

Marshall Team members, Lillian Mejia (junior from Marshall High School), and Mariel White (junior from McLean High School) dish out samples of their vegetarian ragu dish.

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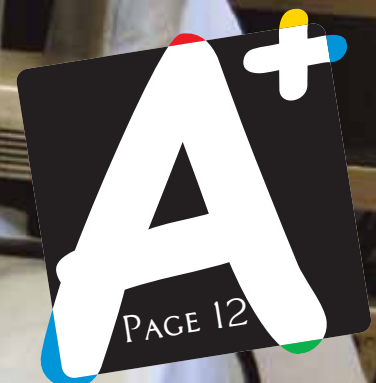
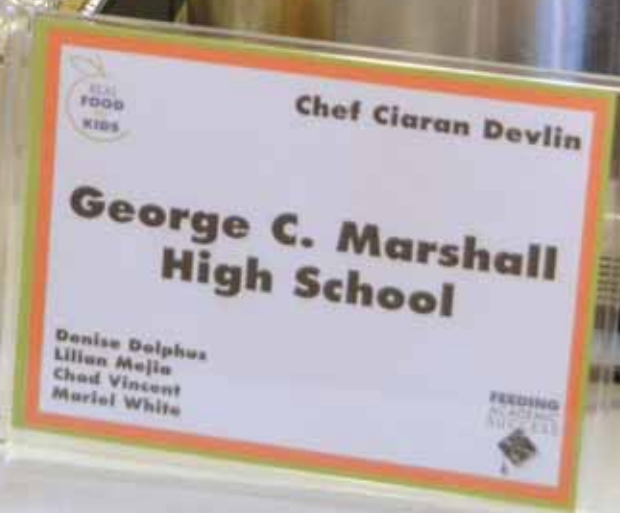
PHOTO BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION

## 10th District Democrats Nominate John Foust

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## Loving Pi and Pie

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**Marshall Culinary Academy team members, Chad Vincent, Lilian Mejia, and Mariel White share samples of their vegetarian ragu.**



PHOTOS BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION

## Local Students Spice it Up

**Students from McLean, Robinson, and Woodson High Schools compete in culinary competition.**

BY LORI BAKER  
THE CONNECTION

**S**tudent chefs from the Fairfax County school culinary program gathered last Thursday afternoon for the second annual Real Food for Kids Culinary Competition. The contest allowed students from the county's four culinary academies to compete for a chance to have their vegetarian entree' used in the county's school lunch program.

The culinary students were poised and professional, and the dishes they created were impressive, both in presentation and taste. The four Fairfax County public school culinary academies are offered at Chantilly, Edison, Falls Church and Marshall High Schools.

The culinary academy program was developed by the volunteer grassroots organization, Real Food for Kids. The program, now in its fourth year, advocates for better food for Fairfax County public school students. The group's efforts have led to less additives and less processed foods for school children, according to Katherine Smith of Real Food for Kids. For example, they were successful in having the 27-ingredient burger removed from the menu.

Students travel from high schools across the county to attend one of the four academies at Chantilly, Edison, Falls Church, or Marshall High Schools. Mariel White is a junior at McLean High School who takes the bus every morning to Marshall High School to participate in the culinary academy. "She really enjoys it and she wants to be a chef," said Mariel's mother, Carla White. "Before they're done they have a lot of skills already before they're off to where they're going to. She's learning organizational skills, she's learning technical skills, and she's also learning camaraderie. It's been fabulous."

The academies are the equivalent of two elective class periods each morning. Each of the four programs is taught by a culinary professional, and each program has close to 60 students. It is a two-year program open to juniors and seniors in Fairfax County.

The three or four students per team for the culi-



**Members of the Chantilly Culinary Team, Aubree Hunter (Woodson High School), Gabriel Concordia (Robinson High School), Iulian Fortu (Robinson High School), and Dahuu Hyun (Chantilly High School). The team, based out of Chantilly High School, won the annual competition for the second time.**

nary competition were selected either by interest, or by a cook-off. For the competition, each team was required to make a presentation about their dish, the ingredients, nutritional data, and their inspiration to an audience of more than eighty attendees. A panel of volunteer judges moved around the Falls Church High School cafeteria tasting each of the dishes, talking with the students about their techniques, and listening to some of the challenges the teams encountered.

After much deliberation, the judges emerged to present the first place award to the Chantilly High School team for their Lentil Shepherd's Pie with vegetables. "We liked this idea because it incorporated some things like mashed potatoes, that school-aged kids are familiar with, and lentils, which they might not have tried before," said team member and Robinson senior, Iulian Fortu. "We tested out the recipe several times, tweaked the ingredient amounts, and thought this tasted just right." Apparently the judges agreed.

"I love the program," said Joseph Comfort, Executive Chef for the Lebanese Taverna group, and one of the event judges. "It's great to get the kids together in head-to-head competition. It's like the real world. It's great to see them working within the budget form and the dietary form. I hope the school board is paying attention."



PHOTOS BY CHI PHAM

**Langley HS Orchestra freshmen students pose for the camera after a fantastic performance in the Pyramid Pride Concert. From left: Violist Katherine Quion, violinists Su Yeon Yoo, Jackie Fraley, and Sadaf Sizdahkhani.**

## Langley, Cooper Orchestras Share the Spotlight

BY QUAN PHAM  
SENIOR/LANGLEY HIGH

**O**n the evening of March 13, 2014 the Langley High School Orchestra and Cooper Middle School Orchestra shared the stage in the annual Pyramid concert. Before the concert, a dinner was held to welcome the Middle School students and give them a chance to mingle with the older musicians.

The concert featured seven different orchestras; three from Cooper and four from Langley, and each orchestra was led by either Cooper MS conductor, Ms. Bo-Min Son, or Langley HS conductor Dr. Scott McCormick. Langley's Freshman Orchestra opened the concert with two pieces by Shostakovich and Gilière.

The freshmen were followed by the Cooper Concert Orchestra's performance of "Conquistador!" The concert continued with Langley and Cooper Orchestras switching between orchestras and performing a variety of musical themes. The Langley

Sophomore Orchestra performed "Point Lookout" by Brian Balmages, which captures

the songs and scenery during the Civil War. Cooper Symphonic Orchestra treated the audience to "Arlington Sketches" by Elliot del Borgo. The Langley Symphonic Orchestra's performance of "Carmen Suite" by Georges Bizet changed the atmosphere of the auditorium into an opera house. Cooper's Chamber Orchestra played "Iditarod"

by Soon Hee Newbold to wrap up the selections from Cooper. There were Interlude performances on the piano by Lyric Yu and Theron Masters, which captivated the audience. The last piece of the evening was "Tema Russo" from "Serenade for Strings" by Pyotr I. Tchaikovsky, performed by the top musicians of Langley combining the Philharmonic Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra.

