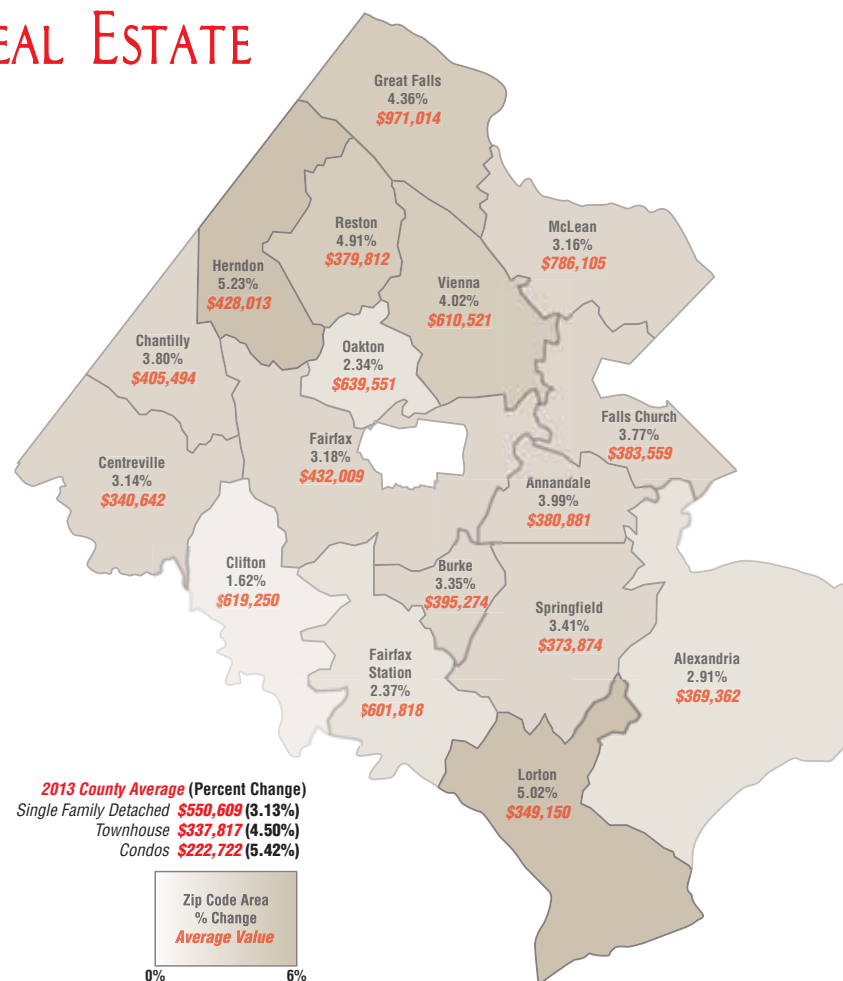
107 Melody Lane, SE.....\$1,398,900....Sun 1-4.....Lynne DePaso...Land & Homes..703-927-3090

9501 Clarks Crossing.....\$719,000....Sat 12-3.....Leslie Thurman...Long & Foster..703-895-6000

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

REAL ESTATE



Housing Market: ‘Sell and Buy’

Sustained low interest rates and rising prices have energized the marketplace.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

The local real estate market is thriving, with realtors reporting multiple offers on homes in some areas and dwindling inventory of homes for sale. At least two things are contributing to this change in the market.

First, interest rates have been in the basement: Freddie Mac reported a 30-year fixed-rate of 3.57 percent for March this year, as opposed to 3.95 percent in March 2012 and 4.84 percent in 2011 (for reference, March 2005 was 5.93 percent).

Second, home prices are rising: RealEstate Business Intelligence reported a 10.23 percent increase in average sold price in Fairfax County between February 2012 and 2013. Even though inventory is shrinking across the county, distressed sales (foreclosures and short sales) are a smaller part of the market.

On the whole, everyone has warm fuzzies about the market.

“It’s as healthy as it’s ever been,” said Dane Work, an associate broker with Re/Max Preferred Properties in Fairfax. “Everything is a hot potato. The whole market is red hot, white hot.”

BUT HOW LONG until the extended honeymoon phase is over? And what will that market look like? According to George Mason University Professor of Finance Gerald Hanweck, a lot like it has before.

