

All-night Long Relay for Life

From left, McLean HS Principal Ellen Reilly, FCPS Board At Large Member Ryan McElveen, FCPS Board Dranesville District Member Jane Strauss, FCPS Board Chairman Ilryong Moon and Langley HS Principal Matt Ragone get things started cutting the ribbon on the 2014 Relay for Life event at Langley High School.

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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



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Comstock Wins 10th District GOP Canvass

Sole female Republican candidate sweeps party polls, will face John Foust in November election.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Barbara Comstock wins 10th Congressional District GOP support.

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) is the 10th Congressional District Republican pick for Congressman Frank Wolf's open seat.

The current delegate reined in more than 7,000 votes at the party canvass on Saturday.

"It is an honor and a privilege to win my party's nomination for Virginia's 10th Congressional District and follow in the footsteps of my mentor, Congressman Frank Wolf," she said in a press release.

A call to her office remained unanswered Sunday. "Barbara Comstock is a tremendous person who is going to be one of the finest Congressional candidates," said 10th District GOP Chairman John Whitbeck Jr.

He was very happy with how the canvass went, saying it was the first time the district opted to run it themselves rather than have the state Board of Elections take care of a primary. He noted the canvass costs nothing for taxpayers rather than the "hundreds

of thousands of dollars" it would have cost to hold a primary.

"We had an incredible turnout of voters," he said.

More than 13,000 voters came to the 10 polls scattered throughout the district. According to a press release, the voting breakdown was Barbara Comstock (7,337), Robert "Bob" Marshall (3,829), Howard Lind (1,108), Stephen Hollingshead (816), Robert Wasinger (301) and Marc Savitt (218).

"I sent an email to Barbara and offered my support for her," said Mr. Savitt. "We all have to get together to support her. The voters have decided. We are united and need to retain Frank Wolf's seat."

He said it is "up in the air" whether he will run for another office seat.

Now with both the Democratic and Republican primaries over, the race between Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D- Dranesville) and state Delegate Comstock has begun.

"The election in November will be about my plans to get the economy growing again, creating jobs, and repealing and replacing Obamacare," Comstock said in the statement. "Congress is in desperate need of problem solvers and I intend to use my common sense principles to better the lives of my constituents when I am elected in November."

Whitbeck said if Comstock is elected to the office, the seat will likely remain hers for a long time to come.

"We firmly believe Barbara Comstock will be the next Congresswoman," said Whitbeck.

Fairfax County Honors 'Superheroes'

22nd Annual Fairfax County Service Awards presented.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Maybe they don't wear capes and flashy uniforms, but local volunteers are superheroes.

That was the theme for the 22nd Annual Fairfax County Service Awards, where more than 100 volunteers were recognized for their work with breakfast Friday, April 25, at The Waterford in Springfield.

More specifically, this year's theme was "Ordinary People, Extraordinary Impact," which was reflected in the comic book-inspired table decor and introductions by master of ceremonies Jeff Goldberg, Virginia Bureau Chief for ABC7 and News Channel 8.

"You make this a better place to play, to live and to work," said



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Margaret Malone, right, was awarded the Dranesville District Community Champion award, presented by Supervisor John Foust's aide Jennifer Boysko.

Volunteer Fairfax Executive Director Jeanne Sanders. "Every year, this is the most humbling event."

In addition to the 16 competitive awards, the organization recognized volunteers who contributed more than 100 volunteer hours. According to a fact sheet, seven individuals clocked between 100 and 249 hours, 25 contributed 250 to 499 hours, six made between 500 and 999 hours and

three clocked in more than 1,000 hours last year.

In all, 164 people nominated for awards donated more than 122,500 hours outside of their work and school hours.

Winners of the competitive awards were:

- ❖ Patti Schule - Adult volunteer under 250 hours
- ❖ Ashleigh Soloff - Adult volun

SEE SERVICE AWARDS, PAGE 13

PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION



The Board of Supervisors met to approve the FY 2015 budget markup on April 22.

County Budget Markup Passes

Three supervisors still oppose the budget.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County is another step closer to having an approved budget for the next fiscal year.

The Board of Supervisors approved the 2015 budget markup at its April 22 meeting at the county Government Center.

Supervisors Linda Smyth (D-Providence), Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and John Cook (R-Braddock) opposed the markup.

"The good news this year is that real estate values are beginning to rebound," said Chairman Sharon Bulova. "The bad news is that only residential values are rising; business taxes are flat and commercial assessments are a 0.1 percent decrease from fiscal year 2014."

The tax rate will rise half a cent from \$1.085 to \$1.090. For homeowners, there will be a \$25 increase in county taxes.

In addition, the School Transfer is a 3 percent, rather than the advertised 2 percent, increase — augmenting the county aid to schools by \$17 million. "With this added percentage, the total increase in the School Transfer will be \$51.5 million," said Bulova. "An expected increase in state funding of approximately \$30 million will help to fund additional school requirements."

Neither Smyth or Herrity supported the increase in taxes.

"I think we could have done better for our taxpayers," said Herrity. "I've supported budgets

in the past, but I'm not going to support this budget."

Cook said the problem with the budget is that the county spending increases every year. He said the county would be able to give more to the schools if spending was maintained.

"I'm afraid this budget takes us off track," he said.

Supervisors Michael Frey (R-Sully District) and Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) supported the budget but did not feel it reflected the needs of the community.

Hudgins said the residents in her area would support more taxes if it went towards services that the community needed. She also did not support the county asking parents to pay more for the School Age Child Care (SACC) Program.

"It's these kinds of things that say I don't know if we're listening to the community," she said.

However, many were happy with the compromise Bulova made with the markup.

"Given these challenges and the options available to the board, I believe the markup package is a significant improvement," said Dranesville Supervisor John Foust.

Some members of the audience did not feel the budget reflected their needs.

"Our official position is that the funds are just not adequate," said Fairfax Education Association President Kimberly Adams. "This is going to impede our abilities to compensate our employees."

In other business, the board approved the FY 2014 third quarter review, the FY 2016 budget recommendations, the FY 2015 to 2019 Capital Improvements Program and a Meals Tax Task Force.

More information about the task force will be shared at future meetings.



From left, the leaders of the 2014 Relay for Life to Fight Cancer, Langley High School event Co-Captains Harris LaTeef and Ava Shomaker, McLean High School Co-Captains Ann Liu and Margaret Duvall led dozens of students who devoted hundreds of hours to make the Relay a success.



Showing their enthusiasm and dedication to the cause, Fairfax County School Board Member At Large Ryan McElveen and Chairman Ilryong Moon raced to the finish of the first lap in the Langley and McLean High Schools Relay for Life fight against cancer fundraiser.

All-night Long Relay for Life Langley and McLean High Schools join forces in fight against cancer.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The students of Langley High School (LHS) and McLean High School (MHS) most often see each other as arch rivals, particularly when vying for local supremacy on sports fields and courts, so the fact that the two schools joined forces and pulled off a joint effort in the American Cancer Society-sponsored Relay for Life fundraiser on Saturday, April 26, made the event much more special. Langley Co-Captains Harris LaTeef and Ava Shomaker started planning the 2014 Relay immediately after the 2013 happening, which was Langley's first time to participate, and which won them Best Rookie Relay in the region while raising \$57,000. Knowing that upcoming renovations to Langley would probably mean that a 2015 event would have to be on borrowed ground from MHS, joining forces for this year's Relay just made sense. McLean Co-Captains Margaret Duvall and Ann Liu, both seniors, rallied their troops and the combined energies and efforts of the two schools was a sight to behold at Langley's track and field stadium when the opening ceremonies began just after 6 p.m.

"Cancer doesn't care if you go to Langley or McLean, or if you're associated with one or the other," said LaTeef. "It really is something special that these two schools could do this together," added Will Pfadenhauer, the Sponsorship Chair for the Langley group. "This really turned out to be a community thing."

