

Toy Trains Displayed At Colvin Run Mill

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2013: Banner Year in McLean and Great Falls

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During the last weeks of December, the interior of Colvin Run Mill park's barn was filled with 250 feet of train track as nine toy trains were on public display.

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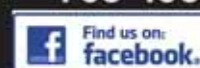


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U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf greets village residents on a visit to South Sudan in February 2012.



U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf speaks at the Herndon Police Department about gang violence in 2007. Wolf led efforts to secure funds for the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force created in 2003.

Wolf to Retire After 34 Years in Congress

Supervisor John Foust running for Democratic nomination, Republican nominee still up in the air.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

After 34 years of representing constituents in Virginia's 10th Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) announced Dec. 17 that he would not seek reelection to the House of Representatives seat he has occupied for 17 terms. Wolf expressed his appreciation toward his family, staff and all of his constituents who supported his efforts in office.

"It has been an honor to serve the people of Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley," said Wolf in a statement issued by his office. "I thank my constituents for giving me the privilege of representing them in Congress for 34 years."

Wolf, 74, has established himself in his congressional tenure as an advocate for religious freedom, repeatedly drawing attention to helping oppressed minorities around the world. First elected in 1980, Wolf worked to combat genocide in Darfur and advocated for increased security and protection of human rights for victimized groups in Sudan. Most recently, in September 2013, the House passed a bill co-sponsored by Wolf and U.S. Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) aimed to create a State Department envoy charged with protecting religious minorities in South Central Asia and the Middle East.

LOCALLY, WOLF was instrumental in bringing the Silver Line currently being built to Northern Virginia, and begun working to secure federal funding for the rail project as early as 1999. He also prioritized improving major roadways such as I-66 and Rt. 50



U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) speaks at a forum on human trafficking at the McLean Community Center Friday, May 3, 2013.

to ease traveling for Northern Virginia's commuters.

Though his final term as representative for Virginia's 10th Congressional District will end in November, Wolf plans to continue with human rights advocacy through his Christian faith. "I plan to focus my future work on human rights and religious freedom — both domestic and international — as well as matters of the culture and the American family," Wolf said in his official statement.

On Dec. 10, one week prior to Wolf's announcement, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) announced that he would seek the Democratic nomination for the 10th district representative seat in 2014. Foust is currently a supervisor for the Dranesville district, which encompasses McLean, Great Falls, Herndon and portions of Vienna, and has served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since he was elected 2007.

Foust cites the current Congress's dysfunction and the 16-day shutdown of the federal government in October 2013 as some

WOLF'S TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

- ❖ When the need for mass transit to Dulles airport became clear, Congressman Wolf secured federal funding for the Commonwealth to move ahead. Phase 1, from East Falls Church through Tysons Corner to Wiehle Avenue in Reston, is expected to be operational in 2014. Congressman Wolf also was a key player in the construction of the original Metrorail system.
- ❖ When it became clear an additional westbound lane on I-66 inside the Beltway was needed, Congressman Wolf led the effort to convince the Commonwealth and surrounding localities to move forward with the project. The first of three spot improvements opened in December. He also pushed for the now completed feasibility study for a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system in the I-66 corridor. BRT is essentially a rail car on wheels that uses dedicated lanes, platform loading and enhanced fare collection.
- ❖ When HOV-4 didn't work on I-66 inside the Beltway, Congressman Wolf helped change the rule to HOV-3. When HOV-3 wasn't working, he helped change the rule to HOV-2.
- ❖ When funding was needed to jump start improvements to the I-66 / Route 29 interchange in Gainesville, Congressman Wolf worked with former Congressman Tom Davis to secure more than \$30 million in federal funding. Work on the interchange is ongoing.
- ❖ When morning traffic delays on the George Washington Parkway at Spout Run were part of the daily routine, Congressman Wolf worked to get a dedicated lane built to improve traffic flow and ease congestion.
- ❖ When traffic bottlenecks on the Teddy Roosevelt Bridge created gridlock into and out of the nation's capital, Congressman Wolf convinced the District of Columbia to install a reversible lane on the bridge.

key reasons he will run for office in 2014. "My job is to work with everyone, respect all opinions, hold public meetings and generally try to find a consensus that works in the best interest of the community, and I think that's missing in Congress," said Foust in an interview. Foust pointed to the board's approvals of major building projects such as renovations to the Spring Hill recreation center and the recently completed Wolf Trap fire station in McLean, as evidence of his ability to work across party lines. He also noted the board's success in moving Fairfax County through the 2008 fiscal crisis as a key accomplishment of his time in office.

Additional candidates for the Democratic nomination include Fairfax attorney Richard Bolger and Leesburg architect Sam Kubba.

Wolf has faced little formidable opposition from Democratic candidates in past years, and since 2008 has won each election by at least 58 percent. There is speculation about potential Republican candidates who will seek the Republican nomination for Wolf's seat, including state delegates Tim Hugo and Barbara Comstock. The Republican Party of Virginia was contacted for comment, but did not respond by deadline. It remains to be seen whether the party will nominate its candidate for the

House seat through a convention attended by Virginia Republican Party members or through a primary in which individual candidates will campaign for the nomination.

WORDS OF PRAISE and appreciation poured out from Virginia officeholders in the days following Wolf's announcement. U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), who served alongside Wolf for 23 years in Congress, and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), both expressed gratitude for Wolf's many years spent representing constituents in Northern Virginia, according to statements released by their offices.

"His career in Congress is a testament to what leaders can achieve when they put partisanship aside and find common ground on the issues that matter to the people they serve," said governor elect Terry McAulliffe in an issued statement.

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) worked as a senior aide for Wolf's congressional staff from 1991-1995, and commended Wolf as a person of high integrity and great character. "I look forward to the many contributions that I know Frank Wolf will continue to make to the causes of religious freedom and human rights and I look forward to working with him on those issues for years to come."



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

Families and children enjoyed seeing the annual December train display at Colvin Run Mill Park in Great Falls.

Toy Trains Displayed At Colvin Run Mill

Families enjoy annual train display.

BY RYAN DUNN
THE CONNECTION

During the last weeks of December, the interior of Colvin Run Mill parks barn was filled with 250 feet of train track, nine trains and more than 500 miniature imitation trees for the 24th annual train display created by Jim and his wife Jo Anne Stapleton. “This is the only hobby I’ve ever had,” said Jim Stapleton, a resident of Purcellville in Loudoun County.

On Saturdays, Dec. 21 and 28 and Sundays, Dec. 22 and 29 the model trains were on display at Colvin Run Mill barn. No reservations were required to see the free event, which lasted from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. “It is a wonderful tradition as it brings families with young children and introduces families to the park. It also brings people to visit during what may be a more quiet time of the year,” said Ann Korzeniewski, employee at Colvin Run Mill park.