“The hype is, fundamentally, what you would expect from a market like this,” said Hanweck. “For quite a while, this has been a terrific housing market in Fairfax County.”

Hanweck came to GMU in 1985 after spending nearly two decades in the research division at the

Federal Reserve Board. Today in addition to teaching MBA finance courses, he is also associate dean for graduate programs.

The professor has seen real estate go through cycle after cycle over the decades. “It really just took time to allow housing prices to get on a path of rising, at a rate they had in the past,” he said.

“When I first came here in 1968, the thought was housing prices should always go up ten percent a year. That was a rule. And in fact they did for some time,” Hanweck said.

“Now we’ve hit a plateau,” said Hanweck, “to where we probably should take off and start having price rises between 4 and 6 percent a year, on average, for residential properties. Once we hit that, and that’s been happening now for several years, prices are high enough — after they had fallen in 2005 and 2006 — that people are willing to buy and sell. Enough time has passed.”

WHY THE DWINDLING SUPPLY? There are several factors, according to Hanweck, which result in people hanging on to their properties. Among them is a gradual increase in the number of retirees in this area who choose to stay in their homes. Another is people simply waiting to see how high prices will rise. There are also more instances of business investors buying properties to rent.

But none of this should dissuade anyone from jumping into the real estate market right now, Hanweck said. “Sell. Sell and buy.”

“If you want to move, sell now, buy now. Buying six months ago would be even better, buying a year ago would’ve been even better. But buy. Over the next year, two years, it’s going to be a good market. After that we’re going to see federal government cuts actually start to impact.”

“I’m incredibly optimistic,” said Work. “I have been for about a year and a half. It makes me look like a saint. The writing was on the wall for some of this.”

“It’s such a great opportunity for the end user, for occupants,” he continued. “Everybody’s got to live somewhere. Now is the time to lock in on something and secure it.”

REAL ESTATE

VIEWPOINTS

Market Blossoms in Area

Andy Krum, ABR, GRI, CDPE/Keller Williams Realty—Reston, 703-679-1700

“This past February, the market bloomed well in advance of the cherry blossoms! Sellers are more than likely dancing on their roofs. With low inventory, prices have been climbing. Not only are most homes selling fast, lucky sellers may see multiple offers—some including escalation clauses as well. For the Reston market, the long-awaited opening of the Wiehle Avenue Metro stop later this year has not escaped notice. More buyers are looking here knowing they can avoid the Rt. 7 traffic or the toll road. Interest rates are still good, but there is competition. Buyers need to do their research and be ready to act when the right home becomes available.”



Andrea Karalyos, realtor, REP coordinator, Prudential PenFed Realty—Reston, 703-716-2900

“Right now is the best time to sell or buy real estate in the Reston area. With the opening of the new Silver Line Metro approaching, we have seen an enormous increase in sales. The median sales price is up by 7.4 percent compared to last year. If your home is priced well and shows nicely you will have no problem selling. Reston is focused on the future yet still manages to stay true to its core principles of “Live, Work, Play and Get Involved.”



Leslie Kaplan Thurman, Long & Foster—Thurman & Assocs. Herndon/Reston, 703-439-1921

“Overall, I would call the market ‘great.’ It’s the resurgence we’ve been waiting for. Houses are selling in a much shorter time. I deal with a lot of higher priced homes, \$800k and above, and some of those sellers do get frustrated when they see how quickly other homes go under contract, and they are still waiting to make their sale. But even in that upper tier market, the houses that used to take six months or a year or more, are going much more quickly. We help our sellers by developing a marketing plan that includes realistic pricing strategies, taking into account their needs and their situation. One concern in this revitalized market is in regards to appraisals. I have run into appraisal problems recently, with just \$5k-\$6k gap. And there is no oversight or appeals process. We want solid steady growth in the market, but oversensitive appraisals could hold the market back.”

HOME SALES

In March 2013, 26 Great Falls homes sold between \$5,634,180-\$425,000.