Another factor that made this fundraiser unique is that it was completely student organized. "We are one of only two student-run events in the state, and the only one in the county," reported Langley Publicity Chair Clare DaBaldo. Considering that some 5,200 communities in 20 countries hold Relay For Life events each year, no wonder



The first lap of the all night relay honored cancer survivor guests, who were joined on the track by Langley and McLean administrators and guest dignitaries.

the Langley and McLean students see their all-student organization as something to be proud of. "But we couldn't have done it without a lot of help," said Co-Captain Shomaker. Both schools were quick to acknowledge the support of a large cast of students, teachers, administrators, staff, friends and family, thanking them during the opening remarks.

SEVERAL SPEAKERS took to the podium to welcome the crowd of more than 600. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Board Chairman Ilryong Moon praised the efforts of all, and added his words of honor to the guest cancer survivors who had been treated to a lunch earlier in the school cafeteria. Moon said that he had not planned to speak, but seeing the "incredible spirit and cooperation between these schools" and

having been a cancer survivor himself, he felt compelled to add his personal congratulations and express his admiration. FCPS Dranesville District School Board member Jane Strauss, who was greeted with wild applause, also addressed the crowd. She, too, has been touched by cancer, having lost her husband to the disease six years ago. She particularly praised the "millennial generation." "You will be the ones who go forth and 'Finish the Fight,'" she said. Langley Principal Matt Ragone spoke of his family's own loss of his young brother Tim to cancer, as he and McLean Principal Ellen Reilly added their congratulations and thanks before it was time to cut the ribbon and get the relay under way.

The various dignitaries and the cancer survivor honorees took the first lap around the stadium. LaTeef and Shomaker then

announced each team in the order of the amount of funds each raised and set them on the track. In keeping with their mantra, "Cancer Never Sleeps So Neither Will We" – at least during the Relay – someone will be walking around the track at all times from the first lap until the following morning at 6 a.m. Contests, games, music, and special "theme" laps will help keep the participants and the support staff awake and going strong throughout the night. Publicity Chair DaBaldo described the "Mz. Relay" contest in which male students volunteered to don dresses "and maybe heels" to walk a lap. A "Luminaria Lap" was also scheduled for 9 p.m. White paper bags, lit by candles and labeled in honor of lost loved ones, current cancer fighters or survivors were purchased by the dozens. The bags were set up on the bleachers to spell out the words "Hope" and "Cure" during this special lap. "It's very emotional. Very moving," noted LaTeef, who in addition to co-captaining the Langley Relay for Life will be joining the Fairfax County School Board as its Student Representative for the 2014-2015 term.

IF THE GOAL of the student organizers of the 2014 Langley/McLean Relay for Life was to raise funds to fight cancer, and to prove that working together really does make a difference, then the results of their efforts proved their point. They hoped for 500 participants. They got more than 600. They hoped for at least 50 teams. They got 52. They were looking to raise \$70k. As the first relay lap was completed, LaTeef announced that they had just passed \$90k. On Sunday morning that figured jumped to more than \$102k.

"You just know you can do something. Make a difference in your own community and all around the world if you just get together and try," was LHS Co-Captain Shomaker's comment.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

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ESI's Lorton Landfill is NOT "Green Energy"

FACTS:

- ESI is proposing to bury Construction and Demolition Debris (CDD) waste for an additional 16 years at its Lorton Landfill and increase the capacity of the landfill!
- 85% of the material ESI will bury in the landfill could be recycled.
- The additional 16 years will generate approximately 4 million new truck trips to the site, generating millions of tons of CO2 emissions and adding trucks to the already congested Beltway and I-95.
- 55% of the debris tonnage coming to Lorton Landfill is from out-of-state – bringing heavy trucks filled with debris into Fairfax County instead of recycling it in those states.
- The "Green" elements of ESI's proposal are mostly in the later phases and the language is filled with loopholes allowing ESI to get out of their green energy commitment.

VOICE YOUR OPPOSITION TODAY!

EMAIL CHAIRMAN
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AND ASK THEM TO **VOTE NO ON ESI'S PROPOSAL**

WEEK IN MCLEAN

Local Nonprofit Hosting Kentucky Derby Benefit

PRS Inc. will host their 19th Annual Kentucky Derby Benefit on Saturday. This year, state First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe is serving as the benefit's honorary chair.

"We are honored to have Mrs. McAuliffe as our Honorary Chair for our 2014 Kentucky Derby Benefit," said PRS President and CEO, Wendy Gradison, in a press release. "She understands PRS' important role in helping local community members in need live independently, maintain housing, remain in the community and out of the psychiatric hospital, and engage in community activities."

Tickets to the event are \$150 each and support PRS's mission for service to "providing skills training and support to enable adults in Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia living with mental illness, substance use disorders, mild intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, or any combination of these to achieve wellness, recovery, and community integration."

"Guests are encouraged to wear their most stylish hat for the best hat contest, another staple event feature," it is stated in the press release.

For more information, visit <http://www.prsinc.org/derby/kdbdetails>, or contact Jamie Weiskopf at (703) 531-6351.

— REENA SINGH

McLean Trees Foundation Sponsors Work Day at Lewinsville Park

The McLean Trees Foundation (MTF) is sponsoring a workday at Lewinsville Park in McLean on Sunday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help edge, mulch, and prune thirty trees along Chain Bridge Road. Native trees will also be planted. Volunteers should meet at the entrance to the park on Chain Bridge Road and bring tools, gloves, and wear appropriate footwear. No experience in caring for trees is necessary to participate. To volunteer, please R.S.V.P. to Joyce Harris, Chairman, at volunteer@McLeanTreesFoundation.org or call 703-216-5605 for more information.

SEC Chair to Speak at McLean Area AAUW Dinner

McLean Area AAUW Annual May 6 dinner will feature Mary Jo White, Chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Mary Jo White, is the 31st and current chair of the Securities and

Exchange Commission, the federal agency charged with protecting investors from crimes such as illegal stock trading, accounting fraud, and unscrupulous financial advising. The public is welcome. Make your reservations now for Branch's annual celebration dinner, this year to be held on Tuesday, May 6 at the River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. Plan to gather at 6:30 p.m., with dinner served at 7:15 p.m. Send your check for \$42 per per-

son (cash bar) by April 25 made payable to AAUW McLean Area Branch to Aroona S. Borpujari, 1225 Meyer Ct., McLean, VA 22101 and indicate your main course choice of chicken, mahi mahi or mushroom vegetarian lasagna. More details are in the McLean Area Branch Newsletter <http://mclean-va.aauw.net/files/2013/06/Apr14.pdf>

Born in Kansas City, MO and raised in McLean, White moved on to the College of William and

Mary, graduating Phi Beta Kappa. She later studied law at Columbia University, eventually becoming U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, the only woman to have ever held that post. Known as a tough prosecutor who successfully took on the likes of mobster John Gotti and the terrorists responsible for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, White is the first former Prosecutor to head the SEC.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 9

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Trending in the Right Direction

Commitment to ending homelessness shows progress, but more affordable housing is needed.

On one night in late January, local jurisdictions in our area fanned out to count the number of people who were literally homeless. Fairfax County released its numbers last week; Arlington and Alexandria will do so in the near future.

In Fairfax County, the commitment in 2010 to end homelessness in 10 years has resulted in significant progress, even in the wake of the great recession. The number of people literally homeless decreased by a third from 2008 to 2014, from 1,835 to 1,225 counted this year.

Many non-profit organizations have partnered to prevent homelessness one family or individual at a time for those on the brink and to house chronically homeless individuals. There is so much still to be done.

