

The Great Falls Writer's Group members participating in the first-ever anthology available at the Great Falls Book Festival on May 2. In the top row: Michael Cappitelli, Kathleen Murphy, J. Robert DiFulga, Joe Reynolds, Kristin Clark Taylor, Craig Gralley, Ray Rollins, Esther Eacho, Pat Britz, and Coty Dickson. In the middle row: Myrna Stuart, Bans Gill, Mary Dacoba, Merrill Lishan, Patricia Attikisson, Laurie Bell, and Nancy Hannan. In the front row are Christina Tyler Wenks and Michelle Miller.

Great Falls CONNECTION

Great Falls to Host Book Festival

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Large White Oak saplings are trucked in Great Falls for planting in 2014.



Jack Clark puts the finishing touches on planting a White Oak in front of the Great Falls Library last year.

Legacy White Oak Project

Great Falls seeks to restore a thinning legacy.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) has dug into its new goal of planting 15 more white oaks this spring around the library, Colvin Run Mill, Riverbend Park, Nike Park, Turner Farm, Grange and Lockmead Park.

"The white oaks are native to where we live. When you drive around Great Falls and McLean and you see a really huge tree, there is a 90 percent chance what you are seeing is a white oak," said Bill Canis, vice president of Great Falls Citizens Association. "They are majestic giant trees. They live to be 200 to 250 years old."

Last year, during the first year of the Legacy White Oak Project, GFCA raised enough money to plant 17 white oaks around Great Falls, including the library, parks, and Smith Chapel United Methodist Church.

"Oaks in particular are very valuable. They are huge and beautiful and fascinating," said Candace Campbell, who donated a tree to be planted at Colvin Run Mill last year.

"It's probably the most majestic tree we have. We have some people in Great Falls dedicated to the issue," said Wes Callender, who donated to the program and to planting of white oaks last year. "I wanted to help as a donor because it is an opportunity to leave a bit of a legacy behind us with the white oak. This is a legacy tree that could be around for the next 200 years."

THE WHITE OAK is considered the king of east coast trees because of its potential to grow into a very large, strong tree, according to Canis. "They are a legacy from our rural past," he said.

"I see it as a critical thing in preserving



Bob and Marjorie Lundegard with George Benza, who is the owner and manager of SGB Landscaping.



A huge tree on Beach Mill Road in Great Falls is one of three similar white oaks trees there, no doubt part of the old schoolyard when that little house was a one-room school house way out in the country.

Resources for Your Trees

❖ Fairfax Tree Stewards

The Virginia Urban Forest Council sponsors this statewide program. Fairfax Tree Stewards are a core of volunteers working to improve and protect Fairfax County's tree canopy. Training classes cover basic tree biology and physiology, tree identification, planting, maintenance and more. www.ffxtreestewards.org

❖ Fairfax County Tree Commission

promotes tree preservation and conservation within the county, helps implement the Tree Action Plan, selects celebrated trees of Fairfax County, solicits and selects nominees for Friends of Trees Awards, solicits and selects nominees for tree preservation and planting awards and organizes tree forums to educate citizens about urban forests. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trees/treecommission

❖ Fairfax County Master Gardeners

offer free advice on caring for plants, vegetables

and lawns and can provide gardening fact sheets and soil test kits to guide homeowners to a successful home landscape. Master Gardeners are available to speak at workshops. www.fairfaxmga.org
Help Desk: 703-324-8556

Virginia Cooperative Extension

www.ext.vt.edu

Great Falls Citizens Association

www.gfca.org

McLean Citizens Association

www.mcleancitizens.org

Urban Forest Management Division

703-324-1770

Department of Planning and Zoning

"What's Going on in My Neighborhood"

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/faqs/myneighborhood.htm

Land Development System

Site plans, grading plans, waivers and zoning records.

<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/>

Brooks Farm

The Great Falls Citizens Association's Land Use and Zoning Committee and the Environment, Parks and Trails meeting will co-host a session to look at environmental issues at Brooks Farm.

The meeting is scheduled for April 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Library. Brooks Farm is proposed to be rezoned with cluster development. The program will feature Fairfax County officials from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Health Department and Dept. of Planning & Zoning speaking about storm water management, wells and septic, environmental quality corridors and Resource Protection Areas (RPAs), all of which come into play in the Brooks Farm rezoning application. Speakers will address both broad county environmental policies and specific considerations concerning the Brooks Farm application.

our history, preserving the tree canopy, keeping the area attractive area for people and the environment," said Bob Lundegard, another donor to the program.

But people don't often plant them when redeveloping, because homeowners and developers may choose quicker growing, flowering trees.

"The white oak was beginning to disappear," said Callender. "They aren't being replaced and people are putting in trees that grow quickly at the edge of the canopy."

In 2014, the Great Falls Citizens Association, in conjunction with Fairfax County, initiated a program to ensure that future generations know the beauty of these giant trees.

"I feel like Great Falls is losing so much of its legacy especially along Georgetown Pike," Campbell said. "I don't want Georgetown Pike to look like Rockville Pike."

Sites at the Grange will be available in spring 2015.

Great Falls Citizens Association and county staff have carefully chosen planting

SEE PRESERVING, PAGE 5



WE CHANGE LIVES

Maybe it really is you. Maybe you really don't belong in a "gym."

Many people just don't do well in a typical big box gym. Those gyms are too big, there is nobody to help you, and it's easy to get lost in the sea of people already in shape.

It is hard to get serious about fitness when you feel like you don't belong at the gym, when you feel like nobody really cares about you after you join.

But fitness might be the most important thing to living a healthy life. Being healthy makes you a happier person, a better parent, employee, partner or spouse. Fitness is the key to getting involved in life. You can choose to fully embrace your own fitness life, or you can watch other people living theirs. Only YOU can decide to change your life and body when you are ready.

At Koko, we understand all of this, which is why our company was founded over a decade ago. We are the small, alternative fitness choice that exists for people who feel they don't fit into that impersonal big box fitness center.

If you like lots of help and guidance, then we are for you. If you like a small, comfortable place to work out with people just like you, then Koko is your gym. If other gyms have failed you and you felt lost in the crowd, we are here to make sure that this time -- with personal guidance and the proven Koko training methodology -- you will succeed.

Don't take our word for it, come see us for yourself. We offer a full 30-day membership, including full access to our training and coaching programs, for only \$30. Come experience what makes Koko so special. Meet our clients and our staff, and give us a chance to prove that this time you will succeed.

Fitness has to be part of your life; it shapes the way you live today and how you'll look and feel tomorrow. If you have failed before in fitness, remember that there is a place here in our community that is truly different and willing to prove it to you. This time, it is all about you. This time, you will change your life.

Yours in fitness,
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*Some restrictions may apply. See club for details.

Koko is all about family for us... it was my 17 year old who begged me to give it a try. I loved it at first because it was easy to fit into my schedule and was something fun for me



to do with my teenager. Now I love KOKO because I see the results and I feel so much better. KOKO is just a part of my life. KOKO is like no other fitness experience. It's not a regular gym (thank God -- no mirrors!). And it is an easy way to fit exercise into your schedule without it being a drag. I actually like working out now which was certainly not the case before. KOKO is fun because it challenges you individually, is efficient and gets results! I recommended it to my neighbors and now they're KOKO Nuts too!