“My son is really into trains, so it is fun for him,” said Chris Keating, resident of Reston. “I tried to purchase an electric train set for

the holidays but was unable to. It is good a wholesome event.” Amongst the train decorations was a small sign that read, “Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional.” “This is my first year seeing this show at Colvin Run Mill,” said Paul Russell, a resident of Alexandria. “It is a beautiful exhibit and it makes good use of the space for the holiday time. My son was interested in the Thomas the Tank Engine.” Jim Stapleton and his wife Jo Anne were assisted by some volunteers to put together the train display. “It is pretty much the same as last year,” said Mrs. Stapleton. “I think it has been a good show.” Over a thousand visitors came to see the train display during the four days it was on display. The first train exhibit at

Colvin Run Mill was in 1990. “The Stapletons are really great people, there are not many people like that in the world,” said Jerry Bohlander, a resident of Maryland and member of The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society. Located near Virginia State Route 7, Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls is the sole surviving operational 19th-century water-powered mill in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Throughout the year, the mill hosts events for children, adults and families, from music to historical perspectives. In February, the mill will present maple syrup boil-downs to public. To learn more about Colvin Run Mill, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill/ or call 703-759-2771.

Paul Russell, resident of Alexandria, took the opportunity to bring his son to see the train display at Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls.

Jim Stapleton and a group of volunteers helped make the train display at Colvin Run Mill Park in Great Falls possible for 24 years.



Jim and his wife Jo Anne Stapleton successfully organized another train display at Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls.



The train display at Colvin Run Mill park entertained children of all ages. Over a thousand visitors came to see the train display during the four days it was on display.

NEWS

Comstock to Chair House Science And Technology Committee

Delegate Barbara Comstock (R-34) was named Chairwoman of the House Science and Technology Committee by Speaker Bill Howell (R-28).

Howell said, "Barbara Comstock is one of the brightest and most energetic lawmakers in the General Assembly. She has worked tirelessly on issues important to Northern Virginia and the entire Commonwealth. For years she has been a leader on issues related to economic development and technology. This experience and knowledge will make her a great Chairwoman."

Bobbie Kilberg, President and CEO of the Northern Virginia Technology Council said, "We applaud the selection of Delegate Barbara Comstock as chair of the House Science and Technology Committee. Barbara has distinguished herself in the General Assembly as a strong champion for important technology business policies and investments. As committee chair, we know she will have a big impact in ensuring Virginia remains a top destination for technology and innovation."

"I appreciate the privilege of chairing this committee which focuses on our Science and Technology community which is so vital for growing the innovative jobs of the 21st century. I look forward to continuing my work with the talented technology community throughout the Commonwealth to advance, strengthen and diversify Virginia's technology economy," Comstock said.

Del. Comstock was first elected in 2009 and rep-



FILE PHOTO

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34)

resents parts of McLean, Great Falls, Vienna and Loudoun County in the Virginia House of Delegates and also currently serves on the House Commerce and Labor and Transportation Committees.

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Broken Promises

Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services.

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Last month the disAbility Law Center (dLCV) issued a report on the condition of mental health services in Virginia. It is an eye-opening report: Broken Promises, the Failure of Mental Health Services in Virginia. Its findings are direct: "Despite the promises of reform to the mental health service system in the last decade, Virginia's mental health services system fails to serve many of those in need of its services."

According to dLCV, there are more than 40,000 Virginians living with serious mental illness and thousands more with less serious emotional disorders that require treatment including an estimated 130,658 children between the ages of nine and eighteen who need treatment. The dLCV which

advocates for all people with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect, and discrimination considers the problem in part to be a misallocation of resources. As its report points out, on any given month about ten percent of residents of state hospitals continue to be hospitalized even though their treating professionals have found that they no longer need to be hospitalized. Thirty-one of the 133 individuals in such hospital placements in November, 2013, had been waiting for discharge for more than a year. The problem is that there are inadequate or non-existent facilities or programs in the community to continue services to these persons. At the same time, there were an estimated 26,990 inmates confined in local and regional jails of whom nearly



25 percent were known or suspected to be mentally ill. More than 3,500 persons in jails were diagnosed with a serious mental illness.

The dLCV maintains that funding is misdirected towards unnecessary hospitalization when funding is needed desperately for community-based crisis response services and housing options for people with mental health needs. Their position is not without controversy. Others maintain that both more hospital spaces and more community-based facilities are needed.

The tragic event surrounding the family of Senator Creigh Deeds has brought the need to the public's attention.

Outgoing Governor Bob McDonnell has proposed a more than \$50 million increase in the

budget for mental health services and has established a commission to develop a plan for mental health services in the Commonwealth. There is bipartisan support to address the issue in terms of additional funding as well as to amend existing statutes to permit persons who are a danger to themselves and to others to be held for a longer period of time until appropriate treatment is available to them.

We are past the time when we should have met the promises for reform to persons with mental health problems and their families. The 2014 session of the General Assembly must respond. You can view my interview with Colleen Miller, Executive Director of disAbility Law Center of Virginia and another interview with George Braunstein, Director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, both on the topic of mental health reform at <http://vimeo.com/album/1650266>.

SHARE Celebrates Holiday

SHARE, Inc., local community relief organization, hosted its annual Holiday Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 7, in the McLean Baptist Church Fellowship Hall.

More than 150 Share client families, supported by about 50 Share volunteers, participated in this festive celebration. Clients snacked on homemade baked goods and sandwiches served by Share staff while listening to live holiday music by Bob Rosenberg. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus made their appearance again this year, providing photo opportunities for children and their families as they posed with the white-bearded spirit of Christmas. Smiling, happy faces of youngsters and adults alike confirmed everyone enjoyed the festivities and warm fellowship of the season with friends, family and volunteers.

Share clients who registered for this event during October completed a "Wish List" of an item that they needed and would enhance their celebrations of holiday season.



More than 150 Share client families, supported by about 50 Share volunteers, participated in the festive celebration.

Donors from the local community fulfilled one wish for each person and each family received a grocery gift card.

Each family also had the opportunity to select one gift from an assortment of brand-new linens and hand-knitted blankets, small household appliances, holiday décor items, clothing and accessories and some toys. Babies and toddlers received diapers, wipes and a pair of pajamas, and every child under the age of 10 received a

Santa toy. Clients were also provided a reusable grocery bag with a jug of laundry detergent and personal care items.

By the end of December, SHARE provided gifts and grocery cards to over 220 client families. Every gift, gift card and item given to the community's neighbors in need is donated to SHARE by the people from the McLean, Great Falls and Pimmit Hills area. It is their generosity that makes this holiday relief possible.

