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Spring Real Estate  
& New Homes

The McLean Little League Pirates team marches in the McLean Little League Opening Day Parade along Westmoreland Street on Saturday, April 18.

# McLean CONNECTION

## McLean Holds Little League Parade

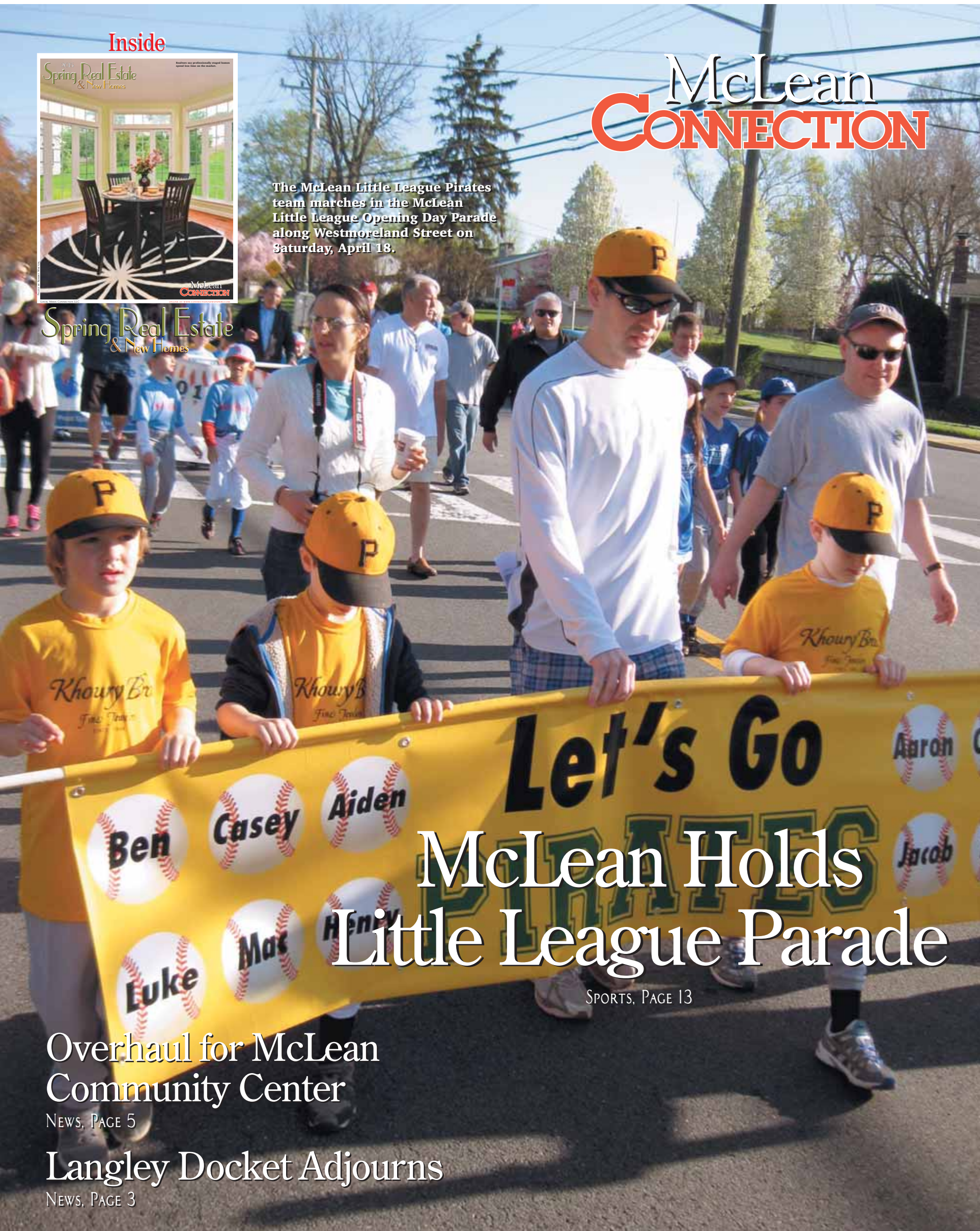
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# Langley Docket Adjourns

**Langley Case Day seniors to attend United States Supreme Court Tuesday.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**L**angley senior Eryney Marrogi sat on the judicial bench four seats from U.S. Supreme Court Clerk Gen. William K. Suter, retired.

Suter and Marrogi grilled Langley seniors Katherine Cassidy, Madeline Shaw, Cameron Davis and Paul Dell for 15 minutes each.

“Mr. McFadden refers to the substance like ‘white powder,’ he sold it in baggies,” said Suter. “What legitimate thought could he have had?”

“Under your reasoning,” said Marrogi, “how can anyone be convicted if they don’t have a doctorate in chemistry?”

And the questions during Langley High School’s Case Day kept coming and coming, only stopping for the 15-minute timer.

“That’s what we call a hot bench,” said A.P. Government teacher Allison Cohen, who assists students who run Langley High School’s Case Day program. “We had so many tough questions from the justices. Especially, those student justices.”

“Saucy,” she said.

Thirty-seven Langley seniors auditioned to be the two respondents and petitioners. Marrogi and Shivani Gupta served as student judges.

“How many questions did it feel like I answered or how many questions did I answer?” said Shaw.

“I’m typically a calm person, but this time I was a little nervous,” said Davis. “The 15 minutes go by a lot quicker than you think.”

**“I watched these kids devour merit briefs in 30 minutes, and answer questions that would stop most mortals.”**

— Allison Cohen, teacher,  
Langley High School

A couple hours later at the end of the full-day court program in Langley’s library, their peers asked them to describe how they felt, using only one



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

**Nine mock Supreme Court Justices presided over Langley’s 2015 Case Day.**



**Madeline Shaw and Katherine Cassidy find it easier to laugh at the conclusion of Case Day.**



**Cameron Davis, respondent, and Paul Dell, petitioner. “I think the one thing all of us can agree on is that there is now some relief that it is all over,” said Paul Dell.**

word.

“Victimized,” said Davis.

“Awestruck,” said Shaw.

“Entertained,” said Cassidy.

“The better question is how do I feel now that it’s over,” said Dell.

“Paul just asked himself a question again,” said Davis.

The four Langley scholars, who have been rehearsing, debating and mocking since February, were able to laugh again.

They and about 21 other Langley students involved with Case Day will be attending *McFadden v. United States*, to be argued in the United States Supreme Court on Tuesday, April 21.

**CASE DAY** is a Langley institution. This year marked the 23rd annual Supreme Court oral arguments presented by students.

“This is the best program in American like

it,” said Suter, who was clerk of the United States Supreme Court from 1991-2013. “That’s why we are here, year after year.”

And it is student run. Students from Langley government classes, there are nine A.P. government classes, conduct the day’s program.

There are 30 committee chair people who coordinate everything from decorations, hospitality, to food and finance, to education, research, social media, technology, and interest and publicity. All 396 students in Langley government classes have roles to play.

“Don’t underestimate what a high school student is capable of,” said Cohen.

Seniors Isabel Marcovici and Trey McKula coordinated all of it. McKula called his job “an excuse to drink way more coffee than is healthy for any human.”

The four attorneys were stars of the day,

with the highlight of the day being their oral arguments, presided over by Suter, Justice Antonin G. Scalia’s son John Scalia, and other attorneys, professors of law, and Janie Strauss, Dranesville School Board member.

“I watched these kids devour merit briefs in 30 minutes, and answer questions that would stop most mortals,” said Cohen, who has been involved with Case Day the last 12 years.

But each part of the day served to make it an educational day for all students, those involved and those who watched.

“Since 1993, Case Day has united the entire school to take a comprehensive look into the American judicial system and the inner workings of the Supreme Court,” according to the mission of Case Day. “This event allows the student body to delve into

SEE LANGLEY CASE DAY. PAGE 9



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## News



PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

**Churchill Road fifth graders in Sue Lackey's class look on with interest as Mrs. Lackey's daughter Abby answers questions about her pet. From left, Abby Lackey, Stavros Karamanos, Ryan Jones, Audrey Lin, Paarth Soni and Arion Tripathi.**

## A Guest of Honor at Churchill Road

Churchill Road fifth graders in Sue Lackey and Rick Woler's science classes had a special visitor on the day before spring break. Mrs. Lackey's daughter Abby, a senior at West Springfield High School, brought in her pet ball python, Gatsby. Al-

though a strict look but don't touch policy was in effect, the students were fascinated by the reptile. They had a multitude of questions, and learned about what and how often he ate, what causes his skin to shed and his expected life span.

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# Contemporary Overhaul for McLean Community Center

Center renovation, adding 7,750 square feet, is scheduled for completion in 2018.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

When the McLean Community Center was built in 1974, community centers were designed similar to schools, said architect Greg Lukmire, “institutional facilities that could withstand all sorts of abuse.”

“As you know,” said Lukmire about the current building, “it’s blocky, it’s pretty solid,” he said.

McLean’s renovated center, scheduled to be completed by the spring of 2018, promises an entirely “contemporary” new look.

“You want to see what’s going on inside, you want to advertise that, you want to draw people in,” said Lukmire. “Successful public buildings are open these days.”

Lukmire gave a one hour presentation to the McLean community Wednesday, April 15 to showcase design plans and concepts.



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

**Architects want to open the view inside and outside of McLean’s Community Center, which is scheduled for construction in the fall of 2016. Plans for the expansion are scheduled to be presented to the Department of Planning and Zoning this summer.**

Just some of the details:  
An open courtyard, natural lighting throughout the building,

an open hallway that people enter and allows patrons of the theater in the lobby to see the art gal-



Greg Lukmire, of the Lukmire Project, says the community center is set in an environment that is natural and lovely and should be showcased. “It’s such a beautiful view and nobody sees it,” said Lukmire. He wants a feeling of connection between the new center and the library across the street.

lery on the top floor, and a glassy facade on the back that allows connectivity between the library and the center and a link to the outdoors.