~ Leesa Donner, Great Falls

I previously belonged to three other gyms in Reston, and I had never made it a full year before my attendance dropped off. With Koko, however, I recently passed my two year anniversary and am still going strong. I love that I can get a full body workout every time in less than an hour.

The cardio and strength workouts continue to push me to work harder than I ever did on my own at previous gyms. As a result, I'm in the best shape of my adult life. And the desire to keep feeling this healthy and strong keeps me coming back. Thanks Koko!

~ Watt H., Reston, VA

There is absolutely no way I would achieve what I do at this club ANYWHERE else. I've lost over 15 lbs, my blood pressure is lower, and I am looking and feeling better than I have in 10 years!



~ Scott Kreitz

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Preserving Great Falls Trees

FROM PAGE 3

sites so they are not under power lines and are in open spaces where the trees can mature and reach their full size and grandeur.

"The white oak tree attracts hundreds of species of insects and birds," Canis said. When farmers cleared the land, they often left white oaks in their farmyards and along roadways to mature into very large and elegant shade trees, said Canis, of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

"Oaks in particular are very valuable," said Campbell.

Large white oaks are often venerated: in Maryland the Wye Oak was declared the largest white oak in the country, and a state park established around it. In the last ten years, Great Falls has lost nearly all of the large white oaks that once populated the village area. These two-hundred-year-old sentinels marked the community's rural past as much as historic homes and byways, said Canis. "They are a legacy from our rural past," he said.

"If we don't start planting trees to replace them, it's going to get even uglier," said Campbell.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Large White Oak saplings ready for planting in Great Falls last year.

THE COST of the tree, the planting, mulching, taking and watering by local landscaping company SGB is \$435; the county uses a different landscaper on county parkland.

Lundegard even purchased one to plant in his yard last year. "We look at them every day. They are forming buds right now," he said.

For more information, contact GFCA Vice President Bill Canis at bcanis@yahoo.com.

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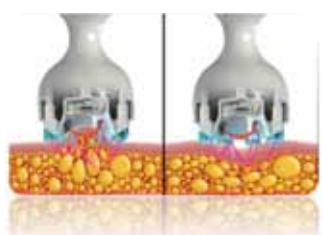
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REAL ESTATE

Signs of Positive Market Conditions

First quarter 2015 looking up for real estate in McLean and Great Falls.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The first quarter 2015 in McLean and Great Falls is up almost 10 percent overall in terms of number of sales in comparison to the previous time frame in 2014. This is good news for the market area as 2014 was down over 2013 in number of sales overall by 8.2 percent.

The chart provided breaks out sales for both areas into the upper brackets which is considered over \$1.25 million and the lower brackets which is below \$1.25 million. Delving deeper into the data, it reveals that the lower price points were the ones that experienced the greatest increase in number of sales.

This is a significant development and could have occurred for several reasons. It is showing that the



entry level home buyers have come back or in the case of the Millennial Generation this may be their first home. The next price range up is typically the first level move up home owner. That person

now with confidence can put their home on the market and be assured it should sell quickly for a strong price so that they are in a position to move up. There still remains low supply relative to demand and until that gets in line, these numbers may not be as strong as could possibly be achieved. Good homes priced correctly for the current market sold quickly and in some cases with multiple offers.

One of the factors contributing to the low supply of inventory is that new home builders who sat out during the recent recession have entered back into the mar-

ket looking to purchase lots and land. Much of the development in the inner Washington, DC suburbs of McLean and Great Falls is in-fill. This type of development occurs by tearing down an older existing home for the land value. When that scenario happens there is less available for owners that would buy the home to live in. These scenarios actually can be healthy signs of recovery for the lower bracket price point but can also make it challenging for a first time homeowner to buy.

The two upper brackets categories in McLean and Great Falls ex-

perienced sales in first quarter 2015 just a bit behind that of first quarter 2014. The market segment that softened is the one in the middle. Perhaps it is being "squeezed" by the upper brackets being flat in terms of growth and the lower brackets increasing.

The prediction for 2015 is that it should behave in similar fashion to 2013, which was a positive year in terms of both number of sales and price recovery. Last year was a bit of a blip, but this year all signs are for positive market conditions.

Contact: www.HBCRealtyGroup.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCRealtyGroup.com.

McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales

1ST QTR. 2015 COMPARED TO 1ST QTR. 2014

(Based on Final Closed Price)

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$1.25 Mil.	<\$750k
1ST QTR. 2014					
22101	1	5	21	33	16
22102	0	3	4	8	42
22066	0	1	7	12	3
Total	1	9	32	53	61
Combined Total		42			114

ALL SALES 1ST QTR. 2014 : 156

1ST QTR. 2015					
22101	1	5	13	39	10
22102	0	3	7	13	43
22066	0	3	7	22	5
Total	1	11	27	74	58
Combined Total		39			132

ALL SALES 1ST QTR. 2015: 171

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Girl Scouts to Host Diabetes Awareness Event

Great Falls Girl Scout Troop 778 is working on earning their Silver Award this year. On Saturday, April 11, they will be hosting a Diabetes Awareness Walk which will feature a one-mile walk, fun games and activities, and live music by Brandon Diaz, an 18-year-old singer, pianist, and guitarist from Ashburn, Va. who has been seen on The X Factor and The Voice. Join them April 11 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1133 Reston Avenue, Herndon, from 4 - 5:30 p.m., to show your support and learn more about Type 1 Diabetes. Cost is \$5 per person if received by April 10 at 11509 Saunders Haven Court, Great Falls, VA 22066, or \$10 the day of the event. Make checks payable to Troop 778. Funds raised will be used to make care packages to be given to newly diagnosed diabetics.

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How to Detect Telephone Scam

There are many telephone scams going around at this time, it would be nearly impossible to list them all. However, here are some tips and tricks to figure out if it's really a scam or not:

*If your financial institution calls you claiming there is fraudulent activity on your account, hang up and call the number on the back of your credit/debit card to verify. Explain you received a call from them indicating there is suspicious activity on your account. You can now be sure you are talking to your bank and not a scammer.

*If you get an email from a credit card company and you do not have an account with that company, do not call the number in the email and do not click on any of the links in the email. Find the company's general customer service number via their website/internet search and call to verify the information.

*If you receive a phone call from the IRS, it's a scam. The IRS will only communicate with you via mail regarding taxes/past due accounts.

*If someone calls you claiming they are from a law enforcement agency saying you must pay a fee over the phone/wire money to avoid arrest, hang up and call the agency in question. Fairfax County Police Department does not collect fines/fees.

*Telephone scammers have been

known to get hostile and rude on the phone. Another red flag the call you are on is most likely a scam.

*Before offering any money via telephone, phone a friend. Discussing things over with a friend may help you see the situation is in fact a scam.

*Never give anyone personal information over the phone unless you called the company you have an account with!

*Routinely check your credit/debit account statements. If you see any questionable transactions, call your financial institution immediately. Monitor your credit report.

*If it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.

*Register your phone numbers on the Do Not Call Registry! <https://www.donotcall.gov/> Be aware, it can take up to 30 days to add your number to the registry.

If you have any elderly friends or family, encourage them to reach out to you if they get a scam phone call. All too often our seniors are falling victim to these scams.