LETTERS Grateful to the Community

To the Editor:

To the McLean, Vienna and Great Falls communities: The Woman's Club of McLean would like to express its gratitude for supporting the club's 47th annual Holiday Homes Tour and MarketPlace. Preliminary estimates show that the two events successfully met our goals of providing essential support to local charities and nonprofits. The proceeds will be especially meaningful in this time of general need, which is felt most strongly in the holiday season.

Thank you again for your generous support. Best wishes to all for the holidays and a fulfilling new year.

Mildred Thompson, President
Woman's Club of McLean

What an Inspiration!

To the Editor:

I just finished reading the McLean Connection, Children's Connection 2013.

I am so impressed by the children, what an inspiration they are!

Thank you and the children for this special gift.

Doris Pennington
McLean

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Military Appreciation Monday to Honor Navy SEAL Foundation

On Monday, Jan. 13, monthly Military Appreciation Monday dinner will be in support of The Navy SEAL Foundation. Make your reservation for either the 5:30 or 7:30 seating at the Old Brogue by calling 703-759-3309. Visit <http://www.navysealfoundation.org> to learn more about this organization and the help it provides to injured combat veterans and their families.

If not familiar with the MAM events, simply come enjoy a dinner at the Old Brogue in Great Falls. The cosponsors, the Brogue and Bob Nelson of Keller Williams Realty each make a ten percent donation based on how much you spend on dinner.

The Navy SEAL Foundation stands behind all U.S. Navy SEALs, Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen, Naval Special Warfare support personnel, and their spouses and children. The Foundation coordinates closely with NSW commands to support critical needs of active-duty operators while also providing resources for NSW veterans. Their work is focused on three key areas: family services and command support, educational programs, and legacy activities.

The Foundation was formed in 2000 and underwent a name change in January 2011 when the SEAL-Naval Special Warfare Foundation and the Navy SEAL Warrior Fund combined their organizations. The merger makes it easier for families to receive assistance and support from one organization, while enabling the Foundation to respond rapidly to their needs.

Upcoming dinners will support:

- ❖ March 10 — CIA Officers Memorial Foundation;
- ❖ April 14 — Our Military Kids;
- ❖ May 12 — Operation Renewed Hope Foundation.

Lift Me Up! To Host Events Honoring Secretariat

Lift Me Up! is kicking off the new year, the Chinese "Year of the Horse" by celebrating the "Horse of the Century," Secretariat with two events.

On Jan. 31, Lift Me Up! is hosting a showing of the Disney film Secretariat at the Great Falls Library from 1-3 p.m. for ages 8 and up (free). Penny Chenery, Secretariat's owner, is portrayed by Diane Lane. Penny's daughter, Kate Tweedy served as a consultant on the film and is featured in the film.

On Feb. 8, Lift Me Up! is hosting a book signing and reception for Penny's daughter Kate Tweedy who co-authored the book Secretariat's Meadow: The Land, The Family, The Legend at the Fairfax Hunt Club in Reston, Virginia from 5-8 p.m. Tweedy will also discuss the book and her family's connections to Madeira and the military community. Tickets are \$50, books are \$35 and proceeds benefit Lift Me Up's Fence Fund and BITS (Back in the Saddle) program for injured veterans. For tickets, email: info@liftmeup.org. While Lift Me Up! has been in Great Falls since 1975, Secretariat's ties to the area go back to 1939. Secretariat's owner, Penny Chenery graduated from the Madeira School that year and she served as captain of the school's riding team. Kate Tweedy and co-author Leeanne Ladin will also visit the Madeira School, Lift Me Up!, The Saddlery, and The Old Brogue.

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BY MICHAEL BAILEY/COURTESY OF AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER

Desdemona and Othello: Stephanie Holladay Earl as Desdemona and Fernando Lamberty as Othello.

Shakespeare Comes to Alden

American Shakespeare Center performs a double-bill of the Bard celebrating his 450th birthday.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

In such a Shakespeare-rich area, “no one does it like the American Shakespeare Center...Shakespeare is so alive in their hands,” said Sarah N. Schallern, Performing Arts Director, the Alden at the McLean Community Center. “They have quite a fan base, and to be able to host them in our beautiful, intimate Alden Theatre is a joy and an honor.”

The Virginia-based American Shakespeare Center (ASC) will be performing two Shakespearean works on one Saturday; the comedy “The Merry Wives of Windsor” and the tragedy “Othello.”

Schallern indicated that there will also be a free “Brush Up on Your Shakespeare” several

nights before the ASC performances. At the “Brush Up” event Shakespeare experts from the Folger Library, the Shakespeare Theatre and others will discuss the history, performance practices and meanings of the Bard’s texts in an interactive format. “This is an event that has received great interest when we have done it previously,”

said Schallern.

“Touring has always been at the heart of what we do,” says ASC Artistic Director Jim Warren. “Part of our mission is to show how accessible, meaningful, and fun Shakespeare can be.” This is ASC’s 25th year touring.

The ASC traveling tour is called the “World’s Mine Oyster” tour. The phrase comes from a line in the “Merry Wives of Windsor”: “Why then, the world’s mine oyster, which I with sword will open.”

“We want to bring people the plays they know and those that they may be less familiar with or more rarely done,” said Glenn Schukel, ASC Tour Troupe Manager. He noted that ASC does performances in a unique manner; with the audience not sitting in the dark. “Shakespeare’s actors could see their audience; ASC actors can see you. When actors can see an audience, they can engage with an audience.”

“The Merry Wives of Windsor” is a comedy about jealousy, disguises, love and ridiculous situations. “Othello” is the well-known tale about an intense outsider who is doomed by his own jealousy. “O, beware, my lord, of jealousy; It is the green-eyed monster, which doth mock the meat it feeds on.”

“More than making Shakespeare accessible, we want to provide a strong sense of what his words mean, his intentions and objectives,” said Schukel. “Have a good time, don’t be scared of the language even if at first some words seem unknown. You will quickly be within the moment of the play.”



Rick Blunt as Iago and Fernando Lamberty as Othello.

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week’s paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2013/sep/26/fairfax-county-calendar/>.

FRIDAY, JAN. 10
Atlantic Brass Quintet The Discovery Series. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Tickets: 35. wolfrap.org.

SUNDAY, JAN. 12
The Gizmo Guys. 2 p.m. The Alden in McLean, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A comedy-juggling duo entertaining all ages. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for McLean tax district residents. www.mcleancenter.org

SATURDAY/JAN. 11
The Teas of Nepal. 1-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Nepal produces some exquisite hand crafted, limited production teas: whites, greens, oolongs, as well as distinctive blacks. An opportunity to experience these gems, along with some tea infused treats. Advance reservations and payment (\$30 each) required through the Mill at 703-759-2771.

