

Meet Best Friends of McLean

McLean
CONNECTION

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 4

Enjoying OCEAN At McLean Central Park

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

Old-fashioned Fair At Claude Moore Farm

NEWS, PAGE 3

McLean resident
and consultant for
brokerage firms and
banks Ann Griffith
feeds her collies
Teddy and Conn.

Inside
PET CONNECTION



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Two families whose parents met through the Market Fair: Idunn Taylor (W. Va), Anne Bova (Pa.), Charlotte Bova (Pa.) and Cynthia Taylor (W. Va).



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE WATKINS/THE CONNECTION

"The Millinery" — Sarah Cooper (W. Va) and Becca Goughnour, of Herndon.

Claude Moore Colonial Farm Hosts 2015 Market Fair

Visitors from all over attended the 18th Century Colonial Fair, immersing themselves in the colonial times through food, merchandise and traditional activities.

The smell of traditional roasted chicken filled the air as the British flag waved in the afternoon sun. Children dressed in bonnets and buckled shoes skipped through the gravel, giggling as they weaved through the wide assortment of booths the July Market Fair at Claude Moore Colonial Farm had to offer. From long-serving volunteers to first-time visitors, people of all ages enjoyed the two-day affair, despite the blistering heat.

Some highlights from the daily schedule

included a swords demo, a militia march, a puppet show and a three-legged race. Mainly children took part in the events throughout the day, while parents could be seen purchasing goods in the market, such as jewelry from "The Millinery" and children's toys from "Noah's Ark." Other popular features of the fair included a potpourri booth, a blacksmith, lively fiddlers and food booths cheekily named "Mother Clucks Bake Oven" and "The Shady Poul and Piglet." Missed out on all the fun? Be sure to attend the next Market Fair this fall on Oct. 17-18.

— CAROLINE WATKINS



Mother and daughter man the "Noah's Ark" booth, Isabella Wright and Lucia Wright of Rockville.

Mary Anne Hampton Named 2015 'Friend in Deed'

Friends of the McLean Community Center recognize the 'go to' Board member.

The Friends of the McLean Community Center (FMCC) organization has named Mary Anne Hampton the recipient of its 2015 "Friend in Deed" award. Hampton is the 23rd person to receive this recognition "with gratitude for outstanding leadership and support of the McLean Community Center." Hampton was honored at the Friends annual meeting on Monday, June 8, and her name will be added to the "Friend in Deed" plaque located in the Center's main lobby, which lists all award recipients.

One of two original staff members hired when the McLean Community Center opened in 1975, Hampton served in

various positions during her 33-year tenure. Since her retirement, she has volunteered for numerous Center activities and became a member of the Friends Board in 2013. Since that time, she has worked to promote Friends by, among other things, helping to develop the Friends website and assisting with the update of their membership brochure. Hampton also headed the committee which organized the Friends 50th Anniversary Reception in 2014 and the "Meet the Candidates" Reception for the 2015 MCC Governing Board elections.

According to Friends President Glenn Yarborough, "Mary Anne is the 'go to' Board member of the Friends of the McLean Com-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCC

Mary Anne Hampton with Friends of MCC President Glenn Yarborough.

munity Center. When there is a project or a problem, Mary Anne gets it solved and done. Her thoughtful advice and reliability means so much to those on the Friends

Board. No one is better, and she is most deserving of this award."

More information concerning Friends may be found at www.friendsmcc.com.

PET CONNECTION

McLean Family Rescues Old Stray Cat

A scrawny alley cat tiptoed onto a porch in hopes of stealing food. After around 12 years as a stray, Buttons was rescued by McLean family, the Hosmers. Or, rather, Buttons began the process of being rescued.

Buttons took six months to transition into the Hosmers' home. The Hosmers nevertheless cared for Buttons.

"I made a wood house for him and put a heat pad in it," rising freshman at Langley High School Dylan Hosmer said about Buttons, who was unwilling to move into the Hosmers' house. "I made that house for him so he would survive outside."

Eventually, Buttons permanently relocated to the house.

"If we had tried to put him outside, he would have called his lawyers," retired patent attorney Jim Hosmer said.

As a docile cat, Buttons continued his street habit of eating all food he found—including entire bags of cat food. The more weight he gained, the happier he felt.

"He's one of the most wonderful feline kitties you could ever have," Jim said. "He's just so warm and affectionate and unfortunately cost us a lot of money to keep him healthy. Enough to buy a new car."

The Hosmers felt they were doing good.

"I'm convinced if you take care of an animal like this that you get points when you get up to the pearly gates. They'll say 'Well, what have you done with your life?' and you'll say, 'Well, I took care of this cat,' and they'll say, 'All right, come on in,'" Jim said.

— DANIELLE GRAE

A Trained Troublemaker

Teddy is a collie who has transcended ordinary dog training. Already able to sit, stay, and come, Teddy has mastered the art of imitating a piranha.

The dog's master, life-long collie owner McLean resident and consultant for brokerage firms and banks Ann Griffith, dangles a treat in her hand and says "piranha." Teddy snaps her jaw open and closed until Griffith rewards her with the treat.

Although Teddy mostly behaves, she once kidnapped Baby Jesus at a nativity scene. Teddy ran with the doll in her mouth. Fortunately, the doll survived Teddy's attack.

Teddy has also stolen food. Once, she jumped onto a grill and absconded with chicken.

"She only does it when people are watching. She tries to embarrass me, don't you Teddy?" Ann said while rubbing Teddy's neck.

As a puppy, Teddy approached human food, but not to steal it. Teddy crawled into Ann's refrigerator and fell asleep.

"I didn't close the door on her," Griffith said.