Address	BR .	FB .	HB ...	Postal	City	Sold Price ...	Type	Lot AC .	PostalCode	Subdivision
633 RIVER BEND RD	7	7	3	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$5,634,180	Detached	5.00	22066	GREAT FALLS HEIGHTS
9601 GEORGETOWN PIKE	6	6	3	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$3,850,000	Detached	4.80	22066	NEW HOME
828 THOMAS RUN DR	5	5	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,475,000	Detached	1.73	22066	THOMAS AVENUE
1066 GREAT PASSAGE BLVD	6	5	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,400,000	Detached	1.53	22066	ESTATES AT LONGWOOD
525 CLEAR SPRING RD	4	4	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,295,000	Detached	5.08	22066	TALLY HO
10865 PATOWMACK DR	6	4	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,250,000	Detached	1.72	22066	BEACH MILL DOWNS
816 SHERLIN LN	4	4	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,175,000	Detached	1.22	22066	TIMBERLAKE ESTATES NORTH
636 SPRINGVALE RD	5	4	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,175,000	Detached	5.16	22066	SPRINGVALE
1118 AMANDA DR	4	4	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,150,000	Detached	1.07	22066	GREAT FALLS HUNT
11250 INGLISH MILL DR	5	4	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,100,000	Detached	1.02	22066	OLD MILL ESTS THOMPSONS
340 CANTERWOOD LN	4	3	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$1,085,000	Detached	2.22	22066	CANTERWOOD
1104 MORNINGWOOD LN	4	2	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$900,000	Detached	1.13	22066	LOCKMEADE
9212 STERLING MONTAGUE DR	5	4	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$885,000	Detached	2.02	22066	WASHINGTON GREAT FALLS
9304 ARNON CHAPEL RD	4	3	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$861,000	Detached	0.93	22066	RIVERSIDE MEADOWS
9701 DARLENE LN	4	3	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$850,000	Detached	0.92	22066	EAGON HILLS
837 WALKER RD	4	4	0	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$820,000	Detached	2.04	22066	FORESTVILLE
1112 MORNINGWOOD LN	5	3	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$800,000	Detached	0.50	22066	SPRINGVALE MEADOWS
12168 HOLLY KNOLL CIR	5	3	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$770,000	Detached	0.53	22066	HOLLY KNOLL
903 JAYSMITH ST	4	3	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$750,000	Detached	0.46	22066	HICKORY CREEK
9729 MILL RUN DR	4	2	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$686,000	Detached	1.06	22066	MILL RUN ACRES
936 HARRIMAN ST	4	2	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$632,500	Detached	0.52	22066	HICKORY CREEK
828 CONSTELLATION DR	5	3	0	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$631,250	Detached	0.51	22066	OLIVER ESTATES
843 CONSTELLATION DR	3	2	1	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$600,000	Detached	0.53	22066	OLIVER ESTATES
11706 LEESBURG PIKE	4	2	0	.....	GREAT FALLS	\$550,000	Detached	3.94	22066	DRANESVILLE
10149 YORKTOWN DR	3	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$433,000	Detached	0.23	22066	GREAT FALLS FOREST
640 WALKER RD	2	1	0	GREAT FALLS	\$425,000	Detached	0.50	22066	NONE

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BULLETIN BOARD

SUNDAY/APRIL 28

What Every Real Estate Investor Needs to Know. 1-4 p.m., at Keller Williams Realty, 774-A Walker Road, Great Falls. Learn how experts find, analyze and buy the right properties then develop your plan to grow wealth. RSVP. LyonsMcGuire@TeamGreatFalls.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 2

Leadership Fairfax: Remember, Reconnect and Reignite. 6-10 p.m., at Sheraton Premiere Tysons Corner, 8861 Leesburg Pike, McLean.

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

Dancing, live action food stations, raffles and music by Lindsey Diles, ELI Class of 2010, and her band DC Transit. \$125 for members and current classes; \$150. www.leadershipfairfax.org/25th.

home updates are good for daily life while staying comfortable, independent and injury free. Lunch served. Modest contribution appreciated. RSVP required. 703-759-3721 or linda.fernald1@verizon.net

TUESDAY/MAY 7

AARP “Home Fit” Workshop. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at the St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church, 1020 Springvale Road, Great Falls. The Great Falls Senior Center is hosting a workshop about how to decide which

ONGOING:

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Madison senior midfielder Melissa Kellan shoots during a game against McLean on April 18.