THURSDAY/JAN. 16
International Guitar Night. 8 p.m. Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. THE INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT (IGN) is the world’s premier touring guitar festival, each show bringing together the most interesting and innovative acoustic guitarists to exchange musical ideas in a public concert setting. Tickets: \$25-27.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17
International Guitar Night. 8 p.m. Wolftrap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. THE INTERNATIONAL GUITAR NIGHT (IGN) is the world’s premier touring guitar festival, each show bringing together the most interesting and innovative acoustic guitarists to exchange musical ideas in a public concert setting. Tickets: \$25-27.

SATURDAY/ JAN. 18
Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m. Quick-Step lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ music from Craig Bukowski playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. \$15 for the evening. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 19
Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. 330 Center Street, N., Vienna. Adults \$8, children \$3. 703-938-1379.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 24 & 25
THIS. 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. *THIS* is a bright, tart, and melancholy comedy that captures the uncertain steps of a circle of friends entering the choppy waters of middle age. <http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/>

SATURDAY/JAN. 25
Gustafer Yellowgold’s Show. 10:30 a.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Groovy Gustafer Yellowgold is a small, yellow, cone-headed fellow, who came to Earth from the Sun and has a knack for finding himself neck-deep in absurd situations as he explores his

The Gizmo Guys, a comedy-juggling duo, will perform at the Alden in McLean on Jan. 12.



Visitors enjoy a chocolate fountain from Capitol Chocolate Fountains at the 2012 McLean Chocolate Festival. This year’s festival will be Sunday, Jan. 26 at McLean Community Center.

new life in the Minnesota woods.^o Equal parts pop rock concert and animated storybook, Gustafer Yellowgold concerts are a truly different multimedia experience that entrances children and adults alike. Tickets: \$10. <https://jamminjava.com/events/gustafer-yellowgold>

SUNDAY/JAN. 26
McLean Chocolate Festival. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. McLean Community Center. Wide variety of chocolate vendors. Plenty of parking. Children’s game room with chocolate-themed games. Admission fee is \$2, with \$1 going toward the purchase of chocolate. Kids under 6 get in free. McLean Rotary uses proceeds to fund local charitable organizations. www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org.
Music from Oberlin at Oakton. 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Music from Oberlin at Oakton hosts current Oberlin Conservatory students three times a year to provide top-notch music to the local community. ^oIn its 14th season, this program will feature two pianists, a percussionist, and a soprano. (703) 281-4230

FRIDAY/JAN. 31
THIS. 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center,

120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. *THIS* is a bright, tart, and melancholy comedy that captures the uncertain steps of a circle of friends entering the choppy waters of middle age. <http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/>

SATURDAY/FEB. 1
Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m. Samba lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Live music from Mike Surratt & the ECB playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. \$20 for the evening. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.
Arts for Autism Gala. 6:30 p.m. Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, #1700, Vienna. An evening that brings together the arts, fashion and autism communities to benefit individuals and families affected by Autism. Festivities include a reception, dinner and silent auction. www.arts-for-autism.org

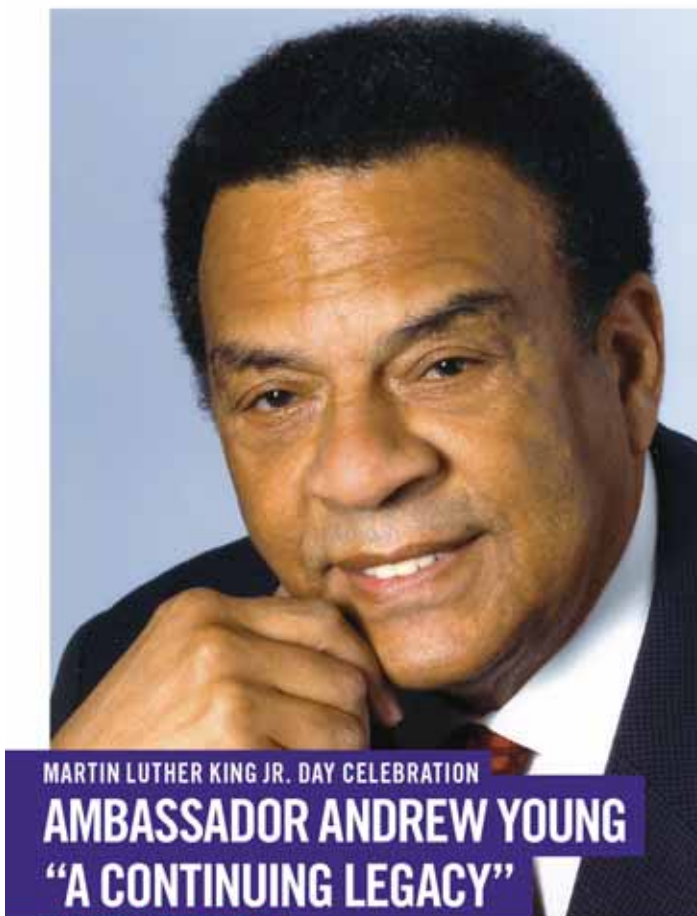
SATURDAY/FEB. 1, 7, 8
THIS. 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. *THIS* is a bright, tart, and melancholy comedy that captures the uncertain steps of a circle of friends entering the choppy waters of middle age. <http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/>

ATTENTION All Boys Ages 5-14 Have you ever wanted to try the fastest game on two feet?

Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the U.S., and the Great Falls Lacrosse Association is happy to announce two free beginner clinics for boys to try lacrosse at our home field – Nike 4.

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- NO STICK REQUIRED! We will have brand new STX sticks for use during the clinic. The boys will need to wear cleats or sneakers and dress warmly. Thin gloves and a hat are a good idea.
- Cost of the clinics: FREE.
- Dates: Sunday, January 12, 1-3 & Sunday, January 19, 12-2
- Location: Nike 4 Field, Utterback Store Rd., Great Falls, VA
- Please register at www.greatfallslacrosse.com. Space/sticks are limited to 60 boys. Boys can attend both clinics. Please arrive at the field 15 minutes before the scheduled start time.
- We can only accommodate boys who fall under the Langley and McLean HS school pyramids.
- IMPORTANT – This clinic is for new players only.
- Weather Policy: Please check the Great Falls Lacrosse site to check for any scheduling changes.