Griffith feeds Teddy and Conn, Griffith's other collie, holistic raw food, which is organic with beef, carrots, apples, flax oil and sunflower seeds. Ann also feeds her dogs cod liver oil and probiotics daily.

— DANIELLE GRAE



McLean cat Buttons takes a cat nap on a rug.

PHOTOS BY DANIELLE GRAE/THE CONNECTION



McLean cat Buttons snaps a selfie with his owner, McLean resident and real estate agent Tania Hosmer.



PHOTO BY DANIELLE GRAE/THE CONNECTION

McLean resident and consultant for brokerage firms and banks, Ann Griffith, plays piranha with her collie Teddy.

"I try to eat organic and very clean, so my dogs do the same. That's why Conn's 12-years-old but in good shape," Ann said.

Griffith loves her dogs because they are excellent companions.

"They get me out of the house, so I can meet fun people. It's nice to be out in nature with them and see the world through their eyes," Ann said.

Cat and Dog Are Best Friends

Is it true? Can a cat and dog be best friends? For the Wall family of McLean, yes.

The dog Finnigan plays gingerly with the cat Fiona.

"The dog will put the entire cat in his mouth without hurting her, and then she'll get out of his mouth and bop his nose without using claws. It's like a cartoon," 11-year-old student at Saint Luke School John Wall said.

Finnigan often chases Fiona into a room, and when they emerge, Fiona is chasing Finnigan.

"It's like Scooby Doo," 14-year-old student at Oakrest School Mary Wall said.

In addition to being a friend to Fiona, Finnigan lives up to the title as man's best friend. Finnigan is empathetic and approaches those who are sad in the Wall family to comfort them. Also a skilled cuddler, Finnigan causes the Walls to argue over what he resembles.

"He's a cross between a teddy bear and a muppet," 9-year-old student at Saint Luke School Joseph Wall said.

— DANIELLE GRAE



PHOTO BY MARY WALL

Besties Fiona the cat and Finnigan the dog chill together in the Walls' house.



Churchill Road student Megan Masri, 9, holds her 8-week-old puppy, Summer, at McLean Central Park, and Megan's mother, McLean resident Li Masri, holds her 2-year-old daughter Emma.



PHOTOS BY DANIELLE GRAE/THE CONNECTION

Churchill Road student Megan Masri, 9, holds her 8-week-old puppy, Summer, at McLean Central Park.

Cuteness and Responsibility

After four long years of pleading for a dog, 9-year-old Churchill Road Elementary School student Megan Masri's wish finally came true.

But caring for a dog takes more than just any regular present.

"It's just like a baby," Megan said about her 8-week-old Cavachon puppy, Summer, who she acquired two days earlier. "If you love it, you'll take care of it for sure."

Not only does Megan look after Summer, but Megan also does extra chores around the house. Megan cleans her room, washes the dishes, goes to bed on time, and with a bit of luck persuaded her parents to give

her a dog.

"A goal is to have Megan be more responsible and learn how to take care of others other than just her parents taking care of her," Megan's mother, McLean resident Li Masri said.

Summer is the perfect lap dog for the Masris. Summer does not require much exercise because she is young, which works well for the Masris because they are a dual-income household with young children.

— DANIELLE GRAE

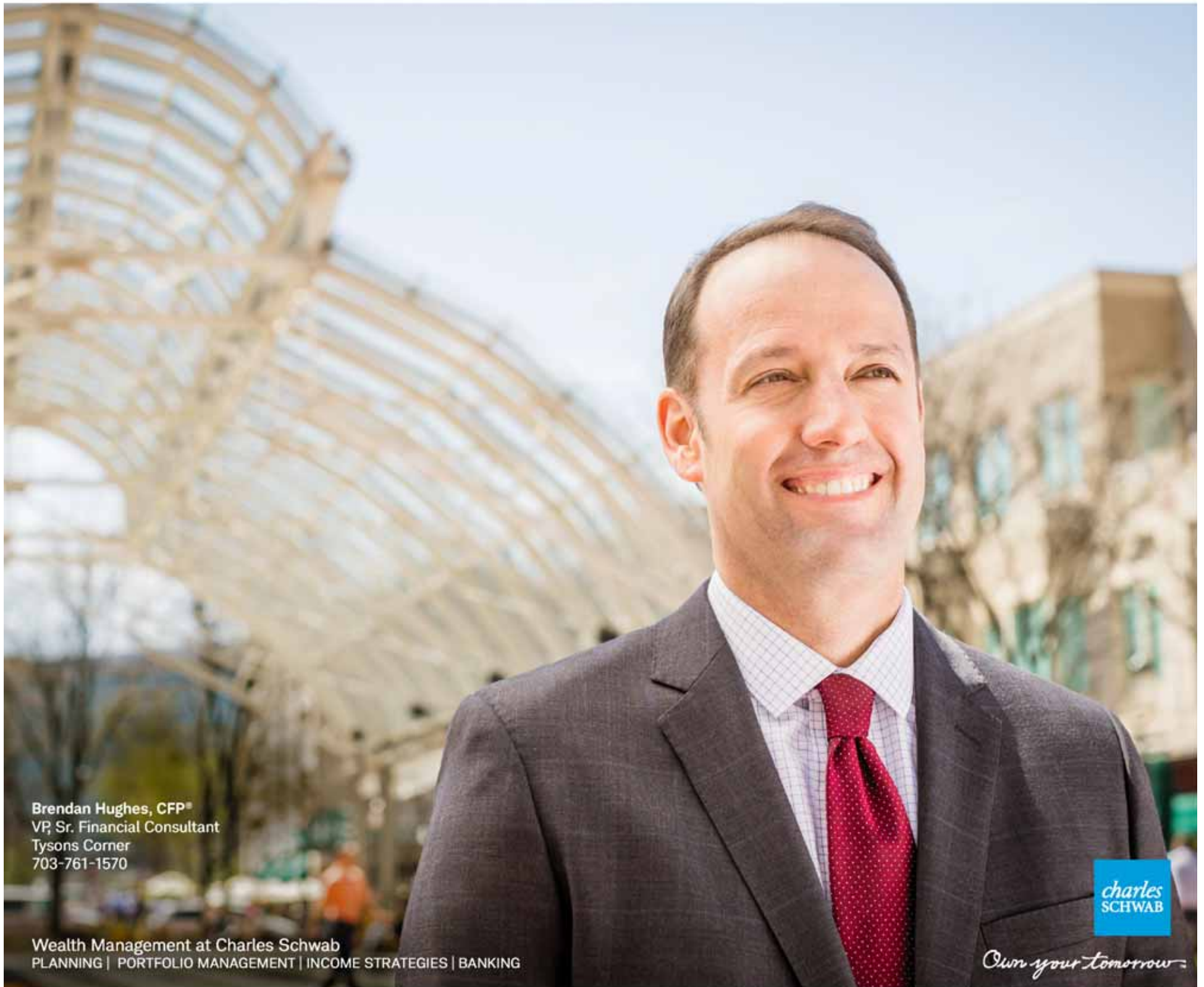
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OPINION