McLean senior Ava Mirzadegan scored three goals against Madison on April 18.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Madison Girls' Lax Beats McLean

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After falling behind McLean during an April 18 matchup, Madison girls' lacrosse coach Amanda Counts had a message for the Warhawks during a timeout.

"[I told them] that they need to have pride in how they play," said Counts, whose Warhawks defeated 2012 state runner-up Langley six days prior. "Coming off a big win last week, where they were super excited, it seemed like they were resting on that and they need to recognize that we have a long season ahead of us and accomplishing our interim goals as we go does not mean we get to slack off at any point.

"We have to be prepared for what's coming down the line."

While Madison stumbled during the first eight minutes, the Warhawks proved prepared to dominate the remainder of the contest.

Madison outscored McLean 20-5 during a 36-minute stretch and defeated the Highlanders 21-11 at McLean High School. Madison trailed 4-1 early, but the Warhawks responded with four straight goals and 11 of the next 14 en route to a 12-7 halftime lead. Madison scored nine of the first 11 second-half goals and cruised to victory.

"I think we started working together as a team," Madison junior Alex Condon said in regard to the Warhawks overcoming their slow start. "I feel like the first few minutes, everyone was playing as an individual. I feel like after that, we came out, we got focused and we did what we needed to do to get it together."

NINE DIFFERENT WARHAWKS scored at least one goal and seven scored at least two. Senior attack Carly Frederick led the way with four goals. Condon, junior Katie Kerrigan and senior Melissa Kellan each had three goals and sophomore Kierra Sweeney,

"I think [Madison] just kind of capitalized on their shots. Our shooting kind of went downhill as the game went on."

— McLean girls' lacrosse coach Alexandra Whitworth



Madison sophomore Kierra Sweeney finished with two goals during a win against McLean on April 18.

junior Sam Babbitt and senior Erin Callahan each had two. Juniors Maddie Renshaw and Rachel Brennan each added one.

On April 22, Madison beat South Lakes 17-6, improving the Warhawks' record to 7-1, including 4-0 in the Liberty District.

Many of Madison's juniors and seniors were members of the program's 2011 undefeated state championship team. The Warhawks have also won each of the last two Liberty District titles. This season, Madison has a greater dependence on its elder athletes to provide leadership and on-field production as the younger Warhawks don't possess as much experience as in previous years.

"This is a whole new team," said Frederick, who was a sophomore on the 2011 state title team. "We're not used to this kind of team at all. It's definitely a challenge, but one that we're all taking optimistically. There are times where it's very frustrating. I've never been on a team like this. Being a senior and being a captain, I

really enjoy trying to help the other players and trying to get everyone on the same page. I don't think captains in previous years that I've played have ever had to have that much responsibility. It's a lot of pressure."

How have the Warhawks remained successful?

"We hold [younger players] accountable to the level that our coaches expect us to be playing at," Frederick said. "It's definitely tough. There have been a lot of emotions throughout the season, but everyone is starting to really come together and I don't think that anyone has really seen the best of Madison yet and I'm excited for that game to come."

Condon was a freshman on the 2011 team.

"When I was a freshman, we had great seniors that helped everyone," said Condon, now a junior. "They were always willing to stay after practice with you and help you out and spend extra time with you and I [looked] up to them and try to do that with

Nine Warhawks score at least one goal.

the young girls here."

Counts said the elder Warhawks need to have athletes of all ages playing well in order for the team to be successful.

"They have a lot to accomplish," she said. "There are girls who are experienced here and have been in the program and have been with us through successes, but we have a lot of new girls, so that's not something every single person has in their back pocket. They need to bring everybody up to the same level. We have to play together to get anything done."

After losing to Madison, McLean defeated Marshall 16-12 on Monday, improving the Highlanders' record to 4-5, including 2-3 in the Liberty District.

AGAINST MADISON, senior attack Ava Mirzadegan and freshman midfielder Alessandra Pelliccia each scored three goals. Junior midfielder Nikki Lind finished with two goals, and sophomore attack Grace Tiernan, senior attack Sibylle Miller and sophomore midfielder Elise Koehl each finished with one.

Mirzadegan and Lind scored the first two goals of the April 18 contest against the Warhawks. After Frederick put Madison on the board, Pelliccia and Lind scored, giving McLean a 4-1 lead. Pelliccia scored from free position with 9:27 remaining in the first half, giving the Highlanders their final lead of the night at 6-5.