The Pyramid Concerts are a time for Cooper and Langley students to unite and play for one community. It is also an opportunity to inspire younger musicians to continue playing and join these organizations. David Cramer (father of senior violinist Alexandra Cramer) said, "It was a wonderful concert and ran very smoothly."



**Cooper Chamber Orchestra's James Rau (left) and Bella Valcourt hold down the cello section for their entire orchestra.**



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PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

## Spelling Bee Championship Held at Churchill Road

Front row, from left: Churchill Road Spelling Bee winners Nia Brockelman (2nd runner up), Brandon Torng, (first place) and Eliana Schoenberg (1st runner up). Second row, from left: Churchill Road Spelling Bee finalists: Isabella Zhu, Jasmine Wang, Rupa Siva, Anya Patel, Oliver Tu, Ethan Hsaio, Daniel Cao, Riya Dev, Laney Moy, Austin Shi, Ethan Schoenberg, Pratyush Jaishanker, Reevu Adakroy, Justin Chen and James Lee. Not pictured: Sahana Ramesh and Areej Khatri.

**O**n Feb. 24, Churchill Road Elementary crowned a new champion in the school's sixth annual Spelling Bee. Sixth grader Brandon Torng won the championship after 13 rounds by correctly spelling the word "glockenspiel." Of his spelling bee experience, Brandon said: "It was really exciting to win and it was a great experience. It was hard work (studying for the bee), but it was worth it." Brandon will be representing Churchill Road at the

county Spelling Bee later in March. Congratulations also to the first runner up, fifth grader Eliana Schoenberg, and second runner up, fourth grader Nia Brockelman. The winner of the Fairfax County Bee will advance to the Scripps National Bee in Washington, D.C. The school is thankful to parent Shivu John and the many parent volunteers for organizing this event and to second grade teacher Cindy Zemke for serving as the Bee's pronouncer.

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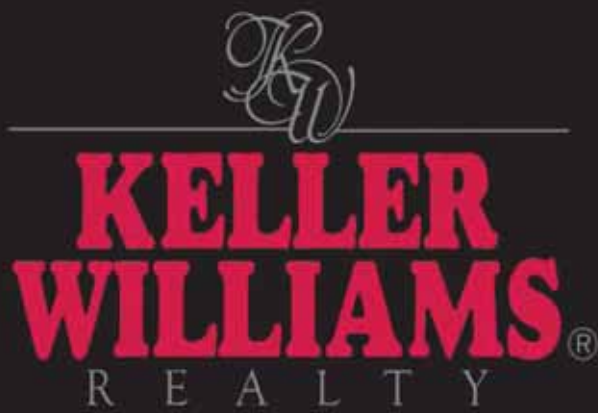
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## News

# 10th District Democrats Nominate John Foust

Democrats cancel convention uniting for Dranesville Supervisor for Congress.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

## About John Foust



John Foust was re-elected to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in 2011, winning every precinct and more than 60 percent of the vote. He serves as Chairman of the Board's Audit Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Budget Committee and Chairman of the County's Economic Advisory Commission. He cites his leadership in expanding full day kindergarten to the entire county and funding the widening of Route 7 to ease congestion for commuters as successes. He lives in McLean, and has been married to Dr. Marilyn Jerome for 30 years. They have two sons, Matthew and Patrick.

For more information about John Foust's campaign for Congress, visit [www.foustforvirginia.com](http://www.foustforvirginia.com).

When Foust entered the Democratic primary for the 10th Congressional District in December, he seized on the public's negative perception of Congress often stuck in partisan gridlock, citing both parties' "reckless brinksmanship." Foust's campaign focused on bringing a fresh face to Washington.

Foust quickly racked up a slew of endorsements from more than 50 former and current elected officials, including Lt. Governor Ralph Northam and Congressman Jim Moran (D-8), who later announced he would not seek reelection.

Foust's momentum had a rainmaking impact on donors. In late January, Foust reported raising more than \$217,000, with nearly that amount - \$210,000 - reported as cash on hand.

"This is another clear sign that our message of bringing problem solving, bipartisan leadership back to Congress is resonating with Northern Virginia residents," Foust said in a statement about his successful fundraising. The two-term supervisor also touted his current service on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and his past service on the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

**WITH MONDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT**, Foust now has more than a month head start campaigning against an unknown Republican challenger.

"We expect he will take advantage," Jackson said Monday.

According to the 10th Congressional District Republican Committee, six candidates will compete for the Republican nomination, Del. Barbara Comstock, Stephen Hollingshead, Howie Lind, Del. Bob Marshall, Marc Savitt and Rob Wasinger. The Republican nominee will be decided in a Party Canvass on Saturday, April 26 at 10 different locations around the District. For more information on the candidates and the Party Canvass contact [chairman@vagop10.org](mailto:chairman@vagop10.org) or visit the 10th District website at [vagop10.org](http://vagop10.org).

The field of GOP contenders vying for retiring U.S. Rep. Frank R. Wolf's seat is still crowded, but the Democratic pool of political hopefuls dwindled to one on Monday: Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

The Tenth Congressional District Democratic Committee (10th CDDC) announced Monday, March 17, it had cancelled its April 26 convention after Foust became the only candidate to file to seek the Democratic nomination for Congress.

"To win this race in November we needed to avoid a costly primary and coalesce around a nominee as soon as possible," said Committee Chairman Charlie Jackson in a statement regarding the decision. "We've done that and we couldn't be happier that John Foust will become our nominee and have the ability to hit the ground running right away as our standard bearer."

"I am very grateful for the support I'm receiving across the district," Foust said Tuesday morning. "I believe we're unified because we represent the concerns and priorities of the residents of the 10th district, and I look forward to continuing the campaign through November and having a discussion on the issues with whomever the Republican nominee is."

Jackson said the move on Monday will give Democrats an edge in building widespread district support for Foust before a Republican nominee is named in a "firehouse primary," also called a party canvass, slated for April 26.

Democrats had anticipated McLean attorney Richard Bolger would continue his bid for the nomination, but Bolger announced he was suspending his campaign late last week.

In a news release, Bolger said it became clear to him that "John Foust is our strongest choice with the best chance of helping our party win this seat and change the direction of Congress."

