

# Library, Falls Salon Win

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The Falls Salon decorated its storefront with wreaths and hanging lights in a show of holiday spirit. The salon won an award for displaying their holiday spirit.



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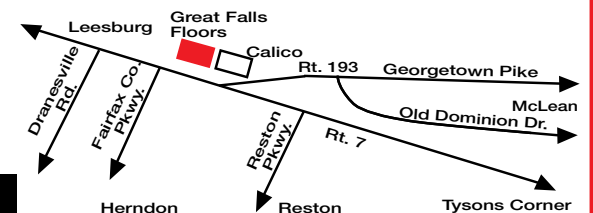
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## Fun Winter Activities for the Family

Keep your family busy with winter fun events in Great Falls during the colder months.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

It's easy to stay in during these cold months thanks to snowy weather and the holidays, but every once in a while families need to get out of the house to enjoy themselves. Great Falls has plenty to offer for everyone, from live music and dancing to workshops about chocolate and making one's own maple syrup.

Here are some ideas to get you started for your winter fun plans:

### KATIE'S CARS & COFFEE

Take a ride over to Katie's Coffee House at 760 Walker Road between 6:30-9:30 a.m. Saturdays for some great coffee and a spectacular show of community residents' cars. You can find everything from sports cars to hot rods and polished historic vehicles. This is a great way to meet some of your neighbors and car enthusiasts from around Great Falls.

### WINTER WINE TASTING AT RIVERBEND COUNTRY CLUB

The Celebrate Great Falls Foundation is hosting a Winter Wine Tasting at the River Bend Country Club on Saturday, Feb. 22. Join your neighbors for an evening of wine, cheese and hors d'oeuvres at the country club, located at 375 Walker Road. Cost per ticket is \$45.

### "PAIRING PREMIUM TEAS AND CHOCOLATES" AT COLVIN RUN MILL



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH

From left: Greg and Ken Fulmer examine a Viper on display at Katie's Cars & Coffee. You can find everything from sports cars to hot rods and polished historic vehicles at Katie's Cars & Coffee in Great Falls.

Learn about the delicate art of matching specific teas and chocolates at Colvin Run Mill on Saturday, Feb. 8. From 1-3 p.m., chef and tea specialist Laurie Bell will teach a class showing the differences between dark, milk, bittersweet, and other types of chocolates, and how they best match up with certain teas. Attendees will be able to try items out and take home a sampler of teas. Cost is \$30 per person; call 703-759-2771 to register.

### READ TO THE DOG AT GREAT FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Have your little ones practice their reading by telling stories to their furry companions. Bring child and dog to the Great Falls Public Library on Mondays, Feb. 10 and 24, at 4:30p.m. to have your new readers prac-

tice their reading skills. Call the library at 703-757-8560 to reserve a spot.

### WAGON RIDES AT RIVERBEND PARK

Take a wagon ride led by park staff to the Corn Crib at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 26, and enjoy children's activities a history lesson about the Great Falls in the 1900s. The park will also take riders to Poohsticks Bridge on Sunday, March 9 at 12 p.m while reading the stories of Winnie the Pooh. It's a way to get little ones outside to enjoy Riverbend Park in late February and early March. Cost is \$5 per person in county. Call 703-222-4664 to reserve a spot.

### LIVE MUSIC AT THE OLD BROGUE

The town of Great Falls' own Irish pub has an endless list of live music acts perform-

ing on Friday and Saturday nights starting at 9 p.m. Come see the likes of "The Pocket Band" on Feb. 7, "The Walking Sticks" on Feb. 28 and "Doug Parks and the Lonewolves" on March 1. Concerts usually go from 9 p.m. to midnight. See the Old Brogue's updated calendar at [www.oldbrogue.com](http://www.oldbrogue.com) for more listings.

### MAPLE SYRUP BOIL-DOWN AT COLVIN RUN MILL

Grab your family and bring them to historic Colvin Run Mill for a lesson in how to make maple syrup. Sundays on Feb. 9 and 23 and March 2, from 12-2p.m., instructors will tell how to sap maple trees for the syrup and boil it down to the final product. Enjoy the fruits of your labor afterward by trying the fresh made syrup over baked cornbread. Cost is \$3 per person; no registration required.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. SEUSS! STORYTIME, GREAT FALLS LIBRARY

Friday, Feb. 28 is Dr. Seuss' birthday. In celebration of the adventurous story teller's 110<sup>th</sup> birthday and Read Across America, Great Falls Public Library will be holding storytime for preschoolers and young readers from 11a.m.-2:30p.m.

The library will also have preschool storytime on Saturday, Feb. 8 Monday, Feb. 24, as well as Reading Buddies events where young readers can learn together with teens on Thursdays at 4:30 p.m. Call the library at 703-757-8560 for more information.

### A DANCE FOR EVERYONE AT COLVIN RUN MILL COMMUNITY HALL

Come ready to learn some new moves starting at 6:30 p.m., before Ed Cottrell's all-inclusive monthly dances on Saturday, Feb. 8 and March 1. A DJ will be playing a mix

SEE WINTER FUN, PAGE 8

## Writers Group Crafts Publishing Workshop

The Writers Group to host a panel of publishing and marketing professionals.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

For any writers living near Great Falls who have wondered what it takes to get their short stories or book ideas published, the next meeting of the Great Falls Writers Group may be able to help. On Thursday, Feb. 6, the Writers Group will meet at Great Falls Public Library for a publishing workshop, complete with a panel of published writers and self-marketing experts.

One of the featured panelists will be Jennifer Abernethy, a social media marketing

professional who authored the "Complete Idiot's Guide to Social Media Marketing," first published in 2009 and again in 2012.

"I'm excited to talk about branding and how they use social media to get their books out there in a much bigger way," said Abernethy, who is also a Great Falls resident. Abernethy got her first book deal through marketing her own work via social media, and she hopes to share her knowledge of using websites like Twitter and Facebook as professional media tools. Group founder and facilitator Kristin Clark

SEE WRITERS GROUP, PAGE 9



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTIN CLARK TAYLOR/GREAT FALLS WRITERS GROUP

Great Falls writers gather for a bi-monthly meeting at the Great Falls Public Library.



# Board Cites Lack of Funds for School Renovations

**Aging schools collide with increasing student enrollments.**

BY LISA SPINELLI  
THE CONNECTION

While the 2015 to 2019 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) passed at the Fairfax County Public School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 3, many board members expressed concerns with the program.

“Our funding is inadequate and has been inadequate for many years,” said Mount Vernon district school board member Dan Storck about the school’s capital improvement budget — which has an annual cap of \$155 million by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. “This program takes us to the next step, but we still have a long way to go.”