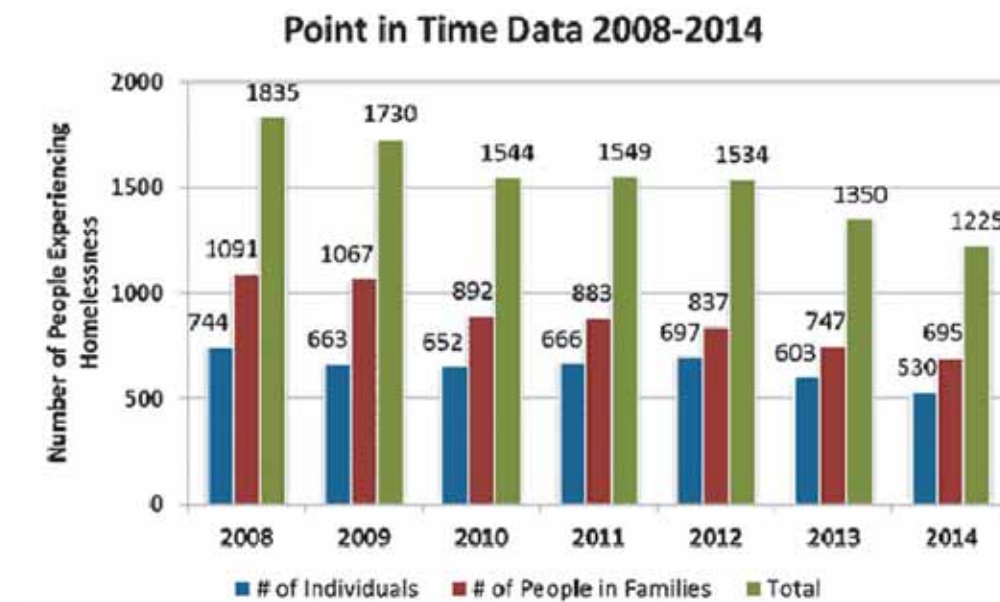
On the night of Jan. 29, 2014 there were 1,225 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church community, a 9 percent reduction from January 2013, or 125 fewer people.

The 2014 point-in-time count of people experiencing homelessness includes people who are described as “literally homeless,” those who are in shelters, in time-limited transitional housing programs, or unsheltered and living on the street at one “point in time.” It does not count the individual who might be homeless but is sleeping on a friend’s sofa or the family squeezed into an uncle’s “spare” bedroom after being evicted from their own apartment.

Two sentences from the county report are worth repeating, even if they are obvious:

“The results would be even more substantial if additional housing options were available. The reduction in homelessness will not continue at the same pace in the future without significant increases in the availability of affordable housing.”

A year ago, the coalition of partners committed to ending homelessness embarked on the local piece of a nationwide effort to provide housing for the chronically homeless people in our community. There were an estimated 150 such individuals, living in the woods and in cars and on the street, in the county, and a year later, FACETS and others met this



Point-in-time data on the number of people literally homeless 2008-2014.

year’s milestone of bringing 50 such individuals into housing. These are people who need a continuum of services get on their feet.

Despite the good news on the steady decline, the past few months have been marked by push-back from some residents about allowing more affordable housing in the form of efficiency apartments and by several members of the Board of Supervisors expressing lack of support for even the concept of providing more affordable housing.

This misguided attitude on the part of some county leaders ignores the fact that this region cannot be economically vibrant if there is no place affordable to rent even for households who make \$50,000, never mind the households that get by on less than half of that.

Two full-time \$10 an hour positions yield \$40,000 a year. Last year, a family needed an annual income of \$56,472 to afford to pay the \$1,412 per month rent on the “fair market rate” for a two-bedroom apartment in Fairfax County. Rents have continued to rise.

Many working families living in Fairfax County struggle financially, balancing choices every month between rent, transportation, food, medical costs and other expenses that are not optional.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.CO



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

After being homeless for five years, Sandara Perry, left, recently moved into permanent housing with ongoing support provided by FACETS. Perry grew up on Route 1 in Mount Vernon, and was placed in foster care while her mother struggled with addiction. Without support to make the transition from foster care, Perry struggled with alcohol and abusive relationships. She shared her story at the FACETS annual breakfast last Thursday, April 24, and she is pictured here with FACETS Executive Director Amanda Andere.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fighting for Tigers

To the Editor:

As a senior at Penn State University, I am taking a course on human geography and sustainability. As a citizen of Virginia, I am concerned. There is an international issue that is threatening one of our greatest, most majestic creatures in the world, and we are not doing enough to protect and preserve them. While

the tigers that we nobly admire at the National Zoo are safe and secure, the wild tiger population of Southeast Asia is being poached to near extinction. As my class has taught me this semester, it is our duty as human beings to sustain the environment for future generations, thus making it our duty to put an end to the illegal poaching and trading of tigers throughout the world. While it is simple to adopt an “out of sight, out of mind,” mentality with these creatures, the rapidly declining tiger

population will directly impact our future generations here in the Washington, D.C. area. If we want our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to admire the majesty of a tiger, we need to take responsibility for human action and strive for change. The keeping of tigers for pets, the illegal hunting, the black market for tiger bones - these are all actions of humans that are directly contributing to the inevitable extinction of the tiger population. But how can we help? We aren’t the ones

buying tiger bones for ancient medical practices, or poaching tigers in the wild. We are, however, the ones with the significant financial and political means to end this global epidemic. As an American, I urge you to donate to organizations such as World Wildlife Foundation, write letters to your congressmen, and generate as much attention for this issue as possible. We must fight for the tigers.

Allison Baker
Oakton

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FROM PAGE 7

McLean Youth Soccer Fundraiser, May 8

McLean Youth Soccer Scholarship Fundraiser will be held on Thursday, May 8, at Pulcinella - The Italian Host Restaurant, 6852 Old Dominion Drive in McLean.

Support McLean Youth Soccer's Scholarship Fund by dining in or ordering take out from Pulcinella Italian Host Restaurant on Thursday, May 8, from 5 to 9 p.m. 6852 Old Dominion Dr., McLean. For takeout or reservations for large groups, call 703-893-7777. When you present the flyer posted on the MYS website, 20 percent of the proceeds from your dinner will be donated to the MYS Scholarship Program. http://assets.ngin.com/attachments/document/0054/9101/Pulcinella_Flyer.pdf Also available for take-out orders - Mention "MYS Fundraiser" and bring the flyer when you pick up your order. MYS welcomes players from McLean and the surrounding communities to participate in any of our programs for players 4 years and older. Please visit the club's website for more information: www.mcleansoccer.org

Fundraiser to Support SHARE, Inc. on May 13

A fundraiser for SHARE, Inc. has been

announced by HBC Realty Group's (Keller Williams Realty) Community Charity Champions. Come to dinner on Tuesday, May 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pulcinella Italian Host in McLean to support SHARE, Inc. Enjoy dinner and know that approximately 70 percent of the proceeds from food and drink will go to the charity, as long as the diner brings the flyer for the event. Contact HBC Realty Group at 703-734-0192 or visit www.HBCRealtyGroup.com to receive a flyer.

SHARE, Inc. is a non-profit, nonsectarian, all-volunteer community relief organization helping people in need in McLean, Great Falls and Pimmit Hills area for over 45 years. They provide essential assistance through their food pantry, where people and families in need throughout the community can go for assistance with groceries. SHARE also provides emergency financial assistance, used furniture pick-up and delivery, distributes grocery gift cards at Thanksgiving and the holidays, holiday gifts, school supplies and rides to medical appointments.

Sponsors of the event are: Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy with the HBC Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty, The Simmons Team of George Mason Mortgage LLC, Betty

Sparkman and Chris Lara of Reveal Remodel, Kevin Dougherty of Pillar to Post Home Inspections, Marcus Simon with EKKO Title, Moe Jebali of Pulcinella Italian Host, and One to One Fitness Centers.

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mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

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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.

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

Isabel Doran
Promising ballerina



CALENDAR

Send announcements to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THURSDAY/MAY 1

Lili the First Boutique Opening and Ribbon Cutting. 6-8 p.m. 101 Pleasant Street NW, Vienna. The boutique introduces international and American emerging designers.

NVBS Annual Bead and Jewelry Auction for Charity. 7:30-9 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. This is a combination live and silent auction to benefit the many community outreach activities of the Northern Virginia Bead Society. Items to be auctioned will include supplies for beadwork, as well as finished jewelry. Also included will be several themed baskets for many different interests, including gardening, pets, personal care, etc. www.NVBS.org

THURSDAY/MAY 1-SATURDAY/MAY 3

"The Music Man" Musical. 7:30 p.m. Matinee at 2:30 p.m. on May 3. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at madsiondrama.com, in the JMHS main office or at the door.

FRIDAY/MAY 2

"Mutts Gone Nuts" Family Night. 6 p.m. Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center St S, Vienna. Rescued canines are the stars when entertainers Scott & Joan Houghton (alias Jesse and James) bring their popular-from-coast-to-coast comedy show to Vienna Elementary. Hilarious stunts and amazing tricks showcase the talents of these delightful dogs promoting dog rescue and the benefits of practice.