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Activity no. 4504.314

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Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

2013 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean



2 1288 Ballantrae Farm Drive, McLean — \$9,300,000



4 1015 Basil Road, McLean — \$5,677,777



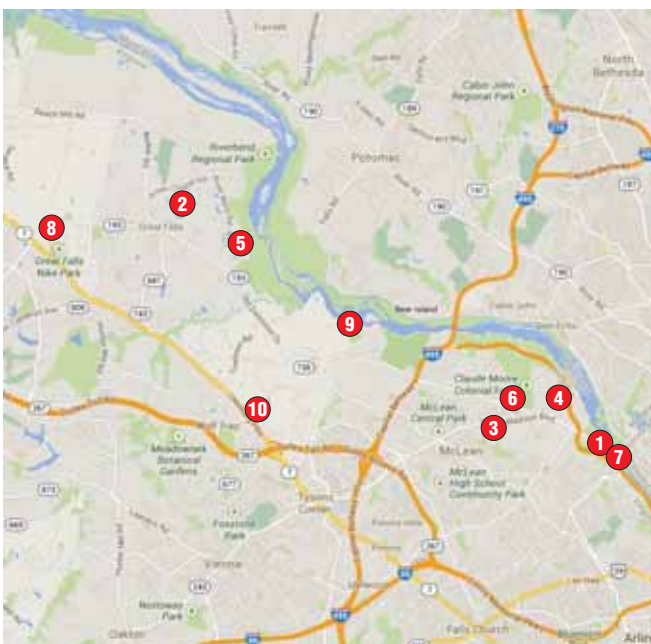
5 633 River Bend Road, Great Falls — \$5,634,180



7 626 Chain Bridge Road, McLean — \$5,175,000



10 8900 Gallant Green Drive, McLean — \$5,000,000



© Google Map data

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 634 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	10	8	1	MCLEAN	\$9,500,000	Detached	6.52	22101	CHAIN BRIDGE	10/11/13
2 1288 BALLANTRAE FARM DR	12	10	3	MCLEAN	\$9,300,000	Detached	6.27	22101	BALLANTRAE FARMS	03/05/13
3 576 INNSBRUCK AVE	6	7	2	GREAT FALLS	\$7,400,000	Detached	5.00	22066	GUNNELLS RUN FARM	09/04/13
4 1015 BASIL RD	6	7	4	MCLEAN	\$5,677,777	Detached	2.40	22101	EAGLECREST	05/30/13
5 633 RIVER BEND RD	7	7	3	GREAT FALLS	\$5,634,180	Detached	5.00	22066	GREAT FALLS HEIGHTS	03/29/13
6 1001 DOGUE HILL LN	5	5	2	MCLEAN	\$5,570,000	Detached	0.89	22101	LANE ON GEORGETOWN PIKE	09/12/13
7 626 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	5	7	3	MCLEAN	\$5,175,000	Detached	1.00	22101	CHAIN BRIDGE	03/21/13
8 1036 AZIZA CT	5	5	3	GREAT FALLS	\$5,115,693	Detached	0.84	22066	PUTNAM FARM ESTATES	01/04/13
9 710 BULLS NECK RD	6	6	1	MCLEAN	\$5,000,000	Detached	5.00	22102	BULLS NECK HUNDRED	01/16/13
10 8900 GALLANT GREEN DR	6	6	3	MCLEAN	\$5,000,000	Detached	4.13	22102	WOODSIDE ESTATES	10/07/13

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Lower Level Offers Multi-generational Solution

Remodeling a dark basement gives family spaces for grandparents on extended visits and play room for everyone.

BY JOHN W. BYRD

Eric and Tina Park, both physicians, were already quite busy 10 years ago when they purchased a 3,400 square foot two-level neo-Colonial near McLean.

Among other responsibilities, Eric Park is medical director of a local hospital; Tina Park has a bustling private practice. On occasion professional duties could stretch into the wee hours.

But blessed events have a way of changing basic assumptions for the better. In 2007, the couple's first daughter was born; a second daughter followed four years later.

Suddenly, active lives became still more fulfilling... and even busier.

"Our plan all along was to create a family home," Tina Park said. "We saw the lower level eventually playing a part in our daily lives, but we were only using it for storage. It wasn't until my mother began regularly helping us with the girls that we started looking at the house more closely."

Kay, Tina Park's mother, still lives mostly in Alabama with Park's father, Kon, also a physician. But in



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS PHOTOGRAPHY

With its private entrance, kitchenette and table for four, the new lower level allows Tina Park's mother, Kay, to host bridge parties for friends independent of any other household activities.

Details

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently opened a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com

recent years the couple now in their mid-60s has been evaluating retirement options.

"Mom started coming for extended visits when our second daughter was born in 2009," Park said. "At first she would stay in the guest room, but gradually we all started looking at ways to increase available privacy."

It was in this phase that thoughts of a more accommodating family home turned again to the nearly 2,000-square-foot, unfinished lower level. Among other factors, the space boasts a ground-level course of windows and private rear entrance. Beyond these assets, however, the Parks considered the basement's suitability for mainstream living a little unclear.

"It's mostly below-grade," Park said. "We weren't sure about air circulation or possible moisture build up. Using the lower level occasionally is entirely different matter from setting up a master suite for your parents, so we had a lot of concerns."

It is at this point that Sun Design Remodeling enters the story.

"We had visited one of their remodeled homes, even attended a seminar," Park said. "The question for us was to what extent a room that is partly below-grade could satisfy the whole family's requirements."

Sun Design's interior designer Liz Lee said, "A basement conversion is challenging — especially when it's going to be mainstreamed with the rest of the house. In this case, we had to specify an appropriately-sized dehumidifier, and find a suitable location for a return air grill. Comfort and air quality are always critical to a successful lower level solution."

With several performance con-



The master bathroom is finished with espresso-colored maple wood cabinet facings, a floor-to-ceiling glass-facings linen closet and a vanity with granite surfaces. The spacious walk-in shower features a "rain" showerhead, a handheld sprayer and built-in cubbies.

cerns resolved, attention next turned to configuring the space.

For Kay, the top priority was a suite with all the features of independent living, including:

- ❖ A comfortable master bedroom suite with large closets.
- ❖ A dedicated master bath with textured finishes and a spacious walk-in shower.
- ❖ A fully functional kitchenette with a dining counter suitable for four.
- ❖ A private entrance.
- ❖ A dining alcove with a table for four where Kay could also host bridge games with friends.

TO KEEP THE FAMILY fit, the Parks envisioned a 195-square-foot gym with a treadmill ensconced behind a pair of frosted glass doors.

A family gathering area at the foot of the stairs would be subdivided by a counter and "built-ins" custom-designed for children's toys.

Nearby: a family entertainment zone equipped with flat screen TV,

surround sound and a karaoke machine.

Not coincidentally, all activity areas are just a few strides from the well-equipped kitchenette.