**ON MONDAY**, Jackson praised Bolger and his campaign.

"Richard Bolger has been a class act from day one," Jackson said. "He put together a top-notch team and demonstrated an ability to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars. That's no small achievement."

"John Foust is the only problem solver in this race," said State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), a longtime Foust friend and supporter. "His most well-known potential opponents are tea party types. Even Frank Wolf can't be happy about the Republicans in this race. He has little use for this wing of the party and has publicly said so."

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To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 19

**Vienna Photographic Society Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Elementary School, 3000 Chain Bridge Rd., Oakton. Karen Messick will judge the March 19 competition of the Vienna Photographic Society ("VPS"), which focuses on close-ups. The competition is open to anyone who is a paid member of VPS on the evening of the judging. [www.vpsva.org](http://www.vpsva.org)

## THURSDAY/MARCH 20

**Great Falls Writer's Group.** Noon to 1:30 pm. Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Writer's Group will host William Bird, curator of the Division of Political History at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, for a light luncheon and forum. The noted historian, curator and best-selling author will discuss his most recent book and explore the joys and intricacies of historical writing. Reservations are not necessary, but early arrival is recommended because seating will be first come-first serve. For more information, call the library at 703-757-8560.

## Moms Demand Action for Sensible Gun Reform in America

**Informational Meeting.** 7 - 9 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Meet other moms concerned about gun violence and learn how you can help pass common sense gun reform. Moms Demand Action is a grassroots organization formed in the wake of the devastating mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, CT. Please RSVP [aruffvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:aruffvirginia@gmail.com).

## Vietnam Veterans of America Inc.

**Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Joseph Powell, Vietnam War veteran, will discuss his life of service to our

Country from his army career including participating in President John F. Kennedy's funeral to his Capitol Hill police security detail to Congressman Thomas S. Foley. His Vietnam Tour of Duty involved the early days as a military The general public and all veterans are invited. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

## MONDAY/MARCH 24

**McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia** will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group will be discussing plans for their Aug. 24, 2014 event commemorating the

bicentennial of the burning of the nation's Capitol during the War of 1812. If interested in taking part in the organization and its upcoming event please contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 17

**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter Meeting.** Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Edward D. Connor, WW II Army Air Corps veteran, will discuss the Battle of the Bismarck Sea of March 2-4, 1943. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

## WEEK IN MCLEAN

### Fatal Crash in the Merrifield Area

Around 7 a.m., on Wednesday, March 12, a pedestrian was attempting to cross from the west-side of Gallows Road to the east-side at Belleforest Drive when he was struck by 2010 Toyota Corolla in the roadway. The driver of the Corolla remained at the scene. The pedestrian, 64-year-old Leroy Jewell of Falls Church, was transported to a local hospital where he died.

The crash remains under investigation but – according to police — speed and alcohol do not appear to be factors.

### Spring Clean-Up at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean, will hold the Spring Clean-Up on Saturday, March 22, and Sunday, March 23, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The event is an opportunity to spend time outdoors, meet other volunteers and help the living history museum and working Farm prepare for the 2014 season. The participants will be raking leaves, clearing and mulching paths, hauling brush and firewood, moving rail fences, waterproofing out-buildings, whitewashing the farmhouse, splitting firewood, filling garden pots and more. Jobs for every age and skill level. Families and groups welcome.

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# Income Gap Alive and Well

Statistics make life in the area sound idyllic, but many families are left out in the land of plenty.

**N**orthern Virginia is a place of wonder and plenty. So says the New York Times this past week in, "Income Gap Meet the Longevity Gap," (March 15, 2014).

Fairfax County is cited as place whose residents "are among the longest-lived in the country," and compared to McDowell County, W.Va., where residents have one of the shortest life expectancies. In Fairfax, "men have an average life expectancy of 82 years and women, 85, about the same as in Sweden. In McDowell, the averages are 64 and 73, about the same as in Iraq."

If you are reading this, chances are that the Connection was delivered to your single family home in an affluent neighborhood. In fact, many of us do live in the Northern Virginia described in the New York Times. All it takes is money.

"In Fairfax, there are ample doctors, hospi-

tals, recreation centers, shops, restaurants, grocery stores, nursing homes and day care centers, with public and private entities providing cradle-to-grave services to prosperous communities."

But here is where the crack in the wall appears: "The jobs tend to be good jobs, providing health insurance and pensions, even if there is a growing low-wage work force of health aides, janitors, fast-food workers and the like."

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 49,000 of the 185,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized or free meals. In Fairfax County, more than 100,000 people lack health insurance, including 35,000 who could be covered now at no cost to themselves or the state if they lived in West Virginia because West Virginia has embraced the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, so its poorest residents do have access to health care. Not so in Virginia.

In Northern Virginia, we have our own income gap, and likely our own longevity gap. In Northern Virginia, we have a health care crisis. In Northern Virginia, we do have an affordable housing crisis.

Tens of thousands of working poor people in Northern Virginia, families with at least one full time job, cannot afford to rent an apartment. Earnings of at least \$1,100 a week would be required to afford market rate rent in Fairfax County according to the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. But the county's 50,000 retail workers, for example, average about \$635 a week according to the Virginia Employment Commission. The county's 40,000-plus food service workers average \$415 a week. Even the county's 38,000 local government employees average \$950 weekly, a stretch in this area.

To read the story in the New York Times, go to [www.NYTimes.com](http://www.NYTimes.com) and search "income gap."

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A Reasonable Decision on Oakcrest School

To the Editor:

Your article on the recent SEA approval for Oakcrest School ["Supervisors Clear the Way for Oakcrest School Relocation," Connection, March 5-11, 2014] regrettably repeats disinformation from Steve Hull and the Hunter Mill Defense League (HMDL). Contrary to their claim, I did not "agree" to the conditions imposed by the Board of Supervisors in their original approval. Supporting Oakcrest's right to build on their own property was certainly not tantamount to agreeing to any conditions that might be imposed on someone else's property. I was not a party to the negotiations resulting in the final conditions, dated the day of the hearing, nor were they even made available to me until a week after the approval.

The fact is, none of the four different owners at the intersection of Hunter Mill and Crowell roads ever supported conditioning Oakcrest's approval on the construction of a roundabout. Such a roundabout would have unnecessarily harmed the adjacent homeowners. It would have been unsafe for the elementary school students in the existing Fairfax Christian School building located next to that intersection. It would have necessitated the removal of all the trees along Hunter Mill

Road in front of the elementary school building and would have interfered with the area used by school buses to drop off and pick up children. And, because of the elevation difference, it would have required a retaining wall with a barrier on top directly in front of the building.

