

McLean  
CONNECTION

From left, Allynn Walker-Bey and Brandon Showell, members of 4Shore, perform at the Old Firehouse Teen Center Block Party. Showell, a staff member at the teen center, will be a judge for this year's event.

# Block Party Set for Aug. 24

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Sarah Schallern, Darrick Speller and Jimmy Reed serve as judges in last year's McLean Teens Got Talent contest. Schallern will be one of the judges this year.

## Block Party Set for Aug. 24

McLean Teens Got Talent returns for third year, along with games, history exhibit.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Old Firehouse Teen Center will host its annual Block Party Saturday, Aug. 24, welcoming teens and families to an afternoon of live performances, living history exhibits and other activities all through the center.

"There's going to be activities in every room, things that will appeal to the whole family," said Ashley Smith, manager of the center.

The party will be headlined by the band Another Level, a six-piece group that will play Motown, soul, 70s and R&B classics. The group features a male and female vocalist, and members have toured with Prince, James Brown, Elton John and Patti LaBelle.

The McLean Volunteer Fire Department will host a living history exhibit during the event, chronicling the history of their fire houses in the community.

The department was founded in 1921, and a local barn was their first station. According to department records, they moved into the building that would become the teen center in 1949, and eventually added on a meeting hall and new bunk room in 1965.

The department moved to their current location on Laughlin Avenue in 1988.

The block party has been a tradition since 1990 at the teen center, though it has been revamped several times over the past few years.

In 2011, the McLean Teens Got Talent contest began, giving county residents ages 13 to 18 a chance to get onstage and show a panel of judges what they're made of.

"The third year of McLean Teens Got Talent, with the acts performing in front of three judges. We're looking for anything, magicians, comedians, bands, any kind of talent, and we've got plenty of spots. If we don't fill them we'll open it up to the audience," Smith said. "We did add some crowd engagement acts and some games that will take place between acts."

**THE CONTEST** has a high pedigree. One of the judges is Brandon Showell, who has served as a judge in the past, and also has experience on the stage. He performed with his group 4Shore at the 2011 party,



Sofia Najjar, 8, and her mother, Lama, create spin art t-shirts at the annual Block Party at the Old Firehouse Teen Center.

and the group participated in that year's The X Factor.

Sarah Schallern, performing arts director at the Alden Theatre, will serve as another judge.

The moon bounce will feature two slides, and other activities will include a climbing wall, caricature artists, spin art t-shirt making, carnival games, airbrush tattoos and a dunk tank.

The party will run from 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24 at the Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.

The McLean Teens Got Talent show will run from 5 to 8 p.m. and Another Level will take the stage at 8:30 p.m.

The application deadline for McLean Teens Got Talent has been extended, applications are now due by Friday, Aug. 16 at 6 p.m. Anyone age 13 to 18 that is a Fairfax County resident can enter. Applications can be found at [www.mcleancenter.org/teens/](http://www.mcleancenter.org/teens/) events.



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

**Don't expect to see political signs in the medians of Fairfax County this election season. Crews of nonviolent offenders are out four days a week confiscating the placards thanks to a new arrangement with the Virginia Department of Transportation.**

## The Median Has No Message

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**S**ome people call them flowers of democracy. Others call them weeds of political pollution. Whatever one thinks of the campaign signs and placards that appear along the roads of Fairfax County, expect to see a lot fewer of them. Last month, county officials launched a new program in which nonviolent inmates at the county jail hit the streets four days a week to remove illegal signs.

With apologies to Marshall McLuhan, the message is no longer in the median.

Anger and resentment has been rising over the issue of roadside political signs for years, and campaigns frequently go to war with each other to see which side can plant or steal or deface the largest number of placards. Unlike Prince William County, which had an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation that allows the local government to collect the signs and fine violators, Fairfax was caught in a bind. Part of the Virginia code made it illegal for the county to remove the signs in Fairfax County until after an election. Until now.

Last year, Del. David Albo (R-42) introduced House Bill 34. The legislation amended Virginia law specific to Fairfax County, allowing the commissioner of highways to enter into an agreement with the Board of Supervisors. Instead of waiting for the Virginia Department of Transportation to enforce the law against signs in the medians, the new law allows Fairfax County to enter into an agreement similar to the one that already exists in Prince William

allowing the local government to collect the signs and issue a \$100 fine for each violation.

"Once you do it a couple of times, then nobody does it anymore," said Albo. "Politicians are running to write laws, and they don't want to break them."

**ALBO SAYS** the 2011 campaign was the last straw. As the election for state Senate approached, the roadsides of Fairfax County were littered with thousands of signs for every candidate under the sun. Because two different attorneys general issued conflicting opinions about whether or not political signs constituted free speech, Albo said, candidates could argue the practice was legal. Albo's bill this year ended that ambiguity, clarifying the law even as it gave new authority to Fairfax County.

"This is something that has bothered people for a number of years," said Springfield Supervisor Pat Herrity. "The county has tried before to address it, but we've clearly got it addressed this time."

Back in February, the supervisors approved a contract with VDOT. Now, as a result of Albo's legislation and the supervisors' agreement, Fairfax County has a contract to enforce VDOT's rules. The new program launched on July 1, and the clean-up crew of inmates has been out every Tuesday to Friday since that time. County leaders say the weekends are still fair game.

"Signs will be removed from selected highways, not all neighborhood streets," said Troy Manos, communications director for Bulova. "Basically that means if you are having a garage sale and you want to put a sign at the end of a small residential street, that would be OK."

# Preserving History's Jewels

Fairfax County considers new "resident curator" program to save historic properties.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**G**eorge Washington slept here. He really did. And Mount Vernon, the first president's historic Northern Virginia estate, is the nation's most-visited historic home.

While not many properties can compete historically with Mount Vernon, Fairfax County is the site of many historic homes, farms and estates, from the Revolutionary War era through the American Civil War. But preserving historic homes can be prohibitively expensive, and are not for the financially timid.

In an effort to preserve publicly owned historic buildings, Fairfax County is currently drafting a plan for a resident curator program. If established, the county would make history as the first locality in the state to implement one.

**THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEA** behind the resident curator program is to take some of the burden of maintaining historic properties off taxpayers by offering individuals and entities the opportunity to rehabilitate and maintain deteriorating buildings, at their own expense, in exchange for a long-term lease for little or no rent.

"A successful resident curator program would allow the county to restore, maintain and protect important historic properties at little or no cost to the public," said Cindy Walsh, Fairfax County Park Authority's Resource Management Division director. "In return, a curator will have an opportunity to live or conduct business in a property in Fairfax County that perhaps offers a great lesson in the history of the county."

In addition to preserving significant historic buildings, Walsh said they could be put to practical use as residential, office or commercial space depending on how they are planned and zoned, community input and other factors.

Under the program, curators would be required to provide opportunities for the public to visit and tour the properties in order to appreciate and understand their historic and architectural significance.

"Fairfax County, through a variety of means, continues to demonstrate its commitment to cultural stewardship and the preservation of historic places," Walsh said.



**The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, in McLean, is the only national park run by a nonprofit organization. The 1771 farm offers a glimpse of what life was like for a poor farm family, just before the Revolutionary War.**

The county has hired a historic preservation firm to develop the plan, and will hold two initial public meetings later this month to gather public input to determine how the program should operate.

After the resident curator plan is developed, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will determine the next steps for the proposed program.