For more information on telephone scams, visit <http://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0076-phone-scams#Signs> and for scams affecting seniors, visit <http://www.ncoa.org/enhance-economic-security/economic-security-Initiative/savvy-saving-seniors/top-10-scams-targeting.html>

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OPINION

A Big Election Year in Virginia

Register, research,
vote. And vote again.

EDITORIAL

Every year is an election year in Virginia.

Here are a few examples that demonstrate that while elections are ubiquitous in Virginia, they are neither simple nor unimportant. Wade in, a lot depends on figuring this out and voting. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of candidates.

The choices begin April 23.

Almost every state and local elected office in Virginia will be in play. Democrats will choose their candidates in the primary on June 9. Republicans will choose candidates for individual offices at caucuses, firehouse primaries and conventions, beginning April 23 and finishing by June 9.

For example, the Republican candidate for Sully District supervisor will be chosen in a firehouse primary on Saturday, April 25 at Westfield High School, with three candidates seeking the nomination to replace retiring Michael Frey. The three candidates are Brian Schoeneman, John Guevara and John Litzenberger, and the winner will likely face Democrat Cathy Smith on Nov. 3. Smith is vacating her Sully District School Board seat to run for Sully District supervisor.

This year's elections begin May 5 with elections in the Town of Vienna with three candidates vying for three positions on the Vienna Town Council. For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm>.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, all 10 members of the Board of Supervisors are on the ballot includ-

ing district members and the chairman. Also on the ballot: all members of the School Board including district members and three at-large members; Constitutional Officers Sheriff, Clerk of Court and Commonwealth's Attorney; and three members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Board Directors.

Every seat in the Virginia General Assembly will be on the ballot, including all State Senate and House of Delegates seats. With several key retirements, including Del. Rob Krupicka (D), Del. Tom Rust (R) and Sen. Toddy Puller (D), it's clear that there will be some change. Del. Scott Surovell (D) will give up his seat to run for Puller's Senate seat, so the musical chairs continue.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON
TWITTER @MARYKIMM

On the Banks of Bull Run 150 Years Ago

BY PAUL GILBERT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NOVA PARKS

One hundred and fifty years ago, on the same day General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Fairfax County witnessed the last gun battle of the war.

Just five months earlier, Confederate Colonel John Mosby had been authorized to expand his force that had effectively harassed the Federal forces around Washington. On Saturday, April 8, half of Mosby's force left Upperville on a mission to attack a train on its way to Alexandria. On Sunday, April 9, the same day Generals Lee and Grant were meeting to sign the Confederates' surrender, the Southern

Rangers were nearing Burke where they were going to attack the train station. At this time, the Federal forces at Fairfax Station heard of Mosby's forces and sent the 11th Illinois Cavalry under Captain Warner to intercept them.

For four or five miles, the two groups engaged in a galloping fight. Once they formed into battle lines against each other, but the rest of the time Union Cavalry chased Mosby's Rangers towards Bull Run, the stream that served as an informal dividing line between the Fairfax County that was under Federal control, and Prince William and Loudoun Counties that were less secure from a Union perspective.

Mosby's forces crossed the stream at Wolf Run Shoals in the Clifton area, and the Union

forces did not chase them any farther.

The next day, two of Mosby's Rangers who had been involved in this fight were talking and Lieutenant James Wiltshire remarked, "has it never struck you as being a notable fact that the first big fight of the war occurred on Bull Run and the last shots of the war in Virginia were fired on the banks of that same stream?" The bookends to the Civil War in Virginia that Wiltshire was referring to was the First Battle of Manassas, and this last fight in Fairfax County the day that Lee was surrendering 150 miles away.

Today NOVA Parks owns most of the Fairfax County side of the Bull Run and Occoquan rivers, an area rich in history.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Failing Those Most in Need

To the Editor:

My name is Maurine Houser and I am writing in response to your article ["Moving: From Institution to Community"] printed on April 2 regarding the Northern Virginia Training Center.

I am the younger sister and guardian of my 57-year-old brother Kim Houser. Until recently, he resided at the Northern Virginia Training Center. Kim is non-verbal, non-ambulatory without assistance, has the cognitive ability of a nine month old and is medically fragile.

Your article states that the state Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services has provided a multitude of commu-



CONTRIBUTED
Kim Houser

nity placement options for family members. However, it has been my experience and others that the placements offered are inappropriate and do not have the skills or supports necessary for the medically disabled and behaviorally challenged population remaining at the Northern Virginia Training Center to survive. Not only are the placements unrealistic, they are not in Northern Virginia. My brother was offered placements in Williamsburg and Petersburg, Va., that were not in line with the standards of care suitable for him. My other alternative was to allow the State of Virginia to relocate Kim to the Central Virginia Training Center in Lynchburg, Va., which the state intends on closing in 2020 and ulti-

mately start the process of discharge all over again.

I came to realize unless I was proactive on behalf of my brother, his future would be severely compromised. Through my own research and efforts, I connected with Good Neighbor Community Services who are now caring for my brother in Spotsylvania, Va. The discharge process was extensive, cumbersome and extremely emotional. None of the professionals could predict the future of the Medicaid Waiver, which is now my brother's source of funding, nor anticipate how he would react to a new home, staff and routine. The discharge process encompassed a seven-month period; including but not limited to 20 state employees.

I feel fortunate I have found a provider that will take good care of my brother. However, I fear that the remaining residents will not be so lucky. How can moving

someone's severely disabled child hundreds of miles away not be in violation of the American with Disabilities Act? The populations at the training centers are aging and many individuals have elderly parents who will be unable to see their children due to travel constraints. Similarly, Virginia remains glaringly non-compliant with the U.S. Department of Justice's findings as highlighted by the increase of individuals waiting for Medicaid Waiver funds and services. The process of deinstitutionalization in theory may work for most individuals but for those who are the 1 percent a hasty, underfunded, unsupported process will result in catastrophe as did the rapid deinstitutionalization and nonexistent funding for the mentally ill.

Maurine Houser
Reston

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

**1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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McLean Community Center 2015 Governing Board Elections

The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote **for members of the McLean Community Center 2015-2016 Governing Board**. Your vote sends a very important message of your support of the Center's programs and services.

Requirements to Vote:

1. You must be a resident of the McLean Community Center tax district (Dranesville Small District 1A); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old to vote for an adult candidate. Adults may vote for up to three candidates.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old by McLean Day to vote for youth candidates. Youth voters have two votes, and may vote for one candidate in the McLean High School boundary area, and one candidate in the Langley High School boundary area. Youth voters may not vote for more than one candidate in the same boundary area.
4. You must bring identification and proof of residency, such as a driver's license. If you do not have identification, you may sign a sworn statement.

Absentee Voting:

Want to vote, but can't make it to the McLean Day festival on May 16? Vote by absentee ballot! Call the Center or send a request by email to "elections@mcleancenter.org" to have a ballot package sent to your home. Or, stop by the center and pick up an absentee ballot package. Completed ballot packages must be received by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 13**, to be counted.

Write-in candidates are allowed.

Write-in candidates must have at least 10 votes from 10 residents of the Center's tax district in order to have their votes counted. For youth write-in candidates, the 10 votes must come from teens who live within the same high school boundary area as the candidate.