To gain uncluttered sightlines, Sun Design executed a few structural changes. The L-shaped stairway entrance was widened while preserving a necessary I-beam. Plumbing and ducting were re-routed.

"We didn't want the space to feel like a basement in any sense," Park said. "Fortunately, Liz Lee really understood our vision."

Describing the desired décor as "modern Asian contemporary," Park stressed simple lines, soft tones and visual continuum.

"My mother had very specific ideas that even included elements of Feng Shui," Park said. "She and Liz collaborated directly on most of the finish work details."

Along these lines, Kay's Korean-styled headboard faces southeast — towards a set of sliding Shoji screens that conceal closet space

SEE REMODELING, PAGE 15

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBITZEL/THE CONNECTION

First-year Langley boys' basketball head coach Scott Newman talks to the Saxons during a game against McLean on Dec. 13.

Former Langley Coach Hess Beats Saxons

Langley boys' basketball goes 0-3 at holiday tournament.

BY ANDREW MINER
FOR THE CONNECTION

The South County Stallions beat the Langley Saxons in day-two action of the Mount Vernon Holiday Basketball Tournament 59-52 in the consolation bracket play on Dec. 27.

Stallion coach Travis Hess wished South County played any other school than the one he formerly coached.

"It was the one team I didn't want to play" Hess said afterwards. "At least not so soon, after a tough loss the following night, it was easy to game plan but I still know most of the kids on that team as well as coach [Scott] Newman."

Newman, on the other hand, said, "[coach Hess and I] shared some funny texts back and forth and while we preferred not to play them it was just another game and we gave them all we had."

Hess, less than a year removed from being the head coach at Langley, squared off against first-year head coach Newman of the Saxons. Newman had been Hess' assistant at Langley for the last four years and there were still players on the Saxons who Hess had personally coached.

After the first quarter, the score was knotted at 12. Then the Stallions outscored the Saxons 17-7 in the second quarter.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Heavily Depleted Langley Ice Hockey Team Falls to Oakton

The Langley Saxon Icers fell for the first time this season to Oakton in the late game on Jan. 3 at Skatequest.

Although Friday was part of Langley's holiday break and the

Saxons were missing all three goalies and several skaters, the league refused to reschedule the game. Oakton was able to dress their full squad and goalie.

Chris Lane stepped up to the challenge for Langley, donned the goalie gear and admirably stood between the pipes. Langley notched the first three goals of the game with tallies from Drew Schneider, Kal Fernlund and Michael Cox, but a late penalty in the period allowed Oakton to capi-

talize and they added two more to close the opening frame tied at 3.

Each team potted two goals in the second with Lane stopping 10 of the shots he faced in the period and Oakton's goalie stopping none. Langley's grinder players: Charlie Eisner, Hannah Hanuschak, Sam Leighton and Owen Westerheim saw significant ice time and were key to keeping Langley in the game as they skated into the third.

"We gave better effort today than yesterday," Newman said. "South County is a good team and we are still young."

In the second half, South County jumped all over the Saxons. The Stallions extended their lead to 16 by outscoring the Saxons 15-9 and led 44-28 entering the fourth quarter. Langley, however, scratched and clawed back into the game by doing what it does best: draining 3-pointers. They hit three that quarter and by using a diamond press were able to cut the Stallion lead to four with 1:25 remaining. South County then hit six of its next eight foul shots to cement the victory in the final 73 seconds.

Through snow days and a prolonged football season, Hess admitted, "it's on the coaching staff" and that "we haven't had enough practices" when asked how South County can better learn how to close games. Both tournament games the Stallions have let their opponents back into the game. They blew a nine-point fourth quarter lead before losing to Oakton the night before. Hess was excited to get back to practice, however, in order to "work on everything." Missed free throws, turnovers, and inexperience doomed the Saxons yet again against yet another lengthy, athletic team whose offense fed off the press. The Stallions took advantage, especially senior Nathaniel Barrigan who scored a career high 31 points. Senior Christopher Antwi had 11 points for South County.

Seniors Ross Callaghan, who had his wisdom teeth taken out earlier this week, and Austin Denham had 18 and 10 points respectively for the Saxons.

Langley finished the tournament with a 92-58 loss to Capital Christian on Dec. 28, dropping the Saxons' record to 2-7.

Oakton Girls' Basketball Starts 11-0

The Oakton girls' basketball team went undefeated during the 2013 portion of its schedule, capped by winning the Cassel's Cougar Classic.

On Jan. 4, Oakton's winning ways carried into the New Year.

Oakton defeated Yorktown 85-41 to improve to 11-0. The Cougars have won each game by at least 13 points and defeated seven opponents by at least 39.

"The biggest key to our start has been the team mentality," Oakton head coach Fred Priester wrote in an email. "We have a great group of players and they have worked hard to improve their skills and they are committed to playing together— sharing the ball – and making any contribution that they can for the success of the team." Oakton's most experienced players are: junior guard Karlie Cronin ("[she] does everything on the floor and creates great energy and excitement," Priester wrote), senior guard Jazmine Carter ("[she] works her heart out on defense wherever she is asked to play"), junior guard Lindsey Abed ("[she] plays with great understanding") and sophomore guard Alex Marquis ("[she] is directing our offense and attacking the basket"). Freshman Alisha Sheppard "is providing offensive pop as she increases her understanding of the game."

During the Cougar Classic, Oakton defeated Stone Ridge

(Maryland) 79-26, Gar-Field 72-29 and Loudoun County 87-41.

"We played very well in the holiday tournament," Priester wrote. "... Conference play looms ahead with tighter games and greater competition so we must continue to work on execution in order to be successful. I know that our effort level will remain high. That is a given. These kids play hard."

Cronin, Marquis and Sheppard made the all-tournament team. Each is averaging double figures in scoring and Cronin leads the team in steals and assists. Abed is averaging 9.3 points per game.

Oakton had its streak of eight consecutive district championships snapped last year by Centreville. The Cougars finished district runner-up before losing to South Lakes in the region semifinals, falling one win shy of the state tournament. Oakton will open conference play on Jan. 10 at Westfield.

"Centreville is the defending champ of the Concorde and returns everyone and so [it] is definitely the favorite and Chantilly, Westfield and Robinson all have strong squads," Priester wrote. "We will need to continue to work hard in order to be successful in the second half of the season. I have confidence in our team's work ethic and effort – so I am hopeful that we can build on our strong start."

After giving up a goal to fall behind in the third period, Faisal Alsaif completed his hat trick to tie the game and Schneider scored his second to put Langley ahead where they remained until the 4-minute mark. The Saxons ran out of steam and allowed a flurry of late goals much to the joy of the Oakton Hecklers Gallery, who repeatedly chanted "Conor, Conor, Conor" to the amusement of the entire Langley squad. Apparently the heckler gallery mistakenly thought Conor Maddry was between the pipes even though he has been out with an injury all season. The Saxons will face Westfield/Heritage on Jan. 10 at Skatequest at 7:55 p.m.