“It’s such a beautiful view and nobody sees it,” said Lukmire. “We

see the community center as a building in a park. It’s set in an environment that is natural and quite lovely.”

SEE COMMUNITY CENTER, PAGE 6

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## NEWS

The McLean Community Center will stay open during a renovation that will add 7,750 square feet and be completed by 2018.



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

## Community Center Renovation

### What's Next?

FROM PAGE 5

**CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN** in the fall of 2016. The project will cost approximately \$8 million, with \$6.1 for construction. No money will need to be requested, raised or borrowed, said Ben Drosner, with Fairfax County's Department of Public Works.

"The money is coming from the McLean Community Center's tax district capital reserves," said Drosner.

The renovation will add a total of 7,750 square feet to allow for a 1,500-square-foot fitness room; conference rooms of different shapes and sizes; renovation of the administrative area; added circulation and lobby space; additional restrooms; and bringing the entire building into full compliance with the ADA.

Another public meeting is scheduled for May 12 to give the public an opportunity to view further plans of the design and offer last input before The McLean Community Center submits a proposal to the Department of Planning and Zoning this summer.

The plan is to keep the center open during the renovation. "That's the goal," said Lukmire.

**THE ALDEN THEATER**, which was expanded with its 100 seat balcony in 1988, and the 2000 Art Studio will not be altered.

Approximately 25 residents attended Wednesday night's meeting at the McLean Community Center, April 15.

Joyce Harris asked that designers do an inventory of the center's trees.

Lukmire has already hired a private arborist to look at trees on the community center's site in terms of health, size and lifespan. "A couple trees will need to come down but we are going to do our best to minimize that," he said. Additional trees will be planted.

One resident asked about solar panels on the roof, and although Lukmire said there couldn't be solar panels above the theater because of the weight of the panels, there is room to explore panels on portions of the roof because the

May 12, 2015, 7:30 p.m.: Next public meeting, McLean Community Center

**Summer 2015:** Plan submitted to Planning and Zoning.  
**Fall 2016:** Bidding for contractors  
**Late Fall 2016:** Construction starts  
**Spring 2018:** Construction scheduled to be completed.

Ben Dronsick, project manager  
Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
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way air conditioning and heating was planned for the building.

John Bellaschi told planners that the proximity to McLean Central Park raises extra concerns about storm water management.

"That's a major concern," said Lukmire, citing the topography challenges and poor grading, current problems with water in the parking lot and side that sometimes leaks into the basement of office buildings. "We're going to intercept that water ... and slow it down."

Redesigning the parking lot will allow for 27 additional parking spaces, and that redesign will also be part of the stormwater management solution.

One resident was concerned that the open space in the building and higher ceilings could translate to more noise inside the building.

Harris liked the concept of an interior courtyard, that Lukmire says will allow people to go outside on a nice day for art programs and classes for children.

"I personally like it, I think it will set the tone for the facility, I think it will be a focal point," Harris said. "However, I think it's going to require a lot of maintenance because there's nothing worse" than a poorly maintained courtyard, she said.

Lukmire said an urban courtyard concept might be incorporated with benches, sculpture and some landscaping.

Ben Drosner took note of all questions and comments posed by the residents.

"It's quite possible these ideas will be realized," he said.

Come to the May 12 meeting. "Our goal is to warm the facility, make it feel new and flashy, make it feel that it was worth it," said Lukmire.



### Transform I-66 Outside the Beltway Fairfax and Prince William Counties

Public Hearings

All hearings are 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m.  
A presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 27, 2015**

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 1st Floor  
4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

**Thursday, May 28, 2015**

Oakton High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #14)  
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

**Tuesday, June 2, 2015**

Battlefield High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #4)  
15000 Graduation Drive, Haymarket, VA 20169

**Wednesday, June 3, 2015**

Bull Run Elementary School Cafeteria (Entrance #1)  
15301 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20121

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), will host hearings for the public to review and provide comments on the Tier 2 Environmental Assessment (EA)/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information on potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included in the environmental document. The EA is being prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and 23 CFR 771. The project involves the transformation of 25 miles of I-66 between U.S. Route 15 in Haymarket and I-495/the Capital Beltway, and will provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability.

**Stop by** between 5:30 and 9 p.m. to view displays, learn more about the project, discuss your questions with VDOT staff and provide written or oral comments. The formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

**Review** project information, including preliminary plans, project schedule, and right-of-way, environmental and civil rights information at [www.transform66.org](http://www.transform66.org), at the public hearings, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax beginning May 12, 2015. Please call 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

**Written comments** may be mailed to Ms. Susan Shaw, Megaprojects Director, at the VDOT Office address above, or emailed to [Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov). Please reference "Transform 66 Outside the Beltway" in the subject line. Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT by **June 18, 2015** to be included in the public hearing record.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

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## Longfellow Middle, Langley High Win Science Olympiad

Teams from Longfellow Middle School and Langley High School captured first place in Division B and Division C, respectively, in the 2015 Virginia Science Olympiad, held at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The Longfellow team is made up of students Shihao Cao, James Chen, Matthew Cox, Alexy Didenkov, Alice Fontaine, Alex Kao-Sowa, Michael Kruppa, Jules LeMenestrel, Cathryn Liang, Jocelyn Liu, Zain Mirzam, Matt Moschella, Siona Prasad, Reva Siva, Katherine Wu, Kathryn Yang, Vicky Yang, Hana Yu, and Arnold Zhang.

Members of the Langley team are Andrew Chen, Zach Chou, Paul Dell, Jaisohn Kim, Andrew Makris, Amy Zhao, Tyler Larkworthy, Sungho Lee, Ashley Zhang, Nathan Bala,

Ben Culmer, Callan Cramer, Kevin Zhou, Andy Tan, and Trevor Dankworth.

## Art Show Helps Local Charities

The New Dominion Women's Club will host the annual "Arts Night Out" on Friday, April 24, 7 - 9 p.m. at the McLean Project for the Arts in the McLean Community Center. There will be hors d'oeuvres, wine and dessert served, along with an opportunity to participate in a silent auction. The McLean Community Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: [www.ndwc.org](http://www.ndwc.org).

All proceeds raised will benefit Claude Moore Farm, McLean Project for the Arts, Safe Community Coalition,

and SHARE, Inc

## MPA Spring Benefit Tickets Are Now on Sale

McLean Project for the Arts will hold its annual Spring Benefit on Wednesday May 13, 7 - 9 p.m. at the home of Selwa and David Rutchik. The guest of honor is Margaret (Marge) Vanderhye, Executive Director, Virginia Commission for the Arts. Event co-chairs Kitty Dove, Jen Graham and Maria Kelly have been hard at work with the planning.

Ticket prices start at \$300 and sales support MPA's exhibition and art education programs.

MPA is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue In McLean. For more information visit [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org) or call 703-790-1953.

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# Connection Papers Win Awards

Variety of coverage honored at annual Virginia Press Association conference.

**O**n Saturday, April 18, a group of journalists from the Connection Newspapers traveled to Roanoke for the annual Virginia Press Association event to collect awards

for business reporting, government writing, writing about health, science and the environment, feature writing, sports writing, column writing, obituaries, cartoons, entertainment pages and writing, public safety writing, editorial pages and writing, page design, informational graphics and more.

A look at the themes of some winning entries gives some insight into the mission at the Connection: to tell stories of significance, using reporting, data and analysis while getting to the heart of why the issues matter in local lives. In a time that we, like all newspapers, are functioning with reduced resources, it helps affirm that the effort can make a difference.

Bonnie Hobbs won for ongoing coverage of

## EDITORIAL

a family's efforts to provide the best life for a son they call "not special needs, but a special person," and a second award for coverage of issues related to affordable housing and homelessness.

Judges call Michael Pope's business reporting "first-rate, data-driven reporting and analysis on important issues." Stories on driving habits, cesarean deliveries and the Affordable Care Act are called "well-researched, clearly written and engaging. The use of real-live people high up in stories to illustrate makes for very compelling material."

Vernon Miles won for breaking news coverage of Arlington's first same sex marriage, being "on the scene of a local event that has local, statewide and national significance. ... The story is multi-sourced; has a strong lead that gives readers a sense of the scene; places the

event in historic context; and captures the celebratory feel of the event."

On Pope government reporting: "Rather than regurgitating official statements, the reporter tells people's stories to illuminate the consequences of government decisions. This represents a model for all government reporting."

On Marilyn Campbell's reporting for Wellbeing: "These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term."

Even in recreation and entertainment, our mission is to provide our readers with the information they need to have fun, and our annual update to the "Insiders Guide to the Parks," brainchild of Jean Card, is designed to do that.

What are we missing? We rely on our readers to let us know. We invite your story ideas, your tips, your letters to the editor, calendar listings, photos of mothers for Mother's Day and fathers for Fathers Day, and more. Visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com) and click on "contact us," or email [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

— MARY KIMM

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## Winners

Truncated list, for a complete list, see [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jon Roetman**, The Vienna/Oakton Connection — Sports Writing Portfolio, First Place. *Madison's Koshuta Scores 39 Against 'Idol' Floyd; Oakton Girls' XC Repeats as State Champs; Madison Volleyball Drops Heartbreaker in State Final.* Judge's comments: Strong and clear writing and excellent storytelling helps game stories feel more like features. Excellent work.