Fairfax County public schools are bursting at the seams. An influx of 20,000 school-aged children enrolled in the system within the last eight years and there is no end in sight to the growth rate. With many buildings reaching 50-plus years old and enrollment projected at 184,500 for next school year, overcrowded schools are becoming a mainstay.

The CIP five-year plan includes a queue of which schools have planning funds and construction funds approved, and includes the construction of two new elementary schools as well as one new high school. The total bill for this CIP is \$697.7 million, with \$371.7 million of that unfunded.

One of the major sticking points among board members was the treatment of legacy high schools: Falls Church, Herndon, Langley, Oakton and West Springfield. All these schools were built in the 1960s, and none have received a full renovation. Some are still not in the queue to receive funds for upgrades as of this CIP.

“We’re stuck between a rock and a hard

Final Rankings									
School Name	Rank	Score	School Name	Rank	Score	School Name	Rank	Score	
Clermont ES***	1	52.23	Mount Vernon			Bren Mar Park ES	46	70.28	
Terraset ES**	2	54.18	Woods ES*	24	63.81	Brookfield ES	47	71.29	
Sunrise Valley ES**	3	56.77	Herndon HS*	25	63.84	Lees Corner ES	48	72.40	
Garfield ES**	4	56.81	Rocky Run MS*	26	63.88	Armstrong ES	49	72.53	
Terra Centre ES**	5	57.65	Belle View ES*	27	64.06	Willow Springs ES	50	73.33	
Thoreau MS**	6	58.05	Annandale Terrace ES	28	64.19	Centreville HS	51	73.63	
Westgate ES**	7	58.14	Clearview ES	29	64.21	Herndon ES	52	73.68	
Haycock ES**	8	59.00	Oakton HS*	30	64.54	Dranesville ES	53	74.97	
Langley HS**	9	59.14	Hughes MS	31	64.66	Cub Run ES	54	75.27	
Ravensworth ES**	10	59.96	Silverbrook ES	32	64.83	Franklin MS	55	75.74	
Woodlawn ES**	11	60.25	Hybla Valley ES	33	64.87	Union Mill ES	56	76.29	
Forestville ES**	12	60.28	Cooper MS	34	65.90	Centre Ridge ES	57	76.64	
North Springfield ES**	13	60.41	Frost MS	35	66.06	Poplar Tree ES	58	76.86	
Springfield Estates ES**	14	60.88	Washington Mill ES	36	66.12	Waples Mill ES	59	77.30	
Keene Mill ES**	15	60.89	Braddock ES	37	66.17	Sangster ES	60	77.39	
Bucknell ES**	16	61.60	Fox Mill ES	38	66.51	Twain MS	61	78.38	
Cherry Run ES*	17	61.78	Oak Hill ES	39	66.63	Saratoga ES	62	78.84	
Waynewood ES*	18	62.17	Wakefield Forest ES	40	67.47	Virginia Run ES	63	83.13	
Stratford Landing ES*	19	62.50	Louise Archer ES	41	68.24				
Newington Forest ES*	20	62.52	Crossfield ES	42	68.98				
Hollin Meadows ES*	21	62.59	Mosby Woods ES	43	69.96				
White Oaks ES*	22	62.70	Bonnie Brae ES	44	70.03				
West Springfield HS*	23	63.10	Falls Church HS	45	70.11				

\* Planning funds approved  
\*\* Construction funds approved  
\*\*\* Renovation completed

## Schools’ final ranking for renovations

School Name	Capacity Utilization		School Name	Capacity Utilization		School Name	Capacity Utilization	
	2013-14	2018-19		2013-14	2018-19		2013-14	2018-19
Bailey's	130%	154%	Forestdale	93%	131%	Lorton Station	122%	134%
Belvedere	99%	115%	Franconia	102%	128%	Lynbrook	92%	118%
Bren Mar Park	99%	151%	Freedom Hill	102%	134%	McNair	125%	166%
Cameron	76%	117%	Glen Forest	104%	132%	Mosby Woods	104%	116%
Cardinal Forest	94%	117%	Graham Road	107%	121%	Mount Eagle	95%	159%
Chesterbrook	109%	118%	Greenbriar West	121%	125%	Pine Spring	101%	133%
Coates	106%	181%	Groveton	96%	123%	Shreveewood	106%	125%
Columbia	102%	140%	Hybla Valley	124%	135%	Westlawn	101%	116%
Eagle View	87%	118%	Lake Anne	92%	136%	Willow Springs	107%	124%
Fairhill	98%	123%	Lane	91%	128%	Woodburn	111%	131%

## Schools’ capacity

place,” said Providence District Representative Patty Reed citing not enough funding and too many schools in need. “And Falls Church is no further along than it was before.”

The CIP did not list Falls Church in the queue for high schools needing renovation — which many members felt was a gross oversight since the school was built in 1967 and is without science and computer labs — putting its students at a severe disadvantage to remain competitive for jobs and

acceptance into top colleges, said Reed.

At the meeting last week, an amendment to the CIP passed to further examine renovations needed at legacy high schools.

While the CIP focuses on renovating/enhancing existing schools and building new schools, the Facilities Planning Advisory Committee — and some members at the board meeting — suggested examining the entire process for which the board determines the renovation priorities.

The facilities planning committee sug-

gested in a January report that an overarching study on school boundaries and changing those boundaries by 2018 could help alleviate much of the overcrowding in schools across the county — especially high schools. With the current CIP, Facilities Planning Advisory Committee wrote that in just five years 45,397 children will be attending schools at more than 115 percent of capacity — approximately one in four students. Currently, there are no ongoing or planned boundary studies in place, said John Torre, public information officer with FCPS.

**“Our funding is inadequate and has been inadequate for many years.”**

— Dan Storck, Mount Vernon district school board member

Another measure At-Large Member Ted Velkoff suggested to ensure schools were receiving a more adequate amount of capital improvement funds was to integrate the county government and the school’s capital funding plans and have criteria set by both boards for which facilities would enter the list.

Currently government-related buildings — including fire departments, detention centers, courts etc. — receive 58 percent of the county’s capital improvement funding while taking up 19 percent of the total county facilities square footage, whereas the school system receives 42 percent of the money with 81 percent of the square footage, cited Braddock District Representative Megan McLaughlin.

“I have grave concerns,” said Mason District Representative Sandy Evans about the CIP. “It’s not just about needing a new funding stream, but how we approach it.”

# Library, Falls Salon Win

BY ETHAN MCLEOD  
THE CONNECTION

There’s nothing that brings a community together like a bit of friendly competition — at least that’s the idea behind the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation’s annual Holiday Decorating Contest.

The foundation presented awards to both the Friends of the Great Falls Library and The Falls Salon on Thursday, Jan. 23, for their holiday spirit displayed in their storefronts and buildings. The two winners were chosen by a community vote that found

them both equally deserving of the cash prize of \$400.