When & Where:

Vote between the hours of **10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.** at the McLean Day 2015 festival on **Saturday, May 16**, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

Meet the Candidates

Youth Candidates—Two Positions Open

McLean High School Area



JENNA LEBOWITZ

Living in McLean, I have been fortunate to grow up in such a safe and nurturing environment. As the second oldest of six children, I have always been a natural leader, role model and have held many responsibilities. Along with this, I have sought out other leadership opportunities in my community, such as a McLean Youth Basketball Coach this year. Also, I started a program that raises money to provide the McLean High School Special Education department with musical instruments. I am excited for this opportunity to represent the youth of my community and make McLean an even better place!



RAHUL MANI

Growing up in McLean has been a wonderful experience and I would be honored to have an opportunity to serve as a youth liaison at the MCC. I'm a rising junior at McLean High School. I'm an honor-roll student-athlete, playing high school football and McLean house basketball. I'm also a National Guild pianist. I have volunteered at the county library, and MPAart-fest. I work with Room to Read, a non-profit aiming to improve gender equality and literacy around the world. I am committed to use the MCC forum to express the ideas of the youth and help improve our community.

Langley High School Area



QUENTIN LEVIN

I run not merely to take office, but to make MCC a better organization. I vow to spread MCC's explorative spirit and goodwill throughout McLean, because community makes us who we are. As class president, debate team leader, and contributing journalist, I know how to listen. Because we all know the tragic results of epidemic stress, I'll push programs that support stress management. I firmly believe life must be lived to its fullest. I'll apply this principle to every endeavor as we open the arts to new eyes, have fun, and explore our deepest passions. McLean's future is our future!



TARUN KAMATH

I am a junior currently attending TJHSST. I have lived in McLean for over 10 years, and have served on the Governing Board for the past year. I also do volunteer work around the community. I participated in the annual flea market and tutored at my local elementary school. I also participate in Policy Debate, which specializes in the discussion of the pros and cons of policy making, a skill I hope to utilize on the MCC. I am committed to use MCC forum to help in getting schools involved in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics projects and competitions.

For more detailed information visit our website.

Meet the Candidates

Adult Candidates—Three Positions Open



SUSAN BOURGEOIS

As a Governing Board Member of the McLean Community Center ("MCC") for the last six years, I am pleased to be running for a third term. As Capital Facilities Committee Chair and Vice Chair of the Board for the last two years, I have led the expansion and renovation efforts of MCC's main campus from an idea to a reality. With re-election, I would continue work to ensure its completion, while being on time and on budget. McLean resident for 16 years, married to Mark, three teenagers, startling fact: recently ran my first 5K in 23 years.
susanvbourgeois@gmail.com



MERRILY PIERCE

As a 40-year resident of McLean, I am a regular user of the McLean Community Center. I'm running for the Board as a way of giving back to this community. I'm a retired employee of Fairfax County. As a former president of the McLean Citizens Association (MCA), I have worked with residents to help resolve issues involving the Center, library, and McLean Central Park. If elected as your MCC Board member for the next three years, I will listen to your suggestions and respect your tax dollars that support the Center while advancing its mission. Thank you for your vote.



JENNIFER ROSSMAN

My family and I are proud to call McLean home. I'm currently a full-time mom and community volunteer serving on hospital and academic boards. My education and professional experience working with non-profit organizations would be an asset to the MCC Governing Board. I believe that those entrusted with the stewardship of tax dollars and community resources have a responsibility to ensure those resources are invested in ways that show value and enrich the communities they serve. My parents set an amazing example of active civic engagement and community service – an example that I strive to set for my young son.



LAURELIE WALLACE

It has been an honor to serve as a Member of the McLean Community Center Governing Board for the past three years. During my term, I have been Chair of the Program and Elections committees and also served on the Communications and Capital Facilities committees. McLean is my hometown. I was born and raised here. Now that I am older, I want to give back to the place that has given me so much. McLean has evolved over the years and I want it to continue to be as special to future generations as it has been for me.



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HomeLifeStyle

D.C. Design House

McLean showcase home opens to the public April 12.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Local interior design enthusiasts will have an opportunity to tour a much-anticipated unveiling this weekend when the 2015 Design House opens in McLean on Sunday, April 12 at noon, with ticket sales benefiting the Children's National Health System.

The 8,869-square-foot home was built by Artisan Builders and designed by Harrison Design to look like an old American farmhouse. Then, 24 local designers were chosen to design a room in the home — the eighth annual design house — using inspiration that ran the gamut from American art to the home's natural surroundings. Organizers hope the varied styles will make the home's design appear to have evolved over many years.

THE KITCHEN was designed by Paul Lobkovich and Emily Neifeld, of Lobkovich Kitchen Designs in Tysons Corner. Antique white walls accented by a custom hood in both black and stainless steel create a simple,

but elegant gathering space.

If this kitchen is the hub of a home's activities, then the butler's pantry is where the preparation for those celebrations begins. That notion was the inspiration for Margery Wedderburn's design. "This butler's pantry is the celebration of a good life," said Wedderburn, of Margery Wedderburn Interiors, LLC in Vienna. "One enters the heart of the home, the kitchen and family room, through this butler's pantry, so the room is casually elegant, but doesn't take itself too seriously. It is happy, bright and fun.

"This home was designed to have a country farmhouse feeling, and we were inspired by the architecture plus the Virginia countryside," she said, explaining that nature was also a big inspiration. "We have the casual green leaf wallpaper, plus we designed a custom, faux-wallpaper on the ceiling which looks just like repurposed wood. We bring the outdoors in with the green and blue tones of the space, including the fun peacock color, which ties in with our peacock feathers in the umbrella stand."

Even the chandelier is peacock, and the Sisal rug features blue stenciling, while

green and blue stripes on the back of the closet tie everything together. Meanwhile, accessories give the space a contemporary feel. "Because this area of McLean is so cosmopolitan, we wanted to give a nod with stylish, hip vases, barware and details that move the space forward into the next decade while complimenting the past," said Wedderburn.

Another active hub of the home is the back stair hallway, which connects all three floors. Although it's windowless, designer David Benton's goal was to create a warm, welcoming and stylish space. "Using furniture, lighting and accents, we visually divided the hall into two zones," said Benton of RA Spaces, the interior division of Rill Architects in Potomac, Md. Benton even created a "virtual window" with a commissioned painting, "Old Dominion Sky."

The first-floor space is accented with a custom, tufted bench and unexpected pops of color to create a formal space between the butler's pantry and dining room. "The hall space that connects the garage, mudroom and kitchen is anchored by a console table and wool rug," said Benton.



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER/D.C. DESIGN HOUSE

The 2015 D.C. Design House opens to the public on Sunday, April 12.

Open shelving and a built-in desk offer additional display areas. Benton finished the space with a chandelier by Circa Lighting and photo art. Those accessories "deliver fresh takes on period furnishing," said Benton. "The classic Eames bright blue fiberglass shell chair introduces an unexpected Americana twist."

One of the design challenges Benton faced on the second floor was creating an aesthetically appealing area rather than a simple connection between two spaces. He decided to transform the walls into a dramatic backdrop using wallpaper by Cole and Son that features silhouetted stems of cow parsley against an etched background.

"Like the house, which feels like it has been added to over time, we wanted the interior to feel like an acquired collection of pieces," said Benton. "The useful storage bench and custom sweater rug give the space warmth and style. The fun and inexpensive swag light is another way we added flair and utility."