"We encourage interested parties to join in the discussion and attend one of the two meetings," Walsh said. "We are interested in diverse viewpoints and suggestions and hope in the long run we will find the perfect blend of past and present."

The county hired John Milner Associates Inc. to write the plan, which is expected to be completed by May 2014. It will address a number of issues, including candidate properties and selection criteria; how the program should be administered; potential tax incentives;

and responsibilities for potential curators and the county.

**IN 2011**, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors directed staff to work with the History Commission to evaluate a Resident Curator Program. In conjunction with the commission, the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning and Fairfax County Park Authority are jointly managing this study.

For more information, visit the Resident Curator Implementation Study web page, or call the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662, TTY 711.

## What is a 'Resident Curator Program?'

Resident curator programs identify publicly-owned historic properties with no immediate or practical public use and through an open and competitive process, select outside parties with skills, resources and vision to rehabilitate a property in accordance with accepted preservation standards for historic buildings. In exchange for rehabilitating the property, the curator gains use of the property and pays little or no rent. The county's plan will set out standards for properties to qualify for the program, as well as identify specific sites as candidates. At a minimum, they must be eligible to be listed in the county's Inventory of Historic Sites.

To learn more about the program, plan to attend one of two public meetings:

- ❖ Thursday, Aug. 22, 7 p.m., Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
- ❖ Tuesday, Aug. 27, 7 p.m., Green Spring Gardens Park Horticulture Center, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria



**A group of MPAartfest artists stroll through McLean Central Park as part of their MPAartfest artist orientation.**

## MPAartfest Artists Meet In McLean Central Park

**M**PAartfest Director Amy Swaak conducted a walkthrough of McLean Central Park Wednesday, July 31 for artists selected to be in MPAartfest. The walkthrough gives the artists an overview of the procedures and park layout and gives veteran MPAartfest artists a chance to share some of their tips on exhibiting at MPAartfest.

The sixth annual MPAartfest arrives on Sunday, Oct. 6, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in McLean Central Park (at the intersection of Dolley Madison Boulevard (Rt 123) and Old Dominion Drive). Forty-nine juried artists will exhibit and sell their art, transforming the park into a landscape of mini-galleries. Created for the community by McLean Project for the Arts, MPAartfest draws thousands of art-lovers of all ages to enjoy (and purchase) original art, listen to live music, create their own masterpiece at MPA's Innovation Station and picnic on delicious selections from local restaurants. Parking is free and easy with shuttle buses running all day.

This fun, free art festival accepts donations to help support

McLean Project for the Arts' exhibitions and art education programs all year long.

Event partner sponsors are the McLean Community Center and the Fairfax County Park Authority. The Innovation Station art tent is sponsored by TTR Sotheby's International Realty.

Since 1962, McLean Project for the Arts has been promoting the work of emerging and established regional artists. A non-profit visual arts center, MPA presents high quality, professionally curated art exhibitions and art classes for children and adults taught by professional art instructors. Additionally, MPA educates thousands of area students with its acclaimed ArtReach program, and offers gallery talks and day trips to regional museums and galleries. MPA is a partner with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Fairfax County Public Schools.

Visit McLean Project for the Arts in residence at the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Ave. in McLean. For more information about MPA and MPAartfest, visit [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org) or call 703-790-1953.



**MPAartfest Director Amy Swaak explains the layout of MPAartfest to be held on Oct. 6 in McLean Central Park.**

## WEEK IN McLEAN

### Tobacco Harvest At Claude Moore Farm

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm will host Tobacco Harvest on Saturday, Aug. 17, 1-4 p.m. at The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

Regular admission is \$3 for adults, and \$2 for children and senior citizens or complimentary admission with farm membership.

Parking is free. While visiting, browse GateHouse Shop, featuring educational materials and gifts.

### MCC Begins Falls Class Registration

The McLean Community Center (MCC) will open registration for its fall session classes, events and activities on Monday, Aug. 19, for the residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville

who pay a special real estate tax surcharge to fund the center. All others can begin registering on Monday, Aug. 26. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

Offering more than 80 classes this fall for infants through senior adults, the center is a convenient and affordable continuing education resource for local residents who want to pursue their various interests.

MCC's new Lifetime Learning Program for active adults ages 55 and older is the result of a collaborative effort between MCC and

AgingUp, an organization dedicated to improving quality-of-life issues for people in McLean and Falls Church. The program consists of a selection of classes, lectures, outings, discussions and social opportunities of interest to older adults. On Friday, Oct. 18, from 10:30 a.m. to noon, Lifetime Learning Coordinator Sydney Duberstein will lead a free "Coffee & Conversation" session to meet residents and gather suggestions for future programs.

Fall classes for adults include:

Painting: Problem Solving, Bridge Basics, Adult Jazz Dance, Beginner Tai Chi, Kundalini Yoga for Vitality & Balance, Piloxing, Classics of American Literature I & II, Jazz Masters with John Eaton, Outdoor Digital Black & White Photography, Today's Technology for Baby Boomers & Beginners and Writing Your Life History. Five free "Fitness Sampler" classes are being offered during the week of September 15. Classes include Cardio Dance, Body Sculpt, Pilates

SEE WEEK, PAGE 9

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# Fairfax County Public Libraries—Version 2.0?

Staff, volunteers urge supervisors to reconsider “disastrous” library reorganization plan that cuts staff and services.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

In a world where the Internet has replaced newsprint, e-books have supplanted paperbacks and the latest films stream directly to your laptop, how do public libraries compete?

Like almost every other institution, public libraries are adapting. Self-check-out, online renewal and computer catalogues have replaced the fusty file drawers of index cards and leather-bound periodicals of the past.

“I think changes have to be made to the way libraries operate—to accommodate ways people get their information, do research and use libraries as community centers,” said Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman, on Monday, Aug. 12. She cautioned that any change, however, “needs to be done with the engagement of our staff and the community.”

But the changes proposed by the Fairfax County Public Library administration—which include reduced staffing and cross-training staff members—have sparked out-

rage among library volunteers, staff and patrons who call the plan “misguided,” and a “radical reinvention” of the library system.

**CRITICISM OF THE PLAN** has been building since July, when Library Director Sam Clay unveiled a program that would test a new organization model this fall at the Burke Centre Library and the Reston Regional Library, the busiest library branch in the county. The reorganization, Clay has said, streamlines staffing while retaining a high level of service.

“It includes a one-desk model of customer service, with cross-trained staff answering account and information questions, and increased programming conducted within the branch as well as in the community,” Clay said.

In response to questions and criticism of the reorganization, Clay and his staff prepared a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). In the document, Clay said there are multiple factors driving these changes.

“The way customers use the library has been changing over time; technology is hav-



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Reston Regional Library Branch Manager Andrew Pendergrass heads the busiest library branch in the county. Reston library—along with the Burke Centre Library—was scheduled to be tested with a reorganization plan on Sept. 1, which included staff reduction and consolidation of services. That plan has been put on hold after vocal criticism from library volunteers, staff and patrons.**

ing a major impact on library customers and staff with 76 percent of customers now checking out their own materials. The county is still undergoing a budget crunch,

and the library is required to reduce its annual budget,” reads the FAQ document.

“Libraries in general are at a pivotal cross

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 12

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# Library Mission

Further cuts to library budget must be analyzed for impacts on families in need.

The current proposal to “streamline” services at Fairfax County Public Libraries comes on top of disproportionate, and some would say Draconian, cuts since 2009.