What's Special about Your Community?

Share tips in upcoming Newcomers and Community Guides.

The Connection's annual Newcomers and Community Guides will publish Aug. 26.

A bevy of interns, plus staff writers and editors, are preparing this year's editions, but we need help from our readers.

What tips do you have for someone getting to know the community?

EDITORIAL

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations, clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about the organization and how to get involved.

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>. Send in your Insider's Tips by Friday, Aug. 14.

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After One Year, Silver Line is Changing the Face of Northern Virginia

BY U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



If you were among the thousands descending upon Tysons Corner Center this summer for the grand opening of the new Hyatt Hotel, which included a concert and fireworks, you experienced firsthand the transformation taking place there and throughout the Dulles Corridor thanks to the arrival of Metro's Silver Line.

It was just one of many milestones we've celebrated as we reach the one-year anniversary of completion of Phase 1 of Silver Line service from East Falls Church through Tysons to Wiehle-Reston East.

Previously, the mall was accessible mainly by car and one often had to contend with fierce traffic to get there. Today, the Tysons Station is one of Metro's busiest on Saturdays.

With the opening of the mall's plaza connecting with the Metro station and new offices, apartments, and the hotel, the outdoor space is bustling with families din-

changes around the malls are emblematic of what we're seeing take place across Tysons and Reston. Thanks to the Silver Line, people are doing something that up to now was unthinkable: They are walking to work, to eat, to shop, or to their homes.

The collection of office parks and shopping centers, once surrounded by vast expanses of parking, are now being connected to the Silver Line by raised walkways interspersed with pocket parks. Today, you can even walk off the train at Tysons or Reston to shop at a local farmers market!

Take a ride on the Silver Line through Tysons and out to Reston and you can see the transformation we envisioned taking shape. At least five new buildings including new high-rise apartments opened in the past year, and the construction cranes dotting the

ing alfresco, dancing to one of the Friday night concerts, or trying their hand at the free games and activities set up throughout the plaza.

And that's just the beginning of the transformation! The changes around the malls are emblematic of what we're seeing take place across Tysons and Reston. Thanks to the Silver Line, people are doing something that up to now was unthinkable: They are walking to work, to eat, to shop, or to their homes.

skyline and projects in the pipeline give us a glimpse of what's to come.

The growing ridership on the year-old Silver Line demonstrates the pent-up demand for transit in the corridor. Wiehle-Reston East continues to be the busiest Silver Line station with nearly 9,000 riders a day, and during the morning rush it is the third highest revenue-generating station across the entire Metro system. Overall, Silver Line ridership is exceeding expectations with an average of 16,000 rider trips per day.

Northern Virginia's economy is also feeling a boost. The 23-mile Dulles Corridor, with five Fortune 500 companies and numerous other firms headquartered there, already accounts for 25 percent of the region's gross domestic product.

By connecting downtown Washington and suburban Maryland to the region's second largest employment corridor, the Silver Line has created new opportunities for our workforce. And the growing commercial tax base along the corridor, already a primary driver of the regional economy, will relieve some of the burden on local property taxpayers and help sustain our

investments in schools, public safety, and parks.

Within a few years, Phase 2 will extend the Silver Line to Dulles and Loudoun County, providing a new link to our premier international airport and opening a new commuting option for the outer suburbs.

Over my two decades of service as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and now as Congressman for Virginia's 11th District, construction of the Silver Line topped my list of priorities. I was proud to work with other local, state, and federal leaders to keep this important project on track and I am excited about the future benefits of this transit line to our region.

I hope you share this excitement and will join us in celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Silver Line and the positive transformation to come.

Congressman Gerald E. Connolly represents Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Fairfax in the U.S. House of Representatives. At the ceremony marking the opening of the Silver Line one year ago, then Metro General Manager and CEO Richard Sarles said about Connolly: "Without him, we wouldn't be here today."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Helping Those in Need

To the Editor:

In the last week's Editorial ("Backpacks for All," Connection July 16-22, 2015) several alarming statistics were revealed about Fairfax, and other local counties, about kids needing help in acquiring the necessities of life: food, clothing, school supplies. The list

gets longer each school year. This article also identified worthy organizations, both public and private, dedicated in helping our kids. Even my own church here in Springfield has a backpack program where caring members distribute healthy food items each Friday afternoon to several local

schools during the year.