Langley, McLean Ice Hockey Skate to Six-All Tie.

The Langley Saxons remained

unbeaten with a 6-6 tie against rival McLean on Dec. 6.

Although the Saxons outshot McLean 25-15 and scored in the first 20 seconds, they were unable to hold onto a slim lead in the third.

McLean went ahead after two quick goals, but Langley knotted the game at 6 where it remained for the final 5 minutes of the tilt.

The game got physical early with big hits by assistant captain Will Clemson and Shane Clayton. Saxon captain Drew Schneider continued his strong performance with another hat-trick followed by two goals from Lafuria and a single from Guidi.

The first place Saxons kept their bench tight due to the closeness of the score, but Coach Little ensured ice time to all the skaters.

First year icers Hanuschak, Westerheim, Eisner and Leighton continued to show their mettle for the team.

2013: Banner Year in McLean and Great Falls

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The total number of home sales in McLean and Great Falls is up in 2013 over 2012.

Further every market segment is up year over year except for that in the under \$750,000 category. The reason I believe that this segment fell short in terms of number of sales is due to lack of supply.

Current inventory level is less than one month for homes to purchase for under \$750,000 in McLean/Great Falls, which includes condos.

Economists and other experts that analyze the real estate market typically consider a balanced market to be a 6-month supply, thus the current lower price market in McLean and Great Falls is in a seller's market cycle. This is in line with market conditions experienced throughout 2013.

The move-up market segment of McLean and Great Falls is the \$750,000 to \$1.25 million. Year over year there was a 16.6 percent increase in number of homes sold in this market.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Karen Briscoe

The reason for this I believe is that many buyers who might have tried to purchase in the under \$750,000 segment moved up their purchase criteria in order to be able to buy a home.

This is a strong indicator that the market has recovered and that we could possibly experience price appreciation for some areas going forward. Currently there exists about 1.5 month supply of properties available to purchase. With supply running at generally one-quarter of last year's demand, in many cases good homes priced correctly for the market will sell quickly for a strong price and

McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales

ALL 2012 COMPARED TO ALL 2013

(Based on Final Closed Price)

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$750k~ \$1.25 Mil.	<\$750k
ALL 2012					
22101	10	20	105	150	167
22102	7	16	38	91	181
22066	6	10	46	95	45
Total	23	46	189	336	393
Combined Total		258			729

ALL SALES ALL 2012: 987

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$750k~ \$1.25 Mil.	<\$750k
ALL 2013					
22101	11	27	105	206	93
22102	7	21	50	65	177
22066	8	11	66	121	34
Total	26	59	221	392	304
Combined Total		241			553

ALL SALES ALL 2013: 1,002

terms.

The largest gain in number of sales year over year was found in the upper bracket market segment of properties that sold for greater than \$1.25 million, with a total of 18.6 percent increase. The reason for this is along the same lines as

that mentioned above.

The distinction though is that in the upper brackets there is currently an over 7 month supply of inventory, more in each category relative to supply as the price of the home increases. There are obviously less potential buyers for

homes over \$1.25 million, so in some segments of the upper brackets the conditions are border line balanced to buyer's market.

The peak of the real estate market in Northern Virginia was in 2005-2006.

The market usually follows a 7-year cycle from peak to peak. My ongoing prediction that values would return to market peak for this area in some segments beginning in 2012 was right on track. The good news is that 2013 confirmed that trend. Thus 2013 proved to be a banner year for the McLean and Great Falls real estate market.

My prediction for 2014 is that good houses priced correctly for the market and in good condition will sell for strong prices and terms. As long as supply and demand stay at current levels and not exceed balanced market conditions, 2014 too should prove to be a very good year for real estate in McLean and Great Falls.

Karen Briscoe is Principal of the HBC Realty Group-Keller Williams. Contact her at: www.HBCRealtyGroup.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCRealtyGroup.com.

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Peace Baptist Church
... 703-560-8462

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church
... 703-757-8134
Cartersville Baptist Church
... 703-255-7075

Fellowship Baptist Church
... 703-385-8516
First Baptist Church
... 703-938-8525

The Light Mission Church ...
703-757-0877
Vienna Baptist Church
... 703-281-4400

New Union Baptist Church...
703-281-2556
Church of the Brethern
Oakton Church of the Brethern
... 703-281-4411

Catholic
Our Lady of Good Counsel ...
703-938-2828
St. Athanasius Catholic Church
... 703-759-4555

St. Mark's Catholic Church
... 703-281-9100
Charismatic
New Song Church
... 703-698-9777

Church of Christ
Berea Church of Christ
... 703-893-7040

Disciples of Christ
Antioch Christian Church
... 703-938-6753
Episcopal
Church of the Holy Comforter
... 703-938-6521

Church of the Holy Cross
... 703-698-6991
St. Francis Episcopal
... 703-759-2082

Jehovah's Witness
Jehovah's Witnesses
... 703-759-1579

Lutheran
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
... 703-938-2119

Christ The King Lutheran Church
... 703-759-6068
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church
... 703-455-4003

Methodist
Andrew Chapel United Methodist
... 703-759-3509
Church of the Good Shepherd
... 703-281-3987

The Vine Methodist Church
... 703-573-5336
Ephiphany United Methodist
... 703-938-3494

Great Falls United Methodist
... 703-759-3705
Oakton United Methodist
... 703-938-1233

Vale United Methodist
... 703-620-2594

Smith Chapel United Methodist
... 571-434-9680
Wesley United Methodist
... 703-938-8700

Non-Denominational
Celebration Center
for Spiritual Living
... 703-560-2030

Presbyterian
Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church
... 703-560-6336
Korean Central Presbyterian
... 703-698-5577

Quaker
Langley Hills Friends
... 703-442-8394

Seventh-Day Adventist
Northern Virginia
Christian Fellowship
... 703-242-9001

Vienna Seventh Day Adventists
... 703-938-8383
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Fairfax
... 703-281-4230

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Living With My Decisions



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

On multiple occasions throughout my nearly five years of being treated for stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, my oncologist has given me opportunities to stop and/or take a break from my treatment, or to consider alternatives to the normal protocols – for the expressed (literally) purpose of sustaining/enhancing the unexpected, above-average quality of life I have mostly experienced during my nearly non-stop, every three-week chemotherapy infusions which began in early March, 2009. The goal being to enable me to enjoy my life and not be subjected to/beaten down by the ravaging and debilitating effects of chemotherapy.

