

Karolina Karaman, 5 1/2, of McLean has her photo taken with the Easter Bunny during McLean Spring Fest at the McLean Community Center on April 4.

McLean
CONNECTION

Spring Fest In McLean

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Protecting Neighborhood Tree Cover

McLean Citizens Association hosts meeting on protecting community's tree cover.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Foust remembers learning that 119 trees would be removed for his planned office in McLean. It wasn't a decision without controversy, Foust said, when he told authorities to halt those plans.

"Trees are very important to and for us," said Foust. "People can make a difference in the preservation of trees."

However, current legislation doesn't have the "teeth we need it to," said Foust at a meeting hosted by the McLean Citizens Association on March 24 called "Protecting Neighborhood Tree Cover."

"I know how heartbreaking it can be to see your neighbor put his house on the market and a developer buys it and knocks down [most] of the trees," said Robert Vickers, Dranesville Representative to the Fairfax County Tree Commission.

In fact, county representatives told the 75 people in the audience at the McLean Community Center that developers and homeowners need to preserve at least 30 percent of the tree canopy when remodeling or taking down a house.

LAST WEEK, residents learned that the builder had complied with the law on a site in McLean at Balls Hill Road and Old Dominion Drive that looked barren to them after tree clearing, renewing concerns that the current regulations don't provide enough protection for the tree canopy.

"It is a fairly weak statute and there is minimal protection for trees in Fairfax County, or for that matter, Virginia," said Bill Canis, vice president of Great Falls Citizens Association, who has worked on a donor program in Great Falls to plant new white oak trees, a native tree throughout Great Falls. "I would say Fairfax and Virginia do not have a strong enough statute for protecting our trees."

"It may not be as strong as everyone would like it but it is the strongest in the state," said Keith Klein, director of the Urban Forest Management Division. "It does give us tools to use."

Klein and Craig Herwig, of the Forest Conservation Branch of the office, told people to get involved.

"We need your help. You can get involved in this. You have a voice in what is being developed," said Herwig. Klein steered residents to a Department of Planning and Zoning website to learn about proposed devel-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

While many McLean residents thought the tree clearing on this lot on Balls Hill Road was excessive, the builder complied with requirements to preserve 30 percent of the tree canopy by saving trees along the edges of the lot.

McLean Trees Foundation: The Roots

McLean Citizens Association has fought for the preservation of trees for more than 50 years, including in 1964 when the association urged the school board to save an elm tree in front of the proposed Langley High School.

"A tree has the best chance of survival when someone is taking care of it, when someone is attached," said Joyce Harris, of the McLean Trees Foundation. Harris spoke to a group of 75 people who came for a presentation organized by the McLean Citizens Association called "Protecting Neighborhood Tree Cover."

Merrily Pierce and Paul Kohlenberger, authors of "The Voice of McLean: 100 Years of the McLean Citizens Association," traced roots of the McLean Trees Foundation to the 1960s.

"Disturbed by extent of development and removal of large trees in the business district and beyond, McLean Citizens Association tries to beautify business district with a tree-planting project in 1960 with boy and girl scouts and garden clubs," they wrote.

The McLean Citizens Association's 1969 newspaper recycling program with bins at Cooper Intermediate School and Safeway evolved into the McLean Trees Committee in 1972.

Proceeds were used to purchase, plant and maintain more than 1,000 trees in McLean's downtown and public places.

It operated as a semi-autonomous working committee of the McLean Citizens Association and became the McLean Trees Foundation in 2004.

"I am extremely grateful to those who came before us who worked so hard to plant and preserve trees more than 50 years ago. We benefit from their efforts. We have a responsibility to continue to care of our trees. What we do today will

impact the next generation," said Harris, now chairman of the McLean Trees Foundation.

The mission is to help maintain, restore and enhance McLean's urban forest on public and private property.

"While we can't preserve all the mature trees, we can plant new trees," said Harris. "People care about trees and they are concerned about tree protection and they are concerned to maintain and increase the tree canopy."

McLean Trees Foundation has planted thousands of trees and shrubs in parks, school grounds, government sites, commercial corridors, residential areas, traffic islands and along McLean sidewalks.