Neither the existing school nor the homeowners (including my mother) who actually live at this intersection were consulted by the former Supervisor prior to imposing the condition on Oakcrest requiring a roundabout that would take their property. The HMDL, which incessantly lobbied for the condition requiring a roundabout, can claim to represent the "community," but their clamor for the use of eminent domain against these homeowners shows a complete lack of regard for the community that actually lives at this intersection.

Oakcrest's property fronts on Crowell Road and the Dulles Toll Road, not on Hunter Mill. Given that Crowell Road is a minor arterial and a major commuter route between Reston and Tysons, it would have been unreasonable to deny Oakcrest's SEA request for a Crowell Road entrance, particularly given VDOT's opposition to full access movements at a Hunter Mill entrance.

The Hunter Mill interchange of the Dulles Toll Road is the eastern gateway into Reston. As a Hunter Mill Road resident myself, I know first hand that every toll increase on the Dulles Toll Road increases

the traffic level on Hunter Mill and Crowell as more commuters avoid the higher tolls. Originally 75 cents, Hunter Mill to the Beltway tolls are now \$3.50 to drive just over five miles. Hunter Mill to Crowell or Route 7 are the only alternative east west travel options between Reston and Tysons.

Despite far higher tolls, funds set aside to improve the Hunter Mill interchange were diverted for Dulles Rail studies, and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority has failed to build the Hunter Mill interchange improvements promised in 2006 as part of its Dulles Rail construction proposal. In the near term, the road improvements to be built by Oakcrest, which include right and left turn lanes from Hunter Mill to Crowell, will go far beyond mitigating their own impact and will provide a daily benefit to thousands of commuters.

Supervisor Hudgins should be applauded for her leadership in listening to all sides and then making a fair and reasonable decision that respects the rights of all parties involved and allows Oakcrest School to move forward.

**John Thoburn**  
Vienna

## Incorrect Assertion

To the Editor:

In a letter ["A Manufactured Crisis," Connection, March 12, 2014]

Jack Kenny states that the ObamaCare Medical Devices tax applies to fishing poles and tires, and that "the Department of Health and Human Services has asked retailers to not show the tax on your sales receipt."

I found this rather hard to believe and, as I do with many emails I receive regarding supposedly outrageous governmental actions, I did an Internet search. Sure enough, according to many fact-checking websites, this incorrect assertion has been making the rounds for over a year. Briefly summarizing, the Affordable Care Act imposes a 2.3 percent tax on manufacturers and importers of certain medical devices, but it does not apply to fishing poles or tires. It appears this misunderstanding originated due to a mistake in software used by Cabela's, a seller of hunting, fishing and outdoor gear. According to the Star-Herald, a Nebraska newspaper (Cabela's headquarters are in Nebraska), on Jan. 1, 2013, "A companywide glitch in Cabela's cash register system that added a 2.3 percent 'Medical Excise Tax' to customers' purchases — everything from boots to bullets — was an error and will be refunded, a company spokesman said Monday."

[http://www.starherald.com/news/local\\_news/cabela-s-blames-glitch-for-jan-tax-error-promises-refunds/article\\_9ba2f422-5a0d-11e2-b22a-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.starherald.com/news/local_news/cabela-s-blames-glitch-for-jan-tax-error-promises-refunds/article_9ba2f422-5a0d-11e2-b22a-0019bb2963f4.html)

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

Unfortunately, a copy of one of the receipts showing the tax was posted on the Internet and the fun began.

I should note there are manufacturers taxes on a variety of items, including fishing poles and tires (IRS Publication 510; [www.irs.gov/publications/p510/ch05.html](http://www.irs.gov/publications/p510/ch05.html)), but they are not related to the Affordable Care Act.

**Fred Siskind**  
McLean

## Commending Election Officials During Sunshine Week

To the Editor:

During this year's Sunshine Week, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area salutes the Fairfax County Electoral Board, General Registrar and employees of the Fairfax County Office of Elections for their transparency and willingness to share information with the public in the follow-up to the 2013 general election.

Their handling of the election reporting, canvass, provisional ballot determinations and recounts in the races for Virginia Attorney General and 33rd District Senate seats exemplified the best principles of open government. The Office of Elections frequently published updates on election reporting problems and the extended provisional ballot determination process, later on providing details about the progress of the recounts, all the while describing the safeguards in place to protect the integrity of the ballot.

That integrity is essential for our system of government to work.

This is why during Sunshine Week we commend the Fairfax County Office of Elections for sharing important voting results and information with the residents of Fairfax County, detailing exactly how their votes in these important elections were counted and protected.

**Jones and Helen Kelly,**  
Co-Presidents  
League of Women Voters of the  
Fairfax Area

## Not Cute at All

To the Editor:

There you go again, Mary, spotting that "free" federal money ["Voting against Virginia?" - Connection, March 12-18, 2014]. Don't you realize that many, if not

most, of your readers see through your flowery attempts to sell an imaginary utopia? I mean, it used to be cute to read your "pie in the sky" collectivist fantasies when one could assume that your "intentions were good." But that same old intellectually deficient, emotional appeal doesn't manage to pass the sniff test anymore. It isn't cute at all, but rather sad; for those that unknowingly read your predictable, shortsighted and poorly vetted "opinion" with the hope that there is a feasible, sustainable solution to be found in there somewhere. But also rather insulting; that you do not realize that most of your readers are not so gullible. At least the Connection is "free;" even if federal money isn't.

**Brent Emory**  
Vienna

### Write

Letters to the Editor  
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## CALENDAR

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

### TUESDAY/MARCH 18 SATURDAY/MARCH 29

**Great Escapes.** 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Dozens of original artworks by artists throughout the region inspired by travel at home and abroad. Free. 703-319-3971. [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org)

### THURSDAY/MARCH 20

**William Bird at the Great Falls Library.** Noon to 1:30 p.m., Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Writer's Group will host William Bird, curator of the Division of Political History at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, for a light luncheon and forum. 703-757-8560.

**Tom Principato Band.** 8 p.m., The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Tom Principato Band features everything from harmonica-heavy rock to reggae and funk infused tracks, as well as a locally inspired instrumental song. "22042 Falls Church, Virginia." \$25. 1.877.WOLFTRAP or wolfftrap.org.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 22

**Celebrate the Cherry Blossom Festival.** 1-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Taste the many styles beyond what is used in the Japanese tea ceremony in this fascinating tasting. Shade grown, roasted, twig style, are just a few examples. Experience Japanese teas



Catch your favorite superhero in action at McLean's Alden Theatre on March 22, Superman 2050.

and tea treats beyond the traditional and take home tea samples including a Cherry Blossom Blend. Advance reservations and payment (\$30 each) required through the Mill at 703-759-2771.