**Jon Roetman**



**Victoria Ross**



**Joan Brady**

**Victoria Ross**, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection — Government Writing, First Place. *Let Sun Shine on Virginia's Financial Disclosure Laws, Mr. Horejsi Goes to Richmond; Bulova: 'This Will Be a Challenging Budget.'* Judge's comments: An engaging look at a lobbyist who fights for the little guy; an entertaining story on a political candidate, helping readers put the upcoming election into context; one of the better budgeting stories I've seen lately that helps readers understand how the county's budgeting process is going to cost them more money. The supporting sidebars help bring the message home.



**Mary Kimm**



**Marilyn Campbell**



**Bonnie Hobbs**

sight. Her writing combines depth and subtlety with eloquence of expression. In some senses, her subject matter is narrow. But viewed through a different filter, it is universal. She writes engagingly on a consistent basis.

**Marilyn Campbell**, Chantilly Connection — Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Third Place. *Spiritual Wellness in the New Year; Consistent Bedtimes Aid Children; How To Age in Place Safely;* Judge's comments: These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term. They should serve as very helpful resources for readers of a variety of ages. In concise manner, they effectively made the

concepts clear and applicable to the reader. The aging in place article was particularly relevant and insightful, the childhood sleep story was unlike anything I'd ever read (and I have two kids) and really summed up how a specific approach to children's health makes sense. The spiritual health article was unusual, refreshing to see, and I love the variety of sources and comments.

**Bonnie Hobbs**, The Fairfax Connection — Personal Service Writing, Third Place. *Affordable Housing Lack Can Lead to Hunger; 'Help Us, Will You Please?' City of Fairfax to Tackle Affordable Housing; Council 'Honored to Support this Project,' 'Dream Come True' for Lamb Center.* Judge's comments: Solid writing and good follow-through on the housing issues. The writer did a good job of including income and free lunch data without breaking the flow of the story.

**Mary Kimm**, The McLean Connection — Editorial Writing, Third Place. *Trending in the Right Direction; Virginia Proves Elections Matter; More Affordable Housing Needed; Tragic Consequences; Deadly Medicaid Debacle.* Judge's comments: This submission consists of five well-articulated and well-grounded pieces tackling access to affordable housing and health care, a pair of closely related state and national issues with important local ramifications. The work combines passion with a persuasive factual underpinning.

McLean  
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The four student attorneys will be present in the U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday, April 21 to hear the actual oral arguments in the case.



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

William K. Suter and Cary Greenberg acted as mock justices.

# Langley Case Day ‘the Best in America’

FROM PAGE 3

a controversial national issue and tackle analysis and argument on a professional level, and provides the unique opportunity to work alongside and hear from legal professionals.”

The question presented in *McFadden*: “Whether to convict a defendant of distribution of a controlled substance analogue, the government must prove that the defendant knew that the substance constituted a controlled substance analogue.”

“Most of us changed our opinions of the case. In my case, I changed my opinion five times.”

— Madline Shaw

And, from the United States:  
“Whether, in a prosecution under the Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986, the government must prove that the defendant knew, had a strong suspicion, or deliberately avoided knowing that the substance that he was intentionally distributing for human consumption was substantially similar in chemical structure to a controlled substance.”

Students also invited legal experts and others who dissected the case from different points of view. They also heard from DEA’s John Scherbenske, who described the horrors he sees from the effects of synthetic drugs that are made by people trying to outmaneuver the legal system.

**SUPREME COURT CHAMBERS** is the next stop for the coordinators, the student judges, the attorneys, and many other case day participants.

“I’m fairly confident the government should win,” said Davis. *McFadden* “had a strong suspicion he wasn’t doing the right thing.”

“He was an unsympathetic defendant but just because he’s not sympathetic doesn’t mean there’s not a legitimate case,” said Shaw. “We are here because it is an unclear law.”

“The one thing we agreed on is how poorly worded it is,” said Dell.

Langley students and teachers wanted to choose a case that was relevant to high school students and capable of changing a person’s view of the case, said students Davis and Shaw. They also wanted a case that would allow them to secure 25 seats in the United States Supreme Court.

Many got a tour of the Supreme Court approximately one week before Langley Case Day.

“Breathtaking,” said Davis.

Most of those involved in Case Day said they aspired to be involved since they heard about the program as freshmen four years ago.

“I’ve never had an experience like it,” said Shaw.

“It gave us one last chance to get involved,” said publicity chair Alex Grieco, “one last hurrah with the senior class.”

“Finishing senior year with Case Day is a blessing,” said Marcovici, the coordinator.

“I’m kind of sad it’s over,” said Shaw.

Marcovici thanked teacher Cohen for all the support she and other teachers gave to the program. “We are in awe for what you do for us, you do so much, that we forgive you for taking vacation for two weeks,” said Marcovici.

“She left us alone for two weeks before Case Day,” said Marcovici.

And Case Day went perfectly, due to students’ expertise and efforts.

“We thank the faculty, the students and

the program sponsors for an outstanding program,” Suter said. “The Court is adjourned until next year.”

## The Case

### McFadden v. United States

Question Presented: Petitioner

“Whether to convict a defendant of distribution of a controlled substance analogue, the government must prove that the defendant knew that the substance constituted a controlled substance analogue.”

Question Presented: United States

Whether, in a prosecution under the Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-570, 100 Stat. 3207-13 (21 U.S.C. 813), the government must prove that the defendant knew, had a strong suspicion, or deliberately avoided knowing that the substance that he was intentionally distributing for human consumption was substantially similar in chemical structure to a controlled substance.

Langley students and teachers wanted a case that was relevant to high school students and capable of changing a person’s view of the case, said students Cameron Davis and Madline Shaw.

## Students Chairs

Case Coordinators: Isabel Marcovici and Trey McKula

Debate Committee: Andrew Rifken, Sean Gordon

Decorations: Jennie Kim, Ashlyn Klosterman  
Education: Connor Halm, Sara Zahir, Brittony Trumbull, Ryan Shaw

Emcees: Shakir Naji, Weston Simonides

Finance: Ethan Zell, Casey Britt

Shaw argued on behalf of defendant and petitioner *McFadden* while Davis argued for the United States Government. “Most of us changed our opinions of the case. In my case, I changed my opinion five times,” said Shaw.

“The one thing we all agreed on is how poorly worded [the Controlled Substance Analogue Enforcement Act of 1986] was,” said Paul Dell. “At the end, when we got close to the middle ground, it was so very close.”

Oral arguments in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in this case were scheduled for Tuesday, April 21. In choosing a case, Langley students and teachers also wanted a case that they would be able to get access to. About 25 students will be attending the arguments at the U.S. Supreme Court Case this Tuesday.

“I’m fairly confident the government should win,” Dell said. *McFadden* “had a strong suspicion he wasn’t doing the right thing.”

Student justice Ernyney Marrogi asked Shaw and Dell, who argued for the petitioner in Langley’s mock trial, “couldn’t you only convict a defendant who has a doctorate in chemistry?”

Food: Natalie Volpicelli, Maggie Natal, Kayla Madani

Hospitality: Jordan Campbell, Kayla Omsberg

Interest Group: Connor Kianpour, Haley Falkenberry

Publicity: Alex Grieco, Lainey Dooley, Eric Owens

Research: Rachel Wu, Ian Beskin

Social Media: Ryan Fairbairn, Brian Reilly, Vivian Vaeth

Technology: Mariam Zaidi



## THEATRE

From left — John Geiger (Victor Velasco) serves appetizers to Kim Thornley (Corie's mother), Caity Brown (Corie) and Will MacLeod (Paul) before going out to dinner.



PHOTOS BY TOBY CHIEFFO-REIDWAY/COURTESY OF McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

# Warm Days and Nights of 1963

## McLean Community Players to present "Barefoot in the Park."

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Sweet innocence is arriving as "Barefoot in the Park" makes a rare appearance, courtesy of the McLean Community Players (MCP). Written by Neil Simon, one of America's premiere comic writers, the play centers on an unlikely newlywed couple moving into a tiny fifth-floor walk-up apartment in New York City. The time is the warm days and nights in 1963.

Husband Paul (Will MacLeod) is a buttoned-down, straight-laced, 20-something lawyer. He is a "watcher." Wife Corie (Caity Brown) is a free-spirit, open to experiencing the high-velocity freedoms of New York City. She is a "doer." Are they a mismatch? Can they even agree on furnishings for their apartment? They certainly have much to learn about each other and about marriage.

The newlyweds are helped along the path of education and negotiation as a married couple by Corie's intense, widowed Mom (Kim Thornley) who lives in near-by suburban New Jersey; and a kooky, bachelor Victor Velasco (John Geiger) their upstairs neighbor who must enter his apartment through theirs making for plenty of humorous situations.

"Barefoot" is directed by 30-year MCP veteran Jerry Bonnes. "Neil Simon is timeless. His comedy resonates with a sense that no matter how bad things seem at the beginning, there is a touching, warm light at the end," said Bonnes.

For Brown, the role as Corie is a delight. "She is always trying to find ways to make her relationship with her new husband work, even if they are so different." She also learns that within a marriage "things change all the time".



From left — Caity Brown (Corie) and Will MacLeod (Paul) in their apartment on the first night in rehearsal for the McLean Community Players production of "Barefoot."

## Where and When

McLean Community Players present "Barefoot in the Park" at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Performances: May 1-16. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2. Tickets \$18-\$20. Call 866-811-4111 or visit [www.mcleanplayers.org](http://www.mcleanplayers.org).

As Paul, MacLeod has "a role with a wide range of emotions and plenty of funny dialogue." Both Geiger and Thornley were in agreement that their roles are "delicious." Both "love this production, It is a comic challenge with plenty of physical comedy including emotions without saying a word."