Harris has outlines of the Tree Planting Program that the citizens association established in 1964 and started planning in 1963. Robert Andrews, president of MCA in 1964 before becoming a Virginia delegate, called the McLean program "a united community effort involving all political, organizational, geographic and social groups — an opportunity to bring businessman and resident together," which involved the MCA, the Highway Department, Fairfax County Planning Staff, County Park Authority, McLean Business and Professional Association, Girl Scouts, McLean Garden Club, Boy Scouts, McLean Kiwanis Club, School PTA's, Churches, Langley School, and Boys Club of America and others. Andrews died in 2013.

"Trees help define our sense of place and contribute to our community's economy, environment, and way of life. A healthy tree population projects a positive community image and improves the quality of life," according to Harris.

— KEN MOORE

Resources for Your Trees

❖ **The McLean Trees Foundation** helps plant trees on public and private property. See the website to complete an application. A \$50 fee pays for the program costs. McLean Trees Foundation volunteers will visit the homeowner's property to discuss the program, review their property, and recommend tree species and planting locations. The foundation will also deliver a tree with a trunk diameter of about one inch, assist homeowners in properly planting the tree and will guide them on watering and maintaining the tree. www.mcleantreesfoundation.org

❖ **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/>

opment in Fairfax neighborhoods, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/myneighborhood.htm.

Vickers said the best time for neighbors to get involved is in the re-zoning process. "What's our best opportunity to preserve trees? Right in the rezoning process," said Vickers.

Education also makes a difference, and the Tree Commission has established rewards and incentives for developers who attempt to maintain tree cover. "The more awareness we create, the more influence we have," said Vickers.

"If you call us, and get our attention, we have probably been there, or we will be going to see it," said Herwig.

"While we can't preserve all the mature trees, we can plant more trees," said Joyce Harris, of the McLean Trees Foundation. "Changing ordinances takes a lot of time and effort. I think it is very important while all this is going on that we continued to plant trees. That's something we can do that is positive and can increase our tree canopy."

SEE PRESERVING, PAGE 4

Preserving McLean Trees

FROM PAGE 3

“Trees help define our sense of place and contribute to our community’s economy, environment, and way of life. A healthy tree population projects a positive community image and improves the quality of life,” according to Harris and the McLean Trees Foundation website.

“How do we get the rules in place that protect the trees?” said environmental advocate Stella Koch. “That’s the real question, what are the limits of protection for trees and how do we have to change that.”

MCLEAN TREES FOUNDATION and McLean Community Foundation have partnered to help homeowners select and plant and care for new trees in their front yard. See www.mcleantreesfoundation.org.

The McLean Trees Foundation helps plant trees on public and private property. A new program offered by the foundation and by McLean Community Foundation helps homeowners get involved in selecting, planting and caring for trees on their own property.

This program will also advance McLean Trees Foundation’s goal of restoring and diversifying McLean’s tree canopy.

“To fully enhance the tree canopy in Fairfax County, tree planting must occur on privately-owned residential lots, as county-owned and commonly-owned open spaces are limited,” said Keith Cline, Director of the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division. “Residential lots have the most space for planting new trees in Fairfax County, and trees are more likely to thrive with a homeowner caring for them.” See the website to complete an application. A \$50 fee pays for the program costs. McLean Trees Foundation volunteers will visit the homeowner’s property to discuss

the program, review their property, and recommend tree species and planting locations. MTF will also deliver a tree with a trunk diameter of about one inch, assist homeowners in properly planting the tree and will guide them on watering and maintaining the tree.

A follow-up visit to the property will be carried out by an MTF volunteer one to six months after the planting. Applications are accepted year round and planting occurs in the spring or fall. MTF offers a selection of native one-inch caliper (diameter) understory and canopy trees including Oaks, Black Gum, Elm, American Holly, Bald Cypress, Eastern Red Cedar, Sweet Gum, Fringe Tree, Redbud, American Hornbeam, Sweetbay Magnolia, and Serviceberry.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Are county regulations sufficient to protect the tree canopy? The builder complied with county regulations when clearing this lot on Balls Hill Road.

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Countries are well cultivated, not as they are fertile, but as they are free.

—Baron de Montesquieu

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.

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.

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.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean VA 22101
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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
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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

McLean
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Community Forum on Painkillers & Heroin

Virginia Secretary of Health and Human Services William A. Hazel Jr., M.D., will join Fairfax County community leaders, local experts and parents in a special April 13 forum as they highlight the county's current fight against painkiller abuse and heroin use that has reached epidemic levels across the nation. "Painkillers & Heroin: Our Community Problem" is presented by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) and the Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) to raise awareness and help our community take action to prevent and reduce use among youth and young adults.

