

From left, Hannah Harlow, as Anna, and Camila Maric, as Dorothy, perform in Cooper Middle School's production of "The Wiz."

Cooper Presents 'The Wiz'

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Dulles Metrorail crews pave sections of Route 7 near the Greensboro Metrorail Station near SAIC and Marshalls.



PHOTO BY
CHUCK SAMUELSON/
DULLES CORRIDOR
METRORAIL PROJECT

Silver Line Approaching Tysons

Route 7 lane shifts and paving, installation of sidewalks and streetlight foundations signal coming of Silver Line.

With construction completion of Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project anticipated in September, motorists and pedestrians are seeing an increase in project-related activities all along Leesburg Pike (Route 7) from the Dulles Toll Road to the overpass at Route 123.

Project construction crews are completing the paving of the traffic lanes closest to the median of the road and moving the three left lanes into their final configuration.

The work on the sidewalk at McLean station has been taking place in phases and is being followed, also in phases, by the demolition and reconstruction work on what will become the permanent fourth lane and final curbsides along eastbound and westbound Route 7.

Also, preparations for the installation of the permanent traffic signals are taking place. Timing for the traffic signals will be based on the final four-lane configuration.

Meanwhile, other crews are installing the permanent sidewalks, planters and foundations for streetlights. Dominion Virginia Power will install the streetlight poles.

Once this work is done, landscaping will begin along the sides of the roads.

Schedules call for all of this work to be completed in June. Lane closures, pedestrian detours and temporary walkways will be in place while this work is being done.

Rail project officials have encouraged drivers, pedestrians and bikers to be very careful when walk-



The pedestrian pavilion (foreground) shows the connecting point for the future pedestrian bridge connecting across Route 123 from the Tysons Corner Station to commercial structures under construction adjacent to the mall, including a hotel, an office tower and a residential building.

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN BARNA/DULLES CORRIDOR METRORAIL PROJECT



The canopy is almost complete at the McLean Station.

ing or driving through these areas while all of this work is taking place.



PHOTO BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION

Helene Safford believes that her students work best in an informal setting on group projects. Her class produces the school's news show.

Teacher of the Year

Longfellow Middle School CTE teacher honored.

BY LORI BAKER
THE CONNECTION

Search the faces of Helene Safford's students and you won't find one look of boredom. No signs of restlessness or clock-watching either. In fact, the expressions on the seventh and eighth graders' faces in Safford's speech arts class portray nothing but enthusiasm.

On a recent Monday afternoon, the computer-lined classroom featured students milling about, and the noise level was high. But Safford wouldn't have it any other way. The students were working in groups, consulting with their peers and with Safford on a broadcasting technology project.

Safford has been a career and technical education teacher at Longfellow Middle School for three years. This self-proclaimed "techno-geek" is well respected, not just by her students, but also by the school's administration, and by educators at the state level. This month, her work has been recognized by an even broader organization.

In mid-April, the Southern Business Education Association presented Safford with the 2012 Middle School Teacher of the Year Award. "I was really excited," said Safford. "It's a great honor to be recognized. You don't do any of the teaching particularly for the recognition, but it's really nice when someone does see the types of things you've done and what your students have produced."

Safford, who initially planned to be a teacher, took a slightly

non-traditional path to her current position. During her teacher training in the 1970s, she discovered a love of technology. Before long she had invested 20 years in the corporate world running technical operations for Reuters.

Her interest in technology and business, combined with a propensity for art, eventually led her to open the Clay Café, which just celebrated its 15th anniversary in Falls Church. Though her staff runs it, Safford still owns Clay Café. Her diverse background has allowed her to share a wealth of business and technology experience with Longfellow middle-schoolers.

"I think it's really great that she won this award," said Longfellow eighth grader, Avery Madore. "She really knows all the technology and what to do with it. I'm very happy for her," he said.

Safford says she gets as much from her students as they get from her. "I love the enthusiasm," she said. "I just get a lot of energy from the students. I could be having a terrible day and walk in, and within 10 seconds I'm just so engrossed in the atmosphere and working with the students. I like to see them excited about technology and their achievements. It's very energizing. I love it so much."

Longfellow Middle School recognizes her love of teaching. "She's very deserving of the award," said Assistant Principal Wendy Eaton. "She does phenomenal work with the students in the classroom. She really does an excellent job."

Fairfax County Budget Reflects 'Increasing Needs, Decreasing Revenues'

Supervisors approve one-cent increase in property tax rate.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

By a 9-1 vote, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a one-cent increase in the property tax rate during its FY2014 budget mark-up session on Tuesday, April 23, which means the average homeowner will pay about \$216 more next fiscal year.

The tax rate increase equals \$20.6 million in additional revenue for Fairfax County.

THE MARKED-UP BUDGET includes a real estate tax rate of \$1.085 per \$100 of assessed value, a one-cent increase from the \$1.075 rate in FY 2013. The increase is less than the two-cent increase proposed by County Executive Edward Long on Feb. 26.

"This budget is a responsible fiscal plan that reflects our current difficult economic situation," said Fairfax County BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). "It helps to restore structural balance as we continue to struggle with increasing needs, decreasing revenues, and the impacts of sequestration and economic uncertainty."

Braddock Supervisor John Cook joined his colleagues in supporting the "compromise" budget, the first time the Republican has voted for the budget since 2010.

"It was a tough vote. There are no good, simple answers to the position the county is in. We need economic growth to keep what we have and when it stalls out, that's a problem," Cook said after the vote Tuesday.

Cook strongly criticized the Federal Government's inaction, and noted the impact that had on the Fairfax County budget.

"We should have had an 8 percent growth in commercial real estate this year. Instead we had 0 percent. We wouldn't be in this circumstance if that growth had occurred. The commercial drop isn't because our businesses aren't ready to do business, it's because they are waiting for the Federal Government to do something," Cook said. "It is a bipartisan failure of the White House and Congress, of Democrats and Republicans."

Cook called the Fairfax County budget a "true compromise."

"Not one person on the board got everything he or she wanted. In tough economic times it's important for us all to come together and craft a budget together. That's what we did this year and for that reason I voted for it."