Here is a summary of those cuts from the library department’s own strategic plan:

“In FY 2010, ... the library’s budget was reduced by 15 percent. Drastic adjustments to staffing levels occurred. Virtually all of the library’s exempt part-time staff were lost and with them, the flexibility needed to operate libraries under existing hours of operation. Consequently, hours of operation were reduced 19 percent. ... In FY 2011, the library’s budget was reduced an additional 6 percent. Additional staff were lost and operating hours reduced again by 9 percent. ... With a more stable budget outlook, the focus has shifted from survival, to becoming as vital to the lives of Fairfax County residents as possible.”

In 2012, Fairfax County libraries welcomed 5,246,854 visitors to library branches, and loaned 13,034,816 items.

In Fairfax County, where nearly 20 percent of the households have annual income of under \$50,000, about 8 percent live below the poverty line and more than 47,000 public school students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals, the public libraries are indispensable. Access to library resources goes beyond books, and includes the very digital

access that many people cite as a threat to libraries. Public access to computers and to the Internet for those who do not have other access is a critical service.

According to a 2010 report, Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation:

✦ 44 percent of people in households living below the federal poverty line (\$22,000 a year for a family of four) used public library computers and Internet access.

✦ Among young adults (14–24 years of age) in households below the federal poverty line, 61 percent used public library computers and Internet for educational purposes.

✦ Among seniors (65 and older) living in poverty, 54 percent used public library computers for health or wellness needs. “People of all ages, incomes, races, and levels of education go to the library for Internet access

“This access has also proven to be critical in times of disaster, where libraries may be the only access point still operating that can provide a delivery point for government and social services to those displaced.”

Budgeting and restructuring must take into consideration the disproportionate effect of cutting library services on lower income households especially. But it is also true that the li-

braries are vital to all residents.

## On Federal Dollars in Virginia

We received some emails and phone calls about the expansion of Medicaid in response to last week’s editorial. Many asserted that Virginia should not accept federal dollars for its residents without health insurance in order to help control federal spending.

Virginia already receives more federal money per capita than any other state except Alaska. Virginia received \$136 billion in federal funds in 2010, more than \$17,000 from the feds per capita, and paid \$2,807 per capita in federal income taxes. (Data from Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2010 by State and County from the Census Bureau, analyzed by 247wallst.com)

Two examples: \$1.3 billion in federal transportation money came to Virginia. Virginia was on the receiving end of more than \$5,000 per capita in defense spending. Do the people (who almost certainly have their own health insurance) who think that we should turn away federal money to expand Medicaid think we should lobby to reduce defense and transportation spending in Virginia to help control federal spending?

— MARY KIMM,  
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Skeptical on Medicaid

To the Editor:

Judging by your editorial [“Issues That Matter: Mental health services discussion gives insight into real differences between candidates,” Connection, August 7-13, 2013], gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli has a real problem with a key demographic: voters who believe in Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny. You fault Ken for being skeptical of what you see as Virginia’s opportunity to expand health care for poor residents, with the bill paid by the federal government. Would that it were so.

Ken is trained as an engineer and given the opportunity will be Virginia’s Innovation Governor. By training and experience he knows what works and what doesn’t in the real world.

Yes, the federal government is supposed to pay the full cost for Medicaid expansion during the first three years (2014-16) but the cost-sharing rate would be reduced from 100 percent to 92.8 percent by 2019.

Medicaid is already the largest budget item for the states, accounting for 22 percent of their budget expenditures as of 2010,

and recent studies such as that by Jagadeesh Gokhale of the Cato Institute suggest that for some states, even without any expansion, Medicaid expenditures are already unsustainable. Moreover, the unprecedented federal budget deficits projected through 2019 and beyond put Medicaid support for states and all other general revenue-supported federal programs at risk. Therefore, perhaps you will forgive Ken for looking forward a bit and being skeptical of what you apparently regard as free money.

With respect to mental health, Ken has an outstanding, demon-

strated record of personal dedication. He has served on the Virginia Supreme Court Commission on Mental Health in the Justice System and has personally represented individuals in Virginia’s civil, involuntary commitment process.

Finally, perhaps we should be at least a little careful as to what we wish for. A University of Virginia study shows that surgical patients on Medicaid are 13 percent more likely to die than those without any health insurance at all.

**Burton Jay Rubin**  
Burke

## BULLETIN BOARD

### WEDNESDAYS/AUG. 14-28

**Dulles University Success Series.** 1-5 p.m., at 1934 Old Gallows Road, Suite 510, Vienna. All the Buzz and Dulles University offer marketing managers, salespeople and other marketers a series of hand-on marketing workshops with practical, immediate takeaways. \$199 per workshop. 703-688-2899 or <http://allthebuzzcreative.wordpress.com>.

### MONDAY/AUG. 19

**MCC Fall Course Registration for Dranesville** at The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Infants through senior

adults residing in Small District 1A-Dranesville may register for continuing, affordable education classes (more than 80 options) aligning with various interests. Full listing of courses and 24-hour registration is online. 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or [www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips](http://www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips).

### MONDAY/AUG. 26

**MCC Non-Resident Open Fall Registration** at The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Infants through senior adults who are non-residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville may register for continuing, affordable education classes (more than 80 options) aligning

with various interests. Full listing of courses and 24-hour registration is online. 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or [www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips](http://www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips).

### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 28

**Alzheimer’s Family Day Center’s Music and Memory Program Fundraiser.** 5-10 p.m. Merrifield Silver Diner, 8150 Porter Road, Falls Church. The Silver Diner will donate a portion of the night’s proceeds to the center’s effective program uses music to help those with Alzheimer’s. [www.alzheimersfdc.org](http://www.alzheimersfdc.org).

### THURSDAY/AUG. 29

### American Red Cross Blood Drive.

10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cordial Partners, 8229 Boone Blvd., Vienna. The organization’s Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region is taking blood donations. Schedule a donation appointment at 1-800-733-2767 or [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org).

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 7

**Household Hazardous Waste Disposal.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Fairfax County HHW Program accepts and discards or recycles hazardous materials from Fairfax County residents according to all legal regulations. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/disphhw.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/disphhw.htm).

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**2012 AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER** Virginia Press Association

## NEWS

### Weichert, Realtors Recognizes McLean/Dolley Madison Office Top Associate

Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced the McLean/Dolley Madison office was recognized for outstanding performance in June. The office led the entire company and the region, which comprises offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, in dollar volume for sales and resale revenue units.

Additionally, Sales Associate J.D. Callander of the McLean/Dolley



**JD Callander**

Madison office was individually recognized for her exceptional industry success during the month of June. A top producer, Callander led the entire company for dollar volume, as well as the company and the region for resale dollar volume and the region for resale revenue units.

She can be reached in Weichert's McLean/Dolley Madison office at 1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard or by phone at 703-760-8880.

### WEEK IN McLEAN

FROM PAGE 5

Ballet and Zumba.

Drawing, Painting and Sculpture with Music and Movement (sponsored by the McLean Project for the Arts), Cartooning & Comic Strips, Chess, Act it Out, Fairytale Ballet, Cheerleading/Tumbling, Hip-Hop Kids, Fencing, Music Therapy through Music Together®, Babysitting & CPR for Family & Friends, Mad Science

Funky Forces, Lil' Lions Soccer, Engineering FUNDamentals with LEGO®, and Act I-Enter Stage Right, are just some of the many children's classes being offered.