Fairfax County is a comfortable community to live. People all over the nation come here for jobs and for its outstanding schools, supported by dedicated and hardworking teachers. Life is good for many living here, but lest we forget, at times those deserving citizens need some help in our

community. Those organizations identified in this article are excellent places to go and donate the basics items so needed by our kids. We can help to insure our kids will have a good start this coming new school year.

Ronald L. Baker
Springfield

McLean CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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

Published by Local Media Connection LLC

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
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LETTERS

Redistricting Matters

To the Editor:

Thank you for your insightful editorial headlining support for nonpartisan redistricting ("Yes to Nonpartisan Redistricting," July 9). The League of Women Voters of Virginia has been advocating for a nonpartisan redistricting commission for at least ten years, ever since the last round in 2011 of slicing and dicing up the voting districts so that legislators can choose their voters.

It is difficult to get voters energized enough about this to urge their legislators to give up any power. It is also a fairly complicated concept that comes up only every 10 years.

However, we feel the current process is a serious challenge to our democracy. As you pointed out, a huge number of Virginians are not being fairly represented, especially in northern urban areas. Communities have been cut into multiple pieces with little in common with Virginians miles away. Voters have become disengaged and don't bother to vote.

Yes, gerrymandering has gone on for centuries and apparently was even invented in Virginia, in spite of its name. But the latest line-drawing technology has taken the process to new "lows." Look at a map of the congressional and legislative districts to see what has been done to your voting rights.

The League has many resources for becoming informed and for advocating with your legislators, plus copies of the maps mentioned above, on our website. Go to <http://lwv-va.org/redistricting.html>.

Another good source of information is a coalition called OneVirginia2021 (onevirginia2021.org) that is gathering support across the state.

It may take a constitutional amendment to effect change. Action must begin now or we will be stuck with the same lopsided, polarized representation through 2030. We urge concerned citizens to join us in this effort.

Lois Page and Dianne Blais

Co-presidents

League of Women Voters of Virginia
president@lwv-va.org

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, is holding Sunday evening worship service in a less formal atmosphere and more intimate setting to help you get ready for the week ahead. Sundays, 6 p.m. Communion offered. No childcare. 703-938-2119 or

www.elcvienna.org.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.



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Dog Replaces High School Grad

Recent graduate of McLean High School Jessica Bulford will matriculate at Elon University— but she wishes she could bring someone special with her.

“I would take her with me in a heartbeat,” Jessica said about her new puppy, Lizzy, a 4-6 month old Australian shepherd. “I guess we needed another person or animal to fill my shoes.”

Strolling through PetSmart, the Bulford family was not planning to take a dog home. Jessica’s 6-year-old brother met Lizzy. Recognizing the connection between the well-behaved dog and the child, the Bulford family took Lizzy home.

“She’s a rescue pup, so she was older. It was sad because no one really wanted the older puppies, and she’s just really sweet and calm,” Jessica said.

Now adopted, Lizzy has a talent: she eats everything. By her second day with the Bulfords, Lizzy had chewed through her supposedly dog-proof leash; Lizzy



PHOTO BY DANIELLE GRAE/THE CONNECTION
McLean High School grad Jessica Bulford hugs her puppy, Lizzy.

surprised the Bulfords by greeting them in the kitchen instead of in the basement.

Lizzy also enjoys swimming. Her Dumbo-sized ears flop around while she prances around in water.

“She looks like a horse when she swims,” Jessica said.

— DANIELLE GRAE

McLean Couple Rescues Dog

Gracie, a mixed breed labrador and pit bull dog, loved her toy frog to death. Each day a leg disappeared. When the tail finally vanished, Gracie was left with a little frog torso.

Despite her vicious encounter with the toy frog, Gracie is an easygoing dog.

“She gets along beautifully with people,” Gracie’s owner, McLean resident Anne Stewart said.

Gracie has an unknown past. She was hit by a car, found outside a church and then taken to a lab rescue center. Nobody knows where she came from, what her name was, exactly how old she was or her typical behavior.

Anne and her husband, Dave Stewart, have owned several dogs since they were puppies.

“We thought it would be just a little bit more of a community service to take a dog that needed a home rather than looking for a puppy from a breeder,” Anne said.

Anne has had such a fantastic experience with Gracie that she advises others



PHOTO BY DANIELLE GRAE/THE CONNECTION
Gracie, dog of McLean residents Anne and Dave Stewart, takes a break during a walk from the sweltering July heat in McLean Central Park.

to adopt rescue pets.

“If people are thinking about rescuing a dog rather than going to a breeder, then I would highly recommend it. This is our first time rescuing a dog. It’s been a really great experience, and we feel really good that we can give her a nice home,” Anne said.

— DANIELLE GRAE

PET CONNECTION



Aubrey and Abigail Augustine, of McLean, love Sundance. And they can prove he has the power of speech. “It’s not time for dinner,” they tell Sundance. And darned if Sundance doesn’t reply with a long, slow, sad whine, “Nooooooooooooo.”

The Best Dogs in the World

There are a few universal truths about dogs, at least among the pet owners interviewed. Most feel that if their dog could talk, he or she would ask for more food or treats. Many dogs enjoy chewing up shoes and other belongings. Quite a few eat or roll in poop. But even with all of the naughty behaviors, most feel that their dog is absolutely the best dog in the world.

PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY



Jim and I have two beagles. He really wanted dogs. I really didn’t. But now, after 13 years, I’m one of those crazy dog people.

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Courtney Cuppernull and her sister, Caylee, of Great Falls are both very attached to 11-year-old Amstel. "He's the glue of our family," says Caylee. Courtney is quick to chime in, "Everyone says their dog is the best, but Amstel really is. He always knows what you need and gives it to you."



Bella and Jack Sagarese, of McLean, have two dogs, Molly and Shadow. Shadow loves her people so much that she has figured out how to open doors to get to them. If Molly could talk, she'd say, "I love you. Please pet me. Don't stop."