The library’s decorations consisted of building-wide wreaths and lights, as well as a centerpiece at the front of the library made out of stacked books covered in lights and surrounded by sitting elves. The Falls Salon, meanwhile, decorated its storefront with a display of hanging lights, wreaths and red ribbons.

Though the Foundation split the award into two checks for \$200 in their presentation at the Great Falls Library, in a testa

SEE CELEBRATE, PAGE 7

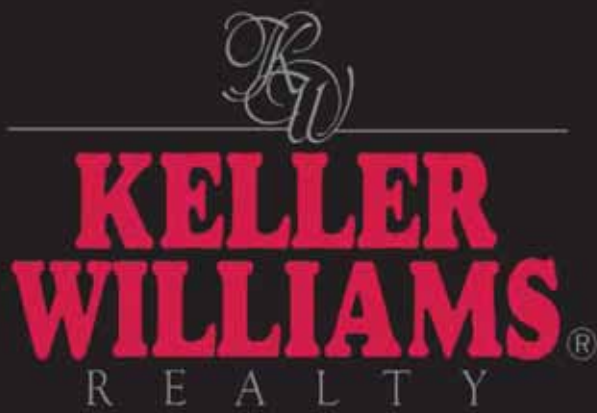
**The Celebrate Great Falls Foundation presented both winners with certificates and a cash prize.**



PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

**The board of directors for the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation presented the Friends of the Great Falls Library with a check for \$400.**





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# OPINION

## For Nonpartisan Redistricting

Virginia is a purple state, gerrymandered to bleed red.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General.

Almost none of these elections was by a wide margin, but it's clear that Virginia is a purple state leaning blue.

Here are the actual numbers:

**2013**  
McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389  
Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R) 980,257  
Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

**2012**

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522  
Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

The split in the Virginia Senate makes sense, a 20-20 split with a Republican Lieutenant Governor breaking tie votes the last four years and a Democratic Lieutenant Governor poised to break ties in the coming four years (pending this week's recount in the special election in District 6 to replace Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam).

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should

be split about evenly. You could understand a split five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the electorate. It is especially damaging in a Dillon rule state, like Virginia, where localities have only the power explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly,

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

### COMMENTARY

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

For the first time in a history that goes back to Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, a Virginia governor has been indicted on federal corruption charges. Although information on the activities of the federal grand jury had been leaking out for many months, the former governor and his wife who was indicted with him and their stable of taxpayer-paid-for attorneys were able to stave off the formal indictment until he left office. But

the alleged wrong doing took place while he was in office during which time he and the first lady accepted at least \$165,000 in cash, loans and lavish gifts from the CEO of a diet supplement company. A review of the particulars of the indictment reveals a picture of a family that was in financial trouble with huge credit card debt but with a taste for designer clothing and accessories.

The former governor who worked as a criminal prosecutor, who served in the House of Del-

egates as a member of its Courts committee, and who was Attorney General of the state before becoming governor acknowledges the loans and money that he has paid back and the gifts he received, but he continues to maintain his innocence despite federal law that makes it illegal to use a public office to enrich oneself. The governor was clever in using his intimate knowledge of Virginia law to escape reporting the gifts by having them go to family members rather than to himself and by sell-

ing stock before the end of a reporting period and buying it back after the reporting deadline to escape disclosing it.

The entire episode is a huge tragedy for the McDonnell family and for the Commonwealth of Virginia. The former governor and his wife may go to jail. The "Virginia way" that has always prided itself on clean government has been sullied. Committees in the House and Senate are at work to tighten up ethics laws for the legislative and executive branches of government. I participated in a bipartisan panel to get the process underway. Reporting requirements for anything of value received will be expanded to include family members and will be required at least twice a year. An ethics commission is likely to be established to rule on the appropriateness of activities of members of state as well as local government. As part-time legislators who live in the local community much more time than in the capital city, legislators need to be able to participate in the activities of the local community as long as they do not conflict with their legislative duties. The new ethics rules and the commission should help clarify which activities and expenditures are acceptable.

The presence of laws does not completely stop wrong doing. It is up to individuals to first police themselves and to act in an ethical way. Ultimately it will be the voters who decide if their elected representatives are adhering to the common-sense ethical standards that they expect.

## Overdue Ethics Reform



STEVEN G. ARTLEY/THE CONNECTION

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## COMMUNITY

# Celebrate Great Falls Reveals Holiday Contest Winners

FROM PAGE 4

ment to community spirit, Rick Wagstaff and Mark Bursick, owners of The Falls Salon, donated their half of the award to the library.

Michelle Miller, president of the Friends of the Great Falls Library, and branch manager Daniela Dixon accepted the check from the board of directors in a short ceremony. Miller noted that the competition level increased this year as compared to Winter of 2012, something she said is a sign that the community has "competitive spirit."

"I already have some ideas for next year," revealed Miller with a smile after accepting the check. Erin Lobato, director of the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation, said that the goal of her organization is to "do anything that celebrates spirit in our community."

The nonprofit formed out of the Great Falls Charitable Foundation, a community group more than 20 years old that organizes annual events such as the Fourth of July Celebration, the golf tournament at Hidden Creek Country Club, and the holiday Celebration of Lights.

The foundation's board of directors all attended the presentation of the check and accompanying certificates to the winners. Though the contest it is only a few years old, Lobato hopes that more local businesses and organizations will follow the competitive trend next year by elaborately decorating their buildings and entering the contest.

The Celebrate Great Falls Foundation's next event will be a Winter Wine Tasting on Saturday, Feb. 22, at the River Bend Country Club. For more information go to [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

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## WINTER FUN, FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

# Winter Fun Activities in Great Falls

FROM PAGE 3

of contemporary and classic dance music, including west coast and east coast swing, hustle, Latin, waltz and more from 8-11:30 p.m. Cost is \$12 per person, which includes lessons, entry fee to the dance and snacks. Call 703-435-5620 for more information.

### ARTISTS MEET FOR COFFEE

Every Thursday morning, Great Falls artists meet for coffee at Katie's Coffee House. Come share the creative energy from 8:30-10 a.m. and introduce yourself to the local artist community.

### MCLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS PRESENTS "LA CAGE AUX FOLLES" AT THE ALDEN THEATRE

The McLean-based theater group will be performing this French musical, whose title literally means "the cage of mad women," about a gay couple living in the southeast of France. The original production from 1984 won six Tony Awards and is an international hit. This production will be directed by Hans Bachmann, with help from musical director John Edward Niles. Shows run from Jan. 31 to Feb. 16; tickets cost \$20 per adult, \$18 per student/senior resident. For more information go to [www.mcleanplayers.org](http://www.mcleanplayers.org).