The event will be held Monday, April 13 from 7-9 p.m. at the FCPS Gatehouse Administration Center, First Floor Café, located at 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042. The event is free, but registration is requested at www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

Panelists at the event will include: Kathy Briggs, who will share the tragic loss of her 21-year-old son; Jesse Ellis, Fairfax County NCS prevention manager; Sgt. Jim Cox, Fairfax County Police Department narcotics officer; Maria Hadjiyane, Inova Behavioral Health Adult Ambulatory Care, director; and Dr. Husam Alathari, Inova CATS (Comprehensive Addiction Treatment Services) Program medical director; and a local VCU student in recovery. A question-and-answer session will follow. For more information, visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

McLean Theatre Company Presents 'The Laramie Project'

The McLean High School Theatre Company (MTC) presents the renowned docudrama "The Laramie Project," April 9-12. The company uses a series of interviews to piece together the facts and fabrications surrounding the tragic 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard. "The Laramie Project" opens to a single weekend run, Thursday through Saturday, April 9-11, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 12 at 2 p.m. Performances are in McLean's Burks Auditorium with advance tickets available at www.mcleandrama.com.

MCLEAN HAMLET

A McLean Hamlet classic home bursting with charm that has been lovingly cared for is available for the first time in 20 years! Beautifully sited on an elevated lot and renovated throughout, featuring 4+ bedrooms, 3 full baths, dual fireplaces, gleaming hardwoods, walk-out lower level with a bed/bath suite, new artisan deck and a fully fenced backyard. McLean Hamlet is one of the most family-friendly neighborhoods within McLean and is complete with sidewalks, streetlights, neighborhood pool and tennis club, multiple playgrounds, parks and a direct walkway to the nearby Springhill Elementary School and Recreation Center.



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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 back-

drop 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

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.

Studio Artistica in Oak Hill, created a powder room that she said resembles "a little art gallery." Tureson hung a custom, hand-etched mirror 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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American Association of University Women (AAUW) volunteers, from left, Jean Feeney (Vienna Area), Linda Regan (McLean Area), Anne Sharp (Fairfax City), and Mary Lou Melley (McLean Area) were among the 60 AAUW members who provided on-site support for STEMtastics 2015.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Inspiring Middle School Girls to Pursue STEM Careers

A capacity crowd of 500 middle school girls and parents filled the NOVA-Annandale Ernst Center auditorium on Saturday, March 21, to attend STEMtastics 2015. Students from 36 schools, including over thirty McLean students from Longfellow and Cooper Middle Schools, attended the career day event designed to educate and inspire the students to consider careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Keynote speaker Valerie Bradley, a 2014 Harvard graduate who majored in Statistics, provided advice and inspiration as she described surviving cancer and her motivation to pursue a STEM-related career. Following opening ceremonies, forty female presenters from across STEM fields ran interactive breakout workshops for the students. Parents had the opportunity to attend informa-

tional workshops on resources, financing options, and supporting their daughters.

The event was sponsored by the Fairfax City, McLean Area, Springfield-Annandale, and Vienna Area branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools and Systemic Solutions. AAUW has been a leader in sponsoring STEM education programs and introducing girls to female role models. To raise money for STEM awards and educational scholarships, the McLean Area Branch will hold its 46th Annual Book Sale on Sept. 18-20 and collect books on May 30, June 20, July 18, and August 8. For more information on STEMtastics or the McLean Area Book Sale, visit the AAUW McLean Area website at <http://mclean-va.aauw.net> or send an email to mcleanaauw@gmail.com.



From left — Dr. Thomas Kiess, former scoutmaster; Robert H. Bork III, Eagle Scout; Jim Thomas, scoutmaster; John Baxley, assistant scoutmaster.

Robert H. Bork III Awarded Eagle Scout Medal

Robert H. Bork III, 17, of McLean, received the Boy Scouts highest award of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor conducted by Troop 869 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Robert, who is a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster in his troop, also received the Bronze Palm for remaining active in Scouting and earning additional merit badges.

Robert is the son of Diana and Robert H. Bork, Jr. He was presented the award by Scoutmaster Jim Thomas.