Will and Laura Koeppen, of McLean, say that Matti's biggest accomplishment is that she won a cutest dog photo contest in the Outer Banks. And, she isn't just good-looking, she watches out for her people. If Matti could talk, she would tell her family, "I am your protector."



Ben and Eva Suskind, of McLean, thought they would never get a dog. And then, about a month ago, Jasper came to live with them. They say that one of the best things about having a dog is that now they feel like they are part of a community. They love to walk Jasper and meet and talk to other dog owners. And, they love that Jasper is making new friends too.

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Enjoying OCEAN at McLean Central Park

Jennifer Cutting's orchestra enchants McLean residents.

Jennifer Cutting's Celtic OCEAN Orchestra mesmerized the audience at the McLean Central Park this Sunday, blending rock 'n' roll rhythms, Celtic jigs, and classical influences into one exhilarating performance.

McLean residents took refuge from sweltering heat this Sunday to attend the community center's concert in the shady park, featuring Jennifer Cutting's OCEAN orchestra. The band won over 20 Washington Music Awards, including "Musician of the Year" and "Album of the Year." The audience was spell-bound by the set list, which included "Out on the Ocean/Rolling Waves" and "Green Man." In addition to music, musicians provided comic relief. Vocalist

and percussionist Stephan Winick performed in a leaf suit to evoke mythological character "Green Man" himself.

The ingenious blend of genres attracted a diverse fan group, ranging from elderly couples to teenagers. "Being in orchestra myself, I was enthralled by OCEAN's performance," said Katherine Carris, senior at Langley. "I typically don't hear other violin styles besides classical, so it was interesting to watch." When asked his favorite part about OCEAN, the band's fiddler Andrew Dodds said, "In the context of a traditional band, I don't often get to use a full set of skills that I have as a classically trained violinist as well as fiddler, so the broadness [of the] material is definitely a great thing." The band's eclectic sound resulted in similar sentiments from audience members, as the merchandise stand was swarmed soon after the final song.

Final Concert, Sunday July 26

The last in a series of the McLean Community Center's Summer Sunday Concerts on Sunday, July 26, features guitar sensation Lisa Lim, who combines modern rock and blues.



Vocalist and percussionist Stephan Winick dresses up for OCEAN's song, "Greenman."

McLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

AMATEUR PRODUCTION OF

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

LYRICS BY TIM RICE MUSIC BY ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER

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FINAL WEEKEND!

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

AUGUST

8/5/2015 Wellbeing
8/12/2015 HomeLifeStyle
8/19/2015 A+ Camps & Schools - Back to School - Private Schools

8/26/2015 Newcomers & Community Guide Pullout

SEPTEMBER

9/2/2015 Wellbeing
Labor Day is Sept. 7
9/9/2015 HomeLifeStyle Pullout - Real Estate & New Homes
9/16/2015 A+ Camps & Schools Back to School, Open Houses
9/23/2015 Fall Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
9/30/2015 Professional Profiles & Your Business in the Community

OCTOBER

10/7/2015 Wellbeing Senior Living Pullout
10/14/2015 HomeLifeStyle

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- Reston Connection
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- Vienna/Oakton Connection

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

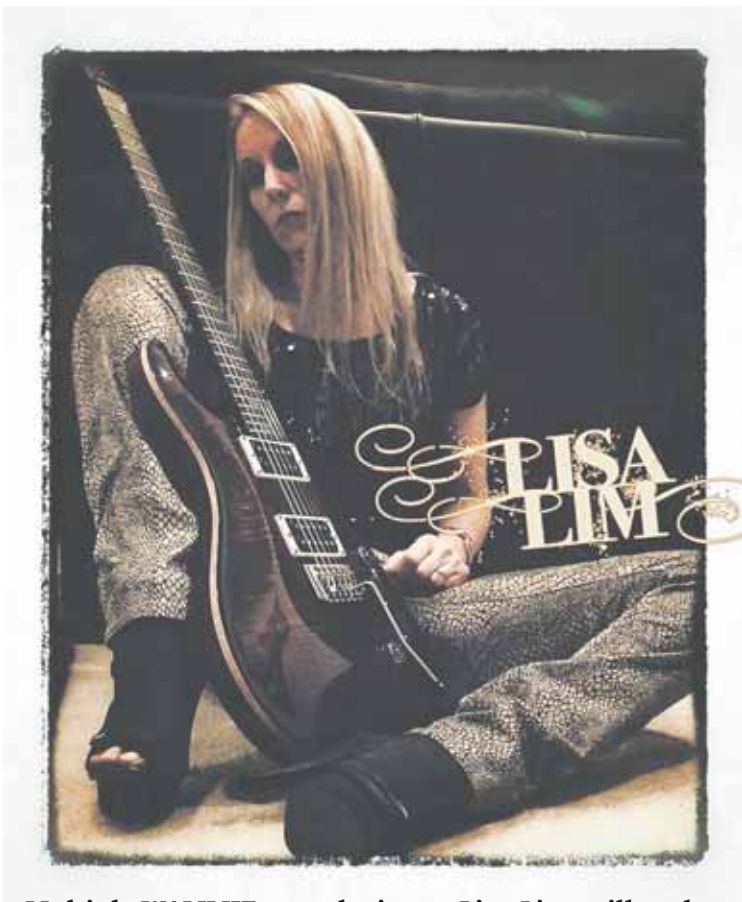
"The Healing Wall." Tuesdays – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., through Aug. 1. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. "The Healing Wall" is assembled from two dozen puzzle pieces created by soldiers recovering at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. Each piece makes a powerful statement by itself as well as part of the larger puzzle.