### TEACHER WORKDAY SKI TRIP TO MASSANUTTEN RESORT

Go for a day of skiing with neighbors through the McLean Community Center on Thursday, Jan. 30. Cost is \$110 for McLean residents, which includes skis/snowboard rental, lift ticket and transportation via charter bus, though discounts are available for those who bring their own skiing or snowboarding gear. Make sure to bring extra warm clothes and money for food and souvenirs. Call 703-790-0123 to register.

### A DAY IN BALTIMORE AT SHAKE AND BAKE FAMILY FUN CENTER

Spend the second teacher workday with the family roller skating and bowling at Shake and Bake Family Fun Center. On Friday, Jan. 31, the McLean Community Center will host a trip via bus to Baltimore for a day of fun as well as lunch at Hibachi Japanese restaurant, where chefs prepare the meals right before your eyes. Cost is \$42 (\$48 for non-residents); call 703-790-0123 to register.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> STAGE THEATER PRESENTS "SOUVENIR: A FANTASIA ON THE LIFE OF FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS"

See 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater in Tysons Corner perform this comedy about an eccentric heiress and socialite who swears she is a talented soprano, but in reality forces the audience to stifle their own laughter as she sings on stage. The two-character play was



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVIEGH

**Guests dine at The Old Brogue, a community fixture in Great Falls since 1981. The town of Great Falls' Irish pub has an endless list of live music acts performing on Friday and Saturday nights starting at 9 p.m.**

written by Stephen Temperley and will be directed by Jay Brock. Shows run from Feb. 7 – March 2 at 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater at 1524 Spring Hill Road; get tickets at [www.1ststagetysons.org](http://www.1ststagetysons.org).

### WASTE IN CONTEMPORARY ART – LECTURES BY ARTIST ERIC CELARIER MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

Learn how artist Eric Celarier, whose work is currently featured at the McLean Project for the Arts in the Wasteland Series exhibition, utilizes trash and refuse in his creations. Celarier will be hosting lectures all day Feb. 22, the first from 10-11:30 a.m. for children ages 4-8 about multi-media mobiles, and another from 1-4 p.m. for ages 11-14 about weaving waste materials into a full work of art. Cost is \$10 per family for the first class and \$10 per person for the second; register at [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

### FIRST FRIDAYS! DANCES AT THE TEEN CENTER

Bring your teens to the Old Firehouse Teen Center for First Fridays! dances from 7-10 p.m. in February and March. The dances for middle school students will include the Sweetheart Dance on Feb. 7, where teens can make their own customized wristbands, and the St. Patty's Day Dance on March 7. Free food available, as well as game rooms with video games, table tennis and air hockey. Parents or guardians must accompany teens into and out of the building; cost is \$5 for residents, \$10 for non-residents.

### LELAND FAULKNER'S "WORLD OF WONDER" AT THE ALDEN THEATRE

Actor and illusionist Leland Faulkner will bring his show of illusions, shadows, hand silhouettes and paper arts to the McLean Community Center on Sunday, March 2 from 2-3 p.m. This is a perfect show to bring to bring young children to see illusions crafted from eastern art and Japanese traditions. Cost is \$10 for residents, \$15 for non-residents.

### FEATURED STORYTIMES AT DOLLEY



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Earrings and all sorts of jewelry will be for sale at the McLean Community Center's annual Jewelry Showcase Feb. 1.**

### MADISON LIBRARY FOR PRESCHOOLERS

"Snow" presented by Riverbend Park - Bring your little ones to learn about the wonders of snow in a presentation by staff from Riverbend Park at the Dolley Madison Library on Wednesday, Feb. 26. From 10:30-11:15 a.m., preschoolers will learn about where snow comes from and how animals adapt to it, and will participate in an accompanying hands-on art activity. To register call 703-356-0770.

"Groundhog's Shadow" Storytime - Parents are invited to bring their toddlers to learn about Groundhog Day and the legend of Punxatawney Phil's shadow. Storytime will be 10:30-11:10 a.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 5, and will include songs and activities. To register, call 703-356-0770.

### 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JEWELRY SHOWCASE AT THE MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

More than 30 jewelry designers and artisans will fill the community center with their



PHOTO BY TRACI J. BROOKS STUDIOS

**Jacqueline (Lisa Anne Bailey) makes sure Georges (Harv Lester) and Albin (Christopher Furry) don't forget her in rehearsals for "La Cage Aux Folles," which begins this weekend at McLean's Alden theatre.**

lations of friends of a certain age — 40-ish.

The five characters face great changes in their lives, from the birth of a child to the death of a spouse to the search for love, with infidelity thrown into the mix.

"This" has adult language and is not appropriate for children under 16. Tickets are priced at \$13 each for adults and are available for purchase at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, or at the door on performance day. Shows are on Jan. 24, 25, 31, and Feb. 1 at 8 p.m., and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 2 and 9.

Call the community center at 703-255-6360 for weather cancellations. For more details on the production, go to [www.viennatheatrecompany.org/](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/)

**PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW TRIP** sponsored by the Town of Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation, Wednesday, March 6.

A charter bus leaves the Vienna Community Center at 8 a.m. and returns at approximately 7 p.m.

The 2014 Flower Show is a collaboration of flower show designers and the nation's great art museums, turning the Pennsylvania Convention Center into a 10-acre canvas of landscapes, gardens and floral arrangements.

The cost of the day trip is \$69 for Town of Vienna residents and \$86.25 for out-of-town participants. Cost includes transportation and admission to the show with all-day re-entry privileges. Registration required.

For more information, call Vienna Parks and Recreation at 703-255-6360 or register online at [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**"SOUVENIR: A FANTASIA ON THE LIFE OF FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS"** opens at 1st Stage on Feb. 7 and closes on March 2.

The production centers on the life of an eccentric real-life heiress who could not distinguish fantasy from reality. As bad as her voice was, she packed recital halls. She even performed at Carnegie Hall in 1944.

Show times for "Souvenir" are Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 and 7 p.m. General admission is \$27. Student and military tickets are \$15. Group discounts are available. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.1ststagetysons.org](http://www.1ststagetysons.org) or by calling the 1<sup>st</sup> Stage box office at 703-854-1856. "Souvenir" is appropriate for

all ages.

1<sup>st</sup> Stage, a professional theatre, is located in an industrial center in Tysons, at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. For the season's schedule of plays, go to [www.1ststagetysons.org](http://www.1ststagetysons.org).

**CASINO NIGHT** to benefit The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County region.

The Ritz-Carlton of Tysons Corner is hosting a benefit on behalf of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County Region, on Friday, March 7, from 6:30-11:30 p.m. The event is open to the public.

Casino night admission includes an open bar, dinner buffet, gaming, and dancing. Live and silent auction prizes include weekend get-a-ways, dinner at award-winning restaurants, hotel-dinner-limo packages, sporting event tickets and more.

Guests receive funny money and a bidder number. Use the winnings from Black Jack, Texas Hold 'Em, Craps towards raffle tickets for prizes.