INSPIRED BY A SAILING TRIP through the fjords of New Zealand and by the bright oil-on-canvas painting, "Mountains and Sea," designer Lisa Tureson, of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill, created a powder room that she said resembles "a little art gallery." Tureson hung a custom, hand-etched mir-

D.C. Design House

956 Mackall Farm Lane, McLean, Va., will be open to the public starting Sunday, April 12, noon-5 p.m.

❖ **Regular Hours:** Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Thursday evenings 5-8 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, noon-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. (Visitors must arrive one-half hour before closing time to take the tour.)

❖ **Last day:** Sunday, May 10, noon-5 p.m.

❖ **Admission:** \$30. Purchase tickets at www.dcdesignhouse.com or at the door.

ror and eight paintings in the space. "My goal was to create a pictorial space since I'm an artist and painter," she said. "The subtle sparkle on the walls ... adds pizzazz."

When designing the room known as the gentleman's retreat, Scott Cooke, of Scott Cooke Design in Alexandria, wanted to "honor the architecture of the house itself, with a room that's rustic in nature, and that feels in sync with the time period the house evokes," he said.

From the wooden poster bed and canopy to the rug and art, Cooke used neutral hues throughout the room. He drew inspiration from the home of the late fashion designer Bill Blass, which was, "done in a monochromatic color story ranging from white and parchment, to caramel, chocolate, espresso and black," said Cooke.

Transforming this grand house into a home was a mammoth undertaking, but one designers say was well worth the effort.

"It is an honor to be a part of this amazing group of designers," said Wedderburn. "The great thing about the group is that everyone is wonderful and helpful to each other. There is a special camaraderie here and we are all drawing inspiration off each other."

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The Pothole Picture

Two “p”s become prominent and problematic this time of year: pollen and potholes. The Virginia Department of Transportation can at least do something about the latter, if not the former.

“One of the busiest times for filling is right as the winter ends,” Virginia Department of Transportation spokesperson Jennifer McCord said in an email. “The constant freeze and thaw throughout the winter usually results in a burst of potholes.”

According to McCord, state maintenance crews and contractors have already filled over 25,000 potholes in Northern Virginia; Virginia is on pace to match its total of around 146,000 filled last year statewide.

Repairing potholes fall under the \$256 million Northern Virginia maintenance program, which also includes grass mowing, patching, paving and snow removal. That program covers most roads in Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William Counties, as well as interstates and primary roads in Arlington.

Citizens can report an existing pothole or file a claim if their vehicle was damaged as a result of encountering one. The Virginia Department of Transportation customer service line, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is 800-367-7623 (ROAD), while the



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Virginia Department of Transportation estimates about 25,000 potholes have been repaired in Northern Virginia so far in 2015.

website for reporting a problem is www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp.

Claim-processing time can be lengthy, McCord said, as the claims department must examine factors such as whether or not the pothole in question was already scheduled for repair and if there was reasonable time for the repair to occur.

For more information about pothole repair, visit www.virginiadot.org/info/faq-potholes.asp.

— TIM PETERSON

PHOTO GALLERY!

“Me and My Mom”

To honor Mom on Mother’s Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother’s Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what’s going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Great Falls Connection, “Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,” 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

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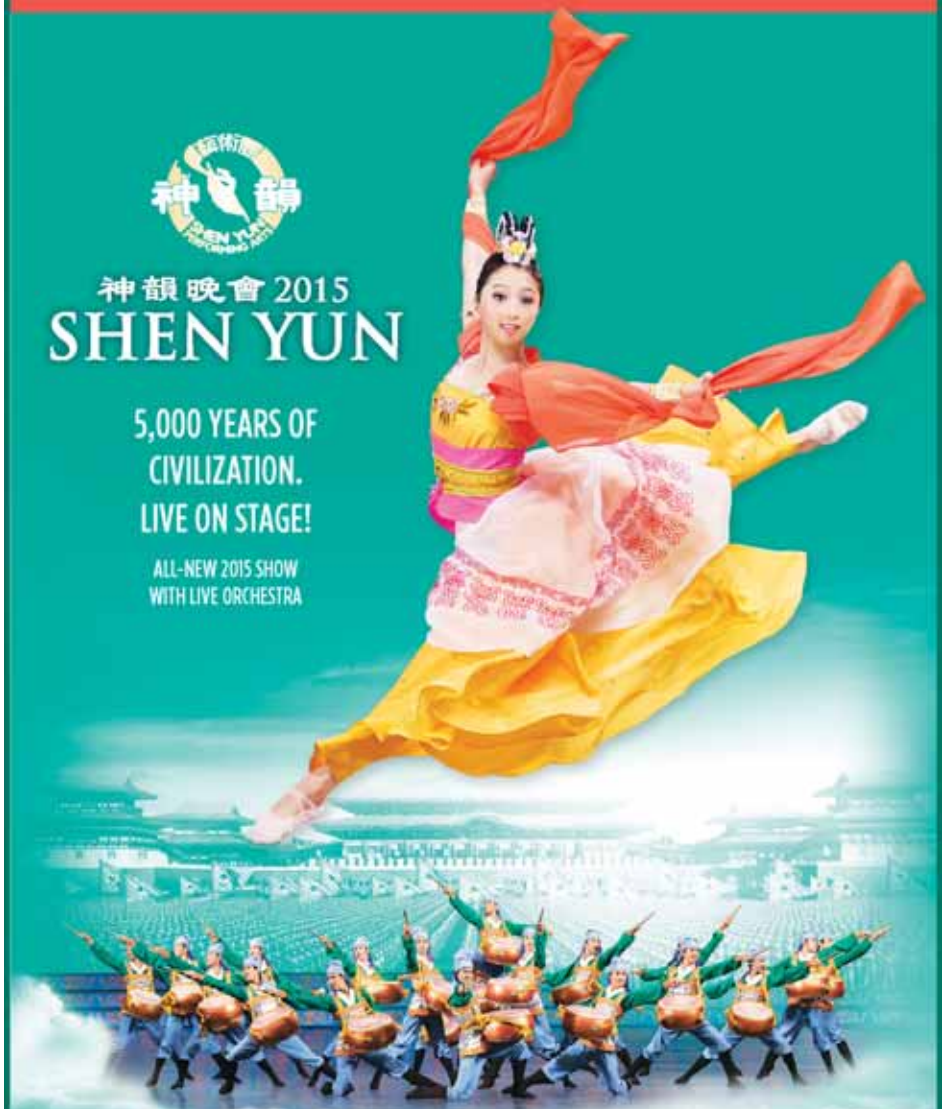
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Book Festival Brings Out Creativity

“An Evening with the Authors,” first-ever Great Falls festival to be held May 2.

BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

Fifteen local authors representing many genres unite for “An Evening with the Authors” to discuss their recently published books and how and why they journeyed into writing. Their books will be available for signing from 7 to 9 p.m. on May 2 at the Great Falls Library.

This is the second year for the annual “Evening with the Authors,” co-sponsored by the Great Falls Writer’s Group (GFWG) and the Great Falls Library, but it is one of three events of the first-ever Great Falls Book Festival, which grew out of the popular book-signing event. The book festival fills out the day with a publishing panel in the morning and a children’s writing event in the early afternoon when winners of the first GFWG Youth Creative Writing Contest will be announced. (See related stories for details about daytime book festival events.)