**Superman 2050.** 8 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The story is set in a fictional 2050

metropolis (with a remarkable resemblance to Chicago). The show's imaginative, resourceful cast members, using only their bodies and voices, create every prop, scene, sound effect and character in a battle between Superman and Lex Luthor for the future of the Midwest's beloved high-speed rail network.

Purchase tickets at [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 23

**Jump for Joy!** 2-4 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean. A community event for elementary age children. Pre-school children accompanied by parents are

also welcome. The event will involve giant inflatables, the Providence House of Bounce, inside their gym. **Music from Oberlin at Oakton.** 7:30 p.m. 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. In its 14th season, this program will feature two pianists, a violinist, clarinetist, and a bassoonist. Free admission. 703-281-4230.

### MONDAY/MARCH 24

**It's a Jungle Out There.** 1 p.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church on 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Free and open to the public. Ayr Hill Garden Club will feature "Boka Joe" on how to grow a tropical garden in a non-tropical climate. Joe Seamone, a management consultant and horticultural with McFall & Berry Landscape Management, will detail how to create, grow and over-winter your own piece of paradise. He will reveal which plants are best and most dramatic, and show pictures of some amazing gardens in the Washington, D.C. area. If interested, contact Cherie Lejeune at [Latripp24@gmail.com](mailto:Latripp24@gmail.com) so the Club can adjust refreshments and seating.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 25

**Annual Children's Printmaking Workshop.** 4-5 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. A dozen members of the Vienna Arts Society will assist children ages 7 - 12 as they create original prints, to include printing a fish, making relief prints and mono-prints, etc. Free. Registration required by contacting the Children's Librarian at 703-938-

0405.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 28-SUNDAY/APRIL 20

**"The Cripple of Inishmaan"** Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Excitement ripples through the sleepy Irish community of Inishmaan abuzz with the news that a Hollywood filmmaker plans to shoot a movie on a neighboring island. When young Cripple Billy lands a screen test, the oddball citizens of Inishmaan mount a heartbreakingly hilarious campaign bursting with dark humor and touching devotion. General admission: \$27. Seniors \$22. Students and Military \$15. Purchase online at [www.1ststageTysons.org](http://www.1ststageTysons.org) or 703-854-1856.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 29

**Great Falls the World Hub of Innovation & Invention.** 1-3 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Students, hobbyists, and academics from around the world are competing and collaborating in development small robotic aircraft to help protect endangered species including rhinos, elephants, and snow leopards. Using computer aided design, 3D printing and simple arduino-based robotics kits, the teams are able to create unmanned aerial vehicles that are optimized for the mission, exceeding the performance of aircraft that cost thousands of times more.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 30

**"Capitol Steps" at James Madison High School.** 4 p.m., James

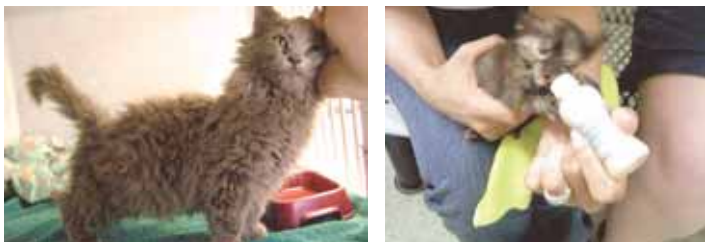
Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Dr, Vienna. Capitol Steps, the quick witted multi-faceted congressional staffers, will be performing their popular fast-paced musical political satire live. \$30. [jmhscapsteps@gmail.com](mailto:jmhscapsteps@gmail.com).

### ONGOING

**Straight Ahead Jazz.** 8 p.m., at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Every Monday drummer Karl Anthony hosts a night of straight ahead jazz featuring guest musicians and open to sit-in musicians. [www.maplewoodgrill.com](http://www.maplewoodgrill.com).

**Personalized ebook/e-Reader Instruction.** Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Learn about your e-reader and downloading eBooks; event continues through March 31.

View "Birches near Kiev," an oil painting by Viktoriya Maslova and more great escapes at the Vienna Art Center. The exhibit runs through March 29.



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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2016 Programs**  
Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2016, which runs July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

**The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.**

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: [george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov)

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A student at The Madeira School in McLean enjoys art in the school's art room. Stacie Steinke, chair of the Arts Department, says the school's approach to art draws on a student's natural curiosity, ability to perceive art in different forms and ability to think spatially.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL



Visitors look at art created by students from Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area as part of the McLean Project for the Arts' youth art show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

# Local Art Educators, Galleries Celebrate Youth Art Month

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**Experts say art can teach valuable life skills.**

**B**rightly colored self-portraits, landscapes dotted with spring flowers and hand-carved sculptures fill a gallery at the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. All of the art was created by local school children. Meanwhile, in Alexandria, parents and tots dip their fingers in glue, clay and paint to create collages, sculptures and paintings.

"It is a true delight to see parents and

children making things together in the studio. Joy is found in the stuff they make — the collages, paintings, drawings and sculptures — as well as the more intangible things we build: relationships, confidence, creativity, persistence and the many ways we make meaning through art," said Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center in Mount Vernon.

These are just some of the local art ac-

tivities for children. In fact, Youth Art Month is an annual observance held each March to emphasize the value of art and art education. This year's theme is "Start With Art, Learn for Life," which was chosen by the Council for Art Education, a sponsor of Youth Art Month.

Local art educators are using the month as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of art education and raise awareness

about the important life skills it can build.

"We believe art is important to study for its inherent value, but art also promotes life skills, including creativity, problem solving, determination, concentration, collaboration and confidence," said Samantha Marques-Mordkofsky, education and outreach manager for the Arlington Arts Center in Arlington. "Regardless of what field a child pursues later in life, these skills will translate and he or she will be better rounded be-

SEE YOUTH ART, PAGE 13

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# Youth Art Month Celebrated

FROM PAGE 12

cause of ... art. We also offer multidisciplinary classes like Book Illustration, Amazing Architects & Engineers, and Murals: Big Art, Big Ideas where students have the opportunity to master technical skills in art while simultaneously learning about other subjects."

"What our art educators have known for many years research is now confirming," said Benita Cathey, director of admissions at Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. "Art helps develop critical thinking and reading skills. Art education is vital because it builds concentration, motivation and confidence."