As many of you probably know, chemotherapy is hardly a cure for what cancer ails you; in many cases, it is the last line of a faltering defense against the indefensible: a terminal prognosis. When your oncologist characterizes you as “terminal,” and gives you “13 months to two years” to live, the presumptions, the logic, the understanding is that whatever treatment you endure is not likely to save your life. Stage IV means inoperable, incurable (though “treatable”); words which are not used indiscriminately. They are used, as is the “stage,” to define a set of medical conditions that are extremely serious and based on the most current and best-known medical knowledge available at the time, and are not likely to result in a happy ending. As I’ve said previously, “being called ‘terminal’ is all it’s cracked up to be.”

In spite of everything – all the discouraging words, all the chemotherapy, all the varying lab work (good and bad) and miscellaneous results from CT Scans, MRIs and the occasional bone scan and X-Ray – I have managed to outlive the original prognosis offered by my oncologist. My body has held up to the rigors of chemotherapy (I’ve never been a candidate for radiation as my tumors are too numerous and too spread out for the targeting strategy to benefit me, if I understand the process clearly) amazingly well. Still, there are limits of effectiveness. Your body can only take so much before it begins to work against you.

Nevertheless, when offered a respite from treatment and given an opportunity to live life to the fullest and enjoy what time I have remaining – not hooked up to an I.V. – I have always opted to continue treatment. Regardless of the oncologist’s motivation in suggesting these breaks (though they are discussions we have together; it’s hardly unilateral, one way or the other), it’s always felt to me as if I were giving up and/or giving in. Diagnosis-to-date/treatment-to-date, it’s never appealed to me. In retrospect, I imagine I was being naive to think that my overall very manageable quality of life as a lung cancer patient/survivor would/will continue, so why stop now when the worst-case scenario seems to be have been/is a bit overstated? I don’t know if that’s hubris on my part, stupidity or wishful thinking (certainly that), but my feeling is that if I think I’m going to die, I probably will (sooner rather than later is what I mean). And not that this whole strategy of mine has been about trying to out-think cancer by being positive and optimistic; hardly. But I will admit this: given my current alive-and-reasonably-well status, I wouldn’t say it’s worked against me.

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

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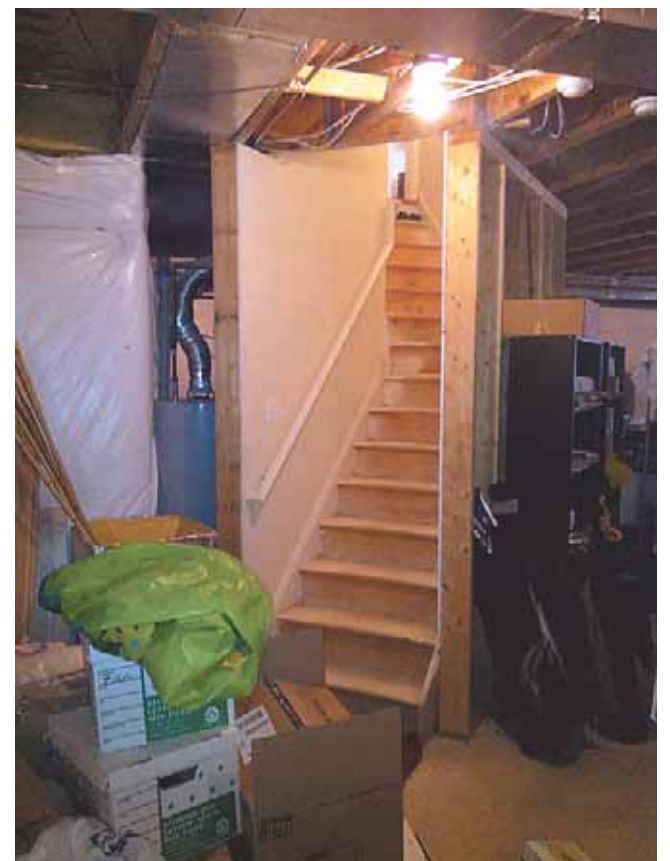
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BEFORE: For nearly a decade, the Park's 2,000 square foot basement has mainly served as storage. Tina Park describes it as "dungeon-like," a perception reinforced by the narrow L-shaped access stairway.

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BRYAN BURRIS PHOTOGRAPHY



Remodeling

FROM PAGE 11

and other personal effects. The master bathroom is finished in espresso-colored maple wood cabinet facings, a floor-to-ceiling glass-facing linen closet and a vanity with granite surface.

While the 150-square-foot kitchenette and dining counter provides everything needed for food preparation and clean-up, it blends with other elements in an open, yet cleverly-zoned great room.

Walnut cabinet facings, marble surfaces and a tile backsplash present a pleasing con-

trast to the eggshell white walls and random-width pine flooring. Ceiling level bulkheads and tapered columns define key activity zones.

Recessed lights and three dangling pendant lamps provide regulated illumination and appropriate aesthetic accents. To eliminate cooking aromas, the kitchenette is even equipped with concealed ventilation fans.

"It's really the nicest place in the house now," Park said. "And it satisfies so many different needs that it's become our main gathering place."

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to GreatFalls@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 8

Vienna Photographic Society Meeting.
7:30-9:30 p.m. Oakton Elementary School, 3000 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. Corey Hilz will speak at this meeting. He is a professional photographer specializing in nature and travel photography. He finds that the diversity in nature and cultures around the world offer boundless opportunities for new images. www.vpsva.org

SUNDAY/JAN. 12

Introduction to Healing Touch - Get and Give a Healing! 2-4 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton. A gentle, complementary energy-based approach to health and healing. The goal is to restore harmony and balance to the human energy system through a heart-centered caring relationship and the use of contact/non-contact touch. This can greatly assist the body and mind in its natural ability to heal. <http://www.unityoffairfax.org/introduction-healing-touch-1>

TUESDAY/JAN. 14

NARFE (National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees) Chapter 1116 Meeting.

1:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. The guest speaker is Virginia Imglese, Founder, Therapist, Total Health Concepts, Vienna, VA Senior wellness. Start out the new year with some good advice about proper Nutrition for healthy living. Free. 703-938-9757.

THURSDAY/JAN. 16

Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., invites all veterans, friends, and the general public to attend the chapter meeting at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna, at 7:30 p.m. Robert Tecklenburg, Vietnam veteran, will discuss his new book, "The Boys Next Door: A Marine Returns to Vietnam," on his Vietnam War experience, his return to Vietnam after the war, and Vietnam War history. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

Great Falls Writer's Group. 1:30 p.m. Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come to discuss the joys and challenges of writing. Writers will share their work. All skills levels are welcome. No registration needed; no charge.

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