Tickets are priced at \$95 per person or \$175 per couple. The Ritz-Carlton offers a Casino Night overnight room rate specially-priced at \$119.

**FREE ARTIST DEMONSTRATION** sponsored by the Vienna Arts Society on Thursday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Prominent artist Chica Bruns vold creates her whimsical, colorful and complex paintings on yupo paper. The March exhibition at the arts center highlights "Great Escapes," featuring paintings inspired by her travels.

Enjoy light refreshments served. The Vienna Arts Center is located at 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna.

Phone 703-319-3971 or see [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) for information and schedule of events.

**VIENNA CHORAL SOCIETY** sings lullabies from around the world on Saturday, March 15, at 4:30 p.m. at Vienna Baptist Church. To set the sleepy-time mood, VCS singers will perform in pajamas. The performance will appeal to children and grown-ups alike. Tickets are priced at \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors (65+) and for students (15 - 18); free for youth 14 and younger with a paying adult."Purchase tickets at door.

Vienna Baptist Church is located at 541 Marshall Rd., SW, Vienna. For more information, see [www.viennachoralsociety.org](http://www.viennachoralsociety.org).

## Next Great Falls Writers Group Meeting Will Focus on Publishing

FROM PAGE 3

Taylor encourages community members who are passionate about writing to come to the group's upcoming meeting.

"When we come together, a miraculous creative energy is unleashed," said Taylor. "You can feel it when you walk into the room," said Taylor. Her most recently published work, "The Forever Box," came out in 2011; she has authored four other books, including a memoir of her time spent as a White House media director during the first Bush administration. Taylor said that since she first started the group in September 2013, she has been very happy with the increasing turnout of writers coming to the twice-monthly meetings at the Great Falls Public Library. Though sharing work can be difficult for writers, she

said that it is always a very open and positive experience for newcomers, especially with guidance from well-known visiting writers. Past speakers have included the widely published children's author Henry Cole and columnist John Kelly from The Washington Post.

Joe Reynolds, a retired lawyer who lives in Great Falls, says that the mix of experienced and beginning writers in the group makes it a very worthwhile experience.

"It's helpful for people who are both starting out as writers and people who have already written or published something," said Reynolds. The Great Falls Writers Group's publishing workshop will be held in the large conference room of the Great Falls Public Library on Thursday, Feb. 6, from 11a.m.-1p.m.



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Center  
*The Center of It All*



## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### McLean Jewelry Showcase



*Just in time for Valentine's Day!*  
**McLean Jewelry Showcase**

**Saturday, Feb. 1, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Admission: \$3 (take \$1 off with this ad)

**McLean Kids Performance Series**  
**Elska "Middle of Nowhere"**  
**Saturday, Feb. 1, 2 p.m.**  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

**Virginia Museum of Fine Arts "Hollywood Costumes"**

**Wednesday, Feb. 5**

\$98/\$93 MCC district residents

**Midday Movie Musicals "Pippin"**

**Wednesday, Feb. 5, 1 p.m.**

Free admission

**"Celtic Music around the World"**

**Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.**

Free admission

**Spring Kids Show Auditions**  
**Miss Nelson is Missing!**

**Tuesday, Feb. 11, & Wednesday, Feb. 12**

**7-8:30 p.m.**

**Studio Rep "Code 20: Proceed to Improv"**

**Thursday, Feb. 13, 7-9 p.m.**

Old Firehouse Teen Center

Free admission

**The McLean Community Center**  
**[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)**  
**Home of the Alden Theatre**  
**[www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org)**



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703-790-0123, TTY: 711





# WINTER FUN, FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

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

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29-SATURDAY/FEB. 1

**Winners' Wall.** Tuesday-Saturdays. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. A selection of artworks by award-winning artists on display. Vienna Community Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. [ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://ViennaArtsSociety.org)

## THURSDAY/JAN. 30

**MPA Cocktails and Creating.** 7-9 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. MPA will provide everyone with a variety of items for you to use in your creations. You can make a collage, or a sculpture or whatever your little heart desires. Tickets: <http://mpaart.givezooks.com/events/cocktails-and-creating>

## FRIDAY/JAN. 31

**Natalie York + Dave Farah Album Release Show.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Avenue, East, Vienna. [Jamminjava.com](http://Jamminjava.com)

**"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. Contains adult language; for theatre-goers over 16. [www.viennatheatrecompany.org/](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/)

**Schooner Fare.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Maine-based band Schooner Fare is known for its unique repertoire of songs and its energetic concerts.



**Unleash your creative side while sipping on cocktails at McLean Projects for the Arts Thursday night event, "Cocktails and Creating."**

Tickets \$27-\$32. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

## FRIDAY/JAN. 31-SATURDAY/FEB. 1

**La Cage aux Folles.** 8 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Book by Harvey Fierstein, music and lyrics by Jerry Herman, based on the novel by Jean Poiret. Georges, the owner of a popular drag nightclub in San Tropez, and Albin, the club's star, have lived in unwedded bliss for 20 years. Jean-Michel, the son they have raised together, throws the happy household into hilarious turmoil by

announcing that he is going to marry the daughter of an ultra-conservative politician. [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org) or 866-811-4111.

## 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](http://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](http://www.arts-for-autism.org)

**McLean Jewelry Showcase.** 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A collection of more than 30 skilled jewelry designers and artisans, makers of unique earrings, bracelets, necklaces and other products.

**Arts for Autism.** 6:30 p.m. Tower Club Tysons Corner, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive #1700, Vienna. A gala dinner reception celebrating the autism experience with an art show, a series of brief performances and remarks by people in autism community and local elected officials, and a New York-style fashion show featuring model fundraisers walking a runway wearing the latest fashions.



**Maine-based band Schooner Fare is known for its repertoire of songs and its energetic concerts. See them live on Friday, Jan. 31 at Wolf Trap in Vienna.**

[www.arts-for-autism.org](http://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. Contains adult language; for theatre-goers over 16. [www.viennatheatrecompany.org/](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/)

## SUNDAY/FEB. 2

**La Cage aux Folles.** 2 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Georges, the owner of a popular drag nightclub in San Tropez, and Albin, the club's star, have lived in unwedded bliss for twenty years. Jean-Michel, the son they have raised together, throws the happy household into hilarious turmoil by announcing that he is going to marry the daughter of an ultra-conservative politician. [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org) or 866-811-4111.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 2 & 9

**"THIS."** 2 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. Contains adult language; for theatre-goers over 16. [www.viennatheatrecompany.org/](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org/)

## FRIDAY/FEB. 7-SATURDAY/FEB. 8

**La Cage aux Folles.** 8 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Georges, the owner of a

popular drag nightclub in San Tropez, and Albin, the club's star, have lived in unwedded bliss for twenty years. Jean-Michel, the son they have raised together, throws the happy household into hilarious turmoil by announcing that he is going to marry the daughter of an ultra-conservative politician. [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org) or 866-811-4111.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 9