"I think our girls played hard the entire time," McLean head coach Alexandra Whitworth said. "They were fired up the whole time for this game. This is always a big rivalry that we have against Madison. I think [the Warhawks] just kind of capitalized on their shots. Our shooting kind of went downhill as the game went on. Their goalie had some really good saves."

McLean will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 29.

Madison will host Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

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Conflicted, Times Two

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



About what I'm feeling and whether I should even be writing about it. Obviously, the "it" ("confliction," one of my father's many made-up words), has to do with yours truly having stage IV lung cancer (duh!). Specifically, it has to do with the feedback I received today from my nephrologist (kidney specialist), an appointment I have scheduled every four to six months. The ongoing concern being, that the toxicity of my previous three years of infused chemotherapy has caused collateral damage (internally for sure, externally, not so much), especially since I have lived longer than the standard treatment protocols anticipated/have been studied. Over this time, lab work and patient observation has indicated that something not totally unexpected has happened (other than my still being alive that is): damage to internal organs not directly related to the underlying cancer diagnosis. And what has been happening is that my creatinine levels (likely a side effect of my previous 18-month-long Avastin infusion) and bilirubin (likely a side effect of the – at present, nine months-long and counting, daily dose of tarceva, a targeted treatment/pill I take daily, are reaching new highs. Elevated levels of which are hardly grist for the rumor mill. In fact, it's quite the opposite: cause for concern.

The problem is that neither chemotherapy nor targeted treatment have been – heretofore, considered long-term treatment options for stage IV lung cancer patients because long-term survivors are rare. As such, studies determining such multi-year protocols have been equally rare, given the minimal patient population. And since I now fall into this "rare" population, how to treat me is more feel than established fact. The book hasn't been written, so to speak, because I'm the "book."

That being said, what the nephrologist said to me was: "You look great. Are you in remission?" (Not that I have been told.) "No one could tell by looking at you that you're not healthy." All of which I was grateful to hear, but hesitant to embrace. Ergo, the first "confliction." All of a sudden (four-plus years, actually), I'm not terminal? Given that I'm now living year five post-diagnosis, the chance, statistically speaking, that I'll be alive in year six is only 14.8 percent (see previous column of the same name). So, am I closer to the end of my life or the end of the cancer? That's a fairly wide disparity between fact and fiction. Am I living longer or dying sooner?

"Confliction" number two: What's the benefit to me, in even writing about what the nephrologist said? It feels as if I'm putting the proverbial cart before the horse. I'm not cured. There is no cure (as my oncologist clearly advised Team Lourie back in February, '09: "I can treat you, but I can't cure you." Hard words to live by). To the point then, what advantage, what purpose does discussing being cured (in remission) serve? My "CT" scan next week will tell me what I should be feeling; that's when the diagnostic rubber really hits the road. It doesn't matter what I think or feel – or write about – now, the tale of the tape will be in the "computerized topography." Until the radiologist completes his analysis and my oncologist communicates those findings to me, embracing what the nephrologist said to me or even writing about my reaction to it seems counterproductive somehow. I can't believe in miracles. I have to believe in myself. However, believing in one without the other is perhaps the reason I'm so conflicted. Or, I just think too much.

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

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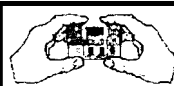
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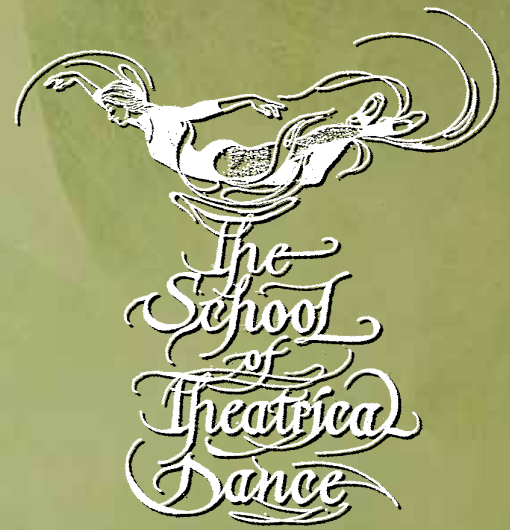
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