Jorge Luis Somarriba, art teacher and artist-in-residence at Norwood School in Bethesda, Md., says the school is a community of artists. "We believe in a process-oriented and child-centered philosophy," he said. "Art nurtures self-confidence through self-discovery and personal visual expression. Art education is instrumental in the holistic development of a human being: spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. Art making develops the right brain, empowering individuals to become creative, problem-solvers who may think 'outside the box.'"

Experts said art education also develops self-expression and an appreciation for the work of others. "Elementary school students create art with such unbridled enthusiasm for painting, drawing and creating things," said Dabney Cortina, communications director for the McLean Project for the Arts. "I think it's because they haven't been told that there is anything wrong with how they create art. Currently going on is

our youth art show featuring Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area. It is incredible to look at. You see the talent they have. It is totally amazing."

Eileen Lyons, chair of the Fine Arts Department at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., said that the arts are a vital part of the school's curriculum. "Arts education helps students learn how to solve problems in unique ways and it deepens their overall learning experience," she said. "Through collaboration and cross-curricular projects, teachers at Holy Child work closely together to engage students in the arts on many different levels. Art teachers collaborate with language, social studies, English and geometry teachers to bring deeper meaning to learning."

For example, said Lyons, on a recent trip to the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., art and French teachers worked together to bring the Van Gogh Exhibition to life in both English and French.

Stacie Steinke, chair of the Arts Department at The Madeira School in McLean suggests art education might not be taken as seriously as other disciplines. "Schools in general have been responding to trends that you need more science and math education and have been teaching to tests. Not at Madeira, but at some other schools, art education has diminished," she said. "We look at arts as a process. Our students learn to work effectively with others. Our approach draws on a student's natural curiosity, ability to perceive art in different forms and ability to think spatially. They develop cognitive growth, so they learn to see how parts relate to a whole."



**The McLean Project for the Arts' youth art show features the work of students from Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area.**

## Georgetown MBA Evening Program Expands to Tysons Corner

Those looking to earn an MBA outside the Beltway now have another option: Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business will offer its MBA Evening Program in Tysons Corner beginning this fall. School officials say one of the goals of the expansion is to make the Georgetown MBA accessible to a new population of working professionals in the Washington, D.C., region.

"As business continues to grow in Virginia and Maryland, employers are seeking a highly skilled workforce," said David A. Thomas, dean of Georgetown's McDonough School of Business. "By expanding our geographic reach, we extend access to our MBA curriculum, which prepares principled, globally-minded leaders to serve business and society."

Georgetown's MBA Evening Program was ranked number 11 by U.S. News & World Report in 2013 and is the region's highest ranked part-time MBA program.

Students who attend the Tysons-based cohort will have some of the same technological amenities as their main campus counterparts.

Officials at Georgetown said they selected Tysons Corner for its MBA Evening Program expansion because of its proximity to the region's strong business community, which includes local, regional and national headquarters for many major employers. Additionally, the arrival of Metro's Silver Line later this year is also accelerating job and population growth in the region and will make commuting to the Georgetown program easier for students arriving from full-time jobs.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Longfellow team placed first in a field of 16 middle school teams, winning a \$750 prize to support science programs at the school.

## Longfellow Middle, TJHSST Win Regional Science Bowls

Science Bowl teams from Longfellow Middle School and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) won first place in the regional Science Bowl held in Newport News, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy. The Longfellow team placed first in a field of 16 middle school teams, winning a \$750 prize to support science programs at the school. Team members are Nicholas Begotka, Aditya Sarkar, Franklyn Wang, Wenbo Wu, and Fred Zhang. Longfellow science teacher Jim Bradford coaches the team.

The team from TJHSST competed against 22 other high schools in the regional competition to win the \$750 prize. Team members are Matthew Barbano, Ross Dempsey, Janice Ong, Victoria Xia, and Tiger Zhang.

Both teams will compete in the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., April 24-28.

Science Bowl is an academic competition for middle and high school students that tests their knowledge, via a question and answer format, in biology, chemistry, Earth science, physics, energy, and math.

## Spring Hill Elementary Celebrates Dr. Seuss Day



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kindergarten students at Spring Hill Elementary didn't let Monday's Snow Day get in the way of celebrating Dr. Seuss/Read Across America Day. They simply held the event on Wednesday, March 5.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Keynote speaker Erica Grow, second from left, discusses STEM opportunities with three AAUW McLean Area Branch members, from left, Juanita Cullen, Barbara Sipe, and Betsy Schroeder. Barbara and Betsy served as STEMtastics volunteers, while Juanita's granddaughter was a student participant.

## STEMtastics: Inspiring Middle School Girls to Pursue STEM Careers

Fifty McLean students from Longfellow and Cooper Middle Schools joined students from 35 other schools on March 8 at STEMtastics, a career day event designed to educate and inspire the students to consider careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Attendance at STEMtastics was "standing room only" when almost 300 middle school girls and 200 parents from Fairfax County listened to keynote speaker Erica Grow meteorologist for WUSA-TV, Channel 9, provide advice and motivation as she discussed her career. Following opening ceremonies, twenty female presenters from across STEM fields ran interactive breakout workshops for the students, while parents attended in-

formational workshops on curriculum, resources, and financing options. The event was held at the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College and was sponsored by the Fairfax City, McLean Area, and Reston-Herndon branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), in conjunction with Fairfax County Public Schools and SySTEMic Solutions. AAUW has been a leader in sponsoring STEM education programs and introducing girls to female role models. For more information on STEMtastics or to sign up for information on next year's program, visit the AAUW McLean Area website at <http://mclean-va.aauw.net/stemtastics/> or send an email to [mcleanaauw@gmail.com](mailto:mcleanaauw@gmail.com).



Mary Lou Melley, left, AAUW McLean Area Branch member and volunteer, compares notes with parent Janice Harris. Mary Lou's daughter, Dr. Susan Molinaro, was a STEMtastics presenter, while Janice's daughter Asia attended to learn more about science-based careers.

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PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

Kira Becker's video covered all aspects of pi and pie.

# Loving Pi and Pie

The 16-year-old McLean resident Kira Becker created a video about why students and teachers love Pi Day.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

March 14 means two important things to both students and math geeks: a time to recite the digits of pi and eat even more pie.

For Kira Becker, junior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, however, it was a chance to help her class raise money for a graduation venue and hawk the annual Pi Miler 5k.

The 16-year-old McLean resident created seven minute video shown on a giant outdoor screen at the Mosaic Shopping District Friday about why students and teachers love Pi Day.