“We’re adding a few new sparks; pulling the community together in a way that encourages dialogue and celebrates creative excellence. The flame is already there. We’re simply feeding the fire,” says Kristin Clark Taylor, author, journalist, former White House communications strategist and founder of the Great Falls Writer’s Group.

THE “EVENING WITH THE AUTHORS” — the flagship of the Great Falls Book Festival — will offer yet another first: an anthology of essays written by the GFWG members that will be available.

Authors signing their works include Rob Blackwell, whose urban fantasy “A Soul to Steal” provides supernatural suspense.

Austin S. Camacho’s “Beyond Blue” and John Wren’s “Darryl’s Reunion” satiate readers of mystery.

Terence Kuch’s “Try Try Again” is dark, unexpected fiction.

The paranormal romance Feral Warrior series continues with best-selling author Pamela Palmer’s “Wulfe Untamed.”

Ayesha Shoulders sprinkles message throughout her fiction in “When It’s Time to Walk” and “When Love’s Knot Enough.”

Tested relationships come from the pen of best-selling author Susan Coll’s fiction “The Stager” set in suburban Washington, D.C.

Laura Malone Elliott’s works “Under a War-Torn Sky,” and its new companion “Across A War-tossed Sea” are inspired by history, but also inspire young readers.

Rebecca Glenn paints her way into historical fiction with her debut, “Becoming Lisette.”

Humor fills the pages of Kimberly “Kimba” Dalferes “I Was in Love with a Short Man Once And Other Tales from a Crazy, Southern Irish Gal.”

Bill Lewers puts personal passions on paper in “A Voter’s Journey,” and “Six Decades of Baseball: A Personal Narrative.”



Austin Camacho



Ayesha Shoulders



Bill Lewers



Courtney Pippin-Mathur



Kimberly “Kimba” Dalferes



Laura Malone Elliott



Lynne Beverly Strang



Robert Blackwell



Rebecca Glenn



Stephen Miller



Susan Coll



Terence Kuch

“We’re adding a few new sparks; pulling the community together in a way that encourages dialogue and celebrates creative excellence. The flame is already there. We’re simply feeding the fire.”

—Kristin Clark Taylor, founder of the Great Falls Writer’s Group

Stephen Miller’s “Walking New York: Reflections of American Writers from Walt Whitman to Teju Cole” maps the Big Apple through experiences of writers.

Anne Speckhard’s works span political science, psychology and children’s genres with “Talking to Terrorists,” “Undercover Jihadi,” “Warrior Princess,” “Fetal Abduction,” and “Timothy Tottle’s Terrific Dream.”

Children’s frowns might turn upside-down with Courtney Pippin-Mathur’s “Maya was Grumpy.”

Lynne Beverly Strang’s “Late-Blooming Entrepreneurs: Eight Principles for Starting a Business After Age 40” answers questions about beginning and building a business.

“I always enjoy gathering at events with other writers — the camaraderie, the mutual support, and fascinating conversations about their various projects are energizing.” About her neighbors, Elliot says, “Great Falls has become such a ‘colony’ for artistic input, both in visual arts and literature and nonfiction writing.”

PERSONS WHO ATTEND the book-signing evening may discuss the writing process with these local, published authors from whom they may find inspiration to start and/or finish their own books.

“When I started the GFWG in August 2013, the fact that we so quickly became a cohesive, comfortable ‘writing family’ proved to me that people are not only thirsty to write, but thirsty to talk about, explore and compare notes about the writing process itself,” says Taylor. “So much of a writer’s life is spent behind closed doors, isolated within the context of their own, creative thoughts, which is precisely why a group like this is vital and necessary.”

A wine and cheese reception begins at 7 p.m., with the program beginning promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Local Writers Combine Perspectives About Time in First-Ever Group Anthology

En masse, Great Falls Writer’s Group (GFWG) members put pens to paper for the group’s first published work, “Passages On Time.” The collaborative effort is being published this week and will be available at the first Great Falls Book Festival on Saturday, May 2.

Writers were asked to reflect about their relationships with time. Perspectives profiled in the book come from experiences spanning seven decades, ranging from a childhood memory learning to tell time, charging and paying by the minute, and a 95-year-old wondering whether she will have enough time.

“After hearing the different perspectives of each member’s interpretation of the writing prompt at our last meeting, I commented that we should make a book,” said the anthology’s editor Esther Eacho. “So, here we are.”

Patricia Attkisson and Merrill Lishan are copy editors for the compilation that contains dozens of works.

The GFWG meets monthly to explore ways to grow individual writing

strengths. Membership includes authors of many generations and genres. Most members began their professional lives focused on sciences, law, and other professions, but writing evolved into a daily passion. Engineering words is the common thread binding members together. Members learn from each other, exploring new writing opportunities together and as individuals.

“Time is universal, and each person relates to and uses time differently. All readers will appreciate the interpretations of our author’s in this anthology,” said Eacho.

“Passages On Time” will be available during the “Evening with the Authors” portion of the Saturday, May 2, Great Falls Book Festival at 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Library. During the evening session, 15 authors celebrate recent publication of their works available for signing.

— CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jennifer Abernethy



PHOTO BY STEAVEN COATES, SR.

Kristin Clark Taylor -



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pamela Palmer

Publishing Panel Planned for Book Festival

Discussion to offer advice on how to get published.

BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

Proven experts in all facets of publishing offer a glimpse into the highly-competitive publishing world by offering advice, answering questions and sharing their inspirational – and sometimes surprising — secrets to their phenomenal success at a publishing panel from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. during the Great Falls Book Festival on May 2 at the Great Falls Library.

For many aspiring writers, publishing a book is a life goal, but most people's ideas remain in their heads and not on paper because they don't know the process, how to land a literary agent, or self-publish.

"How to get published has always been a concept shrouded in mystery and misconception," says Pamela Palmer, a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author. "I'm delighted to relate my own experiences with both traditional and self-publishing and to share my belief that all writers have the seeds of success buried deep inside."

Moderated by Kristin Clark Taylor, author, journalist, former White House communications strategist and founder of the Great Falls Writer's Group, the panel includes several best-selling authors, such as nationally-known author Pamela Palmer; Rob Jolles, a nationally-recognized sales expert and writing coach who has writ-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Ramunda Lark Young

ten three best sellers and whose latest book "How to Change Minds" was named to USA Today's Top Ten business books of 2014; Jennifer Abernethy, an authority on the use of social media as a strategic marketing tool and author of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Social Media Marketing;" and Ramunda Lark Young, a successful independent bookstore owner.

"Candid conversation between new writers and industry experts doesn't happen enough, therefore the publishing journey can often be riddled with misinformation when going it alone," said Young, who has helped launch countless authors to the best-seller list.

"With a panel like this you are getting the best of many worlds. You're getting information, inspiration that every writer needs, and

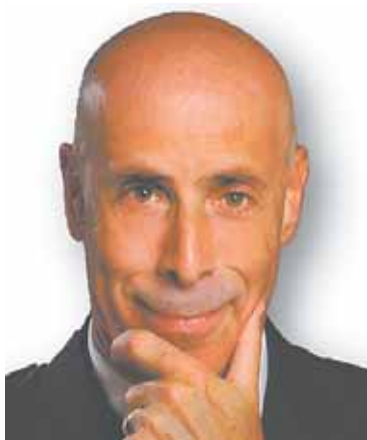


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rob Jolles

you're getting technique," said Jolles. "You need the combination of people who can walk the fine line of inspiring and teaching at the same time."