**Joshua Redman Quartet.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. One of modern jazz's most heralded saxophonists, Joshua Redman will be performing alongside jazz pianist Aaron Goldberg, bassist Reuben Rogers and percussionist Gregory Hutchinson. Tickets \$42-\$45. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

**La Cage aux Folles.** 2 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Georges, the owner of a popular drag nightclub in San Tropez, and Albin, the club's star, have lived in unwedded bliss for twenty years. Jean-Michel, the son they have raised together, throws the happy household into hilarious turmoil by announcing that he is going to marry the daughter of an ultra-conservative politician. [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org) or 866-811-4111.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 11

**1964 The Tribute.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Salute the 50th anniversary of The Fab Four's first live U.S. performance in D.C. with some "Rock and Roll Music" from the "Best Beatles Tribute on Earth" (Rolling Stone). Tickets \$38-\$42. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

SEE WINTER FUN, PAGE 11

# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual McLean Jewelry SHOWCASE

*Juried Handcrafted Jewelry*

**SATURDAY, FEB. 1**  
11 A.M.-5 P.M.  
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[www.mcleancenter.org/special-events](http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events)

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## WINTER FUN

FROM PAGE 10

### THURSDAY/FEB. 13

**Buckwheat Zydeco.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Free.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 13-SUNDAY/FEB. 16

**Wildfire's Special Valentine's Menu.** \$85 per couple. Wildfire Restaurant, Tysons Corner, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Guests can indulge in all of their Wildfire favorites, including Crab Stuffed Mushrooms, Spinach & Artichoke Fondue, Wildfire Chopped Salad, Roasted Prime Rib of Beef or Parmesan Crusted New York Strip. Call 703-442-9110 for reservations.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 14

**Chaise Lounge: A Valentine's Day Celebration.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. D.C.-based Chaise Lounge is known for its smooth '60s-inspired big-band jazz. Tickets: \$25. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

### FRIDAY/FEB. 14-SATURDAY/FEB. 15

**La Cage aux Folles.** 8 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Georges, the owner of a popular drag nightclub in San Tropez, and Albin, the club's star, have lived in unwedded bliss for twenty years. Jean-Michel, the son they have raised together, throws the happy household into hilarious turmoil by announcing that he is going to marry the daughter of an ultra-conservative politician. [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org) or 866-811-4111.

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## THE COUNTY LINE



Janet Laubgross and Fairfax County Public Schools student Stuart Orloff spoke in support of later high school start times at the public hearing.



Dr. Lolita Mancheno-Smoak of Coalition of the Silence speaks at the Jan. 27 public hearing on the proposed budget.

PHOTOS BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

# Debate Over School Budget Continues

Later start times, class size among topics at School Board Public Hearing.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
THE CONNECTION

Later start times, class size, and cuts to needs-based staffing were major themes of the testimony given at the Jan. 27 public hearing on Superintendent Karen Garza's proposed budget.

Members and representatives of SLEEP in Fairfax, Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, Coalition of the Silence, and many other groups spoke at the public hearing.

**"School is a great idea. Sure there are flaws, but it is an important part of growing up. The problem is, I'm only half awake to experience it. In class, I can hardly focus because I'm trying too hard to stay awake."**

**— Stuart Orloff, a tenth-grader in Fairfax County Public Schools**

Several SLEEP advocates at the hearing said that Fairfax County should follow the example of other school systems in the area and adjust middle and high school start times, beginning in Fall 2014.

Catherine Pournelle, an eighth-grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, said most teenagers only get around seven hours a sleep per night, which leads to several problems while

in school.

"I know from experience that this then causes us all to feel drowsy and not pay attention as well during morning classes. It especially becomes hard when homework piles up, causing us all to get to bed later and creating a spiral of sleepiness until the weekend," Pournelle said. "Overall it does not create a healthy environment for learning."

Stuart Orloff, a 10th-grader in Fairfax County Public Schools, agreed. "School is a great idea. Sure there are flaws, but it is an important part of growing up. The problem is, I'm only half awake to experience it. In class, I can hardly focus because I'm trying too hard to stay awake," Orloff said.

Another concern several speakers have with the budget is the cuts to need-based staffing.

Coalition of the Silence co-founder and vice chair Dr. Lolita Mancheno-Smoak stressed the importance of closing the achievement gap in Fairfax County, which she said cannot be done with the proposed budget.

"We all accept the premise that education is the great equalizer. However, over the years, we keep seeing budget cuts that weaken the progress towards leveling the playing field for all children," Mancheno-Smoak said.

COTS co-founder Avis Catchings also spoke, and said that while COTS supports some aspects of the budget, including the decision to pay teachers fairly, she is disappointed with some of its other aspects.

"This is about life choices for COTS kids. When COTS kids fail in school, too often they also fail in life," Catchings said. "Proposing any cuts to needs-based staffing



Ryley Bendewald, a freshman at Langley High School, spoke about diversity and inclusion at the Jan. 27 public hearing.

when the FCPS student population has increased by the thousands, and when most of this growth is in our neediest communities, is just not a good choice. It means larger class sizes in needier schools and fewer teachers to give these children the extra help they need to transition successfully in school."

Several students also advocated for chil-

dren who are underrepresented and disadvantaged. Alanna Brown, a ninth-grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School, spoke about the digital divide in Fairfax County.

Brown said she thinks that while digital textbooks are helpful, it is unfair for poorer students who don't have access to the internet at home.

"Although there are low-income students at Lake Braddock, I don't believe there are that many, but there are other places like Alexandria and other areas in Virginia that have many more poor students," Brown said. "Many of these students may not have access to the internet at home, and I don't believe it is fair that they may get bad grades because they can't do their homework because they don't have access to the internet at home."

Ryley Bendewald, a freshman at Langley High School, believes it is wrong to cut class sizes in one area of Fairfax County, but not in another.

"Every student in Fairfax County, no matter what their facial features, height, family, house size, or academic advancements, deserves the opportunity to learn and to better themselves in the public schools in this county," Bendewald said.

At the hearing, Steven Greenberg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, praised Garza for her budget proposal.

"Dr. Garza's budget is the best lemonade anyone could possibly make, considering the rotten lemons we've been given," Greenberg

said.

However, former school board member Tina Hone, a founder of Coalition of the Silence, said that the organization is struggling with the proposed cuts to need-based staffing.

"Even Jack didn't cut needs-based staffing," said Hone of the former Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale.



## COMMUNITY

# Troop 673 Delivers Books to Walter Reed

Six Boy Scouts from Great Falls Troop 673 visited Walter Reed Medical Center on Dec. 4 and delivered 10 bags and boxes of new, donated books and movies.