Robert received special recognition from the American Legion, United States Submarine Veterans, Inc., and the FBI. American Legion Post 270 in McLean, recently selected Robert to attend Boys State in June and made him a member of Sons of the American Legion.

Robert thanked his family, his teachers,

and his troop in his remarks after receiving his award. He gave special recognition to Dr. Thomas Kiess who stepped down recently as Scoutmaster after six years.

"If there is one man who truly embodies what it means to be a Scout, and the values that scouting teaches, it is Dr. Kiess; no one else even comes close," Robert said.

Robert is a High Honor Roll junior at Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. He was selected as a Yale Young Global Scholar in 2014 and is a nominee for National Honor Society. Also participating in the ceremony were: Robert Gerber, Life Scout; Peter Fox, First Class; and, Orlando Rivera, and Will Baxley, both Eagle Scouts. Robert Fisher, Eagle Scout, served as Master of Ceremonies. Assistant Scoutmasters John Baxley and Jose Rivera also participated.

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 market 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 experienced 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.

About the Author

Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy are active and experienced Realtors® in the Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and Washington D.C. market place and would be delighted to assist whether for home buying or selling. Please contact via the means most convenient for you: 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)

\$750k~
>\$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

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.



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 4-4 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.

Alec Smith, 7, Penni Smith, 4, and Ellin Smith, 8, of McLean, show their egg finds in the Easter Egg Hunt.



The Liu family of McLean — Adam, Albert, and Karen, visit Mother Duck, aka Megan Ellard from the Joy of Dance in McLean.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Spring Fest in McLean a Hit for Tiny Tots

McLean Community Center hosts annual Easter Egg Hunt, arts, crafts and fun.

Hundreds of small children and parents turned out for the annual Spring Fest in McLean last Saturday, April 4, at the McLean Community Center. The event featured an Easter egg hunt, a magic show with

The Amazing Kevin, self-guided arts and crafts projects, face painting and a chance to visit and have a photo taken with the Easter Bunny and several of his friends.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Children play at the arts and crafts table during the Spring Fest.

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Sky Rath, 8, and sister Brooke, 6, of McLean, create sculptures with Model Magic.

CALENDAR



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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

Jane Monheit. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Watch the spirit of cabaret and the swagger of jazz, this talented songstress takes audiences on journeys from Brazil to Beatles-era Britain. \$30-35. 703-255-1900.

Artist's Demonstration. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. Acrylic landscape artist Bryan Jernigan will show how he goes from sketch to a finished abstracted landscape painting in an easy-to-follow, step-by-step process by applying paint in free and creative ways.

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

Poulenc Trio. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. This intriguing oboe, bassoon and piano trio performs a virtuosic evening of French music. \$35. 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 11

Riverbend Park's Annual Bluebells at the Bend Festival. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come by and join the fun (and see the gorgeous bluebells)! The Festival features live music, wildflower walks, live animals, face painting, wagon rides, and other family-friendly activities. The cost is \$5 per person.

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.

Health & Wellness Fair for Mature Adults.

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. The fair will include fitness and wellness activities including Zumba, Tai Chi, skin and beauty care, energy healing, and much more. Participants can take advantage of free health screenings including blood pressure, blood sugar, BMI, cholesterol, vision,

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glaucoma, hearing, and memory checks. This event is free and no registration is required. Participants should wear fitness clothing. www.viennava.gov. www.scov.org.

dark family secrets that threaten to destroy external and internal perceptions about the life the family members lead.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Arts Jam Anniversaries. 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, 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.

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

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.

THURSDAY/APRIL 23

John McCutcheon. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk expert with a vital, narrative voice performs classics like "Christmas in the Trenches" and "Hail to the Chief." \$25-28.

Arbor Day and Green Expo. 4 p.m. Peet's Coffee at 332 Maple Ave E, Vienna. The tree planting ceremony will be held in front of Peet's Coffee. After the Arbor Day ceremony, the public is invited to attend the 7th annual Vienna Green Expo at the Vienna Community Center from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Vienna Green Expo is a juried showcase of local and regional earth-friendly exhibitors educating the public on how to achieve a green lifestyle. Presentations and discussions for

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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.

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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 fortnight 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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JM/JN Group, LLC trading as Osteria Da Nino, 2900 S. Quincy St. Arlington, VA 22206. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) FOR A Beer and Wine on/off Premises and Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Antonino Pino, member
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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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
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