But Supervisor Pat Herrity, one of three



Media and the public attend the first FY2014 budget presentation by County Executive Edward L. Long, Jr. on Feb. 26.



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova

Republicans on the board, said the board could have done better, adding that the one-penny increase translates into a 4.5 percent increase on the average homeowner. He noted that increased assessments for townhouse and condo owners mean those residents will see a \$700 increase in their tax bills.

"For the first time in recent memory, our citizens are seeing significant tax increases at all three levels of government," Herrity said. "Our furloughed residents do not have the option of raising revenue, they must

"This budget is a responsible fiscal plan that reflects our current difficult economic situation."

— Fairfax County BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large)

make difficult cuts in their family's budgets and that is what we should be doing."

Herrity said that many Fairfax County homeowners are struggling as they try to navigate an uncertain future.

"I am disappointed that yet again we have balanced the budget on the backs of our homeowners," Herrity said. "We as a board spend a lot of time talking about helping people in need, I can only say that when it came time to tax them, they were sadly forgotten."

Cook said he advocated to keep the tax rate at FY2013 levels, but decided that he could be more effective working with his colleagues rather than simply voting no on any proposed tax increase.

"Had I voted no, the final rate would have been higher," Cook said. "By being involved, I was able to successfully exert some leverage on the board to help get the final rate reduced by one penny. Despite some misgivings, I believe this budget is a difficult compromise in a difficult year. That is why I supported it."

Highlights of the package include:

- ❖ Increases the Real Estate Tax Rate by one cent, from the current \$1.075 to \$1.085, rather than the advertised two cent increase;
- ❖ Increases property taxes by approximately \$216 on the average household;
- ❖ Closes a projected budget shortfall of \$169 million;
- ❖ Includes \$20.52 million in county agency reductions;
- ❖ Creates an \$8.1 million reserve to address the impact of sequestration and federal cuts;
- ❖ Transfers to Fairfax County Public Schools total \$1.89 billion or 52.7 percent of total county disbursements. The 2 percent increase is less than the school board's budget request, but provides funds to address their projected increase in the student population;
- ❖ Provides no increase in compensation for county employees, with the exception of longevity step increases included in the advertised budget;
- ❖ In addition, the total number of county staff positions will be reduced by 41, which includes the elimination of 83 positions, offset by 42 new positions.

IN THE BUDGET, the board reaffirmed its commitment to work with employee groups to develop and refine an overall pay structure that invests in our workforce and helps in recruiting and retaining high quality employees.

"Our employees have continued to provide quality services to our residents with professionalism and dedication, even in the face of pay freezes and tough economic times," Bulova said. "Their efforts have not gone unnoticed by this body. The creation of a fair and sustainable compensation package for implementation in FY 2015 is a critical element in the long-term stability of the county workforce."

The Board of Supervisors will adopt the FY2014 Budget on April 30. The FY2014 Budget Mark-up as well as other background materials is posted at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Janet Gonzalez of McLean will be traveling around the area in the Little White Fashion Truck, a mobile women's boutique.

Fashion On the Go

Janet Gonzalez brings mobile boutique to Northern Virginia.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As the youngest of four girls, Janet Gonzalez got used to hand-me-down clothes at a young age. The child of two parents who lived through the Great Depression, she became interested in fashion very early, often riding her bike miles away to look at the latest trends in stores and magazines.

"I would take the money I made babysitting to the stores and wait for the latest pieces to come in," she said. "It's truly my passion, it's something that I can forego eating or sleeping while I'm wrapped up in it."

That passion had led her to an emerging trend in the fashion and business world. Last summer a friend sent her a news story about fashion trucks, mobile boutiques that travel to different locations selling clothes. After doing research online, she found one based in Severna Park, Md., the Little White Fashion Truck.

She got in touch with the owner, Shelley Sarmiento, and over the next few months they kept in touch.

"One day I just went out to see the truck, and connected right away with Shelley and we started talking," Gonzalez said. "She wanted a truck in Washington, D.C., but she was being very careful about how she expanded, she wanted to do it right."

Now Gonzalez is running the second Little White Fashion Truck, which is starting to make appearances around Northern Virginia.

Gonzalez's truck is an old FedEx truck converted into a compact version of a regular boutique. It has mirrors, hardwood floors, track lighting, racks of clothes, display cases and even a fitting room.

THE CLOTHES are purchased from designers in New York, and stock rotates regularly.

"We get a certain amount of clothing, and once it sells out, we move on to the next

item," Gonzalez said. "Shelley understands the market, and I like to think I have a pretty good eye as well, and she's great about taking feedback and following the latest trends. It keeps our stock very fresh, and it makes us very popular with the fashionistas. We have something different every time."

In addition to clothes, the mobile boutique sells jewelry, handbags, scarves and other accessories. Inventory is priced competitively as well, aside from a few handbags, nothing in stock is more than \$100.

"In big stores or malls, it's easy to get overwhelmed with so many choices," Gonzalez said. "With the truck, people come in for 10 minutes, try in a few items, get the one they like and they're done."

Sally French, who lives in Montgomery County, heard about the Little White Fashion Truck on Facebook, and she traveled to an event Gonzalez hosted at a residence in McLean.

"I really think this is going to be the next big thing, I love it. They have things I just don't see in stores," French said. "I can get pretty overwhelmed in a mall, but here it's easy to see everything in stock, and having Janet around is like working with a personal shopper as well."

GONZALEZ, a 24-year native of McLean, was previously a pharmacist and later a sales representative, and has worked for business start-ups before.

"My previous experience forced me to be outgoing, to connect with people, and that's something I've always enjoyed," she said. "And I'm used to the ups and downs of getting a new business off the ground. We had a problem getting one of the trucks started today, but finding a solution to that is nothing when you're dealing with months of delays getting a product out there, so I'm fine with it."

Gonzalez also says she believes the business will give her a chance to give back to the community as well.

"I envision the truck in front of a school and donating a percent of the proceeds to the school," she said.

Information on dates and locations for the Little White Fashion Truck can be found on their Facebook page. For more, see www.facebook.com/LittleWhiteFashionTruck.