Restful Pause. Wednesday-Saturday, through Aug. 1. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Robert Gilbert brings his nine, framed still-life paintings to exhibit. The subjects are wine bottles, wine glasses, ceramic pots, fruits and vegetables. The paintings are realistic in some areas and impressionistic in others.

What's in Your Garden? Tuesdays - Saturdays, through Aug. 1. Vienna Arts Society "Gallery in the Village Green," 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna. Featured artist Loy McGaughey of Reston exhibits a collection of watercolors inspired by her personal photographs. The exhibition includes more than a dozen other artists.

Tyson's Concerts on the Plaza. Fridays, through Aug. 7. 6-8 p.m. at Tyson's Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tyson's Corner. Sit back and enjoy live music with a special line up each week. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning at 10 a.m. each Friday morning in the mall concourse on level 2 next to ZARA.

Summer Reading Program. Friday-Sunday, through Sept. 5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830



Multiple-WAMMIE award winner, Lisa Lim, will rock the park with masterful songwriting, burning guitar and distinctive vocals—all with a blues/rock edge on July 26. The Alden and the McLean Community Center's (MCC) Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park starts at 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park.

Georgetown Pike Great Falls. Attend summer events and check out books. All ages. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/>

branches/gf/. **Great Falls Concerts on the Green.** Sundays, through Sept. 6. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green.

Come out on Sundays and listen to some live music. Visit <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/>.

Vienna's Summer on the Green Concert Series. Fridays-Sundays, through Sept. 27. 6:30 p.m. at Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Come out on the weekend and listen to some good music. Visit <http://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2640>

WEDNESDAY/JULY 22

Woof, And Paws- Read to a Dog. 2:30, 2:45, 3, 3:15 and 4 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Need a little reading help? Sign up to read with a reading therapy dog. Age 6-12. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

Pokemon League. 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends.

Toddler Tales. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and activities for you and your toddler. Age 2-3 with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.

Alphabet Rockers. 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. An energetic show with hip hop grooves, rhymes, and positive messages for kids. Tickets \$8. Visit www.wolftrap.org

Brandi Carlile. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Spend a summer evening with song writer Carlile who bridges folk rock with Americana. Tickets \$30-\$55. Visit www.wolftrap.org

Peter Pan Storytime with Special Guest Wendy. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Storytime featuring Wendy from J.M. Barrie's Peter Pan. Wendy will read Peter Pan related stories and help the children write special letters to Neverland. Come dressed in your favorite Peter Pan costumes.

THURSDAY/JULY 23

Chinese Artwork. 5:3-8:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society presents a special exhibition of artwork by Chinese children ages 6-12 years old from China as well as from Northern Virginia. Meet the young artists at this reception.

Reading Buddies. 4:30 - 6 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Teen Volunteers available to read to or with beginning readers. Ages 3-9. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

"Not Just for Teens" Adult Book Club. 7 - 8 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Are you an adult who loves YA lit? If so, join for discussion, fun and dessert. June's title will be Tokyo Heist by Diana Renn. Adults. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

Starlight Storytime. 7- 7:45 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Wear your favorite pajamas and join us for stories and songs. All ages. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/dm/>.

All-American Boys Chorus. 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Boys choir playing songs

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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Langley Boys' Lacrosse Coach Brewer Retires After 21 Seasons

Brewer totaled 288 wins, 4 state titles with Saxons.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Weston Simonides was off to a rough start in the spring of 2014 and the Langley junior was nervous prior to taking the field. Earl Brewer, Langley's long-time boys' lacrosse coach, could sense Simonides' anxiousness and moved in to calm the Saxon attackman.

"This is not pressure, this is fun," Brewer told Simonides. "Pressure is having bullets fly past you every day for a living. This is just lacrosse. Go out and have fun."

In 2012, three-time defending state champion Langley was facing Chantilly in the VHSL AAA state final. The Saxons were without standout defenseman Chandler Suk, who was injured the previous game, and the Chargers had just increased their lead with another goal when Brewer said: "We've got them right where we want them."

Langley went on to win, 12-8, and capture its fourth consecutive state title.

Brewer, 59, retired on July 9 after 21 seasons as head coach of the Langley boys' lacrosse program, citing the desire to spend more time with his family. He compiled a 288-87 record with the Saxons, winning 10 district/conference titles, two region championships and four consecutive state titles from 2009 to 2012.

Brewer also coached six seasons at Fairfax High School, bringing his 27-year VHSL coaching record to 326-108. Brewer led the Rebels to the Western Division championship in 1990.

But Brewer was more than just a coach compiling championships. He was a calming influence who showed you didn't have to shout at your players to gain their respect.

"[H]e did a great job of setting an example of how to conduct yourself as a leader," former Langley defensive standout Brad Dotson wrote in an email. "It would've been easy for him to lose his cool and scream at us pretty frequently; he was almost babysitting at times when I look back at how much we screwed around. We didn't make it easy for him but he always got us moving toward our goal with a positive attitude. It's much more encouraging to play for someone who inspires you to follow him as opposed to someone that screams and makes threats for when you screw up."

"Brewer always set the example of how to motivate the people toward the goal of the team."

Dotson, a four-year varsity player who graduated from Langley High School in 2013, was part of three state championship teams and is now a rising junior defenseman for the Bucknell University men's lacrosse



Earl Brewer retired after 21 seasons as head coach of the Langley boys' lacrosse program.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Marshall Hires Girls' Lax Coach

George C. Marshall High School recently hired Valerie Gibbons as its new head girls' lacrosse coach.

Gibbons has been an assistant at Marshall for the past four seasons, help-

ing the Statesmen win two conference titles.

Gibbons played high school lacrosse at Falls Church and went on to play at George Mason University.

team. Brewer's "We've got them right where we want them" line from the 2012 state final is Dotson's favorite memory of playing lacrosse at Langley.