The audience will also be treated to outfits of those times, the early 1960s, added Charlotte Franklin, MCP costumer. She is searching local Northern Virginia stores for just the right look for each of the characters. Stage manager Douglas F. Yriart indicated that the audience will also see a "wonderful set design" of an apartment that will change over time, along with a New York skyline and some special touches from set furniture "movers."

Will the newlyweds learn to live together? Will they come to know how to walk "barefoot in the park"? Come and see.

## CALENDAR



An exhibition and sale of paintings, drawings, sculpture and jewelry.

**6 ARTISTS**  
five years.

**6 Artists: 5 Years, an exhibition and sale of artwork by local artists: Jackie Elwell, Elaine Floirmonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner. Visit the Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna, through Wednesday, May 6. 703-319-3971.**

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

### THROUGH WEDNESDAY/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 Floirmonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 23

**Introduction to Painting.** 1-4 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna. If you have always wanted to learn how to paint, attend this class with Donna Grone and you will take home your own finished painting. All supplies provided by the Vienna Arts Society. No experience necessary. Free. Call to register: 703-319-3971.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 24

**Arts Night Out.** 7-9 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The New Dominion Women's Club will host the annual "Arts Night Out." This is a fun evening to relax and enjoy a special showing at the gallery. There will be hor'deuvres, wine and dessert served, along with an opportunity to participate in a silent auction. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit our website: [www.ndwc.org](http://www.ndwc.org).

**Sybarite5.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. String quintet blurs boundaries with exacting musicianship and adventurous programming for a transfixing result. \$35. 703-255-1900.

**McLean Art Society Meeting.** 10 a.m. - noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Sue Moses, an award winning watercolorist will be the guest artist at the McLean Art Society meeting. Moses is an accomplished sketch artist and will demonstrate doing animal portraits in water colors. Guests are welcome.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 25

**Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Melodic island music with uncommon tunings and finger picking by Hawaii's finest players. \$25-27. 703-255-1900.

**Taste of Vienna.** 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

400 Center Street South, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. to <http://www.tasteofvienna.org/>. <https://www.facebook.com/tasteofvienna?fref=ts>. Rain or shine.

**Great Falls Farmers Market Chef Cook Off.** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. The Great Falls Farmers Market, the Great Falls Historical Society and local nonprofit Green Fire are teaming up to provide residents with a taste of locally-harvested venison, as part of a "Field to Table" program. Three local chefs have signed up to use venison in delicious recipes. Tasting of their handiwork will be available free of charge that day, the opening day of the Farmers Market summer season.

**"The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favourites."** 2 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents.

### SUNDAY/APRIL 26

**"Walk On the Hill."** 2-5 p.m. Free. Windover Heights. Experience a peaceful time as part of Vienna's Quasiquicentennial (125th) celebration by touring the historic district and meandering through any yard with a "Yard Open" sign. Programs throughout the event, including native habitat at Salsbury Spring and concerts by The Old Time Machine, Green Hedges School and Vienna Community Band. Roads closed to vehicles at 2 p.m. Refreshments will be served. (Rain Date: May 3) For information call 703-938-5187 or visit [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org).

**11th Annual Vienna Elementary PTA "Run for Fun" 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk.** 8 a.m. Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center Street South, Vienna. Bring out the whole family to help support academic activities and improvements at Vienna Elementary School. DC Roadrunners will provide a ChronoTrack timing system for the USATF Certified 5K course. The cost is \$25 before 4/19 and \$30 after. Children 14 and under are \$15. For more information and to register, please visit [www.vienna5krun.org](http://www.vienna5krun.org).

**Free Gospel Concert.** Historic Pleasant Grove, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. This free community event features Voices of Worship community choir singing traditional

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



## 'Old Wicked Songs' at 1st Stage

**Philip Hosford as Professor Josef Mashkan in 1<sup>st</sup> Stage production of "Old Wicked Songs."** The performance will take place at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons, through May 3. Performances are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$23 - \$28. Student and military tickets are \$15. Purchase tickets online at [www.1stStageTysons.org](http://www.1stStageTysons.org) or by calling the 1<sup>st</sup> Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

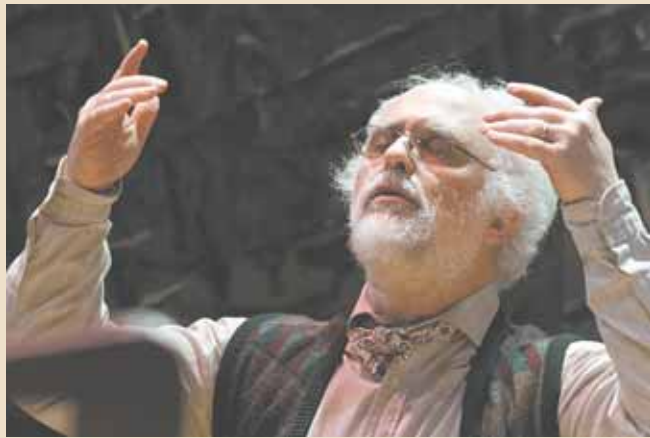


PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1<sup>ST</sup> STAGE

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

gospel music and uplifting spirituals in a quaint 1895 church setting, now an historic site. For information, see [www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org](http://www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org).

**St. Francis Choral Concert.** 4 p.m. St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The performance will include PING, a select group of vocalists specializing in a cappella music from all periods. The featured work of the concert will be Morten Lauridsen's beautiful Lux Aeterna, accompanied by distinguished organist Paul Skevington, music director of St. Luke's Catholic Church in McLean, Va. The concert will be directed by Larry Vote, Professor of Music at St. Mary's College of Maryland and co-director of music at St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Gary & Tina Mather in McLean, Virginia. PRS Kentucky Derby and CrisisLink Link Up & Live are proud to announce the first annual Raising the Stakes for Hope & Recovery Benefit. Join in for an evening featuring the 141st Run for the Roses, elegant hors d'oeuvres, Mint Juleps, mocktails, fun photo opportunities, Silent and Live auctions and more as two events benefiting the community come together as one. Tickets: \$150; More information: [www.prsinc.org/raising-the-stakes](http://www.prsinc.org/raising-the-stakes).

### SUNDAY/MAY 3

**Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Charity 5K.** 7 a.m. Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Race day registration begins at 7 a.m.; race time is 8:30 a.m. This race will

benefit the Insight Memory Care Center (IMCC) who is providing a wide range of services to people with Alzheimer's disease and their families for over 30 years in Fairfax County.

### SUNDAY/MAY 9

**Annual Yard Sale/Flea Market.** 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. You can reserve a space (\$20) to sell your own treasures or donate items to the church. Come shop, donate and/or sell your own things. 703-759-3705

### ONGOING

**Tai Chi Beginners' Practice.** Through March 21. Free Tai Chi beginners' practice. Open to all. Every Saturday, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 29

**Fashion Show to Benefit Kenyan Village.** 8 p.m. Babalu, 8605 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna. Hair-fashion show sponsored by Tyson's Corner salon Noufal will benefit local nonprofit "Serve a Village," in support of village in Kenya. In the show, models will display hair styles created by award-winning Noufal Haircolor Studio stylists. Guests in attendance can win prizes through a raffle with a ticket cost of \$10.

### THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 30-MAY 3

**"Young Frankenstein."** Thursday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 2 at 2 & 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 3 at 2 p.m. George C. Marshall High School is located at 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Come and be transported back to Transylvania with Dr. Frederick Von Frankenstein and a zany cast of characters. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for students/seniors. Note: This production contains language and content that may not be suitable for young children. Visit <http://statementtheatre.org> for more details.

**Free Community Carnival.** 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. Free games and food and fun for all ages. [www.oaktonumc.org](http://www.oaktonumc.org).

**Free Comic Book Day.** Game On! Comics, 310 Dominion Rd NE, Vienna. Game On! Comics in Vienna is one of thousands of comic book shops around the world celebrating the biggest day in the comic book industry and comic art form, Saturday, May 2. On Free Comic Book Day, over 5.6 million comic books will be given away by participating stores, introducing as many people as possible to the wonders of comic books.

**PRS, Inc. Raising the Stakes for Hope & Recovery Benefit** 5 - 9 p.m. Event hosted at the home of

### Saint Ann Catholic Church

**SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:**  
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM  
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM  
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy  
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Parish Office: (703) 528-6276

**DAILY EUCHARIST:**  
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Saturday, 8:30 AM

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS



## Can't Vote at McLean Day or Just Want a Head Start on Voting?

Vote by Absentee Ballot through May 13 at either:

**McLean Community Center (MCC)**  
1234 Ingleside Avenue  
McLean, VA 22101  
(703) 790-0123/TTY 711  
Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m. - 11 p.m.;  
Sunday, noon to 6 p.m.

OR

**Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC)**  
1440 Chain Bridge Road  
McLean, VA 22101  
(703) 448-8336/TTY 711  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
(closed on weekends)

### Requesting Absentee Ballots:

You can pick up absentee ballot packages and vote at MCC or OFTC. You can also request absentee ballot packages by email at [elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org) or by telephone at (703) 790-0123.

### Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:

You can return your application and ballot to the front desk at either MCC or OFTC. Or, you can mail your application and ballot using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed in the absentee ballot package.

**Absent voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 13.**

Hand delivered applications and ballots must be received at either MCC or OFTC by that time. Absentee applications and ballots returned by mail must be received at MCC on May 13.

### If you have questions:

Please call (703) 790-0123 or email [elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org)



**The McLean Community Center**  
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

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# Strong McLean Pitching Performance Goes for Naught

Highlanders hold Fairfax to four hits, lose 1-0.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

Playing in the second of back-to-back games following five days off, and with the second half of the conference schedule approaching, McLean baseball coach John Dowling opted to use four members of his pitching staff during Friday's game against Fairfax.