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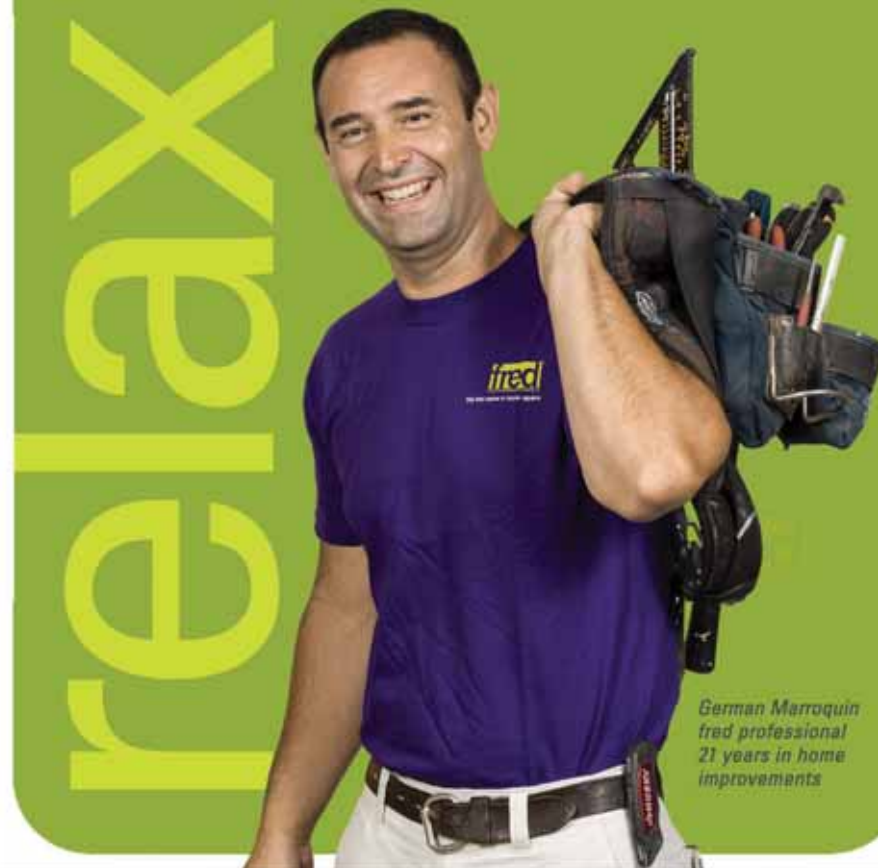
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Oakcrest School Announces Artwork of the Year Awards

Oakcrest School recently announced the winners of the Artwork of the Year Awards at Fine Arts Night: Grace Allen (top), seventh grade, won among middle schoolers and Jane North (bottom), 12th grade, at the upper school level.



WEEK IN MCLEAN

Titans Breakfast to Focus on Cyber Threats

The Northern Virginia Technology Council (NUTC) announced that Gen. Keith B. Alexander, commander of the U.S. Cyber Command, director of the National Security Agency and chief of the Central Security Service, will headline the organization's Titans breakfast event on May 10, 2013, from 7-9:15 a.m. at The Ritz Carlton, Tysons Corner in McLean. Gen. Alexander will detail current cyber threats facing the country, what we need to do to address these threats and the future of intergovernmental and public-private information sharing and partnerships.

The McLean Community Foundation Calls for Proposals

The McLean Community Foundation has issued a call for proposals for support to organizations that contribute to the quality of life of the greater McLean Community.

Proposals must be received by June 1, 2013.

Prospective applicants should consult the McLean Community Foundation web site for details of the application process at www.mcleancommunityfoundation.org.

Fundraiser Supporting LiftMeUp!

A fundraiser for LiftMeUp! has been announced by HBC Realty

WEEK IN MCLEAN

FROM PAGE 6

Group's (Keller Williams Realty) Community Charity Champions. Come to dinner on Tuesday, May 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pulcinella Italian Host in McLean to support LiftMeUp! Approximately 70 percent of the proceeds from food and drink will go to the charity, as long as the diner brings the flyer for the event. Contact HBC Realty Group at 703-734-0192 or visit www.HBCRealtyGroup.com to receive a flyer.

LiftMeUp!'s therapeutic riding program has been providing safe and effective instruction in Great Falls since 1975. The money raised at this event, in conjunction with support from The Great Falls Rotary

Club, will be put towards purchasing a hydraulic lift.

The lift will enable LiftMeUp! to begin helping riders who cannot bear weight on their legs and to continue safely supporting current riders who have grown into adulthood.

Sponsors of the event are: Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy with the HBC Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty, Betty Sparkman and Chris Lara of Reveal Remodel, Richard

Moroscak with EagleBank, Kevin Dougherty of Pillar to Post Home Inspections, Marcus Simon with EKKO Title, Moe Jebali of Pulcinella Italian Host, and One to One Fitness Centers.

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OPINION

Springing for Jobs

Low-income neighbors face another barrier: sequestration.

BY AMANDA ANDERE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/FACETS

With colorful flowers blooming and the days getting longer and warmer, spring always signals renewal and hope. For those affected by poverty, we may need an extended spring this year in order to fully reap its benefits.

I know we've seen slow and measured progress with the healing of the economy. But for low-income residents in our community, they are often the first and last to feel the effects of a recession. Now they face another barrier: sequestration. Now counties—including Fairfax—are losing federal funding for housing vouchers, threatening to put vulnerable families out in the streets.

This is especially unfortunate since ending homelessness is a top priority in Fairfax and we have made progress in our efforts, with the number of people who are homeless in Fairfax County down 12 percent, according to the annual point-in-time survey. Despite the recessions, we've had real success at helping people stabilize their lives. This latest barrier may be more than we can overcome.

Vouchers are important tools to close the gap between earnings and the high cost of living in our region. The issues facing the most vulnerable are compounded by the lack of afford-



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GUEST
EDITORIAL

able housing and the difficulty in finding employment that will cover the costs of living here. Local nonprofits work mostly with individuals who are low-skilled, have less than a 10th grade education (and in many cases less than sixth grade), and have limited English proficiency and low literacy levels. We are able, with significant effort, to find employment for many of these individuals. This employment, however, often offers low wages, little or no benefits, and may not last long term. We are all challenged in finding long-term employment with sufficient wages and benefits for the people with whom they work.