The Center offers 24-hour online registration. To view detailed descriptions of classes or to register, visit the Center's Website, <http://www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips>. For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

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2. not appreciated or understood.  
3. no longer owned or known



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## ENTERTAINMENT

Cast and crew of the Traveling Players Middle School Ensemble, Henry Hoagland, assistant director, Patrick Smith, assistant director, Ellie Robb, Clarke Paty, Emma Flye and Soven Bhagat, celebrate after the production.

# Great Theatre In Great Falls

## Traveling Players Ensemble presents two plays at Madeira School.

By LORI BAKER  
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls-based Traveling Players Ensemble concluded two of its summer programs last weekend with two productions at the Madeira School. The nearly full auditorium was treated to Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing" as well as an original work, "Ariadne's Thread," written by TPE Visiting Director Judy W. White.

Traveling Players Ensemble was founded 11 years ago by Producing Artistic Director Jeanne Harrison. The group's mission is to bring "great theatre to the great outdoors." And in fact, had it not been for a threat of storms, last weekend's productions would have taken place outdoors on the Madeira School campus.

"Much Ado About Nothing," one of Shakespeare's well-known comedic plays, also features a bit of underlying drama.

The story revolves around two sets of young lovers. There are the two star-crossed innocent lovers who fall victim to a devious plot to tear them apart; and two outlandishly independent adversaries who have sworn off love and who trade barbs throughout. They, of course, discover that they love each other with the help of trickery from

**"Honestly, Traveling Players is the best thing that ever happened to me. The experience is something to remember for the rest of your life."**

—Molly Jane McClelland, 11th grader

friends. Woven throughout the story is a parade of various funny, loveable or despicable characters. All ends well, making it an entertaining play for all ages.

**THE CAST**, made up of mostly local high school students (one of the cast members is from Ontario), rehearsed the play for five weeks before taking the production on a

two-week tour. Cast members auditioned for this production in January. One of the features of the Traveling Troupe is that they perform mainly in outdoor venues across Virginia, and into West Virginia. And they camp out for the entire two weeks. Last weekend's performance was the Traveling Troupe's closing night.

pire novels of its day. But it's also deeply philosophical and talks amazingly about the human condition," she said.

The TPE Middle School Ensemble last weekend warmed up the audience by presenting the original work, "Ariadne's Thread." The Middle School Ensemble practices during a shorter, two-week summer camp. Campers spend two weeks rehearsing a play and going through various drills and games to enhance their drama skills.

For a group that only had two weeks to rehearse, the actors skillfully conveyed the dream-like story of a young Theseus in search of his two mythical fathers.

"I thought it was really fun to do," said Arlington sixth grader Henry Hoagland, who played the Minotaur in the production. "We got to learn a lot of new stuff and play games, and just make new friends," he added.

**TPE** has a variety of drama camps and offerings during the summer and throughout the year. Eleventh grader Molly Jane McClelland has been working on a play with the Comedia troupe this summer. "Honestly, Traveling Players is the best thing that ever happened to me," she said. "The experience is something to remember for the rest of your life." The Comedia troupe is presenting an original work called "The Great War" Friday, Aug. 16 as part of an outdoor theatre festival at the Madeira School. The festival will also feature Moliere's "The Doctor in Spite of Himself" and Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor."



PHOTO BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION

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

### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 14

**Diana Ross.** 8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Motown singer Diana Ross returns to Wolf Trap for the first time in over a decade, with No. 1 hits like "You Can't Hurry Love," "I'm Coming Out," and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." \$30-\$48. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

**Falstaff.** 8 p.m., The Barns, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The artists sing favorite opera highlights from Verdi's Falstaff chosen by the audience in Italian with English supertitles. \$35-\$85. <http://www.wolftrap.org/Barns.aspx>.

### THURSDAY/AUG. 15

**Care To Lunch.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Marriott Tyson's Corner, Shuttles Restaurant, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Yoni Kalin discusses his experiences as the teenage founder of the Color My World Project, which inspires lessons of recycling and social responsibility at this luncheon. \$25, free validated parking. [www.caretolunch.org](http://www.caretolunch.org).

**Art of Fine Framing Seminar.** 6:30 p.m., at Color Wheel Gallery 65, 1374 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join Color Wheel Gallery 65 together with Color Wheel's award winning Fine Framing for an informative evening of creative ideas for custom framing your artwork. Learn how all the individual parts come together in this fine craft for your artwork to be preserved, archivally safe, and of course, beautiful.

**Grace Potter & The Nocturnals with Guest: Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue.** 7:30 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Direct from Vermont comes pop-rock band Grace Potter & The Nocturnals, whose music encompasses folk, country, blues, hard and alternative rock. \$30-\$40. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

**Seldom Scene.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The Seldom Scene has long been one of the most progressive bands in bluegrass and one of this musical genre's finest acts. [www.seldomscene.com](http://www.seldomscene.com).

### FRIDAY/AUG. 16

**US Navy Band Cruisers.** 6:30 p.m., at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Listen to the US Navy Band Cruisers play their rock music on the green. <http://www.viennava.gov>.

**Dart Tournament.** 6:30-9 p.m. American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St. N, Vienna. Compete against locals in a dart tournament hosted by the American Legion. \$15 per 2-person team. 703-938-9535 or [Drjazz777@mac.com](mailto:Drjazz777@mac.com).

**Josh Groban.** 8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Josh Groban comes to the Filene Center stage with his "You Raise Me Up" and "You're Still You" in his Wolf Trap debut. \$40-\$95. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

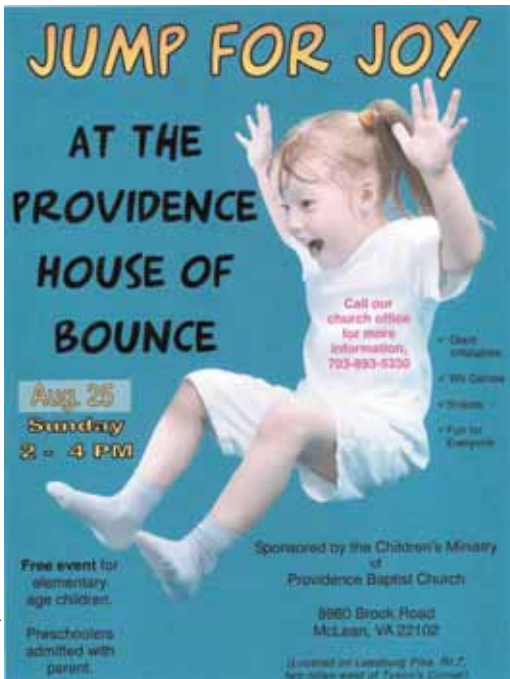
### SATURDAY/AUG. 17

**Falstaff.** 7 p.m., The Barns, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The artists sing favorite opera highlights from Verdi's "Falstaff," chosen by the audience in Italian with English supertitles. \$35-\$85. <http://www.wolftrap.org/Barns.aspx>.

**"Point of View" Awards Reception.** 7-9 p.m., at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Juror Cory Hiltz judges the Vienna Arts Society's annual photography exhibition,

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

**The Providence House of Bounce provides elementary age children and preschoolers with accompanying parents a chance to jump for joy on giant inflatables and with Wii games. Snacks are also provided at the free event Sunday, Aug. 25, 2-4 p.m. at Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean.**



**"This time Around," photograph, by Heather Elliott, is featured in the Point of View exhibition, the Vienna Arts Society's annual judged photography exhibition showcasing more than 30 photographers from the area. The exhibit is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sundays, noon-4 p.m., through Sept. 1.**

showcasing more than 30 photographers from around the region. Enjoy music and light refreshments; normal show hours are Tuesdays-Saturdays 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sundays noon-4 p.m., Aug. 6-Sept. 1. 703-319-3971 or [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

### SUNDAY/AUG. 18

**Breakfast Buffet.** 8 a.m.-noon. American Legion, 330 Center St. N, Vienna. Join the American Legion for a breakfast buffet including omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes and bacon, etc. Adults \$8, children \$3. 703-938-1379.