While the use of multiple arms increased the chance of a Highlander hurler having an off night on the hill, McLean pitchers encountered few bumps along the road, limiting Fairfax to four hits.

But while McLean's pitching staff gave the team a chance to win, a frustrated Dowling was left standing on the field after the game, answering questions about his lineup's inability to produce.

The Highlanders lost to Fairfax 1-0 on April 17 at McLean High School. Jon Clines, Charles Groppe, CJ Downey and Billy Gerhardt each pitched for the Highlanders, and the foursome limited the Rebels to just four hits, including none in the final three innings. However, Fairfax senior Christian Leckert tossed a three-hit shut-out and did not allow a McLean runner to reach third base.

A two-out single by McLean's Thomas Buckman and a wild pitch by Leckert put the tying run in scoring position in the bottom of the seventh inning, but Leckert induced a groundout from the following batter to end the game.

"I was feeling really loose," Leckert said. "[I threw] a lot of sliders, curve balls, pretty much offspeed, living in the zone. Sometimes [I would] sneak some fastballs in there."

Afterward, Dowling shared his frustration with the Highlanders' inability to handle Leckert's breaking pitches.

"All the credit in the world to Leckert," Dowling said. "He threw strikes and we did not come into the game with a strong approach and we did not adjust to what he was doing. If I'm him, I'm going to do the same thing: a lot of breaking balls that were effective."

What would Dowling have liked McLean batters to do differently?

"Adjust to a lot of breaking balls," Dowling said. "We were taking fastball swings in fastball counts and he was not throwing fastballs. And for seven innings, we contin-



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION  
**Senior catcher Caleb Beatty is one of McLean's top returning players from last year's team that reached the state playoffs.**



**Jon Clines was one of four McLean pitchers who helped limit Fairfax to one run on four hits on April 17.**

ued to do the same thing. That is not acceptable."

**THE LOSS** dropped McLean's record to 6-5. It was the Highlanders' third loss in their last four games, with the trio of defeats coming by a combined four runs.

"We've got this little magic formula," Dowling said. "We know that when we throw strikes, we know we're going to field the baseball, then it just becomes a matter of getting enough quality at-bats and we did not [have] anything close to that to-

"We were taking fastball swings in fastball counts and he was not throwing fastballs. And for seven innings, we continued to do the same thing. That is not acceptable."

— McLean baseball coach  
**John Dowling**

with Tuesday's contest (April 21) against Langley, after The Connection's deadline.

"Our [guy] pitched well, but their guys pitched very well, also," Fairfax head coach Rick Freeman said. "They ran a bunch of guys out there, they all threw strikes [and] they all kept us off balance. We generally get seven or eight hits a game."

Downey, Caleb Beatty and Buckman each singled for McLean.

Center fielder Matt Collins nearly gave McLean the lead with a two-run homer in the fourth inning, but his blast down the left-field line that ended up in the parking lot sailed foul.

McLean returns several key players from last year's team that reached the state tournament, including senior catcher Beatty and junior shortstop Conor Grammes. The Highlanders stumbled during the middle of the 2014 campaign, but won six of seven games down the stretch to reach the 6A North region final against Chantilly.

**THE HIGHLANDERS** finished region runner-up and lost to Western Branch 5-4 in the state semifinals.

"We return a number of guys that played in important spots and at the very least were here last year with us," Dowling said. "I think they know one game does not make a season. Our goals don't change and we believe we have the physical tools to be playing deep into the postseason again. We've just got to figure out the other mental half of it."

McLean will travel to face Marshall at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22.

"[We want to go] back to where we were last year," Beatty said, "[and go] further."



**John Dowling is in his second season as head coach of the McLean baseball program.**

day."

Clines started the game and pitched two innings, allowing one hit. Groppe pitched the next two innings, allowing one run on three hits and suffered the loss. Downey pitched the fifth inning before Gerhardt pitched the final two.

One of the reasons Dowling gave for having four pitchers throw limited innings was the second half of conference play approaching. In Conference 6, only the second half of the schedule counts toward the conference standings. For McLean, it started



# SPORTS



**Athletes from 107 teams march down Westmoreland Street in the McLean Little League Opening Day Parade.**



**Bensten Schone throws out the first pitch.**

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

## McLean Little League Holds Opening Day Parade

**Hundreds of athletes from 107 teams march down Westmoreland Street.**

**O**n its 60th Anniversary, hundreds of baseball and softball players from 107 teams marched down Westmoreland Street with parents and local dignitaries for the McLean Little League Opening Day Parade last Saturday, April 18.

They ended up at the McLean Little League fields following the parade where an official Opening Day ceremony was held, with Bensten Schone throwing out the first pitch. Awards were presented to the following individuals: Receiving the Scott Bradshaw Leadership Award were Brandon Torng and Peter Colevas. The Karen Vagley Inspirational Leadership Award went to Amanda Moore. The Volunteer of the Year Award went to Michael Raymond, and the Honor Roll Award went to Bill Goodman.

— STEVE HIBBARD

**Members of Doggett's Parking softball team march in the parade.**



**The Langley High School girls softball team marches in the McLean Little League Opening Day Parade.**



**Members of the McLean High School baseball team congratulate the McLean Little League players.**



**German Plastic Surgery sponsors this team marching in the parade.**



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#### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes a modification to an existing facility with tip heights of 132 feet on a building at 1125 North Patrick Henry Drive in Arlington, VA (Kentucky Dr.). In accordance with federal regulation 47CFR 1.1307, the NEPA and the ACHP 36 CFR 800, parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so by contacting Scott Horn (856-809-1202, [scotthorn@acerassociates.com](mailto:scotthorn@acerassociates.com)) at ACER Associates, LLC at 1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes a modification to an existing facility with tip heights of 66 feet on a building at 4241 Columbia Pike in Arlington, VA (Tanglewood). In accordance with federal regulation 47CFR 1.1307, the NEPA and the ACHP 36 CFR 800, parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so by contacting Scott Horn (856-809-1202, [scotthorn@acerassociates.com](mailto:scotthorn@acerassociates.com)) at ACER Associates, LLC at 1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091.

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#### NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEES' SALE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY HUNTER MILL EAST, L.L.C.

LOCATED AT 1623, 1627, AND 1631 CROWELL ROAD, VIENNA, VIRGINIA; 627 HUNTER MILL ROAD, VIENNA, VIRGINIA; AND AN ADJACENT PARCEL LACKING AN ADDRESS

SALE TO BE HELD AT THE FAIFAX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT

MAY 7, 2015, AT 10:00 A.M.

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust and Security Agreement dated May 5, 2008, and recorded May 5, 2008 in Deed Book 19918 at Page 1894, as amended by a certain Amendment to Deed of Trust and Security Agreement dated October 14, 2009, and recorded October 15, 2009 in Deed Book 20741 at Page 0680, each among the land records of Fairfax County, Virginia (collectively the "Deed of Trust"), made by HUNTER MILL EAST, L.L.C., a Virginia limited liability company, now securing CATJEN LLC, a Virginia limited liability company (the "Noteholder"), default having occurred in the payment of the debt secured thereby, and being instructed to do so by the Noteholder, the undersigned Substitute Trustees will offer for sale the property described below at public auction by the main entrance to the Fairfax County Circuit Court, located at 4110 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax, VA 22030 on May 7, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

The real property encumbered by the Deed of Trust that will be offered for sale by the Substitute Trustees is commonly known as 1623 Crowell Road (Tax Identification Number: 0184-08-0003), 1627 Crowell Road (Tax Identification Number: 0184-08-0002), 1631 Crowell Road (Tax Identification Number: 0184-08-0001A), 1627 Hunter Mill Road (Tax Identification Number: 0184-01-0023), and an adjacent parcel lacking a street address (Tax Identification Number: 0184-01-0026B), all located in Vienna, Fairfax County, Virginia, as more particularly described in the Deed of Trust, and all improvements, fixtures, easements and appurtenances thereto (the "Real Property"). The Real Property will be sold together with the interest of the Noteholder, if any, in the following described personal property at the direction of the Noteholder as secured party thereof, as permitted by Section 8.9A of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended (the "Personal Property"): Improvements, Fixtures and Personalty, and any and all other personal property and any proceeds thereof as more particularly described in the Deed of Trust (the "Personal Property"). The above described Real Property and Personal Property are collectively referred to as the "Property."

#### TERMS OF SALE

ALL CASH. The property will be offered for sale "AS IS, WHERE IS" and will be conveyed by Substitute Trustees' Deed (the "Substitute Trustees' Deed") subject to all encumbrances, rights, reservations, rights of first refusal, conveyances, conditions, easements, restrictions, and all recorded and unrecorded liens, if any, having priority over and being superior to the Deed of Trust, as they may lawfully affect the property. Personal Property, if any, shall be conveyed without warranty by a Secured Party Bill of Sale.