In our business, we call this underemployment. Nearly 40 percent of the homeless in our county are employed, but their earnings or their hours aren't enough to pay for housing and the basics. Nationwide, 7.6 million Americans are underemployed, due to the scarcity of full-time employment. Factoring in the 7.6 percent unemployment rate, the outlook does not seem as rosy for our struggling neighbors.

At FACETS, these realities have challenged us to put more emphasis on job placement and career development to help our clients obtain positions that will lead to better incomes and

careers. In tandem with this focus, we are also providing more life skills training to prepare them to manage their finances, set priorities, and be responsible tenants.

But it's still not enough. That's why we are recommending the county create a Workforce Innovation Fund to support a pilot workforce program, designed in conjunction with the county's nonprofit partners to achieve:

- ❖ Better coordination among all entities providing workforce development services in the county;

- ❖ An improved system for connecting people to available jobs, particularly in growth industries;

- ❖ An improved system to ensure more people complete community college and certification programs and obtain employment when they are done; and

- ❖ A plan for moving people from low-pay, low-skill entry level jobs along a career path to jobs with better pay.

Our individual programs along with this fund will be life changing for residents that are extremely low-income, enhancing their ability to move into jobs with sufficient salary. A renewed community commitment to helping get people sustainable employment will make this a season to remember.

FACETS, a nonprofit serving those suffering from the effects of poverty in Fairfax County/City. www.FacetsCares.org.

Five Myths About Public Libraries

BY SARAH TALLEY
SOUTHER

The Digital Age is well past its dawn and budgets are tight, leaving many people to question why we continue to fund libraries. After all, don't they just house a bunch of old books in print and everything you need is online ... right? Here's a few common myths about libraries:

1. Google and other search engines meet everyone's information needs.

Search engines can find amazing things, but only if you have access to the Internet. For many, the Fairfax County Public Library is their only means of access. Even in a wealthy area like Northern Virginia, almost 20 percent of families make less than \$50,000 per year, and depend on libraries for access to the Internet.

Not everything's online, or if it is, it's not free or it might be inaccurate. There's another hurdle: Not everyone uses search engines well enough to get to what they



need. Fairfax library staff teach people how to find and evaluate information sources all while protecting their privacy.

2. Books are becoming obsolete

Just as television and DVDs haven't killed movies, e-books haven't killed print. Over 13 million items were checked out from Fairfax libraries last year and most of them were books. Despite the uptick in demand for e-books, there are plenty of popular titles that aren't available because many publishers refuse to sell e-books to libraries.

3. The library is a quiet warehouse for books.

Odds are, no one will "shush!" you unless you're yelling on your cellphone in speaker mode. The library is a vibrant place that provides people with more than information. Early literacy story times, homework support, classes, book discussions, tax preparation assistance, tutoring, and other activities that support information literacy happen at the library. More

than 172,000 people took advantage of these events last year in Fairfax.

The Internet can bring people together, but libraries reinforce real-world communities because they are "bridging spaces" where people from many walks of life meet. Walk into a Fairfax library today, and you'll find a variety of new programs that bring people together, ranging from genealogy workshops to creative writing classes to one-on-one social media training.

4. This could all be done by volunteers.

While volunteers donated nearly 145,000 hours to the library last year, there is a limit to what volunteers can do. Staff members review collections for completeness and accuracy, present early literacy storytimes, make sure public computers run properly, and read extensively so they can provide book suggestions to all kinds of readers (including staunchly reluctant ones).

Library workers follow ethical codes that state they must try to make available accurate and complete information without bias and

protect your privacy. Much is asked of library workers, and information service expertise is necessary to provide customers with the services that they demand.

5. Public libraries are a drain on public coffers.

Libraries provide services to job seekers, businesses, consumers, and investors. Studies in Pennsylvania and Florida show that for every \$1 a community invests in its public libraries, it sees a return of about \$4.

When Thomas Jefferson said "Information is the currency of democracy," he did not envision the increasing gap between the technology "haves" and "have-nots." Access to the Internet is essential if you want to do homework, search for jobs, and interact with the government. For many in Fairfax, the library is their only means of access.

We invest resources in libraries and schools because they provide a public good in the form of educated, informed citizens during all stages of their lives. The fact that Fairfax County sees a monetary return on this investment is a wonderful bonus.

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POETRY CORNER

The Wave

BY KATHERINE ROHLOFF/
MCLEAN

I see it coming.
I see the leading, massive
wave marking the peak of high
tide
It rumbles towards me like a
bull to a matador
Building up force the closer
and closer it gets until
The icy, stinging slap of the
wave slams over my body
Lifting me up and off my feet
Tumbling into the deep blue
watery depths of the ocean.
The salt water explodes
through my nose
As foggy bits of shells mixed
with sand fly past my eyes in



Katherine Rohloff

the undercurrent
My arms are ripped, scratched
and burned from the ocean floor
And my lungs scream for air
As I tumble head over heels
towards the shore.

My hair, gritty with sand,
whips into my vulnerable eyes
And I strain them through the
tornado of sand
Trying to figure out which way
it is to the surface
But it all looks the same.
Slowly, slowly, my tumbling
slackens to rolling
And I thrust my feet down into
the sharp, shell littered bottom
Fighting against the massive
wave
Fighting to break free of its
strong hold.
A spray of sea foam lifts from the
water and crashes above my head.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean, holds an annual church yard sale on Saturday, May 11, inside from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine, with an aggregation of items from several families, with every-

thing from electronics to glassware featured; hot dog lunch served midday. <http://www.TheHungerChurch.org>.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers a rich and unique Religious Exploration (RE) program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path.

Registration for the RE program, which offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, is now open by calling 703-281-4230.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, offers a 9 a.m. traditional service and a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service on Sundays. Also offers two services during the summer, both of which will include children's sermons. 703-356-3346.

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Recycling for Trees

McLean Trees Foundation encourages community to use recycling bins.

A Work Day at Lewinsville Park

Commemorating Earth Day, the McLean Trees Foundation (MTF) is encouraging residents of McLean to use its two red recycling bins located in front of Cooper Middle School on the corner of Balls Hill Road and Georgetown Pike. Proceeds from recycling magazines and newspapers are used by MTF to purchase, plant and maintain trees in McLean. The bins are always open.