**Country Western Dance Extravaganza.** 4:30-10 p.m. Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Country western world champions Dale and Anita Strawser teach lessons at this social dance event, featuring the West Coast swing, East Coast swing, cha-cha, and more. No partner needed, all skill levels welcome. 703-435-5620 or [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

**Bill Emerson and the Sweet Dixie Band.** 6:30 p.m., at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Listen to bluegrass music on the green. <http://www.viennava.gov>.

### MONDAY/AUG. 19

**Chicago.** 8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 22-25

**Cancelled: Jennifer Holliday in "Dreamgirls" Performances.** Visit <http://www.wolftrap.org> for more information.

### FRIDAY/AUG. 23

**Barboursville Vineyards Wine Dinner.** 6:30 p.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Chef Eddie Ishaq creates a custom menu for a four course dinner paired with wine from Barboursville Vineyards. Jason Tesaro of Barboursville Vineyards will speak about the wines. \$75 per person, plus tax and gratuity. For more information or reservations, please call Amanda or Erika at 703-442-9110.

### SATURDAY/AUG. 24

**Global Camps Africa's Shop for a Cause.** 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m., at Tyson's Corner Macy's, 8000 Tyson's Corner Center, McLean. Macy's customers with a Global Camps Africa shopping pass receive special shopping discounts and benefit Global Camps Africa of Reston with pass proceeds.

### SUNDAY/AUG. 25

**Providence House of Bounce.** 2-4 p.m., at Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean. A day of giant inflatables, Wii games and snacks to make children jump for joy inside the church gym.

### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 28

**The Post + Jason Brown With Guest Amy Andrews.** 6:30 p.m., at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. New artists on the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan music scene, soulful folk-rock band The Post headlines with indie gospel singer/songwriter Jason Brown and his band; Ethan Schaefer and Mariah Maxwell open for special guest Amy Andrews. \$10. <https://jamminjava.com/events/august28>.

**Carly Rae Jepsen and Hot Chelle Rae.** 7 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Carly Rae Jepsen makes her Wolf Trap debut this summer, bringing her dance-pop tunes such as "Call Me Maybe" and "Good Time," along with Nashville-based foursome Hot Chelle Rae. \$30-\$42. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

### THURSDAY/AUG. 29

**Lyle Lovett and His Large Band.** 8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Texan singer/songwriter Lyle Lovett and his band fuse country music with hints of blues, gospel, and swing. \$24-\$42. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

**The United States Army Field Band Jazz Ambassadors.** 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The Jazz Ambassadors—America's Big Band is the official touring big band of the United States Army. [www.armyfieldband.com](http://www.armyfieldband.com).

### FRIDAY/AUG. 30

**Lowland Hum.** 7 p.m., at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Husband and wife folk-duo from North Carolina incorporate sight, sound, smell and touch into their show using visual elements that frame the performance area, hand-bound lyric books and essential oil burners. \$10. <https://jamminjava.com/events/lowland-hum>.

## 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Saturday, Aug. 24, 2013**  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**McLean Community Center Governing Board**

**Public Hearing on FY 2015 Budget**  
(July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015)  
**Follows the Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole**  
**Monday, Sept. 16, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center**

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Copies of the draft budget proposal will be available during the committee meeting and public hearing.

Written comments may be delivered to the Center's address (shown below,) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to [feedback@mcleancenter.org](mailto:feedback@mcleancenter.org). Written comments must be received prior to the Governing Board's regular September meeting, on Wednesday, September 25 at 7:30 p.m.

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

PHOTO BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION



**Molly Jane McClelland, an 11th grader from Alexandria, participated in one of the TPE camps this summer.**



**Evelyn Leggett, Ben Stein-Lubrano, Rebecca Mazer and Grace Housman in TPE's production of "Much Ado About Nothing."**

PHOTO BY NOAH PUCHNER

# Library Plan Sounds Alarm

FROM PAGE 6

roads as we are called upon to meet the changing needs of our customers, brought on by technology and the Internet while providing resources with shrinking tax dollars. Libraries all across the country are trying new ways of operating," Clay stated in the document.

Braddock Supervisor John Cook, who met with library supporters, said Fairfax County Public Libraries are facing the reality of budget restrictions and "are adjusting to the fact that with the Internet and electronic books, libraries are changing ..."

But critics of the plan maintain that the "sweeping changes" proposed by the library board will have "disastrous effects on the quality of library service that Fairfax County residents expect and deserve."

On Aug. 3, a group called "Friends of the Library" launched an online petition urging the Library Board of Trustees to halt the reorganization plans and re-evaluate the changes. The petition states:

"For the good of the community, this plan must be re-evaluated with thorough input from those who will be affected by the changes. This petition serves as a chance for library patrons, staff and friends to make their voices heard." By Tuesday morning, Aug. 13, 547 people had signed the petition.

"The lack of input, transparency and respect is the greatest fatal flaw in the whole plan. ... This entire plan is hugely unpopular with staff, volunteers and patrons," said Charles Keener of Oakton, an information assistant at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library who has worked in the library system for nearly 40 years.

One widely criticized proposal in the reorganization: lowering the educational standards for librarians. Instead of requiring a master's degree of library science for librarians, the job description will say that the advanced degree is "preferred," but not "required." Clay has said the change will allow more flexibility in hiring.

Keener counters it will "dumb down" the library and take the "librarian out of the library."

Scott Railton of Great Falls, a long-time library patron who contacted the Connection on Monday, agrees.

"Who would believe you can replace professionals with untrained clerks and retain quality? Current advancements in technology simply will not suffice to replace libraries and professional librarian," Railton said.

**LIBRARY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS** have been meeting with Fairfax County supervisors—who appoint the 12 volunteer members of the Library Board of Trustees—urging them to hold off on tests and hold public hearings on the proposed changes.

"Those who use libraries and pay for libraries need to be included in decisions which will drastically change the character and quality of library services. Parents have a right to be part of any decision to eliminate youth services staff," said Jennifer McCullough, president of the Fairfax County Public Library Employees Association.

Kathy Kaplan, a Reston resident and library volunteer who is actively involved in Fairfax Library

SEE CIVIC GROUPS, PAGE 18

## Fairfax County Public Libraries—By the Numbers

### USAGE STATISTICS—2012

(source: [fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aboutthelibrary/factsht.htm](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aboutthelibrary/factsht.htm))

- ❖ 495,831 registered customers.
- ❖ 5,246,854 visits to library branches.
- ❖ 13,034,816 items loaned.
- ❖ 4,162,599 visits to the library's Internet website.
- ❖ 172,630 people attended 8,934 events.

### PHYSICAL LIBRARY VISITS

Overall decreasing trend since 2008 with bump in 2009. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/advertised/volume1/00152.pdf>)

- ❖ 2008: 5,794,036
- ❖ 2009: 6,128,289
- ❖ 2010: 5,685,827
- ❖ 2011: "over 5.4 million visits"

### VISITS TO INTERNET WEBSITE

Overall increasing trend since 2008. (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/advertised/volume1/00152.pdf>)

- ❖ 2008: 16,732,257
- ❖ 2009: 17,483,534
- ❖ 2010: 22,025,596

### BRANCH HOURS PER YEAR

Decreasing with budget.