The Substitute Trustees and the Beneficiary disclaim all warranties of any kind, either express or implied for the property, including without limitation, any warranty relating to the zoning, condition of the soil, extent of construction, materials, habitability, environmental condition, compliance with applicable laws, fitness for a particular purpose and merchantability. The risk of loss or damage to the property shall be borne by the successful bidder from and after the date and time of the sale. Obtaining possession of the property shall be the sole responsibility of the successful bidder (the "Purchaser"). A bidder's deposit of \$250,000.00 (the "Deposit") by certified or cashier's check shall be required by the Substitute Trustees for such bid to be accepted. The Substitute Trustees reserve the right to prequalify any bidder prior to the sale and/or waive the requirement of the Deposit. Immediately after the sale, the successful bidder shall execute and deliver a memorandum of sale with the Substitute Trustees, copies of which shall be available for inspection immediately prior to the sale, and shall deliver to the Substitute Trustees the Deposit and the memorandum of sale. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid by the Purchaser. Settlement shall occur within thirty (30) days after the sale date, TIME BEING OF THE ESSENCE with regard to the Purchaser's obligation. Settlement shall take place at the offices of Venable LLP, 8010 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 300, Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182 or other mutually agreed location. Purchaser shall also pay all past due real estate taxes, rollback taxes, water rents, water permit renewal fees (if any) or other municipal liens, charges and assessments, together with penalties and interest due thereon. The Purchaser shall also pay all

settlement fees, title examination charges, title charges and title insurance premiums, all recording costs (including the state grantor's tax and all state and county recordation fees, clerk's filing fees, congestion relief fees and transfer fees and taxes), auctioneer's fees and/or bid premiums, and reasonable attorneys' fees and disbursements incurred in the preparation of the deed of conveyance and other settlement documentation. The Purchaser shall be required to sign an agreement at settlement waiving any cause of action Purchaser may have against the Substitute Trustees, and/or the Beneficiary for any condition with respect to the property that may not be in compliance with any federal, state or local law, regulation or ruling including, without limitation, any law, regulation and ruling relating to environmental contamination or hazardous wastes. Such agreement shall also provide that if notwithstanding such agreement, a court of competent jurisdiction should permit such a claim to be made, such agreement shall serve as the overwhelming primary factor in any equitable apportionment of response costs or other liability. Nothing herein shall release, waive or preclude any claims the Purchaser may have against any person in possession or control of the property. If any Purchaser fails for any reason to complete settlement as provided above, the Deposit shall be forfeited and applied to the costs of the sale, including Trustees' fees, and the balance, if any, shall be delivered to the Beneficiary to be applied by the Beneficiary against the indebtedness secured by and other amounts due under the Deed of Trust in accordance with the Deed of Trust or applicable law or otherwise as the Beneficiary shall elect. There shall be no refunds. Such forfeiture shall not limit any rights or remedies of the Substitute Trustees or the Beneficiary with respect to any such default. If the property is resold, such re-sale shall be at the risk and the cost of the defaulting bidder, and the defaulting bidder shall be liable for any deficiency between its bid and the successful bid at the re-sale as well as the costs of conducting such re-sale. Immediately upon conveyance by the Substitute Trustees of the Property, all duties, liabilities and obligations of the Substitute Trustees, if any, with respect to the Property so conveyed shall be extinguished, except as otherwise provided by applicable law.

/s/ Henry F. Brandenstein, Jr., Substitute Trustee

/s/ Patrick W. Lincoln, Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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#### ABC LICENSE

Big Mooks BBQ, LLC trading as Mookies, BBQ, 1141 Walker Rd. Great Falls, VA 22066. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises/Mixed Beverages license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Brian Varani, 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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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#### ABC LICENSE

American Tandoor Tysons Corner, LLC trading as American Tandoor, G021U Tysons Corner Center, McLean, VA 22102. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off & Mixed Beverage Restaurant (seating capacity over 150) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Karan Singh, Manager  
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Robinson Hill LT, Inc. trading as Lebanese Taverna Express, 2401 Smith Blvd Reagan National Airport Terminal BC Space BC-20A, Arlington, VA 22202. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Robinson Hill LT, Inc.  
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#### ABC LICENSE

Big Mooks BBQ, LLC trading as Mookies, BBQ, 1141 Walker Rd. Great Falls, VA 22066. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Mixed Beverage Caterer Limited license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Brian Varani, 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](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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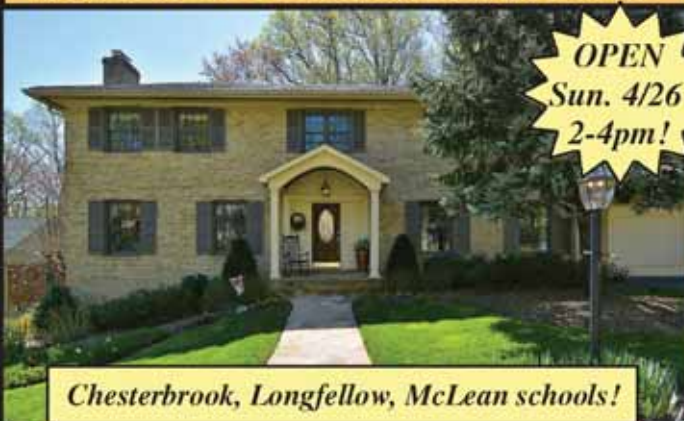
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# Spring Real Estate & New Homes

## Staged to Sell

Real estate agents give the lowdown on getting your home ready for the market.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

When a Burke family hired E. Diane Neustrand to sell their home, she did her standard walk-through of the house to assess it, but when she reached the dining room, she stopped cold.

"It was painted with three different shades of orange and accessorized with black, white and gold furniture," said Neustrand, a real estate agent with Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc. in Burke, Fairfax Station and Clifton.

First on Neustrand's chopping block: a pair of zebra print chairs. The boisterous wall colors were next.

"It wasn't harmonious at all," said Neustrand, who also works as a professional home stager. "We had to calm that down because orange is not a color that sells well. You want neutrals in paint and furniture, so potential buyers can visualize their own items in your home."

Residential real estate staging, the practice of preparing a home to go on the market for sale by making it aesthetically appealing, is credited with giving homes an advantage over the competition.

Staging can range from rearranging furniture, decluttering and painting the walls to furnishing a home in which the seller no



PHOTO BY ROBERT WHETZEL

**Realtors say professionally staged homes spend less time on the market.**

longer resides.

The National Association of Realtors' 2015 Investment & Home Buyers Survey showed that staging can have a positive impact on the number of days a home sits on the market and the amount of money potential buyers a willing offer for the home.

**"STAGED HOMES** traditionally present themselves better than the competition by being clean, clutter-free and ready to show to prospective buyers," said Mona Bekheet, a real estate agent with McEneaney Associates, Inc. in McLean. "Home staging is decluttering, depersonalizing and preparing a seller's home to look like a model

home so the potential buyers can see themselves living in the home."

The survey showed that 49 percent of agents say most buyers are affected by home staging, while a 2013 study by the Real Estate Staging Association showed staged homes sold 83 percent sooner than houses that weren't staged.

Realtors also believe buyers usually offer a 1-5 percent increase on the value of a staged home.

"Staged homes take less time on the market and they sell at the best price," said Bekheet. "Buyers view them as well cared for properties and appraisers are more likely to appraise staged homes at a full or higher value."

That increase can offset the expense of having a home professionally staged. Services, including consultations and furniture rental, can cost \$250 to \$2,000. Neustrand uses as many of the homeowners' possessions as she can to minimize out-of-pocket expenses.

"Since staging gives a home a clean, fresh, current look, it makes a home more attractive to buyers," said Betsy Schuman Dodek of Washington Fine Properties in Potomac, Md.

However, real estate agents say initiating conversations with homeowners about their homes and suggesting changes must be

SEE STAGED, PAGE 7

## Optimism for 2015 Real Estate Market

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

After what seemed to be an endless winter, spring has finally come calling, signaling the start of the year's first real estate high season. Homes trade hands all year long, but spring is often for buyers, seller, agents, brokers and lenders like those weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas; buyers at full speed searching out the best bargains and sellers looking to move their wares without having to resort to price-slashing sales tactics.

So far, area real-estate experts and the data from sources like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), Movoto

Real Estate, and SmartCharts (powered by RealEstate Business Intelligence with data supplied from the MLS listing service) are all aligned in their assessment of the outlook for the 2015 market in Northern Virginia. Compared to a lackluster 2014 after a strong 2013, there's reason for optimism.

Veronica Seva-Gonzalez, NVAR board member and Realtor with Compass Real Estate, noted that the spring weather and positive housing market news had arrived simultaneously. "It's great to see how all of the numbers are up from last year and also from the beginning of this year," she said.

Across the board, the numbers do look positive. Combined data collected for the counties of Fairfax and Arlington, the cities

of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax and the towns of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton, show a first quarter increase of total units sold of just over 9 percent, with 3,657 units sold in 2015 compared to 3,352 the prior year. For the same period and for the same localities, days on the market (DOM) per unit actually rose in 2015 and the average ratio of sales price to list price showed marginal slippage, but Realtors and market analysts see the significant improvements in March 2015 numbers vs. March 2014 figures as an indicator of a healthy selling season ahead.

The March 2015 increases were seen in

SEE OUTLOOK, PAGE 6

McLean  
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# Local REAL ESTATE

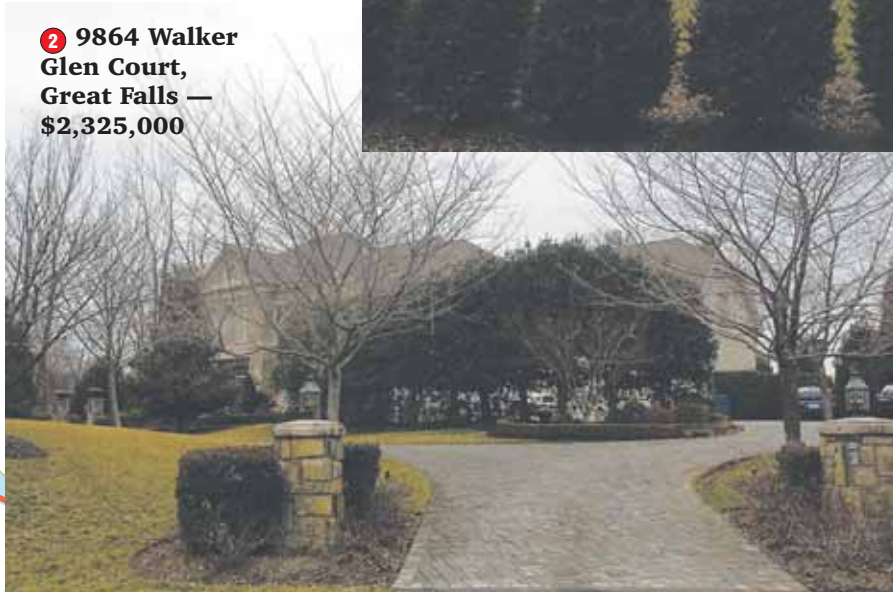
PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## February, 2015 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean

IN FEBRUARY 2015,  
12 GREAT FALLS HOMES SOLD  
BETWEEN \$2,325,000-\$650,000,  
AND 59 HOMES SOLD BETWEEN  
\$2,735,000-\$185,000 IN THE  
MCLEAN AND FALLS CHURCH AREA.