The Friends of the Great Falls Library had contacted the Warrior Family Coordination Cell at Walter Reed who said they would be delighted to receive the donation. The donation consisted of a variety of new books donated to the Friends for its bi-annual book sale which went unsold.

The Scouts and their drivers delivered the books to Tranquility Hall, a residence for recovering warriors and families. While waiting to meet with their primary contact, Staff Sgt. Alicia Watkins gave the group a brief tour of the building. The Scouts visited the Warrior Café where Watkins showed them the POW/MIA table which is present in every military cafeteria. She explained the meaning of the various items on the table: the white tablecloth symbolizing the purity of soldiers' motives in answering the call to duty; the rose representing the life of each missing person and his or her loved ones; a slice of lemon to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing; a pinch of salt to symbolize the tears of the missing and their families; an empty chair and other symbols.

Watkins is a USAF sergeant who was at the Pentagon on 9/11 and who has served



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**From back left: Staff Sgt. Alicia Watkins, Thor Kurzenhauser. Second row: Neal Kelly, Cameron Williams, Mitchell Williams, Ryan Laughrey, Greg Gersony. Front row: a Walter Reed recovering patient.**

two combat tours, in Iraq and Afghanistan. She currently lives off base and comes to Walter Reed for treatment. After the visit with Watkins, the Warrior Family Coordination Cell contact, Naval Petty Officer Joe Marcinkowski, arrived. Marcinkowski said that the Scouts or the Friends of the Great

Falls Library would be welcome to come another time and set up a book table during lunch time outside the Warriors' Cafe where soldiers could stop by and pick up books. He also welcomed the Scouts to visit inpatients any time and that he would be happy to arrange future visits.



**David Kondner, Sr., the new president of Great Falls Senior Center.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Senior Center's Newly Elected Board

The Great Falls Senior Center membership elected a new board of directors in December. The new board, half of whom are serving for the first time, named its officers at its Jan. 16 meeting. The new officers are David Kondner, Sr., president; Joyce Trickett, vice president; George Newman, treasurer, and Carol Blackwell, secretary. Other members of the new board are Mary Davis, Diane Drewry, Margaret Johnson, Robert Lundegard, Marietna (Mimi) Mascolo, Jackie Taylor, Sondra Taylor and Carol Wright. The board members and officers will serve for two years. Terms of the current officials run through Dec. 31, 2015.

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## Confused and then Infused

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Since March 6, 2009, nearly five years now, save for nine months when I was taking an oral chemotherapy medication at home, every three weeks I have been infused with some sort of chemotherapy drug. In that time, I have certainly become familiar and fairly well-known to the various staff at The Infusion Center. What follows is the most recent exchange with the receptionist in Oncology, as best as I can recall it.

Receptionist: "Hello, Mr. Lourie. How are you?"

Me: "Lovely. Happy to be here."

Receptionist: "That's nice."

Me: "Actually, I'm not happy to be here. I mean I'd rather not be here. But since I'm here, it's better that I'm here than not here, as in unable to get here because I'm not here anymore."

Receptionist: "I understand."

Me: "Really? Because I'm not sure I understand. I know what I'm thinking, but...What I mean to say is that I don't want to be coming here to the Infusion Center, because that means I'm being treated for cancer. But if I do have cancer, I guess I'm happy to be still alive, in order to be able to get here for treatment."

Receptionist: "I understand."

Me: "I think I'm confused. I don't want to be coming here because I have cancer. I'd rather not be coming here at all. But since I have cancer, I suppose I'm glad I'm able to still get here. I think I'm going around in circles."

Receptionist: "No, you're fine. I understand completely."

Me: "Really. 'Cause I'm not sure I do. It seems like I'm talking to myself, repeating myself. I'm a writer and often I use double-entendres in my column, which seems sort of what I'm doing here. Although I'm not intending it. I was more realizing/thinking aloud as to why I was here, whether I wanted to be here and the reasons why I was fortunate – so to speak, to even still be here and/or how unfortunate I was to be here being treated for terminal lung cancer – as opposed to being healthy and not needing to be here. I feel as if I'm rambling here. Am I making any sense?"

Receptionist: "Not to worry. (Smiling, laughing.) I do understand exactly what you're saying."

Me: "I'm not sure I do. Maybe I should just stop talking and sit down and wait for Ron (my oncology nurse) to come and get me."

Receptionist: "Ron's running late. He's stuck in traffic. He'll be here soon."

Me (to myself): Great (chagrined.) I suppose I should probably stop pacing then and just sit down and try to relax. I'm here. I'm checked in. Besides, I have to be ready for my blood pressure check. If my vitals (and/or lab results, appearance, etc.) are not normal, protocols will prevent any infusion today (which has happened to me twice; very disappointing, especially considering that you think your life depends on receiving the treatment that day). If the patient doesn't pass muster, however, the oncology nurse has no choice: there will be, to invoke the "Soup Nazi" from "Seinfeld": "No chemo for you."

Fortunately, for this infusion, I have once again managed to "Pass the audition," as John Lennon so famously joked at the end of the live roof-top version of The Beatles' song "Get Back" at the end of the "Let It Be" album.

Life goes on though – for me, thank God!, despite my confusion. Thanks to the staff for continuing to take me in stride.

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

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Nathan F. (Red) Holeman  
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Survived by wife Lois; daughters, Joni, Kathy and Gayle; sisters, Janet Walker and Joyce Fowler; 8 grandchildren and a great grandson. At the time of his death he was living in Sterling, VA. Memorial service was held on February 8, 2014. Graveside service in July at Arlington National Cemetery. Contributions to Memorial Fund of CTK Lutheran, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066-2416. [www.colonialfuneral-home.com](http://www.colonialfuneral-home.com).

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## SPORTS



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The Great Falls Cheetahs recently won a league championship. Pictured are: (back row) Mari Gardiner, Johanne Skjevestad, Emma Anthony, Kendall Treco, Haley Richardson, Hannah Richardson, (front row) Victoria Stark, Audrey Kim, Anna Grace Shepherd, Sophie Luraschi, Emi Gardiner. Not pictured: Clara Nickles.

## Great Falls Cheetahs Win Indoor Soccer Championship

The Great Falls Cheetahs, a U13 girls travel soccer team (GRFL 00 Cheetahs), recently completed an unbeaten indoor soccer season at Michael and Son Sportsplex at Dulles by winning the league championship (Winter Session 1). The team regularly plays in the Old Dominion Soccer League, and was placed in the combined U13/U14 indoor division. They finished the season 6-0-1, and led the league in fewest goals allowed, and finished second in goals scored.