(<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2012/advertised/volume1/00152.pdf>)

- ❖ 2008: 65,174
- ❖ 2009: 67,473
- ❖ 2010: 58,119

### MAP OF LIBRARY LOCATIONS

View at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/branchesmap.htm>.

### BOND REFERENDUM

Passed in November with 70.6 percent majority vote.

\$25 million allotted: \$10 million for new Reston Public Library, \$15 million for renovations (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/library-bond-2012.htm>).

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# N.P.O.

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



"Nothing per orem." Which means no food after midnight — with a Latin derivation. And why would I have a clue about "no food after midnight" in Latin or in plain old English? I wouldn't normally, but normally I wouldn't have been admitted to a hospital awaiting surgery to help relieve the terrible difficulty I've had lately speaking/breathing a complete sentence and still having air after the final word had been spoken, catching my breath after walking only a few steps (exerting myself physically as well and/or walking up stairs or at any pace other than snail's has been a further challenge) and finally, and most disturbingly, not being able to perform some of my activities of daily living — without some degree of stress, anyway.

Nevertheless, Friday, Aug. 2 was scheduled to be a chemotherapy day so off my wife, Dina and I went, as usual. Having been infused multiple times over the past four and a half years, I attributed the breathing difficulties that I was experiencing as merely semi-expected side effects (necessary evils) of my lung cancer treatment. However, after I explained — and exhibited, some of these same difficulties to my regular oncology nurse, Ron, he decided to walk me around the unit attached to an oxygen-monitoring machine in order to measure my oxidation rate. It was not good. My number was way too low — and cause for concern.

Ron then returned me to the infusion center where he spent the next 30 minutes attempting to coordinate my next step. It was not to continue chemotherapy, that's for sure. It was to have me evaluated by my H.M.O.'s Clinical Decision Unit, a unit I learned, where serious-type assessments and decisions are made. After being assigned to a room, the process began. I soon had an EKG and a Chest X-Ray. The X-Ray indicated that my left lung was almost entirely filled with fluid; no wonder I couldn't breathe. It was confirmed then: health-wise, I was in a bit of trouble.

Given these results, before too long, a multi-person, multi-hour effort was put forth to get me admitted directly into a room at Holy Cross Hospital with the expectation that my condition warranted surgery that evening to alleviate my discomfort. After having initially arrived at 10:30 a.m. for my infusion (an appointment which typically lasts about two hours and then I'm free to go home), I was quite anxious as the early afternoon passed without any resolution and the late afternoon fast approached. Finally, at approximately 6 p.m., an ambulance arrived and I was transported to the hospital arriving in my room by gurney at 6:45. Since there was a presumption/expectation that surgery would indeed occur that night — to possibly include anesthesia/a narcotic, I was advised not to eat — in English. However, hours later it became obvious that I would not be operated on that evening, and thus was allowed to eat — at 9:30, but subsequently received my first official "NPO" for Saturday, beginning of course at midnight that Friday, the first day of my admission.

I remember seeing the initials NPO printed on the easel on the wall directly in front of my bed, along with the understanding that I wasn't to eat — or drink, anything after 12 o'clock, but I couldn't reconcile the letters (NPO) with the words: "no food or drink after midnight" advisory/direct order. They didn't sync up. It wasn't until Saturday afternoon that I received the medical jargon/Latin connection.

So here I sit/lay in my hospital bed, hungry for a second consecutive day. After the surgery and post-op. recovery, presumably I'll be able to eat. I just hope I'll be able to breathe as well.

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

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## Paul Frank Elected McLean Orchestra Board President

Paul A. Frank has been elected president of the Board of Trustees of McLean Orchestra. Frank was the unanimous choice of the board and will serve through the 2013-2014



Paul A. Frank.

McLean Orchestra concert season, "A Season of Festivity." Frank is no stranger to the McLean Orchestra, having served on the board from 2002-2007 as a trustee, a treasurer, a gala chair and finally as its president in 2004-2005.

According to John Huling, executive director of the McLean Orchestra, "Paul has been a tremendous supporter and friend of the orchestra for over a decade and we are thrilled to have him back in the family as our president."

Frank is an experienced leader of non-profit organizations, currently serving as executive director and CEO of Collingwood Library and Museum. His current community involvement includes Rotary Club of Alexandria (Fundraising Committee chair) and The Alexandria Arts Forum (former president). He is past president of Rotary Club of McLean, and McLean Orchestra.

Frank is a graduate of George Washington University and attended George Washington University Law School. He is a graduate of Leadership Fairfax Class of 2008 and holds professional fundraising certification with CFRE designation from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

The Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce recognized Frank with the "President's Award" for "exceptional contribution," and subsequently the "Home Town Hero Award" for raising the largest amount for a single event in chamber history. Frank succeeds Aileen A. Pisciotto who will continue her involvement with the McLean Orchestra as immediate past president. Other elected or appointed orchestra officials for the 2013-2014 season include Wayne Winston Sharp, special advisor to the president; Frank McGovern, VP of administration; Sydnee Stein, VP of development and Pamela Bogdonoff, VP of events. The remaining trustees serving the orchestra are Michael Cardaci, Anthony C. Chang, David Gische, Timothy Hawkins, Marilen King, Shane McLaughlin, Sarah Merservey, Joseph O'Brien, Chris Payton, Jennifer Shatwell and Laura Schuldt. The McLean Orchestra concerts season opens on Oct. 12 at Oakcrest School with a concert of Mozart, Schumann and Brahms.

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## Is Your Home Ready for Back-to-School?

Local designers offer tips for creating functional and stylish homework spaces.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Summer will soon come to an end, and children everywhere will be heading back to school and coming home with homework. To keep students engaged and excited, some local designers offer suggestions for creating a space so fun and inviting that your children will want to hang out there — even if that means doing homework.

When embarking on the task of creating a homework space, choosing a location is one of the first considerations.

Bill Millholland, executive vice president of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. in Bethesda, Md., said, "There are two schools of thought: One is to have the 'homework space' in a public area, ... so that a parent can be involved in the activity. The other school places more emphasis on teaching personal responsibility."

According to Jean P. Freeman, associate professor of interior design at Marymount University in Arlington, homework space should be "away from television, but near an adult for any questions that need to be answered. It should be quiet for concentration,

but having a window where the child can look up and out at the world is soothing."

Potomac, Md. resident Susan Matus, a senior project designer with Case Design/Remodeling, adds that the location of the homework area is dependent upon a child's age. "Elementary school kids seem to do quite well getting things done in a location that is close to parents," she said. "Middle schoolers are more independent and seem to prefer more private locations with less distractions and less input from parents. A family office that can be closed off or even a bedroom work-space [work well]. High schoolers just need a comfortable space to get it done."

Designers say the kitchen is one such popular public area for completing homework assignments.

"Often connected to the kitchen is a family area," said Kai Tong, AIA, director of Potomac, Md., based Hopkins & Porter Inc.'s architecture department. "Parents want to have a line of sight to their kids, especially if they are going to be on the Internet. What adds to the kids' experience is having a lot of counter space or layout space."