"Trees provide many environmental, aesthetic, social and economic benefits to our community," said Joyce Harris, chairman of the McLean Trees Foundation. "When you bring your newspapers, magazines, telephone books and other recyclable paper to our bins, you are actively helping to maintain, preserve and increase the tree canopy here in McLean. Our goal is to provide McLean with

more tree-lined, pedestrian-friendly streets. Donations and proceeds from our recycling bins are our only stream of revenue."

"We have a county collection for our trash and recyclables, but we always bring our newspapers to MTF's recycling bins to help support the planting of more trees in McLean," said Sue King, treasurer and board member for MTF who has been involved with its efforts



Bobbie Jackson, a McLean resident, is a regular user of the McLean Trees Foundation recycling bins.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

for over 14 years. "We are losing trees to development faster than we are able to plant trees."

IN PARTNERSHIP with local and county officials, MTF engages public and private property owners to plant and maintain trees. Throughout the year, MTF identifies tree-planting projects in McLean and recruits volunteers of all ages to participate in projects that are held in the spring and fall.

Businesses, civic groups, homeowner associations, churches, schools, Scouts and other volunteer organizations are encouraged to participate. Volunteers may work independently or with a group. No experience in planting or maintaining trees is necessary.

"A single tree has the power to

change a landscape and to change lives," said Harris.

MTF was founded over 30 years ago. Its mission is to preserve, plant and maintain trees in McLean; to educate the public on the value of trees; and to assist the public in taking an active role in caring for trees in McLean. Tax-deductible donations, suggestions for projects and offers for volunteer assistance can be addressed to The McLean Trees Foundation, PO Box 113, McLean, VA, 22101 or contact Joyce Harris, chairman, at McLeanTrees@verizon.net.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact Sue King, MTF treasurer, at 703-356-1790 or sueberkeking@verizon.net.

WELLBEING

Yoga Week Comes To the Area

Local effort offers budding yogis a chance to improve their minds, bodies and spirits with free or \$5 classes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Amanda Shipe presses the palms of her hands into the back of one of her students. The student's body forms a triangle, her head dangling upside down, the balls of her feet squeezing against the coarseness of the yoga mat beneath her. Shipe's touch sends the student's sitting bones skyward.

"[This] is called 'downward facing dog.' We do a lot of hands on alignment in our yoga classes to make sure students are doing their asanas [postures] correctly," said Shipe, who runs Mind Your Body Oasis yoga studio in Arlington.

Shipe and other area yoga studio directors are welcoming new

students into their doors this week as part of the eighth annual D.C. Yoga Week, an effort by the Washington-area community of yogis to raise awareness about the practice.

Participating yoga studios are offering free and \$5 classes along with discounts on merchandise and workshops. The weeklong event began April 26 and culminates with Yoga on the Mall, an outdoor yoga class of more than 1,000 yoga enthusiasts of all skill levels that will be held this Sunday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"There are a lot of people who are afraid to take yoga. Some people have a misconstrued perception of what yoga is. This week they can take a class without making a large investment and become

more familiar with yoga," said



PHOTO BY AMANDA LOMAX

Amanda Shipe, of Mind Your Body Oasis yoga studio in Arlington, assists a student with a downward facing dog yoga pose. Mind Your Body Oasis is one of several area studios offering free and \$5 classes during D.C. Yoga Week.

Dawn Curtis of East Meets West Yoga Center in Vienna.

Shipe believes rampant misinformation fuels the trepidation that keeps some people at bay. "There are so many fears about yoga and so much talk out there in social media," said Shipe. "This event will raise awareness about how great yoga is for your mind, body and spirit. It will bring new people into yoga classes and remind people that yoga is pretty mainstream and very available at many studios."

Jatin P. Ambegaonkar, Ph.D., an associate professor in George Mason University's College of Education and Human Development in

Fairfax, says the week-long focus on yoga is an opportunity to educate those who are unfamiliar with the practice.

"Scientific evidence has shown that the clear benefits of yoga include a sense of relaxation, a sense of well-being, a sense of cardiovascular wellness and musculoskeletal wellness," said Ambegaonkar, who lives in Centreville. "The problem with yoga is that in the last eight to 10 years, there have been a lot of hybrids that have branched out from the original Indian art form of yoga, like power yoga and hot yoga, that are somewhat of a fad."

Ambegaonkar added that while



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIND YOUR BODY OASIS

Yoga students in Arlington lie in a resting pose. Mind Your Body Oasis, one of the area studios participating in D.C. Yoga Week, offers a free outdoor class at 7 a.m. on Mondays.

such popular forms of yoga are not necessarily harmful, more research is needed. He also offered a caveat. "One of the basic tenets of yoga is the focus on the body and recognizing it as being a temple," he said.

"People who practice yoga regularly know when they have reached their limit."

According to its co-founder, Annie Mahon of Circle Yoga in Washington, D.C., Yoga Week began as a way to expand the yoga community and increase cohesiveness. "One goal is to make yoga accessible to a wider audience," she said. "We'd like to be able to do more community-based yoga,

like therapeutic yoga and support yoga in different areas of the [region]. We want to create more community in the yoga world."

Freddy Margolis of Village Yoga in Potomac, Md., plans to join Yoga on the Mall. He also hopes D.C. Yoga week will unite local yogis.

"The D.C. area has one of the strongest yoga communities in the country," he said. "People get worried about their own studios, but it's nice for us all to come together and have a nice day out on the Mall."

For more information about D.C. Yoga Week, Yoga on the Mall or to find a list of participating studios, visit <http://dcyog.org/>.

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Marshall junior Allie Johnson scored four goals against Thomas Jefferson on Monday.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Marshall junior Kelly Brown is verbally committed to play at the University of Southern California.

Marshall Girls' Lax to Face Stone Bridge in District Tournament

The Marshall girls' lacrosse team scored the first goal of Monday's contest against Thomas Jefferson.

The Statesmen spent the rest of the evening playing catch-up, thanks in large part to TJ junior Hunter Clark.

Clark controlled the draws and in turn, helped control the game. TJ won 21 of 24 first-half draws en route to a 16-7 halftime lead before cruising to a 24-14 victory at George C. Marshall High School.