"My mom is in charge of the (Parent Teacher Student Association), and she asked me to do a slideshow for a fundraiser," said Kira. Because of her love for creating film shorts, Kira decided to upgrade her mom's request and make a movie. While she is not currently taking movie-making courses at TJHSST, she learned many of her skills from middle school classes. Her passion and commitment for the project helped to garner \$500 at Friday's fundraiser.

"I took movie-making classes in seventh grade and absolutely loved it," she said. "It's mostly something I do for fun."

The video covered all aspects of pi and pie — it even had "American Pie," popular

song by Don McLean, playing from start to finish.

She learned a lot about people during the filmmaking process, she said, and not just that it is possible to memorize 300 digits of pi. Some of her classmates, she found out, were apprehensive about being filmed for her movie.

"A lot of people actually said no," she said. "It was really surprising."

She also found out that filmmaking sometimes requires a quiet space for sound quality. "I spent five lunch periods running around videotaping people," she said. "I filmed them outside in the hallway, so I spent a lot more time than I thought I would to align the sound, so the film can be higher quality."

Junior class president Anant Das was not among the students who refused to be filmed. In the movie, he is shown advertising the Pi Miler race that took place at 9 a.m. Saturday at Burke Lake Park.

"Pi Day is something really special at our school where we can bring out our nerdy side and good food," he said. "It was crazy to be in the movie, because I'm not used to being broadcasted like that, but it was exciting."

Kira's video on Youtube already had 562 views by Sunday night. To watch her video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEJvUM6pwAY>.



## Cancer had act one. Isabel received the encore.

At 15 months old, Isabel was diagnosed with a tumor on her left kidney. It was growing rapidly and immediate action was required. Isabel's parents turned to the experts who specialize in pediatric cancer. Watch her journey at [JustRightForChildren.com/Isabel](http://JustRightForChildren.com/Isabel).

"I'm Isabel  
and I like  
to dance."

Isabel Doran  
Promising ballerina





# SPORTS

**Junior left-hander Maddy Witchey enters 2014 as McLean's No. 1 pitcher.**



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## McLean Softball Blends Experience, Youth, Talent

**Senior Geisler, sophomore Norton lead Highlanders.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he return of all-state center fielder Christi Geisler and a group of talented underclassmen have the McLean softball team thinking state tournament in 2014.

Last season, Geisler helped the Highlanders win 20 games and finish Liberty District runner-up. McLean fell one victory shy of advancing to the state tournament. Geisler, who batted over .500 en route to first-team all-district, first-team all-region and second-team all-state honors, returns for her senior season and will be key element in McLean's efforts to get to states.

"Christi Geisler, our center fielder, was all-everything last year," McLean head coach Maurice Tawil said. "... I'm expecting that and then some [this season]."

While Geisler provides varsity experience, McLean will also receive significant contributions from some talented younger athletes. Sophomore catcher Bella Norton, who is committed to Indiana University, is one of the team's best players and will be looked to for leadership despite being an underclassman.

"She's just growing. She's learning a lot," Tawil said. "We're putting a lot of responsibility on her right

now and she's handling it very well."

McLean has four freshmen on the roster, including starting first baseman Zoe Dobson, who hit an over-the-fence home run during a recent scrimmage. Kate Covington will see time in the outfield, Nicole Woolridge will see time at first base and catcher, and Abby Prather will see time at first base and in the outfield.

"Our four freshmen that came in are incredible," Norton said. "I'm really excited to play everybody. We're going to be really good this year."

Can it be tough for a talented freshman to compete with older teammates for playing time at the varsity level?

"There's definitely something to that if you're coming in as a pretty dominant player [and] have a name," Norton said. "There's definitely going to be some tension. [As a freshman], I just kind of went out there and did my thing, just played my own game."

McLean's ace pitcher will be junior left-hander Maddy Witchey, who saw some time in the circle last season.

McLean will open the season on the road against rival Langley at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 21. The Highlanders' first home game is March 28 against Marshall.

"We have a nice little team," Tawil said. "We expect to compete for a conference championship ... and we hope to go to the state tournament, as well."

McLean won the AAA state championship in 2010.

**"We have a nice little team."**

**— McLean softball coach Maurice Tawil**

**McLean freshman first baseman Zoe Dobson figures to be a key contributor this season.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Playing to Stop Hunger Now

**Great Falls and Colvin Run elementary schools participated in a sixth-grade charity basketball game that raised more than \$800 for Stop Hunger Now. Colvin Run won 57-52 in overtime. Colvin Run roster: Colin O'Connor; Lucas Gauthier; Luke Addington; Jacob Rose; John Kelly; Rex Kerrigan; Sam Sachtleben; Will Rissing; William Bean; Zachary Crumes; Zack Baskin; Coach Jim Rose; and Coach Rich Gauthier. Great Falls Roster: Andrew Walker; Bradley Carvajal; Cameron Dhillon; Carson Volanth; Cole Walmsley; Ian Walker; Jack Fitzgerald; Nate Mazich; Pierson White; Sam Maruca; Simon Medina; Tre Vasiliadis; Coach John Fitzgerald; Coach Doug White; and Coach Todd Walmsley.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Shown holding their first place regular season and tournament championship trophies, first row: Allie Wakeman, Caitlyn Shumadine, Megan Baxter, Isabella Perkins, Lynley Birchard, Annabeth Holsinger. Second row: Devran Johnson, Fiona Barber, Oma Mere, Dani Grieco. Third row: assistant coach Mark Baxter and head coach Phil McConnell.**

## Great Falls Girls Win D1 Tournament

The Great Falls Goonies (9-2), the top seeded team in the league met the third seed team from Vienna (8-3) for the division 1 fifth grade girls basketball FCYBL Select tournament championship. Vienna had beaten the Goonies in their only matchup during the regular season. This was a battle of the smallest versus the tallest teams in the league. To get to the finals, the Goonies beat Forth Hunt 36-18 and SYA 25-16.

The Goonies started the game by hitting their first shot, but Vienna scored the next 6 points to take a 4 point lead. The Goonies went on a 17-2 run to take a 19-8 lead but Vienna fin-

ished the half strong by scoring the final 3 points to make it 19-11 in favor of the Goonies. Vienna also started strong in the second half by outscoring the Goonies 10-2 to tie the game at 21. From there, the two teams exchanged the lead several times before the Goonies pulled ahead for good with 6 minutes to go and won by a final score of 45-40 in a well played game by both teams, finishing the year with a 12-2 record. Oma Mere from the Goonies was named tournament Most Valuable Player. The Goonies also placed two players on the All League team, Megan Baxter and Isabella Perkins.