Evelyn Nicely, president of Nicely Done Kitchens in Springfield, said, "A design option is the designated computer or desk area, typically found on the perimeter of the kitchen, so school work is kept out of the way. But the most popular homework space we design is at the island. This casual seating appeals to children and gives them a stylish, yet functional, open space to do their work without isolating them."

SEE BACK TO SCHOOL READY. PAGE 17



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING, INC.

An under-the-staircase nook, designed by Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. for a McLean home creates a quiet place for reading or studying.

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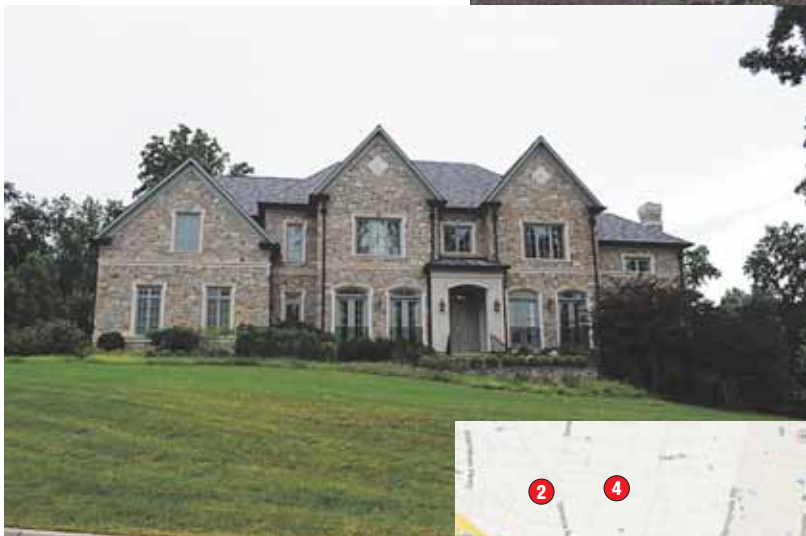
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## June, 2013 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean

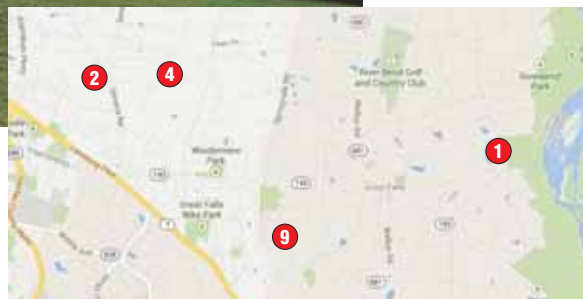
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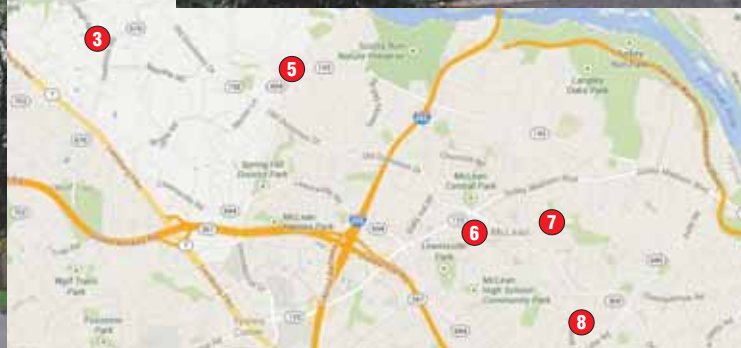


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**8 6421 Divine Street, McLean — \$2,125,000**

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# Home Life Style

## Back-to-School Ready

FROM PAGE 15

Arlington resident Christie Doebel, lead designer at Sun Design Inc., which has offices in both Burke and McLean, says she gets frequent requests for a space that allows for multitasking. "Very often we are looking to create the kind of environment where a parent can make dinner while still rehearsing words for the spelling bee."

**ONCE A SPACE IS CHOSEN**, it's time to select the fixtures that will fill the space. Good indoor lighting with a window for sunlight is essential, said designers. Freeman said the most obvious components of a homework space are electrical outlets, a Wi-Fi connection and a comfortable, adjustable chair.

Designers suggest investing in a chair that fits your child's needs. "Don't use dad's old chair ... or pull a chair from the dining room table," said Deborah Wiener, owner of Designing Solutions in Silver Spring, Md. "If the back of the chair hits the back of their head, it is too tall. If their feet are dangling, the chair is too big. One of the many reasons kids tire when doing homework is that they don't get back support. ... It's a mistake to skimp on a chair."

"The chair should support the student's back and posture, and adjust to the growing needs of the student," added Freeman. "There should be an adequate work surface to accommodate books, computer, writing pad and task lighting, [as well as] storage."

Lisa Magee, project designer at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., adds, "A place with upright seating — no swivel chairs or recliners — is best for learning. Good lighting ... helps children stay focused on their work and also keeps them alert."

Centreville resident Liz Lee, a senior designer at Sun Design Inc., encourages parents to ensure that the homework area has "functional types of storage, [such as] file cabinets, baskets for crayons [and] scissors, so all of the supplies they need are right there."

Bruce Wentworth, president of Wentworth, Inc. in Chevy Chase, Md., said, "A simple counter top with bookcases is very practical. A large work surface for laptops, printers and scanners is desirable, and grommets help hide the cords below the work surface." Wentworth also suggests adding custom-built drawers and filing cabinets to homework spaces.

### WHEN DESIGNING A SPACE



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING, INC.

**Lisa Magee of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. says upright seating, like the desk chair in this McLean home, rather than swivel chairs or recliners, is best for learning.**

that is both functional and stylish, Moira Gannon Denson, an assistant professor of interior design at Marymount University, suggests using the elements and principles of design — color, shape, pattern and scale — to set the tone. This will allow the space to evolve as the child grows, she says: "Save the TV characters and cartoons for the stickers [for] their notebooks. ... Too much 'trending' can mean

replacing in a year."

When creating a space that is appealing to both children and their parents, Doebel does suggest teamwork, however. "It's fun when a kid gets involved in the design process," she said. "They are drawn to contrast and comfort [like] bold, bright colors [and] soft, warm surfaces. They are always honest about what they see and how they feel."

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**“Green Earth, Beautiful US”**  
Children's Environmental Color Bottle Exhibition

**Free Classes: August 21st - September 11th, 2013**  
**Exhibition Dates: September 14th - September 21st, 2013**

**Location: YMM Art Space**  
8216 Old Courthouse Road, Suite C, Vienna, VA 22182

Have you ever thought of doing something creative with your old bottles? This is a great opportunity for your kids to explore & express their appreciation for our environment! Join us in making something beautiful!

**How it Works:**

1. Exhibition Theme: “Green Earth, Beautiful US”
2. Eligible Participants: Children and young adults from 5 to 18 years old. Bring your own bottle (plastic or glass).
3. Paint Your Bottle Classes: August 21st - September 11th, children are welcome to join our teachers in drawing their designs onto the bottles.

**Class Times:**

- 5-11 years old 9am-10:30am; After 9/4 5pm-6:30pm (Wed-Fri)
- 9am-12:30pm (Sat-Sun)
- 12-18 years old 11am-12:30pm; After 9/4 3:30pm-5pm (Wed-Fri)
- 1-2:30pm (Sat-Sun)

4. We welcome any submission of artwork with our theme before September 11th.

**Awards Ceremony:**  
September 21st, 2013 (11:00am to 12:00pm). The best artworks will be chosen by our jury panel and the winners will receive free classes and other exciting prizes from YMM Art Space. Artworks will be judged base on creativity and execution of 2 age groups: 5-11 and 12-18.