"Coach Brewer stayed calm and had the same demeanor when we were down three as when we were up five," Dotson wrote. "That was a great team. We were all really close that year."

Simonides is a 2015 Langley graduate who will play club lacrosse at James Madi-

son University next year.

"Nothing ever shook Coach Brewer; the man has ice in his veins," Simonides wrote. "He always made it seem that no matter what situation the game was in, the other team was right where he wanted them. He is also the most caring coach there is. He genuinely cares for each player on his team like they are family, which is really something that always helped us grow so much as a team. As an athlete, Coach Brewer not

only made me into a much smarter and better lacrosse player, but also was able to instill confidence in me and help me grow into a more reliable player and a better leader.

"In the few years I played for him, he never built our teams around superstars, but instead he took time to develop each player into a specific role to help us win games."

Brewer is attentive to his players, but his desire to spend more time watching his son, Drew Brewer, play lacrosse is one of the main reasons he decided to retire. Drew is a rising senior defenseman at Chantilly High School and Brewer missed many of his games while coaching the Saxons.

"Missing so many of his games this past year started to get to me a little bit," said Brewer. "... Days are short. You don't get these memories back. I thought it was the right thing to do. ... I added up how many [of Drew's] games I watched and I think it was seven, and that bugs me a little bit."

"[H]e did a great job of setting an example of how to conduct yourself as a leader."

**— 2013 Langley graduate
Brad Dotson, via email,
about lacrosse coach Earl Brewer**

Brewer said his fondest memories of coaching at Langley were during the Saxons' four consecutive state championships. Langley defeated Chantilly in the 2009, 2011 and 2012 state finals, and beat Loudoun Valley in 2010.

"They refused to lose," Brewer said. "... I'm very good friends with all those guys from those teams. When you reach the highest level you can obtain, those people are always going to have special place in your heart."

Brewer will continue coaching fall and summer lacrosse for Virginia Elite. As for Langley, Brewer said he's leaving the Saxons on a "high note," referencing a strong 2017 class. Langley started 4-7 in 2015, but responded with eight consecutive victories and eventually reached the state semifinals.

"I've made so many friends along the way," Brewer said. "I'm so proud of my players."

Brewer's players are fond of him, too.

"Recruiting, skill development, learning the game, you name it," Dotson wrote. "Coach Brewer got me to where I am as a player. I have him to thank for the countless memories and close friends I made through the Langley lacrosse family."

SPORTS

Langley Wildthings' 13-14 girls coming into the wall to sweep the 50M freestyle.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Langley Wildthings Undefeated in Division 4

The Langley Wildthings finished the season with a hard fought meet against the Lee Graham Dolphins on July 18.

Both teams came to the pool with a 4-0 record, and took their last regular season match down to the wire, placing the outcome on Event 52: the girls' mixed-age freestyle relay. With a time of 2:08.94 the team of Audrey Wallach (12), Campbell Collins (10), Adair Sand (13) and Emily Wallach (15) bested the Dolphins, giving the Wildthings a 212.5-207.5 win and first place in Division 4.

The Wildthings were down by five points going into the relays and needed to win seven to take the day. The seven relay wins were: boys' 8&U 100M freestyle (Beckett Collins, Wilson Buttz, Noah Golesorkhi, Colin Walter); girls' 8&U 100M freestyle (Margit Crittenberger, Marina Watson, Katie Alms, Tessa Jones); boys' 9-10 100M medley (Brady Quinn, Kelly Crittenberger, Luke Watson, Collin Troy); boys' 11-12 100M medley (Matthew Buchanan, Benjamin Scott, Sebastian Silvestro, Nico Carrion); girls' 11-12 100M medley (Isabel Schone, Audrey Wallach, Kate Walter, Rachel Lesan); girls' 13-14 100M medley (Adair Sand, Liliana Schone (11), Addison Collins (12), Megan Craven (11)); girls' 18U 200M freestyle mixed age relay (Audrey Wallach (12), Campbell Collins (10), Adair Sand (13), Emily Wallach (15)).

Double blue ribbon winners in this meet are: Colin Walter (boys' 8&U 25M freestyle, 25M backstroke); Luke Watson (boys' 9-10 50M freestyle, 25M butterfly); Audrey Wallach (girls' 11-12 50M freestyle, 50M butterfly); Adair Sand (girls' 13-14 50M freestyle, girls' 15-18 50M backstroke).

Single first place ribbons were earned by: Campbell Collins (girls' 9-10 50M freestyle); Tessa Jones (girls' 8U 25M backstroke); Isabel Schone (girls' 11-12 50M backstroke); Addison Collins ((12) girls' 13-14 50M backstroke); Evan Poulos (boys' 8U 25M breast-



The Langley Wildthings celebrate after winning event 52 and the meet against Lee Graham, earning Langley an undefeated season and the Division 4 crown.

stroke); Margit Crittenberger (girls' 8U 25M breaststroke); Ryan Jones (boys' 9-10 50M breaststroke); Benjamin Scott (boys' 11-12 50M breaststroke); Liliana Schone (girls' 11-12 50M breaststroke); Jake Smith (boys' 13-14 50M breaststroke); Beckett Collins (boys' 8U 25M butterfly); Marina Watson (girls' 8U 25M butterfly).

This close-fought meet was aided by sweeps in girls' 13-14 freestyle (Adair Sand, Liliana Schone [11], Rachel Lesan [12]), boys' 9-10 breaststroke (Ryan Jones, Kelly Crittenberger, Carlos Carrion) and boys' 8U butterfly (Beckett Collins, Noah Golesorkhi, Wilson Buttz).