TRACI J. BROOKS STUDIOS/COURTESY OF McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

From left — Julie the chambermaid (Rebecca Fischler) gives her opinion of the goings on to the members of the wedding party (Carole Steele, Jessica Inzeo, Will MacLeod, and Caitly Brown) in the McLean Community Players' production of 'Perfect Wedding.' Playing at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean through May 10, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY/MAY 2-MONDAY/MAY 5

Six Artists Return. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of paintings, drawings, sculpture and jewelry by local artists Jackie Elwell, Elaine Florimonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner. www.theframefactory1.com

FRIDAY/MAY 2-SUNDAY/MAY 4

"Willy Wonka, The Musical." Friday and Saturday nights at 8 p.m. through May 3, with Sunday matinee performances at 2 p.m. on April 27, and May 4. Vienna Theatre Company, Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry St., SE Vienna. This multi-generational, family friendly musical is Roald Dahl's timeless story

of the world-famous candy man and his quest to find an heir in this stage adaptation of Dahl's book, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, which features the songs from the classic family film *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*. General admission \$14. To reserve tickets, email vtcshows@yahoo.com. For more information, call 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 2-SATURDAY/MAY 10

"Perfect Wedding." Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m. Sundays at 2 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. An awkward morning-of-the-wedding situation and then spins out of control in the McLean Community Players production of this farce/romantic comedy. 703-790-9223. www.McLeanPlayers.org. \$16-\$14.

SATURDAY/MAY 3

Six Artists Return Closing Reception. 2-8 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of paintings, drawings, sculpture and jewelry by local artists Jackie Elwell, Elaine Florimonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner. www.theframefactory1.com

Social Justice Yard Sale. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Sale benefits four charities including The Shepherd's Center of Oakton/Vienna, NAMI, Mosaic Harmony and the UUCF Partner Church. Donations of sale items are welcome on April 30, May 1 and May 2. Visit www.uucf.org or contact Joanna Walker at joannawalker@gmail.com.

Vienna Farmers Market Free Kids Events on Opening Day. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. 301 Center Street S., Vienna. TJ Micheals, balloon artist will also be creating at the market.

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. You can reserve a space (\$20) to sell your own treasures or donate items to the church (we will pick up). Come shop, donate and/or sell your own things. 703-759-3705

Bike Rodeo. 9 a.m. -12 p.m. Volunteer Fire Department parking lot, 400 Center St S., Vienna. Under the guidance of a veteran cyclist, the Rodeo will help children who already know how to ride a bike develop safety skills including breaking, balancing, basic road rules and how to handle obstacles. Kids must have a helmet to participate. Free bike and helmet checks will be available.

Doug Parks and the Lone Wolves. 5-7 p.m. The Palladium, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. 703-228-9505.

Patrick Henry Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Featuring thousands of top quality used books, hardback fiction, ton of non-fiction and quilting books and cook books.

Garden Club Flower Show. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Great Falls Library, Georgetown Pike. The show, entitled "Sounds and Sights of Spring", will feature horticulture and design entries, an educational display, and artistic crafts. Admission is free. For further information call Karen Lucas at 703-759-5547.

SUNDAY/MAY 4

Civil War Trails Marker Dedication. 1-3 p.m. Merrybrook, 2346 Centreville Road, Herndon. Civil War Trails Marker dedication to Laura Ratcliffe. She was a Confederate spy for JEB Stuart and John S. Mosby. www.hmshistory.com

Amadeus Orchestra with Aaron Goldman, Flute. 4 p.m. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Walker Road, McLean. <http://www.amadeusconcerts.com>

TUESDAY/MAY 6

Happy Hour Fundraiser. 6-8:30 p.m. The Old Brogue, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Fundraiser hosted by Fred and Cindy Dibbs of Reston Smile Partners, who aim to provide dental care to uninsured, disadvantaged adults in our community who are working with Cornerstones, our local social services agency. Tickets: \$125 per person, includes drinks, appetizers and a raffle. RSVP by April 30 to Cindy: clidibbs@aol.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 10

Ayr Hill Garden Club Plant Sale. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 131 Church Street, NW, Vienna. The annual Ayr Hill Garden Club plant sale returns. These are plants that have grown well in Vienna supplied

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Douglas Stewart represents the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club at the Commonwealth Transportation Board's public hearing. Proponent of more funds for multi-modal transit systems, Stewart cited a recent report by Smart Growth America stating that 18 percent of Virginia's road were in poor condition, up from 8 percent only three years ago.

David Snyder, in his role as Vice-Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, addressed the Commonwealth Transportation Board. To read Snyder's testimony go to www.thinkoutsidethecar.org. Snyder presented the organization's case for increased transit funding in Northern Virginia.

VDOT Holds Six-year Improvement Plan Hearing

Public input sought on transportation improvement plan.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

It was Northern Virginia's turn last week when Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) held a public hearing at the offices of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in Fairfax. The CTB is conducting meetings throughout the state to garner public opinion before their scheduled June vote on the state's Six-Year Improvement Plan 2015 - 2020 (SYIP). Various entities have held numerous meetings in recent months, particularly since HB 2313 - the first comprehensive transportation funding bill in the state for more than 27 years - passed in the General Assembly last year. Those meetings were often standing-room-only affairs, could witness dozens of citizens lined up to comment on particular projects or to suggest others, and frequently got a bit heated.

The April 24 CTB hearing featured more representatives from local jurisdictions and organizations than individual citizens. More praise and invitations for cooperation may have been heard than in the past and there was less of the "stop sign on this corner, please! wishlist" atmosphere that marked many of the open transportation meetings of late. There were even several acknowledgements of VDOT's Herculean efforts to keep Virginia roads clear and safe during the recent long, snow and ice-filled winter. Not to say that those who spoke for the record weren't there to support the projects of particular interest to their constituents, or that there weren't some negative comments on parts of the Plan or on the process.

SECRETARY LAYNE introduced the at-12 ❖ McLEAN CONNECTION ❖ APRIL 30 - MAY 6, 2014

"Congestion mitigation is the most heavily weighted factor by law when analyzing projects to be selected and funded in urban areas."

— Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne

Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne hosts the Commonwealth Transportation Board's (CTB) public hearing at the Virginia Dept. of Transportation offices in Fairfax

tending members of the CTB as well as guest panelist Martin Nohe, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, who noted that his inclusion shows the admirable level of cooperation being fostered between the state and the region. Layne summarized the agenda and the discussion on the table. Recently passed HB 2 received a large share of Layne's remarks. The new law, which takes effect on July 1, mandates a prioritization process for transportation project selection. "Congestion mitigation is the most heavily weighted factor by law when analyzing projects to be selected and funded in urban areas," Layne explained. Other factors include economic development, accessibility, safety and environmental quality. "HB 2 is designed to inject more objectivity, to help insure that the funds are used wisely," he added. Exempt from the scoring process would be projects already under way, and those funded by revenue sharing.

Layne warned that there were challenges ahead. "We may not get this all right the first time. And there is the threat looming in August with about \$1b in federal funds



up for re-authorization." He commented that most in the room had probably heard something about a budget scuffle going on in Richmond, referring to the state's budget impasse, largely over the inclusion of a full rollout of Medicaid, which the Governor supports but Republicans oppose. "What we are working with here are mostly non-general funds, so they will not be significantly impacted by the budget discussions."

Before opening the floor to testimony on the SYIP, several of the panelists provided facts and figures about current or upcoming projects for regional transportation improvements. Charles Kilpatrick, the state's new Highways Commissioner noted \$700m underway today, while newly appointed Director of the state's Dept. of Rail and Public Transportation Jennifer Mitchell outlined spending allocations for VRE capital funds, the new Potomac Shores station, and other transit station improvements, including the allocation of 80 percent of the \$365m for transit and rail work next year.

Some of the speakers to address the CTB panel included:

Virginia Delegate Jim LeMunyon, (R-67),

whose comments included the need to fully fund and move forward with the I-66/Rte. 28 expansion and improvements, and to avoid any options that put more traffic on to Rte. 50.