Hundreds of people from the Washington, D.C. metro area come to the Tuesday evening sessions of the Career Network Ministry offered at McLean Bible Church in Vienna.



PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

## Career Ministry Serves Community

People find support and encouragement at Career Network Ministry at McLean Bible Church in Vienna.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

In the metro D.C. area, job clubs and networking events have been long used as tools for persons on the job hunt. One weekly job event that has grown over the years is the Career Network Ministry, hosted at McLean Bible Church at 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. “I hate to see our ranks grow, because it means so many are unemployed,” said Mallard Owen, “yet I also think it is a shame that there are not more of these groups across the country.” A resident of Ashburn, Owen does not attend McLean Bible Church, yet has helped with operations at the Career Network Ministry (CNM) for approximately five years.

Bob Korzeniewski, a former executive of leading technology companies, devotes an extraordinary amount of time to leading CNM. “I was lucky to retire at the end of 2007, and I really felt compelled to work in the nonprofit area,” said Korzeniewski, a resident of Great Falls and member of McLean Bible Church. “After I retired, I was going to a men’s Bible Study and I saw a sign for the CNM, and I saw there was a small classroom and



The Career Network Ministry at McLean Bible Church in Vienna has a 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. resource hour with tables manned by alumnae and members covering various dimensions of the job search, including resume review.

fifteen or so people in the class.” The career ministry had need of a new leader, and persons running the session thought Korzeniewski was an excellent candidate.

**SINCE THEN** Korzeniewski and a team of volunteers have developed the career ministry into an outreach for entire community. Volunteers help counsel the unemployed in the new skill sets needed to land a job in the competitive job market. Approximately 150 to 200 people drive in throughout the D.C. metro area to attend every Tuesday night. A 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. resource hour offers career support at tables manned by alumnae and members covering various dimensions of the job search.

“The more gratifying part is when people share stories of how they have found love in the environment, that we care about them, in times when they are going through very challenging transitions periods. We got some amazing volunteers who really care,” said Korzeniewski. The career ministry is at least 20 years old, but has developed into an outreach for the community. “The

way I discovered the Career Network Ministry was I was undergoing a job transition and I attended CNM and popped in a couple of times,” said Owen.

CNM draws from local and nationally known speakers to host workshops on Tuesday evenings and main forum talks at 8 p.m. Workshops and presentations provide practical and inspiring content, from resume writing and interviewing skills to franchising, finance, wellness and life planning. Dozens of volunteers provide informal advice on many topics now including software training hosted by volunteers in collaboration with area Microsoft stores. Word of the CNM ministry’s success won praise from former Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis. “This community has its act together,” said Secretary Solis at a 2011 Tuesday meeting at the Career Network Ministry at McLean Bible Church. In January of 2014, Owen and associates from CNM met with Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez. They shared their stories about struggling to make ends meet while being out of work for extended periods of time. In addition to providing net-



Robert Donnelly and Connie Bash, two volunteers for the Career Network Ministry based in McLean Bible Church in Vienna.



Photo of Mallard Owen was presented with leis by attendees of the Career Network Ministry after returning from a trip.

working support, training in the latest social media tools such as LinkedIn, the ministry provides emotional and spiritual counseling that is available to all members of the community. “It is such a caring group, it is really about having a support group that under-

stands what you are going through,” said Owen. “We are not psychologists, but we provide a feeling of welcoming and care.”

**TO LEARN MORE** about the next CNM event, visit [www.meetup.com/mbc-cnm/](http://www.meetup.com/mbc-cnm/)



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## No Know. No Problem.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I felt a bit of a dope this week when, after reading last week's column, "Whew!", multiple friends called to inquire specifically as to the "Tony-the-Tiger Great" news I wrote that I received from my oncologist, and I couldn't answer them in any detail: shrinkage, less fluid, "partial stable remission"? Nothing. And though I tried to get my oncologist to explain to me exactly what was so encouraging about this most recent CT Scan – compared to the one I took three months ago (as opposed to the one I had nine months ago which was mistakenly compared to this most recent scan and resulted in the "Some better, some worse. I'll explain more on Friday" e-mail I received from my doctor and talked about in "Whew!") – I was rebuffed. Rebuffed in the best possible way: being told instead how great I was doing, how great my lab results were (for this most recent pre-chemotherapy) and how I could live a long time like this (presumably continuing to be infused with Alimta) – it was almost disconcerting; especially when you consider the original e-mail assessment we received and our less-than-positive interpretation of it. Moreover, the oncologist's exuberance and smiling countenance, along with his offer of a congratulatory handshake led me away from the missing facts and immediately into these new-found feelings.

There's an old advisory among salespeople: "Don't be afraid to take a 'Yes.'" Well, I took a yes (figuratively speaking), and didn't feel compelled to press my doctor to further explain the reasons for his excitement. I became very happy taking the good news, and extremely fortunate that what Tuesday's inaccurate e-mail suggested: trouble, was turned completely on its figurative ear Friday when in person, my oncologist explained the semi-miscommunication. Believe me, when your oncologist gives you news with which you can live – pun intended, your reaction, at least mine, is not to question his judgment too much further in pursuit of some heretofore untold truth that could ruin what super-amazing-positive words you just heard. Call me naïve, "Simple Simon," whatever, but since I am still alive five years post-diagnosis, you can call me anything you want.

A week later, a few of these phone calls have given me pause for reflection. And though I've tried to answer their queries in a sort of intelligent way, I'm sure I've failed. But I'm moving on. I will enjoy relative peace over the three-month interval until my next CT Scan on May 28th and follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results – in person. Then, we'll do this all over again. For the time being, I'm very lucky to have received such good news, however incomplete it originally may have seemed. Nevertheless, I can certainly appreciate the message even if I was confused by the delivery.

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



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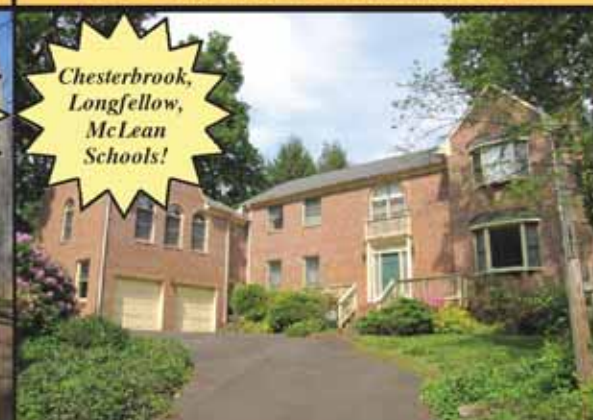


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