"It's very hard to win a lacrosse game

when you don't get draws," Marshall head coach Nicholle Depaz Clinton said. "They have a tremendous draw-control specialist. She did a really good job."

Marshall closed the regular season with a 5-7-2 record, including 2-5 in the Liberty District. The Statesmen, who lost their final four regular season games, will travel to face Stone Bridge in the district tournament quarterfinals. Stone Bridge won the regular-season matchup 20-13 on April 15.

"We played Stone Bridge before and the

halftime score was [11-7] with a 6-1 start because they got eight draws in a row," Depaz Clinton said. "It will be a question of if the kids want to get the draw. As you can see, when we do get the draw, we do some damage."

Against TJ, junior attack Allie Johnson led Marshall with four goals. Junior midfielder Kelly Brown finished with three goals, sophomore midfielder Sophie Lex had two goals, and senior Maggie MacDonnell, sophomore Mary Hagopian and freshman Sarah Smith each had one.

Brown and Johnson have been Marshall's top offensive threats this season. Brown is committed to play at the University of Southern California.

Monday was senior night for Marshall. Statesmen seniors MacDonnell, Miriam Kreykes, Madeleine Lewsen, Neary Them, Jocelyn Golden and Katie Clark were honored.

Marshall has reached the Northern Region tournament each of the last three seasons.

— JON ROETMAN



Katie Clark was one of the seniors recognized during the Marshall girls' lacrosse team's senior night on Monday.



Marshall midfielder Sophie Lex scored two goals against Thomas Jefferson on Monday.

Madison Girls' Lax Beats Stone Bridge in Thriller

In a thrilling and bizarre contest decided in the last few seconds of the game, the visiting Madison girls' lacrosse team (8-1, 6-0) escaped with a 12-11 victory over the powerful Stone Bridge Bulldogs (9-3, 4-2).

Traveling to Loudoun County on a cold and drizzly Monday evening, the Lady Warhawks were at a decided disadvantage on Stone Bridge's muddy, grass field — a surface that was familiar and comfortable territory for the home team Bulldogs. Initially, Madison appeared out of synch on the sloppy field and trailed the

Bulldogs 7-5 at halftime. In a hard-fought and physical game marked by numerous fouls and yellow cards on both sides, Stone Bridge extended its lead to 11-6 with 9 minutes remaining.

After a time out by head coach Amanda Counts, the Lady Warhawks returned to the field, seemingly on a mission, and took control of the game. The momentum shifted in the Warhawks' favor for good when the Bulldog goalkeeper was tagged with a rare yellow card for slashing Kierra Sweeney as she drove for an uncontested goal. After the penalty was assessed, Sweeney responded

with a free shot goal into the open net. A fired up Madison team maintained draw control for the remainder of the game and scored quickly on the next five possessions.

Katie Kerrigan scored the winning goal with just a few seconds left in the game. Kerrigan and Sweeney paced Madison's scoring attack with three goals apiece. The Warhawks also got goals from Sam Babbitt (2 goals, 3 assists), Maddie Renshaw (2 goals), Erin Callahan (1 goal, 1 assist) and Carly Frederick (1 goal). Alex Condon chipped in with two assists. Rachel Brennan and Maddie Roberts were relent-

less on defense and goalkeeper Sigourney Heerink notched 11 saves, including several spectacular stops toward the end of the game.

The Lady Warhawks' final regular season game is at home against Thomas Jefferson on Wednesday. It's senior recognition night for Callahan, Frederick, Melissa Kellan and Taylor Rivera-Silva who will be honored in a pregame ceremony at 7 p.m.

The Warhawks enter first round Liberty District Tournament play this Friday on their home turf as the No. 1 seed.

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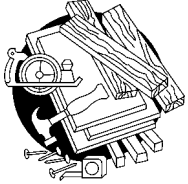
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FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY Notice of Public Hearing

Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Easements Necessary
for Public Purposes by Eminent Domain or Other Means

May 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

The Fairfax County Water Authority will hold a public hearing pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1903 on **at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013**, to receive public comments on a proposed Resolution authorizing the acquisition of easements necessary for the improvement and expansion of Fairfax Water's water system infrastructure adjacent to sections of the Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) in Fairfax County. The improvement and expansion is required to provide adequate capacity to serve existing and future customers. The necessary easements are to be located across several parcels of land adjacent to U.S. Route 1, more particularly described as Fairfax County Tax Map Parcels 083-3-01-0037, 083-3-01-0038, 083-3-01-0040, 083-3-01-0041, 083-3-08-B, 093-1-01-0019, 093-1-01-0025, 093-1-16-0013, 092-2-18-06-0001A, and 093-1-18A-0001. Following the public hearing, the Water Authority Board may vote on or after June 6, 2013, to adopt the proposed Resolution.

The proposed Resolution and other related information can be viewed at Fairfax Water's Website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>.

The public hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed resolution should call Eva Catlin at (703) 289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

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Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/MAY 2

Photos by Dee Leggett: "Come to the Light." 6 a.m.-3 p.m. weekdays, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. weekends, at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. An exhibit of photos capturing light in nature, on display through the 30th of May. 703-430-8680 or DeeLeggettPhotography.vpweb.com.

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, www.leadershipfairfax.org/25th or www.leadershipfairfax.org/25thsponsorshipinfo.

Patty Larkin at Wolf Trap. 8 p.m., at the Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Songstress and master guitarist Patty Larkin brings her bluesy jazz-infused urban sound to the Barns at Wolf Trap. \$22. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

2013 ValeArts Spring ART Show: Jewels of Color. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. ValeArts hosts the 17th annual art show featuring more than 150 original oils, watercolors, acrylics, and mixed media by nine

local artists. www.valearts.com.

Young Soloists' Recital. 3 p.m., Alden Theatre of the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Pianists Risako Takamura, 11, Kevin Su, 12, and Satowa Kinoshita, 17; and violinists Noelle Midori Takebe Naito, 10, Nicholas Brown, 16, and Abigail Tucker, 16, will be presented by the Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library. 703-620-9535.