Loudoun County Board Supervisor Suzanne Volpe (R-Algonkian District) expressed that the county felt "blindsided" by some of the proposals in the SYIP Draft that would significantly cut certain funds for road maintenance and improvement. Volpe also wanted the CTB to know that with the Draft only becoming available on April 18 - six days prior to the hearing - the timing of its release made any real review and analysis virtually impossible and that further review and commentary would be forthcoming.

David Snyder, Vice Mayor of Falls Church and the Vice-Chairman of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) read a statement for the record, presenting an economic case for increased and sustained funding for transit in Northern Virginia. "This is a whole new generation today. They want transit that isn't cars and highways," he said. Snyder outlined "core capacity investments" that "will remove 35,000 cars from the road." The NVTC was all in favor of a metrics system to evaluate projects, but stated that "the calculation of trips in the operating formula unfairly excludes trips made by tourists and many trips taken from airports, and uses a formula that only counts trips made by Virginians who live in Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) jurisdictions. Snyder said that the NVTC would continue to work cooperatively to see these issues addressed in the final version of the SYIP.

Arlington County Board Member Mary Hynes, like Snyder, urged the CTB to emphasize the multi-modal approach to project approval. "Walking, biking, and transit for Arlington are not optional," said Hynes, "to ensure the economic health of all the region, as well as the quality of life of Arlingtonians. With the highest job density

SEE CITIZENS, PAGE 15
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Service Awards Presented

FROM PAGE 3

teer over 250 hours

- ❖ Friends of Richard Byrd Library - Adult volunteer group
 - ❖ Doris Crawford - Senior volunteer
 - ❖ Food for Others - Volunteer program
 - ❖ Jonah Basl - Youth volunteer
 - ❖ Cherry Blossom chapter of the National Charity League - Youth Volunteer Group
 - ❖ Ana and Kat Hayes - Family volunteer
 - ❖ Roberto Quinones - Integrate individual
 - ❖ St. Stephen's United Methodist Church - Integrate group
 - ❖ John Bauer - Fairfax County volunteer
 - ❖ Ready to Read Volunteer Program - Fairfax County Volunteer Program
 - ❖ BB&T - Corporate Volunteer Program
 - ❖ Sharon Page - RSVP Northern Virginia Award
 - ❖ Nicholas Hartigan - Rising star
 - ❖ Ramona Watson Morrow - Lifetime achievement
- "Upon hearing my name announced as the award winner, I was shocked and still trying to pro-



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

The founders of Amy's Amigos pose with Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

cess that announcement, when the award was handed to me on stage," said Page, of Herndon. "When you volunteer, you never think about being recognized in such a big way for the help you give to people."

She is the senior co-coordinator for the Hogar Immigrant Services English as a Second Language program at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church Parish in Herndon.

Hartigan was also surprised to have won an award — the Rising Star award. As the founder of

Reston Young Professionals, he provides young Restonians the opportunity to volunteer in their community. He was nominated by Reston Historic Trust board member Lynn Lillenthal.

"I thought it was kind of cool," he said. "I do a lot in the community and it's nice to be recognized once in a while."

He said several people spoke to him at the end of the ceremony with hopes to connect with his group.

— REENA SINGH

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

SUNDAY/MAY 4

Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean is hosting an event featuring Lee Becker FAIA, partner in the architecture firm Hartman-Cox, who was instrumental in the design of Immanuel Presbyterian's award-winning sanctuary. The forum will take place at 11:15 a.m. and will include coffee and a light lunch. Free of charge.

TUESDAY/MAY 13

NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees) Chapter 1116 Meeting. 1:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna.
Guest speaker, Whitney Winn, Outreach Manager, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, reporting on the status of the Silver Line. For info., call 703-938-9757.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

from the gardens of AHGC members.

Selections for sun and/or shade, deer resistant plants, and drought tolerant plants will be offered.

Recycle Your Bike. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Potomac School, 1301 Potomac Road, McLean. Each year since 2005, the Potomac School has held a used bike collection to benefit Bikes For The World, a locally-run 501(c)(3) charity that collects unused bicycles from the United States and sends them to its partners overseas, where the bikes become much-needed transportation for people who otherwise would have none.

Taste of Asia 2014. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Everest College, 8620 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna. Sample food, learn about Asian countries, try on clothes, get your name written in different languages and more.

Fourth Silent Auction Benefit. 1-4 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is hosting its Silent Auction Art Benefit at the Frame Factory. Enjoy light refreshments while chatting with local artists and viewing their donated art work.

SUNDAY/MAY 11

Mothers for Mental Health. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. A positive day raising money for suicide prevention, bereavement camps for kids, and to bring light onto the epidemic of young people taking their lives in our community. Activities include family fun rides and activities, including moon bounces, climbing wall, pony rides, games and face painting, silent auction, 5K run/walk, 5K ride in Turner Farmer Park, and more. www.beckylovefoundation.org.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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NEWS



"Aida" will be performed at Cooper Middle School starting today.

PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

Cooper Middle Presents 'Aida'

Spring production runs Wednesday through Saturday, April 30-May 3.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

It's the timeless story of star-crossed lovers - with a twist. Cooper Middle School is performing "Aida," the story of a deep love stirring in the midst of a war between two nations, starting today.

"The music's excellent and it's a beautiful show," said theater arts teacher and play director Meg Baber. "I love the drama of it and how meaningful it is. And I do like to keep challenging them. I don't want to make it too easy."

The story follows Aida - an enslaved Nubian princess as she falls in love with Radames - an Egyptian soldier already promised to the Pharaoh's daughter.

"As their forbidden love blossoms, Aida is forced to weigh her heart against the responsibility she faces as leader of her people," Baber said in an email. "Aida and Radames' love for one another proves transcendent of cultural differences and ushers in a time of unprecedented peace between the warring nations."

She said it is a very mature, challenging play for the middle school age group, but believes that many of the actors are talented enough to handle it. About 70 people are a part of the show's cast and crew.

"It's a very hard show, musically," she said. "There's one school in the county that has done it at the middle school level. We have some really, really talented kids this year, so I kinda knew it would be the year to do it."

Chris Obolensky, 14, plays Radames. "My dad is in the military, so it really helped because I knew how I was supposed to act," the eighth grade actor said. "I was really surprised about how much love is in the show. It's going to be a really fun show."

Unlike Romeo and Juliet, he said, the lovers in Aida



Aida, played by Kaitlyn O'Connor, is caught between her country and her love.

do not just have a shallow-level of love for one another.

"This is nothing the middle school has done before," said 13-year-old Kaitlyn O'Connor, eighth grade. She plays Aida, the secret Nubian princess.

"She's a very deep character," she said. "In the first part of the play, she wants to save her people."

Aida then feels like she has to choose between her love for Radames or her love for her country.

"I think we'll put on a good show," she said.

The middle school will perform Aida on Wednesday and Thursday, April 30-May 1, at 2:30 p.m., as well as Friday and Saturday, May 2-3, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for general admission at the door.

Citizens Debate Transportation Priorities

FROM PAGE 12

and the 2nd highest population, Arlington is unique, acting as something of a funnel for people on the move through and to and from Arlington.”

THE REPRESENTATIVE from the citizens’ organization “Arlingtonians for Sensible Transit” was there to protest the planned Columbia Pike Streetcar project, calling it a “staggering waste of money,” and making a strong argument for more buses to handle the area’s traffic needs.

The citizens of Vienna also worry that their quality of life and the “Main Street Village” they have worked for years to protect are being endangered by any plans that don’t place transit over more cars, especially as the Tyson’s Corner development continues. Vienna Vice-Mayor Carey Sienicki was there to represent the Town.

Bob Chase, President of the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance had appreciation for all the hard work put in to date, but cautioned that the “Plan is an



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Commonwealth Transportation Board listen to the public’s comments Six-Year Plan 2015-2020.

enigma to the average citizen,” citing difficulty in wading through the VDOT website, the 55 pages of Northern Virginia projects and all of the related information and articles.

Chase also stressed that it was important not to lose a sense of urgency as a result of the passage of HB2. “We’ve already been wait-

ing a real long time,” he reminded the panel.