**1 7811 Langley Ridge Road, McLean — \$2,735,000**



**2 9864 Walker Glen Court, Great Falls — \$2,325,000**



**3 664 Live Oak Drive, McLean — \$2,165,000**



**4 317 Club View Drive, Great Falls — \$1,640,000**



**6 1407 Mayhurst Boulevard, McLean — \$1,514,000**



**7 751 Keithley Drive, Great Falls — \$1,200,000**

Address .....	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	...	Sold Price	....	Type	.....	Lot AC	PostalCode	.....	Subdivision	.....	Date Sold
<b>1</b> 7811 LANGLEY RIDGE RD .....	6	6	3	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,735,000	....	Detached	....	1.05	.....	22102	.....	LANGLEY RIDGE	.....	02/27/15
<b>2</b> 9864 WALKER GLEN CT .....	7	7	2	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$2,325,000	....	Detached	....	1.73	.....	22066	.....	WALKER GLEN	.....	02/27/15
<b>3</b> 664 LIVE OAK DR .....	4	5	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,165,000	....	Detached	....	1.32	.....	22101	.....	EAGLE ROCK	.....	02/13/15
<b>4</b> 317 CLUB VIEW DR .....	5	4	2	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,640,000	....	Detached	....	2.70	.....	22066	.....	SHAFFER ESTATES	.....	02/12/15
<b>5</b> 6521 DRYDEN DR .....	6	5	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$1,525,000	....	Detached	....	0.30	.....	22101	.....	EL NIDO ESTATES	.....	02/02/15
<b>6</b> 1407 MAYHURST BLVD .....	5	4	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$1,514,000	....	Detached	....	0.58	.....	22102	.....	SMC MCLEAN	.....	02/20/15
<b>7</b> 751 KEITHLEY DR .....	4	3	2	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,200,000	....	Detached	....	9.57	.....	22066	.....	SENECA RIDGE	.....	02/13/15
<b>8</b> 10122 NEDRA DR .....	5	5	1	...	GREAT FALLS	..	\$1,150,000	....	Detached	....	0.62	.....	22066	.....	HICKORY VALE FARM	.....	02/05/15

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# On Tour: Aging in Place Renovation

BY JOHN BYRD

A Vienna whole house remodel that incorporates an Aging-In-Place solution will be featured in the Parade of Homes/ Remodeled Home Tour April 25-April 26.

The circa-1970s split-level owned by Andre and Katy Hollis was substantially repurposed and renovated by Sun Design Remodeling of Burke.

"I decided that I really liked our neighborhood and that with changes we could stay in the house indefinitely," Katy Hollis said.

Mindy Mitchell, the Certified Aging-In-Place Specialist (CAPS) at Sun Design Remodeling who executed the Hollis design solution, says such inquiries have become more common in recent years.

After considering options, the Hollis family settled on several revisions: a spacious first floor bedroom; a gourmet kitchen; a better entertainment plan; and a guest suite with dedicated bath.

"I thought we probably had enough

square footage to achieve what we wanted," Katy Hollis said, "but there were lots of functional problems, and we weren't sure how to address them." The challenge was reconfiguring adequate existing space into a better plan serving long term horizons.

Katy wanted both a guest suite and a larger, more private master bedroom suite.

The former master bedroom suite now becomes spacious guest quarters. A corner bedroom has been transformed into a second upstairs bathroom.

Mitchell and team re-deployed 300 square feet on the rear of the first level for a very private master bedroom suite that includes a master bath and generous walk-in closets.

A home office behind glass-facing French doors opens directly into the redecorated living room.

"It's a terrific solution in every detail," Hollis said. "And knowing we've already made some solid decisions about the future has really given me peace of mind."

Call 703-425-5588 or  
[www.SunDesignInc.com](http://www.SunDesignInc.com).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**A whole house aging-in-place solution by Sun Design Remodeling will be featured in the Parade of Homes' Remodeled Homes Tour, April 25 and April 26. The firm executed a top-to-bottom makeover to a circa 1970s split-level, creating a first level master suite and a gourmet kitchen.**

## Trendy Bathroom Transformations

Designers share the hottest ideas in lavatory design.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Imagine stepping into a resort inside the comfort of your own home. Contemporary, spa-like bathrooms with clean lines and features such as floating vanities, open shelving, innovative storage and low-maintenance materials are on trend this year in bathroom remodeling projects.

When the main level master bathroom in a 1970s-era Reston home got a major facelift earlier this year, Dean Turner, of Evolution Design & Build in Reston was tasked with addressing structural issues as well updating the entire space.

"This bathroom had a sunken tub and shower combination that was leaking into the basement below," said Turner. "They wanted me to solve their water problems ... update their bathroom, and they were very interested in a floating vanity."

The floating, walnut piece was made by a local cabinetmaker and hovers 12 inches above the floor, and Turner was able to give the homeowners an abundance of storage by incorporating cabinetry into the vanity. A simple touch of the fingertip opens and closes its drawers and doors, eliminating the need for visible hardware. Motion detecting, LED lighting under the vanity is another convenience.

Turner's team removed the existing wall



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

**Low maintenance porcelain tile accented with river rock stone are used in this Burke bathroom.**

and floor tile, replacing it with scratch- and stain-resistant porcelain tile that has the appearance of natural stone, while the wall tiles were made in the image of natural

wood.

"When you look at it," said Turner. "It looks just like hardwood flooring on the wall."

**AFTER MOVING** into a retirement community, an empty-nester couple decided to overhaul the builder-grade bathroom that came with their home. They enlisted the help of Stephanie Brick, of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield, who designed a contemporary space.

"The homeowners were looking for something that was calming and had a spa-like energy," said Brick. "They also wanted more storage, especially open storage for linens and displaying items."

Brick and the Nicely team installed cabinetry with open shelving over the toilet. The vanity has a quartz countertop with veins of blue and turquoise that bears a close resemblance to marble. "Those colors were carried through in an accent piece in the shower," said Brick.

The porcelain tile floor has a marble-like appearance.

"You get the beautiful look of marble, but you don't have the maintenance or the cost," said Brick. "The new bathroom has a much more spa-like aesthetic. It was very bland and vanilla and it needed a face lift."

When the owners of a contemporary home in Burke decided to remodel their master bathroom so that it matched the style of the rest of the house, they called on designer Cathy Gross, also of Nicely. She used porcelain tile on the walls accented with river rock stone, a material that she also used on the bathroom floor.

"They wanted to continue the calm, zen, contemporary feel in the remodel of their master bath," said Gross, who also designed the home's kitchen five years prior.

More designs in the unabridged story at [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)



## Outlook Optimistic for Local 2015 Real Estate Market

FROM PAGE 3

all sectors of the residential market, with “attached” homes like townhouses leading the way with a 3.6 percent uptick in average sales price. Condominiums came in at second place, with a 1.8 percent increase in the month compared to 2014. Single-family homes came in last for the March 2015 totals, but still better than the prior year by 0.7 percent.

Greatly increased inventory versus last year could be one factor in the more modest single-family home price increases. In 2015, 3,165 new properties came onto the market during the month, while only 2,656 were put on the books during that month last year. A total of 3,381 units were available to buyers in March this year compared to 3,011 last year.

“In some areas and some price ranges, there is definitely more choice,” said Reston Long and Foster Realtor Anita Lasansky. “Sellers are starting to get more confident.”

Realtor Jennifer Boyce, Long and Foster Gold Team, also noted that some buyers were starting to “come out from under,” having held on during the worst of the economic downturn. “Equities are looking stronger, so they can get back in, selling or buying.”

The data does vary around the region. Not all areas experienced an increase in sales prices in the month-to-month comparison. Falls Church City, for example, posted an increase in the numbers of units sold, but a 19.12 percent decrease in median sales price.

Arlington County, on the other hand, saw the largest increase in the March 2015 vs. March 2014 side-by-side; with 24.43 percent more closed sales and a 10.68 percent increase in the median sales price.

Janet Gresh of the Gresh Group in McLean says that her experience so far this year is in line with those numbers. “Arlington is definitely hot right now, close in and enough quality properties that you see serious competition.”

Lasansky gave the numbers she is seeing for Reston a “thumbs up,” as well. “We’re up about 15 percent in the first quarter over last year and about 5 percent up in median sales price.”

In the City of Alexandria, the median sales price rose by more than 10 percent in March on an increase of 14.37 percent in closed sales.

Fairfax County and Fairfax City both saw more moderate improvements in median sales prices at 2.79 percent and 2.00 percent respectively. For Fairfax City, the positive takeaway from the March figures is that the median sales price rose despite a drop in total closed sales of more than 50 percent compared to last year.

While all of the data provided is considered preliminary and still subject to revision, the numbers available to date suggest a good start to the year – and barring the unforeseen negative impact – a positive 2015 real estate market.