The Wildthings would like to thank Coach Mason Walsh and Assistant Coaches Chris Grimmett-Norris, Kat Owczarski and Nate Johnson for their motivation and perspiration throughout this excellent season.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

from the Beach Boys to contemporary favorites. Ages 8-14. Tickets \$8. Visit www.wolftrap.org

Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me! 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Watch comedians, journalists, celebrity guests, and more compete in NPR's award-winning current events quiz show. Tickets \$25-\$60. Visit www.wolftrap.org

FRIDAY/JULY 24

Fangirl Friday. 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Fangirls unite and celebrate fandom. Get introduced to the Women of Marvel, enjoy cosplay, giveaways and much more.

McLean Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Fridays, May 1-Nov. 20. 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mcleanmkt.htm

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 24-26

"Jesus Christ Superstar." 8 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. "Jesus Christ Superstar" is based on the accounts in the Gospels of the final days of Jesus of Nazareth, from his arrival in Jerusalem until his crucifixion. A large part of the plot focuses on the character of Judas Iscariot. Tickets: \$23-\$25. Visit www.McLeanPlayers.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 25

Summer Storytime. 10:30 - 11:05 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. It's summer time. Cool off with stories, songs and rhymes. Ages 2-5. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

Kayak Mini Float Trip. 11 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. A scenic wagon ride from the Visitor Center to the launch site at Riverbend Park, followed by a 1.5-mile instructor-led float trip down through riffles and flat water. No previous experience necessary. Cost is \$38. For information, call 703-759-9018.

Vinyl Day. 2 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Explore an assortment of vinyl records with events celebrating vinyl culture, including giveaways, special offers and exclusives.

KidSave Event: Art Studio. 2-4:30 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join this child advocacy

organization, based in Washington, D.C., for these orphans chance at being part of a loving family in your area and getting adopted. Anyone interested in meeting the children is welcome to attend online orientation any Wednesday in July (8 -8:30 p.m.) and come to any event. Free. Visit www.kidsave.org/summer-miracles-events/ and contact the Development Manager at 202-503-3104

SUNDAY/JULY 26

The Lisa Lim Band. 5 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Multiple-WAMMIE award winner, Lisa Lim, will rock the park with masterful songwriting, burning guitar and distinctive vocals—all with a blues/rock edge.

James Patterson Day. 2 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. James Patterson Day. Celebrate America's bestselling author with a special one-day-only offer on all adult, kids and teen books by James Patterson.

Tysons Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 8400 Westpark Drive, McLean. Sundays, through Nov. 15. www.tysonspartnership.org

TUESDAY/JULY 28

The Kindercise Show. 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Sing and dance with Wolf Trap teaching artist John Taylor. All ages. Sign up each child and adult separately at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/dm/>.

What Pet Should We Get? 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. A celebration of the newly discovered Dr. Seuss book What Pet Should I Get?, kids of all ages are invited.

THURSDAY/JULY 30

Under the Sea. 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Meet live sea creatures. Age 6-12. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/dm/>.

FRIDAY/JULY 31

Dr. Seuss Spectacular. 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. A celebration of Theodor Geisel known to the world as the beloved Dr. Seuss.

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"Abyssful" Ignorance

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Hopefully not. But you never know – per last week's column, until you know. And the preferred pattern seems to be that waiting to be spoken to in person, a week or so post-scan, is the best the process can be; or at least, that's the process that suits the doctor/HMO. Certainly I can appreciate how telling a patient bad news in person is a more prudent and professional, fail-safe type of approach than a phone conversation or e-mail which is fraught with potential misinterpretation and possibly even unexpected and adverse consequences – especially for the patient/recipient of the distressing news. However, waiting a week for results is hardly ideal and certainly not the stuff of which dreams are made. In fact, it's exactly the stuff of which nightmares are caused.

Don't get me wrong; I can take it. Waiting is not for everybody, however; unless you like suffering – then it's perfect for you. But why suffer in silence – or suffer at all? You already have, to quote Radar from a M*A*S*H episode: "One foot in the grave and another on a banana peel," so why double-down or even quadruple your odds and make us learn the meaning of the word excruciating? Why fiddle with Rome when our emotions are already burning? We ("terminal" cancer patients) deserve better. Heck, we deserve your best; and a week of talking ourselves in and out of a million scenarios, most of them bad, unnecessarily, is yet another example of cruel and unusual punishment. (Shouldn't we have some Constitutional protections, too?) And punishment for crimes not committed is particularly difficult. Still, I guess I should be thankful I'm not incarcerated (although occasionally, I do feel confined to my home) while waiting. In effect though, I am, emotionally. To set these emotions apart from the everyday or compartmentalize them somehow is much easier theorized than actually accomplished. Nevertheless, I don't suppose nine days (between scan and results) are likely – ultimately – given the progressive nature of my disease, to change the course of history too much. However, it will change the course of the next nine days, and that's all I'm focused on right now. When you're in the same boat as I am, time is all that matters, and wasting any of it (to me that means time lived not knowing results immediately or sooner) is a terrible option/reality. And again, given my original diagnosis/prognosis, options are not necessarily what you feel you have in abundance.

Whether delusional or based on any facts whatsoever, options are still your emotional lifeline. Not having them or receiving them later than you'd prefer adds fuel to the fire that a cancer survivor feels (figuratively speaking). Besides, who knows what soothes the savage beast that lives in all of us "terminal" cancer patients? At least for me, not knowing or knowing after the facts are likely in evidence is somewhere between counter-productive and counter-intuitive. As soon as you know: tell me! What are you waiting for? Godot? Let me get on with what's left of my life. I want to live forward, not worry backward. I'm not looking for control. I'm looking for consideration. If the patient matters so much, then don't be so matter-of-fact about results. Our lives may be shorter than we expected, so why make us wait longer than we want? Time is on your side, not ours.

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

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