As the meeting concluded, the audience was reminded that VDOT was still conducting additional hearings, and that public commentary was most welcome for consideration. If unable to attend one of the public hearings, contact information is available on

the website at www.vdot.virginia.gov. Comments must be received by June 2 in order to be considered prior to the vote on the SYIP. Also on the website is a list of all the projects being considered for approval in the current SYIP. Click on Northern Virginia as the “District” for the projects database.

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Or to mail photo prints, send to: The McLean Connection, “Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,” 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314
Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don’t send us anything irreplaceable.

SPORTS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean goalkeeper Lydia Erickson, right, has allowed just two goals this season.



McLean senior Maire Shine assisted the game-tying goal in the 53rd minute and scored the game-winner in overtime against Madison on April 28.

Shine's OT Goal Lifts McLean Girls' Soccer Over Madison

Highlanders remain undefeated, improve to 6-0-3.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Prior to Monday's match against Conference 6 foe McLean, Madison girls' soccer coach Grant Massey stressed to the Warhawks the importance of containing senior forward Maire Shine, the Highlanders' primary offensive threat.

Late in the first half, Shine had an opportunity to break a scoreless tie, but shot the ball directly at Madison goalkeeper Lexi Graham, who made the save.

Later in the evening, Shine again found herself in position to give the Highlanders the lead. This time, No. 5 showed why she was the focal point of the Warhawks' defense.

Shine scored late in the first of two overtime periods, lifting McLean to a 2-1 victory on April 28 at Madison High School.

"I just needed to redeem myself from the one I missed in the first half," Shine said. "I just knew the clock was ticking down and we tried to take shots, whether it was open or not."

Shine's goal helped keep McLean undefeated with a record of 6-0-3.

"The difference is their one special player who stepped up and made the play," Massey said. "We tried to prepare for her. We certainly focused on her in our pregame talk and everything and she was able to get free. We had about a five-second mental breakdown and [allowed] her to get on her right foot and put it by us."

SHINE, a first-team all-region selection as a junior last season, also assisted McLean's first goal, when sophomore Tess Brookes tied the score at 1-all in the 53rd minute.

"It's just a player wanting to win," McLean head coach Rob Bouchard said about Shine, "and she put her stamp on the game."

While Shine came up clutch in overtime, it was Madison that took the game's first lead on a goal by sophomore midfielder Michelle Paredes in the 43rd minute. Usually, one goal would assure Madison of at least a tie as the Warhawks had not surrendered two goals in a contest since tying Herndon, 2-2, in the season opener on March 20. However, the goal seemed to awaken the Highlanders, who eventually pulled out the win.

While McLean is undefeated, the Highlanders have scored just 11 goals in nine games.

"I'm just happy our girls responded," Bouchard said. "We can't score a lot, so ...



Madison girls' soccer coach Grant Massey said junior midfielder Alia Abu Hawa has been a key part of the Warhawks' defensive success this season.

we can't put ourselves in many holes."

Part of the reason McLean has been so successful despite limited scoring has been the play of sophomore goalkeeper Lydia Erickson, who on Monday night allowed just her second goal of the season.

"She's been phenomenal all year, let two goals in this whole year," Bouchard said. "... Every time she lets in a goal, she gets upset with herself and works harder the next time."

Bouchard also praised the efforts of de-

fenders Audrey Freeman, Meaghan O'Reilly and Kaela Mahoney.

MADISON has also played well defensively this season. After Monday's loss, the Warhawks have a record of 6-2-2 and have outscored opponents 22-7. Madison scored seven goals against Wakefield on April 8 and four against Lee on March 31.

"I think we're typically pretty organized in the back," Massey said. "We struggle scoring goals and struggle creating a lot of chances to. We usually don't give up two — usually we give up one or zero — and that keeps in every game. I know we can defend. We're organized, our goalkeeper is very solid and that keeps us in every game."

Massey said senior defender Cia Makrigrigios and junior midfielder Alia Abu Hawa have been key contributors to the Warhawks' defensive success this season. Senior defender Susie Carter and junior defender Morgan Duffy are also strong players but have battled injuries.

Senior forward Kaitlyn Dorka is Madison's leading goal scorer.

Madison will travel to face South Lakes at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 1. McLean will host Stone Bridge at the same time.

"We're getting better and better and I can't be upset," Bouchard said. "The girls have fought every game. We feel if we put our best team out there, we can contend with everybody."

Langley College-Bound Athletes Recognized

Langley High School's college-bound student-athletes were honored during an April 23 ceremony.

The following Langley athletes will compete in collegiate sports.

Baseball: Jake McSteen (University of Nebraska).

Basketball: Garrett Collier (Denison University).

Crew: Sabrina Lamont (George Mason) and Tyler Seckar (Trinity College).

Football: Nick Casso (Catholic University of America), Austin Denham (California Polytechnic State University), Alex Kolencik (Davidson College), Brooks Norris (William & Mary), and Dylan Novak (Frostburg State).

Golf: Edric Wung (Dartmouth).

Lacrosse: Lauren Clubb (Claremont McKenna), Jordan Simonides (Marquette), JT Meyer (Kenyon College), Billy Orme (Wagner College), and Hunter Yates (Washington & Lee).

Soccer: Sepehr Harandi (Longwood), Eddie Martinez (Drew University), Jamie Terpak (Kentucky), Madi Card (Butler), and Anusheh Kafi (Emory).

Swimming: Gretchen Roesel (West Point).

Track and field: Alexander Jacobsen (Transylvania), and Thomas Endean (Bates College).

Volleyball: Lexy Donaldson (Mary Washington), and Alex Andrejev (Columbia).

Wrestling: Alex Pratte (Pittsburgh).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Langley senior Garrett Collier, right, is pictured with boys' basketball coach Scott Newman during the school's college commitment ceremony on April 23. Collier will play basketball at Denison University.



A male Baltimore Oriole, the state bird of Maryland.



Donald Sweig

Spring Songbirds Arriving Now

Local bird groups and bird walks help beginning birders see colorful birds.

BY DONALD SWEIG

The birds are coming. The annual migration of often brightly colored songbirds from their winter homes in Central and South America, Mexico, the Caribbean Islands, and the southern United States is underway now. Millions and millions of avian migrants fly northward every night and the come down to rest or nest every morning. Some of the birds are enroute to nesting areas far to the north; some nest right here or nearby. Avian enthusiasts (birders/bird watchers) and general nature buffs have eagerly awaited the birds' arrival and are now out in force hoping to see some of their feathered friends.

The spring breeding birds (50 or more species) are often boldly pat-



Male Rose-breasted Grosbeak is among the most colorful of the migrant birds in the Washington area. They breed just to the west of our area.

terned and brightly colored. They exhibit in various patterns of black, white, yellow, red, blue, orange and myriad shades of brown and grey.

And they sing. Each species has a distinct song and call. Spring songbirds can be seen in many places in the area, from a tree in any yard, to "migrant traps," natural areas that attract migrating birds and regular nesting sites.

The Baltimore Oriole, the state bird of Maryland, was named by

the original settlers of Maryland in the 17th century, when they saw the orange and black bird, the same colors as the coat-of-arms of Cecil Calvert, 2nd Lord Baltimore, the founder of Maryland. They declared that the oriole was "Lord Baltimore's bird." Baltimore Orioles are easily found in late April and early May as they breed in Maryland and Virginia. Look for them along the C&O Canal, in the Great Falls Parks on both sides of the Potomac.

It's a great opportunity to see the Spring wildflowers as well.

Any morning, especially with south or southwest winds, from mid-April until late May is likely to bring a new wave of birds.

The local nesters are especially vocal when the first arrive and are setting up breeding territories. Look for them on the top of trees, often singing loudly.

Go at sunrise, or shortly thereafter when the new migrants have just arrived; late afternoon (4 to 6 p.m.) is also often productive, though not as good as early morning. If you have binoculars, take them. Listen carefully and look toward any bird sound you hear.

Local bird clubs have lots of bird walks in the Spring and are usually delighted to have new folks



Indigo buntings are common breeders in both Maryland and Virginia. Look for the bright-blue males on tree tops, like cedars or snags, and utility wires throughout the area.