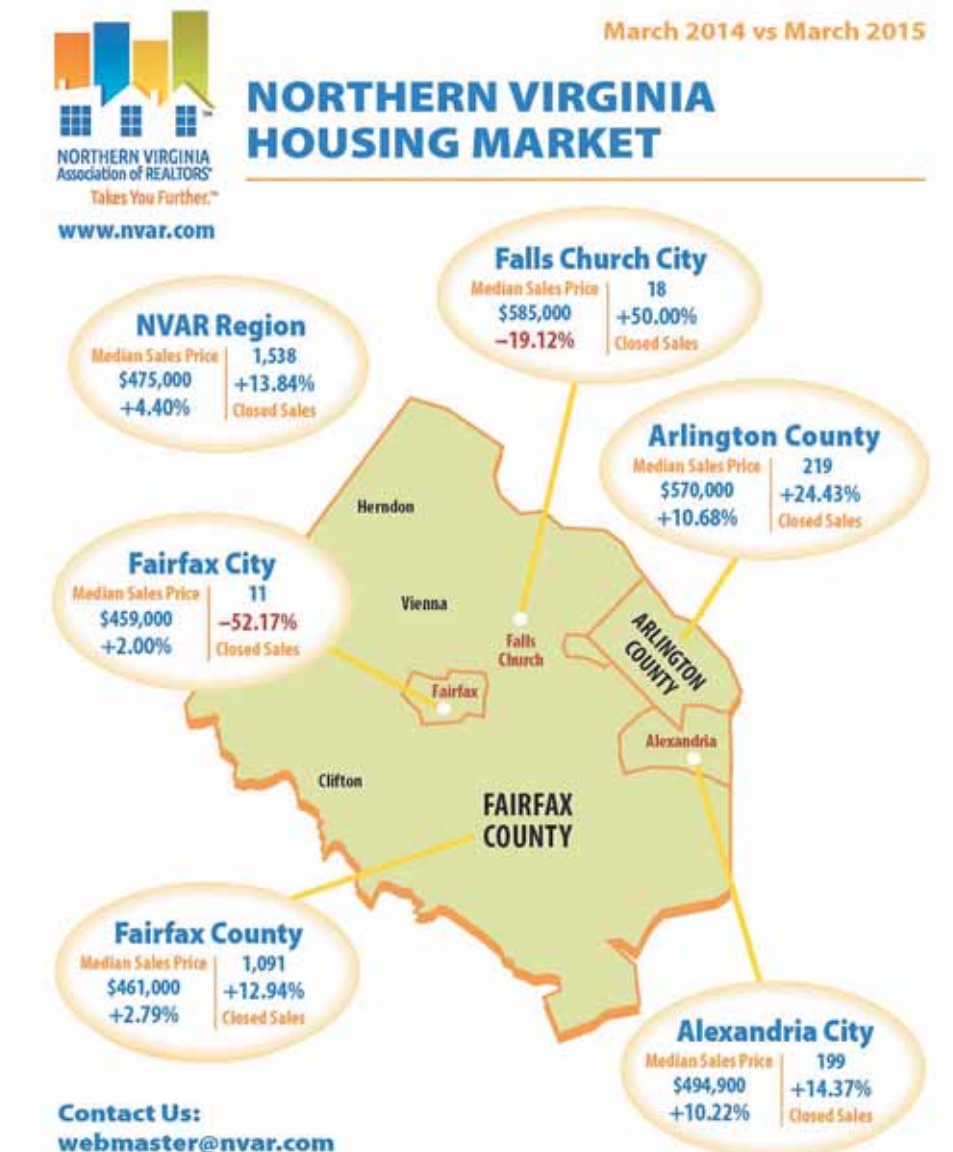


IMAGE COURTESY OF NVAR

Plus-column numbers on the books, the collective optimism of many of the area’s top real estate professionals, and respected organizations like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors adding that “2015 may be different because of its more sustainable, positive market direction,” all offer signs that the real estate market in the region is looking at a healthy year. Any number of factors, including the ever-present threat of the Federal Reserve raising interest rates sometime this year, could stall or even reverse the positive trends.

Whatever comes along, realtors like Kathleen Quintarelli, Weichert Realtors, Burke, think we will deal with it. “People have kind of stopped believing that the rates will go up again and when they do it will be a shock and have its impact, but we will adjust to that new norm, as well.”

With the latest figures in hand, we asked some of our area’s top real estate professionals for their perspectives, and to offer some expert advice to buyers and sellers alike.

❖ **Virgil Frizzell, Ph.D., MBA**, realtor Long and Foster Reston: “I think the March housing statistics indicate a healthier spring housing market in the footprint of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors than for the rest of the country. The con-

tinuing improvements ... are good for both homebuyers and home sellers and likely indicate a more balanced market. Buyers should benefit from increasing inventory, still low mortgage [rates] and easing credit standards. The year-over-year increase in housing units sold and modestly rising median prices may embolden sellers.” (Frizzell is the 2015 NVAR Chairman-Elect.)

❖ **Mary Bayat**, owner of Bayat Realty in Alexandria and 2015 NVAR Chair: “Finally, many buyers who had distressed house sales years ago could have enough repaired credit to qualify for a new loan. They will get more house for their money now than if they wait. We expect the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates later this year. Another local indicator is that active listings have risen more than 25 percent.”

❖ **Jennifer Boyce**, Long and Foster Gold Team Burke/Fairfax Station/Clifton: “Don’t price too aggressively in late spring or early summer is my advice. Homes that are well priced and in good condition will sell. The \$500,000-\$800,000 homes are in high demand. Homes that are priced over \$1 million face a smaller and sometimes more exacting buyer base, not willing to compromise much and expecting top quality for their money.”

❖ **Will Farnam**, Long and Foster Falls Church: “I think the data so far for this year would be considered bright - not a boom - but strong. It’s a market that’s good for good properties, not good for just anything. There’s enough choice. One good sign is the traffic at Open Houses. The last two weekends I have had house-fulls, quite different from last year. Smaller down payments on many FHA and VA loans is helping, but despite some lending requirement easing, I find that buyers with credit problems are still struggling to get a loan.”

❖ **Janet Gresh**, The Gresh Group@Keller Williams: “The market is looking good, but it is still a bit more of an art than a science at times. If an under-\$1 million home is priced right, I am starting to see multiple offers, especially in Arlington. ... In some of these areas, if the house doesn’t sell or have offers in the first two weekends, it could be a sign of trouble and time to re-evaluate. ... Don’t overprice and you may end up getting more than you ask for. I have experienced that recently.”

❖ **Anita Lasansky**, Long and Foster Reston: “It’s looking good, strong numbers over last year for Reston especially, what some call the ‘Silicon Valley of the East.’ Some homes are selling now in days, not weeks, if they are well-priced with updated kitchens and bathrooms. Those homes take top dollar and for the first time in years I am seeing multiple offers on those properties. The properties over \$1.2 million are still sitting. Sellers should also be cautioned not to overprice based on the addition of the Metro Silver Line. I see that a lot of people are riding it, but it hasn’t had that much of an impact on house prices in the area, at least not yet, but some sellers are factoring in 5-10 percent in their list price based on the Metro.

❖ **Kathleen Quintarelli**, Weichert Realtors, Burke: “I’m excited. 2015 looks slightly better already. Open Houses are really packed. With interest rates staying so low, more choice, the easing up on credit requirements, and fewer short sales and foreclosures - all those factors are really giving the market energy. There’s just not enough inventory in some categories, especially anything around \$350k - \$450k. Anything in good condition in that price range can go in the first week. My advice to sellers: Price well, prepare your home and stage it. And have your photographs taken by a professional. If the potential buyer comes in and says “Wow! This place looks a lot better than the pictures on the internet!” then your agent - or you - have done something wrong. Sellers should be ready to buy, even the same day you see the house you want. That means pre-approval and preferably by a local lender that we can work with quickly, especially if you’re faced with multiple offers or counters.



# Staged to Sell

FROM PAGE 3

handled delicately.

"You don't want to hurt someone's feelings by telling them that they need to move items or get rid of items like the wrong artwork or too much furniture," said Maria Smith of Arlington Realty in Arlington. "But the homeowner's objective should be to sell the home."

Staging helps when a home is too cluttered, or even if a house is already empty. It's also a good idea "for those with dated, mismatched furniture or too many pieces in a room," said Realtor Marsha Schuman of Washington Fine Properties. "For homes that don't have a traditional floor plan, staging helps a buyer see how the rooms can be laid out."

"Even if you have a large home, if your closets are over-stuffed or if you have too much furniture, a prospective buyer can't get a sense of the space and dimension of a room or visualize themselves in the home," said E.J. Stone, a real estate agent with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Alexandria.

**REMOVING ULTRA-PERSONAL ITEMS** like family pictures or bills is another part of the staging process.

"You want to get a potential buyer to envision their things in the home," said Stone. "Neutrals can help with that. Those are things that a home stager can suggest."

**"Staged homes traditionally present themselves better than the competition by being clean, clutter-free and ready to show to prospective buyers."**

— **Mona Bekheet, McEneaney Associates, Inc., in McLean**

Less is often more in the home staging game, say Realtors. "I tell my clients to take stuff off the walls, rent a storage space and take all the stuff you don't need and put it into a storage unit, so it opens up more space," said Michael Richter, real estate agent for residential preferred properties at the Richter Group in Burke.

Realtors rank the living room as the number one room to stage, followed by the kitchen. Also in the top five rooms are the master bedroom, dining room and the bathroom.

"Your home should be a model home, like no one lives there," said Neustrand. "The bathroom counters should not have products or clutter. There should not be trash in the garbage can."

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## 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](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

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Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

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