Cinco de Mayo Spirits and Pork/Steak Pairing Event. 6:30 p.m., at Wildfire, third floor, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Guest speaker Lisa Martinez, a representative of Southern Wine & Spirits representative, will discuss the evening's drink-and-food pairings and the craft behind the aged tequilas. \$75. Reservations. 703-442-9110.

"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.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Ayr Hill Garden Plant Sale. 8 a.m.-noon, on the Vienna Town Green, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Plants for sun and/or shade, some drought tolerant and others deer resistant for sale; proceeds go towards public garden maintenance in Vienna.

Great Falls Greening-Up Day. 8 a.m.-Noon. Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Native plant sale's proceeds support the Friends of Riverbend Park and the

park operations. bcanis@yahoo.com.
W&OD Safety and Bike Rodeo. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., on the Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Vienna Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) enlists the help of the Vienna Police Department in a guided bike ride for children ages 4 and up through a mock street course. www.ViennaBAC.com.

2013 ValeArts Spring ART Show: Jewels of Color. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. ValeArts hosts the 17th annual art show featuring more than 150 original oils, watercolors, acrylics, and mixed media by nine local artists. www.valearts.com.

Meet Steve Madden. 2-3:30 p.m., at Nordstrom, Tysons Corner Center, 8075 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Meet the shoe mogul in person at an event hosted by TV personality Julissa Mermudez of the Style Network's hit series "Empire Girls"; guests can get photos and autographs on complimentary tees and totes while a DJ guest plays songs. 703-761-1121.

Garden of Light Reception. 3-6 p.m., at Holiday Inn & Suites, Rooftop Patio, 625 First St., Alexandria. The Vienna-based Bethany House of Northern Virginia holds a garden party with a silent auction, live music and refreshments to benefit their family assistance program, devoted to helping women and children who have suffered domestic violence. \$55. 703-658-9500, <http://gardenoflight2013.eventbrite.com> or www.bhmv.org.

McLean Orchestra Season Finale: Route 66 to Paris. 8 p.m., at Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. A silent auction precedes the concert, which features music of Daugherty, Barber, Bernstein, Ravel



"Seneca Sunset," by Dee Leggett, is among the photographs in the "Come to the Light" exhibit at Katie's Coffee on exhibit Thursday, May 2, through Thursday, May 30.

and George Gershwin and a performance from guest soprano soloist Courtenay Budd; a cake and champagne reception follows. \$40; \$30, seniors; \$15, youth. <http://mclean-orchestra.org/tickets/>.

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.

SUNDAY/MAY 5

2013 ValeArts Spring ART Show: Jewels of Color. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. ValeArts hosts the 17th annual art show featuring more than 150 original oils, watercolors, acrylics, and mixed media by nine local artists. www.valearts.com.

Great Falls Day. Noon-6 p.m., at the Great Falls Grange Park, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Celebrate the 200th anniversary of

the historic Georgetown Pike and life along the road from 1813 with history tents of local families, photographs and artistic images of life in early Great Falls, historic games, an outdoor picnic and local entertainers. 917-673-3149.

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.

Dancing for Jane on Great Falls Day. 3 p.m., at Great Falls Grange Park, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Culin School of Traditional Irish Dance adult Irish dancers perform to fundraise and show support for the family of 7-year-old Irish dancer Jane Richard who was injured in the Boston Marathon bombing; proceeds go to the Richard Family Fund. www.facebook.com/DanceOut4JaneDC.

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ENTERTAINMENT



Getting things started at the reception are, from left: Joe Pisciotta, McLean Orchestra President Aileen Pisciotta, former Redskins player and Master of Ceremonies Charles Mann, Lisa Levine and Ralph Petta.

PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER/
THE CONNECTION

McLean Orchestra Hosts 'Midnight in Paris'

Orchestra offers its final "Season of Imagination" concert on May 4.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Trust people who wear formal attire as their uniform, and those who direct and administer their efforts, to know how to put on a gala. Sunday, April 21, was the night of the McLean Orchestra's annual fundraiser held at the Hilton Tysons Corner. Themed "Midnight in Paris" from reception start through a dinner that included a live auction, acknowledgements and awards, and finally dancing to the tunes of Ed Witles The Elegant DJ, the black-tie evening was as well-arranged, conducted and received as any of the musical performances for which the orchestra is known.

Master of Ceremonies and former Redskins defensive end Charles Mann got the evening started with his opening remarks. "We are so pleased to have him with us this evening," said McLean Orchestra President Aileen Pisciotta. "Apart from his amazing sports career (three Super Bowl rings), Charles is a businessman, and a philanthropist ... personifying the spirit of giving and community that we celebrate."

Pisciotta took to the podium after Mann, praising the many people who had contributed time, money, services and products toward the success of the event and of the orchestra, with special acknowledgement of the gala sponsors, including Regus Management Group, LLC, Dr. Wayne Winston and Mrs. Linda Sharp, Col. (Ret.) Allan and Mrs. Jorgenson, Mr. J. Almont Pierce and Ms. Lola Reinsch, Wells Fargo Bank and many other patrons.

INSTEAD OF THE USUAL chat and chew, the tempo really picked up at dinner as professional charity auctioneer and magician David Goodman worked the stage and the crowd, expertly prodding numbered paddles to rise and wallets to open. "Come on, ladies and gentlemen," he prompted. "Let's play competitive giving!" Of course, his job was probably made easier by the items up for auction: Who could resist bidding on a Cordon Bleu culinary experience in Paris or a week in England starting at an historic manor hotel, spa and golf course and ending up in London with golf, tours, theater tickets and Player's Enclosure tickets to the Boodles Tennis Tournament? What about a red carpet experience at the Emmys? Including the entrance walk on the famous red carpet? A



McLean Orchestra Music Director/Conductor Miriam Burns gets into the spirit of things, participating in an interactive game of Heads or Tails. Players vied to be the last man or woman standing—and to win an iPad Mini.

seven night stay for 12 people in a luxury villa in Tuscany, Italy with a private chef, wine tours and a Tuscan cooking class was so hotly contested by the bidders that Goodman sold it twice.

Given the recipient of all this generosity, the evening would not have been complete without a musical interlude, which was provided by soprano Melissa Mino. A brief film was also shown, highlighting the orchestra's performances, community involvement, education programs and youth orchestra.