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Local Birding Groups

As a novice or beginning birder, your chances of seeing and identifying birds are greatly increased if you go out with more experienced birders. Local organizations have regularly scheduled bird walks, and welcome newcomers, beginners and returning birders on most outings.

Montgomery Bird Club, <http://www.montgomerybirdclub.org/>
Northern Virginia <http://www.nvabc.org/> Northern Virginia Audubon of Virginia <http://www.audubonva.org/> Northern Virginia Audubon Naturalist Society <http://www.audubonnaturalist.org/>
Also look at: <http://birding.aba.org/> (American Birding Association), Click on Maryland or Virginia to see what is being seen and where.

ORGANIZED BIRD WALKS

Here are some planned bird walks in the area, beginners and novices welcomed.

- 8 a.m. Sundays, Bird Walk at Great Falls National Park, meet at the visitor center, 9200 Old Dominion Dr, McLean.
8 a.m. Sundays, Friends of Dyke Marsh lead a walk into Dyke Marsh all year long. www.fodm.org
Wednesday, Apr 30, 2014, 8:30am **Daniels Run**, 3721 Tedrich Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22031. www.nvabc.org
Saturday, May 3, 2014, 7:30am **Huntley Meadows Hike/Bike Trail**, From I-495, take Rt 1 south 3 mi. to Lockheed Blvd. Turn right on Lockheed Blvd. and go 0.5 mi. to Harrison Lane to park entrance on left. www.nvabc.org
Sunday, May 4, 2014, and every Sunday 8am **Dyke Marsh with Friends of Dyke Marsh** www.fodm.org
Wednesday, May 7, 2014 8:30am **Long Branch**, Arlington, Take Rt. 50 east from Fairfax or west from Rosslyn to Carlin Springs exit. South on Carlin Spgs. 0.5 mi. to Nature Center on left, just south of N. Va. Community Hospital on left. Meet at Nature Ctr. parking lot. www.nvabc.org
Saturday, May 10, 7:30-10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap Park, Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day with a walk through the wetland and ridges of Wolf Trap. 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Meet in the north end of the park, in the parking lot on the east side of Trap Road <http://www.audubonva.org/>
Wednesday May 14, 2014, 8:30am **Fort C.F. Smith**, 2411 N. 24th St, Arlington, www.nvabc.org
Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 7:30pm **Friends of Dyke Marsh Quarterly Meeting**. Norma Hoffman Visitor Center, Huntley Meadows Park, www.fodm.org
Wednesday, May 21, 2014 8:30am **Eakin Park** 8515 Tobin Rd, Annandale, www.nvabc.org
Wednesday, May 28, 2014 8:30am **Huntley Meadows**, www.nvabc.org

Birding Hotspots in Virginia:

Fairfax County:
Great Falls Park, <http://www.nps.gov/grfa/index.htm>
Riverbend Park along the Potomac. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/>
Huntley Meadows Park, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/>
Arlington:
Long Branch and Carlin Springs parks: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/scripts/parks/LongBranch.aspx>
Alexandria:
A well known and popular "migrant trap" in Alexandria is Monticello Park, 320 Beverly Drive.

Look in any local parks and in any wooded area, preferably at sunrise or soon after. Spring Birds are where you find them, and you'll find them many places you look.



Male Prairie Warbler. Prairie Warblers are a common breeding bird in this area, usually arriving in late April. Look for the males singing on the top of small trees, especially cedars, on sunny mornings in field and along roads. They are easy to find in the trees along River Road out past Seneca and at the Occoquan Refuge in Virginia.

PHOTOS BY DONALD SWEIG

come along, and you will see more birds if you go with an experienced group.

It's a priceless opportunity to see a Baltimore or Orchard Oriole; a Scarlet or Summer Tanager; a Yellow-billed Cuckoo; a Rose-breasted or Blue Grosbeak; a bright-blue Indigo Bunting; a Prothonotary, Prairie, Hooded, or oth-

ers of the more than 30 species of Warbler. Go look at the birds and celebrate Spring.

DONALD SWEIG, PH.D. RETIRED AFTER NEARLY 30 YEARS AS THE COUNTY HISTORIAN FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY, IS AN AVID BIRDER, NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER AND NATURALIST.

Father and Son "Together"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a born, bread and buttered Bostonian (Newton Centre, a suburb, to be specific), one of my enduring and genetic passions has been to live and die (figuratively speaking; this is not a cancer column) for The Boston Red Sox. My father sold concessions at Fenway Park (the stadium home of the Bosox since 1912), during the Depression when he was a little boy (not yet an adolescent even). He was nicknamed "Beezo," (his given name was Benet, although he was always called Barry) so he could gain full acceptance to a local knothole gang. Named after the wooden planks which surrounded the old Braves Field in Boston (a National League team called Boston its home as well back in the day), the kids ("gangs") would stand and peer through the knotholes in the wooden planks which otherwise blocked their view. It was a privilege and an honor for my father to be so connected to the game this way. He grew up loving baseball, and as a parent, he passed his love of the game on to me – and my brother.

Growing up in the suburbs, there were no planks surrounding our fields and no knotholes. The grass might have been a little thin though. It was on these fields where I played "sandlot" baseball. Close to home but miles away from Fenway Park. Here we mapped out our own base paths and used hats, gloves, coats, etc. to identify the bases, the pitcher's mound and of course, home plate. To fill out the respective teams, we often split however many kids we had into however many positions we needed filled, often with some kids playing multiple positions on both teams. Anything to get a game in. I spent many afternoons and evenings before the age of 10 practicing in this manner.

I thought I had become pretty good, too – for a kid, so when Little League tryouts were announced – for ages 9–12, I was very excited. My goal was to play baseball. My older brother had done so; now it was my turn. Unfortunately, my tryout was not very successful. I was not picked for "The Majors." I was picked by a "Minor" League team and that's where I began my career. I pitched a few games, even caught a few games, not really distinguishing myself in either endeavor. Still, about halfway through the season, I was called up to "The Majors," by the Boston Red Sox, (Little League version). I was thrilled by the selection and even more excited that I'd be playing for the Red Sox – of all teams, wearing a similar uniform and colors of my heroes at the Big League level. I chose uniform number 16; to this day, I always look to see who's wearing that number on the current Sox (Will Middlebrooks, currently) and then envision myself being in that uniform. Wearing that uniform, and hat, solidified my dream. I wanted to play for the Boston Red Sox in Fenway Park when I grew up, and for the next 10 years or so, through Little League, Junior High School, Babe Ruth League, High School; in spring, summer and fall, I pursued that dream. I tried out for my college team, but ultimately, that's where the dream ended.

Still, it was during these extremely formative years when my father and I built the foundation of our relationship: baseball. We practiced together, played catch together, attended all my games together, went to Fenway Park together, listened to games on radio together, watched games on our black & white television together, and filled up my scrapbook together; in essence, we enjoyed our life together – through baseball.

And even though the prospects of fulfilling my dream were never particularly realistic, its common pursuit by me and my father made for memories that have lasted over 50 years. My father may be gone, but he'll never be forgotten. Every time I watch a baseball game, I remember how it all began – for me, throwing a ball to my father. That was no field of dreams; that field was, and is, my reality.

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

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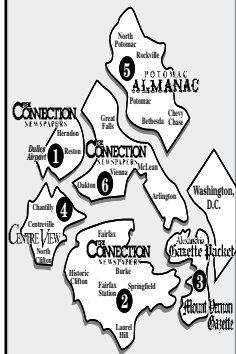
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John P Steg MD will be retiring and closing his practice of Child, Adolescent and Adult Psychiatry on June 26, 2014. Until that date he can be reached at his office at 6760 Old McLean Village Drive, McLean VA 22101 -- Phone 703-442-8116. After that date he can be contacted at his billing address: 1837 Baldwin Dr, Mclean VA 22101 -- Phone 703-893-4836.

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Vienna Idol Heats Up

Springtime in Vienna means concerts on the Town Green, festivals, outdoor sports, farmers' markets and Vienna Idol auditions. This 3rd annual Vienna Idol, a music competition founded to raise money for the Khristin Kylo "Dream Big" Memorial Fund, began its auditions in late April. Semi-finals run during ViVa! Vienna!, Sunday, May 25, on Church Street and finals take place on the Town Green, Friday, June 5.