## Langley Hockey Shuts Out Stone Bridge

Friday night at Ashburn Ice House started like many others for the undefeated Stone Bridge Bulldogs in their tilt against the Langley Saxons. The local crowd was boisterous and there was not an open seat in the house. The shot count for the Bulldogs was creeping up early in Stone Bridge's favor and they appeared to be on their way to another regular-season victory, but Langley yielded no goals in the first as both teams skated to a 0-0 tie. The second period began where the first left off with both teams playing each other tight.

In the middle of the second period, something extraordinary happened. Langley captain Drew Schneider roofed a shot on the stunned Bulldog net-minder that ricocheted off the cross bar and in. The score was 1-0 for Langley. Langley's defense, buoyed by Assistant Captain Will Clemson, was relentless for the remainder of the second period and deep into the third, not allowing the Bulldogs to establish any foothold in the Langley zone. The home crowd remained very vocal, confident their Bulldogs would prevail until junior, Sam Lafuria fired a laser-like shot just inside the left post with 7:40 left in the game which sent a hush through the Ice House.

Langley Coach Grady Little did not alter his game plan. His skaters had been successful establishing a 1-3-1 trap that Stone Bridge could not break. The Saxons continued to press and the shot count began to lean in their favor. With 5 minutes left in the third, the unthinkable began to happen. Stone Bridge fans began leaving the game and player frustrations started to mount. With just under 3 minutes to go, Langley was handed a power play opportunity and Drew Schneider added another tally making the score 3-0 where it would remain. Senior Ryan Framinan was dominant in the net for Langley, stopping all 25 shots that he faced and the final shot tally was 29-25 in Langley's favor.

The Saxons' next game is against Madison on Friday, Feb. 7 at Reston at 6:10 p.m. This is senior night for both Langley and Madison.

## McLean Girls, Langley Boys Win

Langley and McLean split a girls' and boys' basketball doubleheader on Friday, Jan. 24. The McLean girls' team defeated Langley 59-45, improving its record to 14-1. The Langley boys' team defeated McLean 50-47.

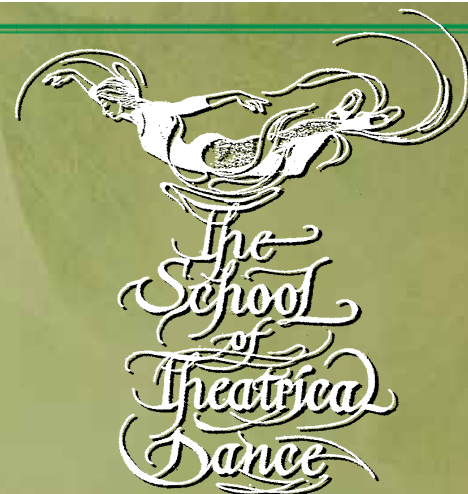
Next up for McLean: The girls' and boys' teams will host a doubleheader against South Lakes on Wednesday, Jan. 29, starting at 5:45 p.m.

Next up for Langley: The girls' team will host Stone Bridge at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 29 and the boys' team will host Hayfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31.



# The School of Theatrical Dance

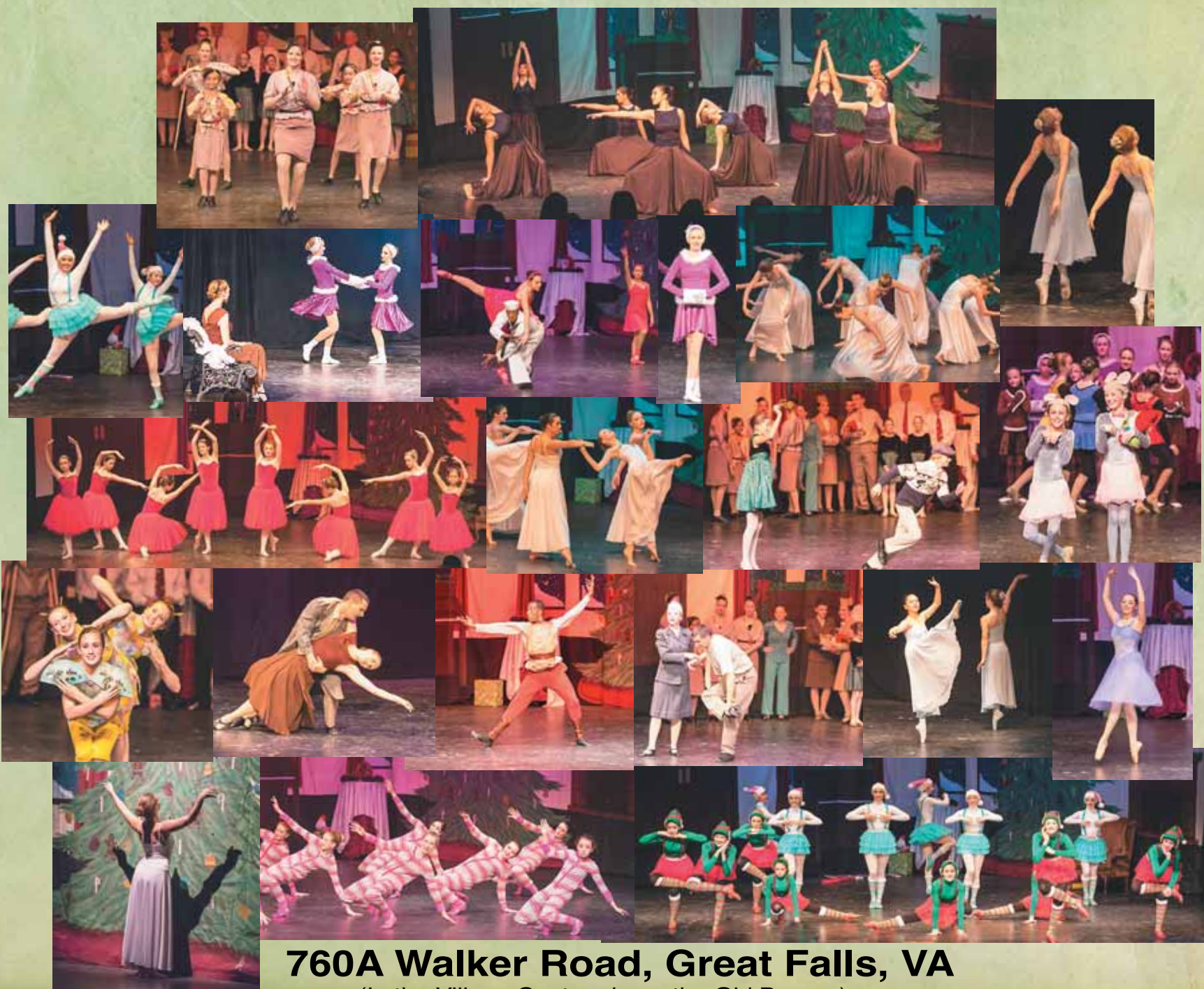
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