Jolles and Abernethy agree that an author's online presence is a must and a social media presence needs to be started long before a book is finished. They will delve into why and effects on publishing prospects.

"Each panelist brings a unique flow to the overall creative energy of this event. I want people to leave feeling energized, inspired and fully armed with the strategic tools they need to jump into the deep water," said Taylor, who organized the panel. "Getting your work published can seem like a daunting challenge, which is precisely why we need to be sharing these strategic tools with each other on a regular basis. Daunting does not mean impossible."

Doors open at 10:30 a.m. Event begins promptly at 11 a.m. A full-capacity crowd is expected and there is no reserved seating, so an early arrival is strongly recommended. Please do not bring manuscripts. For more information, email Kristin Clark Taylor at kristintay@aol.com.

2015 Great Falls Book Festival Schedule

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015

- ❖ 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: How To Publish And Promote Your Book: A Conversation With Industry Experts
- ❖ 2 -4 p.m.: "Every Child Is A Storyteller" Creative Activities for Youth; Youth Writing Contest Award Winners Announced

- ❖ 7 -9 p.m.: "An Evening With The Authors" — Fifteen authors celebrate, discuss and sign their books. Wine and cheese reception at 7 p.m. Program begins promptly at 7:30 p.m.
- All events are at the Great Falls Library, 9820 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, and are free and open to the public. No reservations are needed.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

McLean Community Center Ingleside Renovation and Expansion Project Community Meeting #1

Wednesday, April 15, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

The Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), as project manager for the McLean Community Center's Ingleside Renovation and Expansion Project, is holding this community meeting to report on the status of the project and to present current project drawings.

Residents of the Center's tax district are encouraged to attend in order to keep up-to-date on the project. If time permits, residents may comment on the presentations.

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

Madison Boys' Lax Returning to Winning Ways

Warhawks improve to 4-0 with victory over Washington-Lee.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

In 2013, the Madison boys' lacrosse program was one of the best in Virginia. Led by 16 seniors, the Warhawks won the Northern Region championship and reached the state final, where they fell short against perennial power Chantilly.

The following year, an inexperienced Madison team led by a new head coach failed to even qualify for the regional tournament.

Now in 2015, second-year Madison head coach Alex Gorman is hoping last year's sub-par season, which included a first-round conference loss to McLean, was simply an aberration for an otherwise successful program.

"Yes, we want to get back to the regional games," said Gorman, who was an assistant under Rich Hodge when Madison finished state runner-up in 2013. "That's sort of our goal. We missed out on that stuff last year. We had a long meeting at the end of last season and the goal for the kids was to get back to the region [tournament], where this team should be."



Junior attackman Cheech McLallen scored Madison's first three goals during a 16-9 win over Washington-Lee on Monday.

"There's no reason for us ever to be out of that regional tournament."

Three current Warhawks were contributors to the 2013 team: junior attackman Cheech McLallen, senior midfielder Robbie McLallen and junior midfielder Palmer Lloyd.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

JP Ugast and the Madison boys' lacrosse team improved to 4-0 with a win over Washington-Lee on Monday.

Cheech McLallen started hot on Monday against Washington-Lee, scoring the Warhawks' first three goals while some of his teammates took their time returning to full speed following spring break. Madison scored the final four goals of the first half

and improved to 4-0 on the season with a 16-9 victory in Arlington.

"The spot I was in was pretty much an open spot," McLallen said. "We had a good two-on-one game going on right there."

McLallen, who has started since his freshman season, was one of eight Madison players to score at least one goal. Midfielders Stephen Gerdon and Jackson Franks each scored three goals, attackmen JP Ugast and Jacob Stein each had two, while midfielders Sammy Borak, Robbie McLallen and Lloyd each had one.

"[Cheech McLallen is] the face everybody knows on this team," Gorman said. "In the past, teams have scouted us and they see him. This year, it's a little bit different. We've got guys that can score goals. Cheech is definitely, by far, one of our best players, but he's not the only player out there. I think this year, we have a more balanced offense than we've had in the past."

Washington-Lee head coach Chris Corey said the Generals opened the game in a zone defense with the intent of slowing Cheech McLallen. W-L tied the score at 4-all early in the second quarter, but Madison scored the final four goals of the first half and pulled away during the final 24 minutes.

"[Our defensive approach] worked for approximately a quarter-and-a-half," Corey said, "and then they called timeout and made a really good adjustment to it."

Madison will travel to face Vienna rival Oakton at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 11.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Langley Boys' Lax to Host Two Games

After starting 3-3, including a 9-1 loss to defending state champion Robinson, the Langley boys' lacrosse team returns from spring break with a pair of home games this week.

The Saxons will host Cold Spring Harbor on Wednesday, April 8, and Fairfax the following evening. Both games start at 7:15.

Langley opened the season with its first loss to McLean in program history. The Saxons responded with wins over Yorktown and Dominion. Langley then lost to Robinson and Chantilly before beating Battlefield.

Langley has played in four of the last five state championship games, including last year, when the Saxons lost to Robinson, 9-7.

McLean Baseball Wins Tournament

The McLean baseball team won the "Let's Play Two" tournament over spring break, defeating Mountain View 12-4 in the championship game on April 1.

After beating Langley and losing to



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Stone Bridge to open the season, McLean competed in the tournament, beating Edison, losing to Hylton, and then defeating Potomac and Mountain View.

McLean returned from spring break with a 4-2 record.

"At the start of the year the biggest question mark was going to be pitching," McLean head coach John Dowling wrote in an email. "We graduated two very, very good high school pitchers ([Joey] Sullivan, who has been getting some solid playing time at VT and Colin Morse, who is throwing extremely well for a top 15 ranked Shenandoah team). Those two threw a ton of important innings for us last year. We

knew we had six or seven guys that could replace them, but given the limited opportunities and injuries last year (Billy Gerhardt had a UCL repair and Jon Clines had an elbow strain that prevented him from pitching) the group was just unproven.

"As a coaching staff we were very confident that as a group they could fill Joey and Colin's shoes, it just might end up being four, five or even six guys throwing important innings as opposed to basically two. Over the start of the season, we have done, in every game but one, exactly what we need to do to be successful: throw strikes (and even when we didn't throw strikes against Mt. View, Minamino was able to

Gunnar Okeson, left, and the Langley boys' lacrosse team look to rebound from a 3-3 start.

limit the damage, and gave us five quality innings). When our pitchers eliminate walks we can be successful on the defensive side simply because we know our defense is going to make the routine plays. Big innings are tough to come by without the help of walks and errors, so when we eliminate those things we eliminate the possibility of big innings and ensure we stay in games."

McLean returns some talented players from its run to the 2014 state tournament, including shortstop Conor Grammes and catcher Caleb Beatty.

McLean faces some tough competition in the near future. The Highlanders will travel to face Chantilly at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8 in a rematch of last year's 6A North region championship game. McLean will travel to face perennial power Madison on April 14.

Herndon Boys' Soccer Undefeated

The Herndon boys' soccer team returns from spring break with a 2-0-1 record. The Hornets beat South County and Woodson and tied Madison.