Grace Atiyeh won the 2013 Vienna Idol competition.

Vienna Idol was created by Michael Amouri, owner of Caffe Amouri, to support the Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund. The namesake of the fund died of complications from epilepsy at the end of her first semester at Princeton University in 2010. Kylo was a James Madison High School graduate and a softball stand-out. Amouri coached Kylo at Madison in basketball.

The Khristin Kylo "Dream Big" Memorial Fund, founded three years ago by Khristin's parents Tom and Julie Kylo, awards scholarships to local high school students who epitomize Khristin's outlook, character and dreams. Money remaining after scholarship awards goes to S.U.D.E.P (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) research.

ON APRIL 2, title sponsor Whole Foods Vienna donated five percent of the day's total proceeds to the fund. Semi-finals run during ViVa! Vienna!, Sunday, May 25, on Church Street and finals take place on the Town Green, Friday, June 5. Fans of semi-finalists "vote" for the winner with donations — \$1 equals one vote. Judges contribute an assessment, as well.

In the two years since its inception, Vienna Idol has raised more than \$15,000 for the memorial fund. Amouri praised Whole Foods for its enthusiastic support of Vienna Idol.

Every audition this year has had a moment of remembrance for former mayor M. Jane Seeman who died in February. Seeman judged auditions for two years. When she introduced the first Vienna Idol on the Town Green, Seeman said, "this is what the Town Green was made for."

Amouri hopes Vienna Idol will become a town institution. "One of the cool things about Idol is that it pulls in the whole community," Amouri said. Amouri singled out project manager Celia Blalock, calling her the "conductor." She keeps the train on the tracks, he said.

E-mail igotit@viennaidol.org for audition details and dates.

TO LEARN about or to donate to the Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund, go to khristinkylomemorialfund.org.

— DONNA MANZ

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Summer Camps Education & Activities

Choosing a Summer Camp

Now is the time to register for summer camp; nearly infinite choices.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Many families with school age children will plan to have their children spend some of the much-anticipated summer season in camp. If you haven't yet selected camps for your children, now is the time.

"Popular classes and programs always fill early," said Kevin Rechen, camp director of Summer at Norwood in Potomac, Md.. "Families that are choosing a camp based on a specific program or class should register as soon as they can."

Whether you choose a traditional day camp, a specialty camp or a sleep away camp, the Washington, D.C. region has a multitude of offerings. The array of options can be overwhelming for some parents, but summer camps can be an important part of a child's development. Local child development experts say there are a few things to keep in mind when choosing for a camp.

"Summer camp is an opportunity for children to develop social skills with their peers," said Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. "Camps give the benefits of social interaction in a more relaxed setting."

When selecting a camp, there are factors that parents should keep in mind. "When parents are looking for a camp they should try to find a camp where they're comfortable with the facility, the programming and counselors and staff," said Rechen.

An array of specialty camps offer children a chance to focus on one activity. "Developmentally, as children get older they get more specialized in their skills and interests," said Gulyn. "Summer camp is an opportunity to hone in on those skills. Go with the child's interest and skills and further develop those because they are an important part of a child's identity."

Specialty camps can help children develop creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

For example, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria offers camps that include Quadcopters and Video Editing, MiKiDo Mixed Martial Arts, CSI Detective, Hunger Games, Civil War, Fantasy Battle Gaming, Filmworx Movie Making, Eco-Adventures, Junior Musical Theater, Zoology, [and] Junior Veterinarian, said Linda Stratton of SSSAS.

OTHER SPECIALTY CAMPS include cooking camps, yoga camps and sports camps that run the gamut from tennis to hockey.

"A specialty camp gives children a sense of one par-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY
Campers at Hidden Oaks Nature Center find something interesting while exploring the creek.



MADERA SCHOOL PHOTOS
Activities from summer camps held at Madeira School in McLean.

tical area for a short period of time and allows them to decide if it is something that they want to pursue long-term," said Bethesda, Md., resident Deborah Helfeld who has taught art and yoga summer camps.

At George Mason University, high school juniors and seniors will have an opportunity to attend a camp that will give them a head start on college. "It's not your parents' summer camp," said Sudha Kamath. "Mason is giving high school juniors and seniors the chance to take some rare classes for college credit, covering everything from insects that crawl underground to objects that spin through outer space."

Cathy Evans, director of special projects at George Mason University said, "Subjects include astronomy, biology, chemistry, computer science, economics, environmental science, ethics, global affairs, health behavior, history, mathematics, nutrition and public speaking. The sky's the limit as students explore topics like 'Stars, Galaxies and the Universe' and 'The Ecosphere.'"

Camp Greenway at The Madeira School offers three options for two-week camp sessions with outdoor and indoor activities, said Laura Temple, spokeswoman for school in McLean, Va. "Water sports, games, team

sports, music, arts and crafts, and MAD Science are all part of the daily action for campers."

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers camps nature camps that are designed to immerse children in the outdoors. "We want the children to connect with the world around them," said Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority. "When they leave camp, we hope that they have a deeper appreciation for the world around them for and the environment." You don't need to be a resident of Fairfax County to attend the camps, Pedersen said.

The Arlington Art Center offers summer camps for children and teens that meet daily for several sessions throughout the summer, 3550 Wilson Blvd, Arlington. Classes range from portfolio development to drawing, acrylic painting, and contemporary landscapes with oil paint.

ANOTHER OPTION is sleep away camp, which can sometimes be a nerve-wracking but rewarding experience for both a parent and a child.

How does a parent know that their child is ready for to make this leap? "It is going to vary from child to child and family to family," said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "I think if a child has spent time having sleep overs with friends and has done ok, and is independent and feels comfortable sleeping at friends' houses then it should be fine."

Garofalo suggests that the first sleep away camp experience should be brief.

"I think you want to do a shorter experience to get them ready. The first summer, send them to a four-day camp to test the waters. Their first experience should be at a camp that is close to home. Don't send them to a camp in California the first time."

An open dialog between parent and child is key. "Explain to the child that they are going to be on their own and tell them what will be expected of them," said Garofalo. "Parents can prepare their children and have an honest conversation about what will happen at the camp."

Those who think they can't afford the cost of summer camp should research financial aid options.

"Many summer camps offer financial aid and there are foundations that give grants for camps," said Rechen.

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Many Ideas for Summer Activities

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Molly McAlister enjoys the freedom of summer, but there are three words she dreads hearing: “Mom, I’m bored.” Creating activities to keep her three children busy during the summer is a task she en-

joys, but it isn’t always easy. “I love taking the kids swimming or on bike rides, but sometimes I run out of ideas,” said McAlister who lives in Centreville.

Many parents allow “screen time” to keep children happy, but it’s important to interact with them as well.

“Some parents will give their child an iPhone or an iPad to en-

tertain them,” said Michele C. Garofalo, Ed.D., assistant chair, Department of Counseling and a professor of Psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. “Interacting with children and being involved with them rather than giving them electronic activities is important. It is important for kids to figure out how to interact with their parents and friends.”

“Summer is a wonderful time for parents to get to know their kids and interact with them in a different way,” said Garofalo, who lives in McLean.

One way that families can spend quality time together is by creating art, said Dabney Cortina of the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. In addition to summer camps, McLean Project for the Arts offers family workshops where parents and children create art together. “The whole process of creating is so important to a child’s development and it’s so important to be with your children and create something together,” said Cortina.

Community service projects are a great way to spend time and help children learn during the summer.



PHOTOS BY GENE BUONACORSSI

Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture in Mount Vernon runs a camp where children from 6-11 years old get to experience life on a farm and learn about the source of their food.

“Let them spearhead a yard sale,” Garofalo said. “Kids gather the items, make flyers and put the flyers in everyone’s mailbox. They can donate the money to charity so you can tie in a service project.”

For families who want to spend time outdoors, Len Annetta, Ph.D. Professor in the College of Education and Human Development at George Mason University suggests

the Manassas National Battlefield Park. The park, which is home to more than 160 species of birds, has been recognized National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area.

“Our area has so much history,” said Annetta. “Most of these place don’t cost money but can immerse students in something educational, which is really critical.”



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