Charles Mann, President Pisciotta, and Executive Director John Huling returned to the podium to preside over the presentation of two special awards. Ann Page, a past president and member of the Board of Trustees for 10 years, was the recipient of the first Chairman's Concerto Award, "earned for personal effort and demonstrated passion for ... the orchestra."

Shane McLaughlin accepted the Golden Baton Award on behalf of Wells Fargo & Company. Wells Fargo was the largest sponsor for the annual galas in 2010 and 2011 and became the first season underwriter in 2012. Orchestra officials also cited Wells Fargo for their commitment to community service and development, in addition to generous financial support.

ECHOES OF THE PARISIAN THEME will continue when the orchestra offers its final "Season of Imagination" concert on May 4. For tickets or to learn more about the McLean Orchestra and their dedication to creating a "Community in Concert," visit www.Mclean-orchestra.org.

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Cooper Presents 'The Wiz'

Students perform adaptation of classic "Wizard of Oz."

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Cooper Middle School will present one of its most ambitious productions ever starting May 8 with "The Wiz." A soulful retelling of "The Wizard of Oz," the Cooper production will feature a cast of 60 and a crew of 30.

"The music for this production would be a challenge even for a high school, but the students have been very pro-active in learning their parts, taking lessons, using recordings to get better," said Kelsey Failes, the school's choir director who is serving as the play's musical director. "Even for a musical, there's a lot of music to learn, and a lot of it is very stylistic with a Motown or jazzy feel to it."

Last year Cooper performed "The Sound of Music," but this year's cast say it's one of the most challenging things they've done.

"There's a lot more of everything—singing, dancing, acting—but that makes it more fun, because we're learning how to do a lot onstage," said eighth grader Ammad Akbari, who plays the Lion. "The process has been fun, because while we were learning the dances, we got to have fun pretending to yell at people as they messed it up."

The play has been dual cast, meaning there are two actors playing each main role. Each actor will be in one afternoon and one evening performance. For eighth grader Camila Maric, who plays Dorothy, a lead role has been her chance to set an example.

"I've learned a lot about acting, people expect you to be the first one to know the lines because you're the lead," she said. "It makes you try a lot harder, but it can be scary."

Several Langley High School students have been helping the cast with vocal and dance performances.

"We've been teaching them that the score on the page is more of a guideline, so much of the music is their interpretation," said Alicia Menendez, a junior at Langley serving as assistant musical director. "Some of the cast are familiar with the original, but this is a much more fun, upbeat version of the story they know."

Meg Baber, theater teacher at Cooper and director of the play, said working with a large cast on such a diverse play has been a challenge, but rewarding.

"It's been difficult to get so many students on the same page, but we've been so lucky to have help from the Langley students when it comes to singing and choreography," she said. "And since the play is filled with fantasy characters, there's been a lot of costume production as well."

"The Wiz" will be performed May 8 and 9 at 2:30 p.m., and May 10 and 11 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and children, \$10 for adults. All shows will be at Cooper Middle School, 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Glinda, played by Justine Verheul, speaks with Dorothy, played by Camila Maric, during Cooper Middle School's production of "The Wiz."

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SCHOOLS

Spring Hill Students Win Earth Day Awards

The school celebrates Earth Day with a multi-media celebration and contest.

By LORI BAKER
THE CONNECTION

Spring Hill Elementary School kicked off a new tradition this year for Earth Day. The entire student body shared their own interpretation of the importance of Earth Day through a school-wide art show and talent contest. The students created a variety of artistic creations, ranging from visual art to poetry and performance art. The celebration concluded with a recycled-goods fashion show.

The program was inspired by members of the school's administration who believe that it's crucial to teach today's children how to responsibly use and dispose of resources.

"What we're looking for is lifelong skills," said school Principal Roger Vanderhye. "Because that world that they're going to be living in is going to be far different than the one that I was raised in, and that many of our teachers were raised in. We're going to have to reduce the amount of materials that we use, we're going to have to recycle, and we're definitely going to have to figure out how to reuse. And if we can get them, at this level, to feel this way, that's important."

The school's environmental effort included more than an art contest. Students are responsible, daily, for ensuring that trash or recycled goods are disposed of properly in the cafeteria and throughout the school. The results were measured and counted over the course of the past year, and the numbers were significant. When Vanderhye announced the results of the recycling efforts to the student body, the audience erupted into cheers. They were proud to learn that the total amount of their school's recycling increased by about 52 percent. This amounted to a total decrease in trash collected of 38 percent or 21,000 lbs. More than 5,000 unopened food items were collected and donated to SHARE in five months, 10,000 plastic bags were recycled, and more than 6,000 juice pouches were collected to be reused.

On stage, several groups of students shared creative performances ranging from skits to rapping, to video performances. A panel of judges made up of teachers and a local artist sat nearby, ready to select a winner. Finally, the results were announced. Winners included Noor Afzal, Clarissa and Emily Caslli, Jennifer Mears, Kushaan Vardhan, Jenna Cai, Kacy Lee, Summer Parise, Sofie Sharpe, Caroline Lavin, Bella Holloman, Ashley Saxenian, Tiffany Parise, Jisoo Park, and Julia Gilbert. The performance award went to rappers Zander Kuebler, Will Tedesco, Antonio Hernandez, and Nedim Ozden.

The children overwhelmingly agreed to make their Earth Day celebration an annual tradition. "The earth is our planet," said fifth grader Tiffany Parise. "It gives us resources. And we have to try to preserve it as much as we can."



PHOTOS BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION

Third graders Zander Kuebler, Will Tedesco, Antonio Hernandez, and Nedim Ozden won the school's Best Performance award for their "Rap Cycle" performance.



Fifth graders Summer Parise, Tiffany Parise, Minna Thompson, Erin Connery, Daisy Chapin, Juliette Amorosi and Catherine Quatrini presented a fashion show featuring outfits made of recycled goods.



Sisters Clarissa and Emily Caslli shared the award for best 3D art project.

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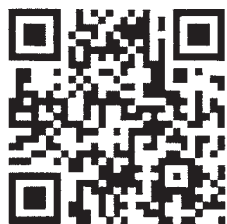
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