Herndon will host Thomas Jefferson at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8 and will travel to face Oakton at 7 p.m. the following night.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

Reading Buddies. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers practice with teen volunteers.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10-SATURDAY/MAY 6

6 Artists: 5 Years. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of artwork by local artists: Jackie Elwell, Elaine Floirmonde, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

Playdate Café. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and playspace for preschoolers, coffee and conversation for grownups.

Drop-in Chess and Board Games. 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All levels and ages are welcome to play.

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Riverbend Park's Annual Bluebells at the Bend Festival. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come by and join the fun. The Festival features live music, wildflower walks, live animals, face painting, wagon rides, and other family-friendly activities. The cost is \$5 per person. Speaking of bluebells, they have sprouted, and are beginning to bloom.

Spring's Sprung. Tuesdays - Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. April 7 - May 2. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. Members of the Vienna Arts Society present their annual spring show, judged by Brenda Barthell. Meet the artists at the awards reception, Saturday, April 11, 4- 6 p.m. Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971. www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Spring Cookout and Watoto Choir. 4:30 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean. Comprised of orphan children from Uganda, this exciting group will be back at Providence with their energetic, joyful brand of praise and worship. Come at 4:30 p.m. to mingle with friends and neighbors at the Spring Cookout. Stay for the concert at 6 p.m. A love offering will be received at the end of the concert.

MONDAY/APRIL 13

Preschool Story Time. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Ages 3-5 with adult enjoy stories, songs, and activities.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 14

Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. will be a joint meeting of the GFCA Land Use & Zoning Committee (LUZ) and the Environment, Parks and Trails Committee (EPT). The two committees are holding this session to look more closely into the environmental issues at the Brooks Farm property in Great Falls, which is proposed to be rezoned with cluster development.

The program will feature Fairfax County officials from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Health Department and Department of Planning & Zoning speaking about storm water management, wells and septic, environmental quality corridors and Resource Protection Areas (RPAs), all of which come into play in the Brooks Farm rezoning application.

Legos in the Library. 4 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Age 5-12 use provided



6 Artists: 5 Years - an exhibition and sale of artwork by local artists: Jackie Elwell, Elaine Floirmonde, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner, at The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna, until May 6.

legos to get creative.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Arts Jam Anniversaries, a Flint Hill School music and dance extravaganza, 7:30 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Dr, Fairfax. More than 150 performers and 8 ensembles, and the cast of the Upper School Musical, "Bye Bye Birdie." Free and open to the public. No reservations required. Free Parking in Lot K with Flint Hill mini bus shuttle service and paid parking at the Mason Pond Deck parking garage attached to the concert hall.

Pokemon League. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. School age kids drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends!

FRIDAY/APRIL 17

Pilobolus. 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Award-winning, internationally recognized Pilobolus Dance Company will perform innovative, energetic and gravity-defying works. Acclaimed for its mix of humor, invention and drama and for the quickness and athleticism of its dancers, the company continually breaks down barriers and challenges the way people think about dance. Tickets are \$50 for the general public and \$40 for McLean tax district residents.

"Other Desert Cities." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. "Other Desert Cities" tells the story of the fictional Wyeth family — a clan led at the top by a mother and father highly regarded in old Hollywood circles and admired by Republicans for their service to and friendship with the Reagans in their heyday. The play explores the dark family secrets that threaten to destroy external and internal perceptions about the life the family members lead.

Eileen Ivers. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. This virtuoso's award-winning skill and Irish-inspired playing prove she is "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin," according to The New York Times. \$27-30. 703-255-1900.

Playdate Café. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and playspace for preschoolers, coffee and conversation for grownups.

Drop-in Chess and Board Games. 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All levels and ages are welcome to play.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

Model Trains and Thomas at Open

House. 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Free admission. 703-938-5157. www.nvmr.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 19

"Call Me William: The Life and Loves of Willa Cather." 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue. The life and times of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather are explored in the show, by Prudence Wright Holmes. Tickets are \$20 for the general public and \$15 for McLean tax district residents.

Amadeus Winds. 4 p.m. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Amadeus Winds will perform a concert. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at the door or online at <http://www.amadeusconcerts.com>. Students 17 and under are admitted free of charge.

TUESDAY/APRIL 21

Table Panache for Festive Celebrations. 10 a.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, NE, Vienna. The program will feature eight tables designed by Five Hills Garden Club Members and will be held on in the Great Hall. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. to browse the boutique of unique vendors. The program will begin at 10 a.m. Tea and a light lunch will follow. For ticket information call Marian Sanders 703-988-9324 or email: mariansanders@cox.net.

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21 Announcements

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Peter Chang One LLC trading as Peter Chang, 2503 N. Harrison St. Ste E, Arlington, VA 22207. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer Restaurant on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Wenqiang Huang, Manager
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

When spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion.
-Ethiopian Proverb

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The Fact Is Not Yet The Matter

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I don't know which is worse: the extra-special, extra-expensive, dental cleaning (the kind that requires Novocain and involves the actual dentist, not merely the hygienist) that I have scheduled for April 8th – or my next hopefully-not-do-or-die CT Scan, moved up a month from my usual three-month interval because of a suspicious formation seen on my most recent scan back in mid-February. Either way, the next two Wednesdays following by the fort-night Friday, April 24th appointment with my oncologist – to discuss the scan results from the 15th, should be noteworthy in the life of this cancer patient.

To think that my cancer-affected life is going to just roll along with nary a blip in assessment, treatment, protocol, scheduling, availability, etc., is both totally unrealistic and wishful thinking of the highest naiveté. And if anything can be said about yours truly, it is that I am well aware of, and reasonably well adjusted to, the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune with which I have been forced to live, live being the applicable word, these last-six-going-on-seven years.

Given that symptoms I've felt previously – or not felt previously – have, on varying occasions, been positive and negative, feeling or not feeling has never been a sure-fire indicator of anything. As an example, one time I felt a pain in my chest/lungs (where I know the biggest tumor is located); it turned out to be scar tissue growing over a shrinking tumor, a good result. Another time, the same pain/same area indicated the tumor was growing, a bad thing. In general, feeling something has sometimes meant nothing and feeling nothing has sometimes meant something – and vice versa. I wouldn't say I was damned if I did and damned if I didn't, but I would say – with apologies to Oliver Hardy: It's a damned fine mess in which I find myself so regularly entangled. And apparently, from what I understand, the only thing likely to change in the future is nothing. And as fortunate as I am, compared to so many others who have succumbed to this terrible disease, being present and discussing even a problematic future – six years post-diagnosis – is as good as it gets for a patient originally diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer: stage IV, non small cell lung cancer. Still, it doesn't (and I mean never) minimize the stress.

Somehow, managing this process/experience has to include a methodology for managing expectations and minimizing that stress. Moreover, anything one can do to lighten the load emotionally, and build in some positive reinforcement and words-to-the-maybe-not-so wise, goes a long way toward accomplishing some level of relative peace and perhaps even a little quiet.

Of course, the process is Imperfect – with a capital "I." There are always bad days; you just want your share of good ones, too. Acknowledging what you can't control and being grateful for what you can helps to compartmentalize and find that balance between living in the present and dying in the future. Some days, doing "normal" things – like visiting the dentist, seem to help. Other days, it feels pointless. Oddly enough, it all sort of mirrors my symptom history: it matters, it matters not. I just hope that on April 24th, the matters don't hit the fan.

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



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