**Please RSVP:**  
**Call: (703) 942-8677 or E-mail: usa@ymmart.com**  
For more info please visit [www.ymmart.com](http://www.ymmart.com)

## News

# Civic Groups Question Proposed ‘New Model’

FROM PAGE 12

Friends, said the group is already working with the union on a postcard campaign, online petition, email campaign, web site and other ideas to reach out to the broader public and get their input on changes to the libraries.

“One reason staff and Friends are only now organizing a response is that they were unaware of plans until they were dropped like a ‘bombshell’ not long ago. People can’t formulate a reasonable response to such a massive proposal overnight. It takes time for information to be absorbed, understood and reacted to,” Kaplan said.

Kaplan said the effort is picking up steam.

Early Tuesday, Aug. 13, she said in an email that the fall calendar for the Fairfax League of Women Voters and the Fairfax libraries are on the schedule for Oct. 1 for discussion at all localities in the county, on an emergency basis.



**Ivanka Atanasova, sitting behind the information desk, answers customer questions at the Reston Regional Library, one of the busiest libraries in the Fairfax County Public Library system, on Monday, Aug. 12.**

“We are moving heaven and earth to delay this,” Keener said. “I have never seen lower morale or greater anxiety, fear, discouragement and anger from our staff. ... We want people to contact the library board and to contact their supervisor. Tell everybody breathing what’s happening at the library.”

It’s likely the Board of Supervisors will consider a motion at its Sept. 10 meeting, the day before the library board’s monthly meeting on Sept. 11, requesting further community outreach through public hearings or other forums, according to several Fairfax County officials.

❖ For more information on the petition, go to [www.ipetitions.com/petition/stop-and-re-evaluate-proposed-changes-to-fairfax/](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/stop-and-re-evaluate-proposed-changes-to-fairfax/).

❖ To read the strategic plan on the library website, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/strategicplan.pdf>.

❖ To read a copy of the FAQ document, or to provide comments or suggestions regarding the Fairfax County Public Library, email [libcustomerservices@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:libcustomerservices@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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# SPORTS

## Langley Remains Strong Up Front

Saxons look to continue tradition of quality O-line play.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Langley football team enters the 2013 season with limited speed at the skill positions and not much in the way of depth.

So what's new?

The Saxons' key to offensive success this year will once again be the boys up front. Despite the loss of all-state right guard Jack Howerton, who now plays for Stetson University, Langley's offensive line figures to once again be solid and provide the Saxons with a strong running game.

The group is led by senior center Alex Kolencik and senior Brooks Norris, who will move to the right guard position formerly held by Howerton. Senior tight end Philip Antypas also returns for the Saxons.

"We definitely have to grind it out," Norris said of Langley's offensive approach. "That's why we're working in the weight room every day. Coach Howerton's working real well with us in the weight room. We've got to be kind of the leaders of the offense and clear holes for the running back."

Head coach John Howerton, who enters his 12th season with Langley, said the Saxons have had 16 linemen go on to play at the Division I level during his tenure. Norris, who stands 6 feet 4 and weighs 300 pounds, could be next in line.

"He's a big body, he's experienced [and] he's really put the time in," Howerton said. "He's a Division I recruit [and a] very strong student."

While not as big, the 6-foot-1, 230-pound Kolencik has started at center since his sophomore season.

"He's a very tough kid — hard-nosed," Howerton said. "He's been a good player for the last two years."

Norris and Kolencik will line up side-by-side this season. Close friends off the field, Kolencik said the two should have no problem with communication.

"The linemen are definitely fiercely proud, especially us seniors, knowing that we carry a lot of the offensive work," Kolencik said. "Since we really don't have the [team] speed, we pride ourselves on just being bigger and stronger than everybody else."



Langley offensive linemen participate in a blocking drill during practice.



Langley quarterbacks and receivers participate in a drill during practice.

While Langley lacks vertical burners, the Saxons still have athletes who can make plays. Senior quarterback Nick Casso returns for his third season (second full season) as the varsity starter. "The game has slowed down," Casso said. "I'm letting it come to me more."

Howerton said Casso has the ability to be one of the top quarterbacks in 6A North. The coach is looking for Casso to pass for 1,000 yards and run for 1,000 yards this season. "He's got to get to where he was at the end of the season," Howerton said, "(and) he needs to get there in a hurry."

Langley operates primarily out of the shotgun in a one-back set. If Casso is effective running the ball, it should open things up for whoever lines up at running back. Junior

Tyler West appears to be the early favorite to take over for standout running back Philip Mun, though senior Tim Sanson should see carries, as well. Howerton and several Saxons praised West's ability.

"Tyler West has all the ability in the world to be as good as we've had," Howerton said about the 5-foot-11, 200-pound back who runs the 40-yard dash between 4.5 and 4.6 seconds. "It's up to him to put the time in and to get it done."

Senior receiver Garrett Collier is the team's most experienced pass-catching threat.

On defense, senior inside linebacker Kevin Fisher was Langley's top tackler last season.

"[He's a] strong little kid," Howerton said about the 5-foot-9, 195-pound Fisher. "He's not very big ... but he can strike a

blow. He's really quick to the ball, very strong for his size and has a good nose for the ball."

Howerton said the health of his key players is significant due to a lack of depth. With a small junior class in the program, sophomores might be asked to fill reserve roles.

With the VHSE's six-class realignment taking effect this season, Langley moves up to 6A and is part of Conference 6, a mixture of teams from the former Liberty and National Districts. Other teams in Conference 6 are: Fairfax, Madison, McLean, South Lakes, Hayfield, Washington-Lee and Yorktown.

Langley will scrimmage at Woodgrove at 6 p.m. on Aug. 22 and at home against Gar-Field at 7 p.m. on Aug. 29 before opening its season at home against Yorktown at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 6.

### SPORTS ROUNDUP

#### Soccer Tryout

Reston United 99 Blue, a U14 NCSL D5 team, is holding supplemental tryouts in August. Coach Kamal Ismail is a former professional player and has more than 20 years coaching experience. He currently coaches JV and varsity boys' soccer at South Lake High School. The team has been in the NCSL since U9 and currently has players from Reston, Herndon, Ashburn and Chantilly. For more information, email Jay at [birdintheyard@yahoo.com](mailto:birdintheyard@yahoo.com).

#### Arlington Native Wins Bronze Medals

Mary White of Arlington won bronze medals in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash competition, age 65-69 in the National Senior Games held July 19-Aug. 1 in Cleveland. White will also compete in the 2013 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics track events on Sept. 7 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center. For more information, call 703-228-4721.

#### NVSO Registrations Due In August

Registrations for the 2013 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics to be held Sept. 7-19 are due Aug. 23 by mail or Aug. 30 online. There is no onsite registration.

More than 50 events will take place at 17 different venues throughout Northern Virginia. Registration fee is \$12, which covers multiple events. Participants must be 50 years of age by Dec. 31 and live in a sponsoring jurisdiction.

Among the events offered are track, field, swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, bowling, Wii bowling, eight ball pool, handball, racquetball, golf, miniature golf, badminton, pickleball, cribbage, scrabble, duplicate bridge, Mexican train dominoes, line dancing, yo-yo tricks and more. Information is available online at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us) or by calling 703-228-4721 or email, [nvso1982@gmail.com](mailto:nvso1982@gmail.com).

Sponsoring jurisdictions are the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William.

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