

# McLean CONNECTION

McLean Orchestra's first concert for the 2015-2016 season on Oct. 10 includes Ravel and Mussorgsky and is called, "From the Games of Imagination."

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## McLean Orchestra's Splash of Emotion

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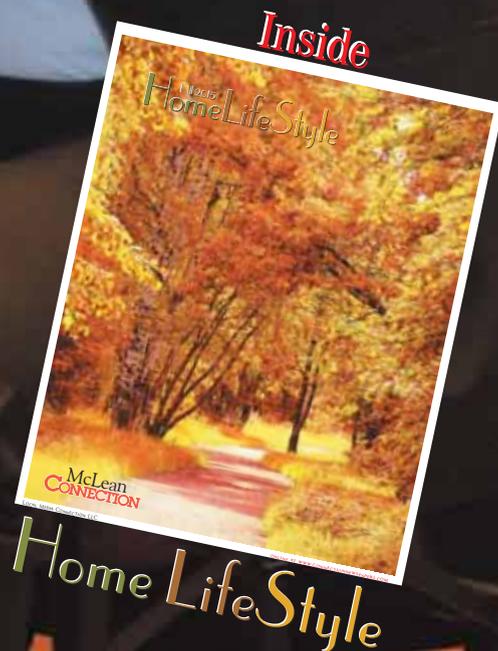
### Dramatic Rescue Sunday Morning

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### Runners, Walkers, Wheelers Cross Finish Line in McLean

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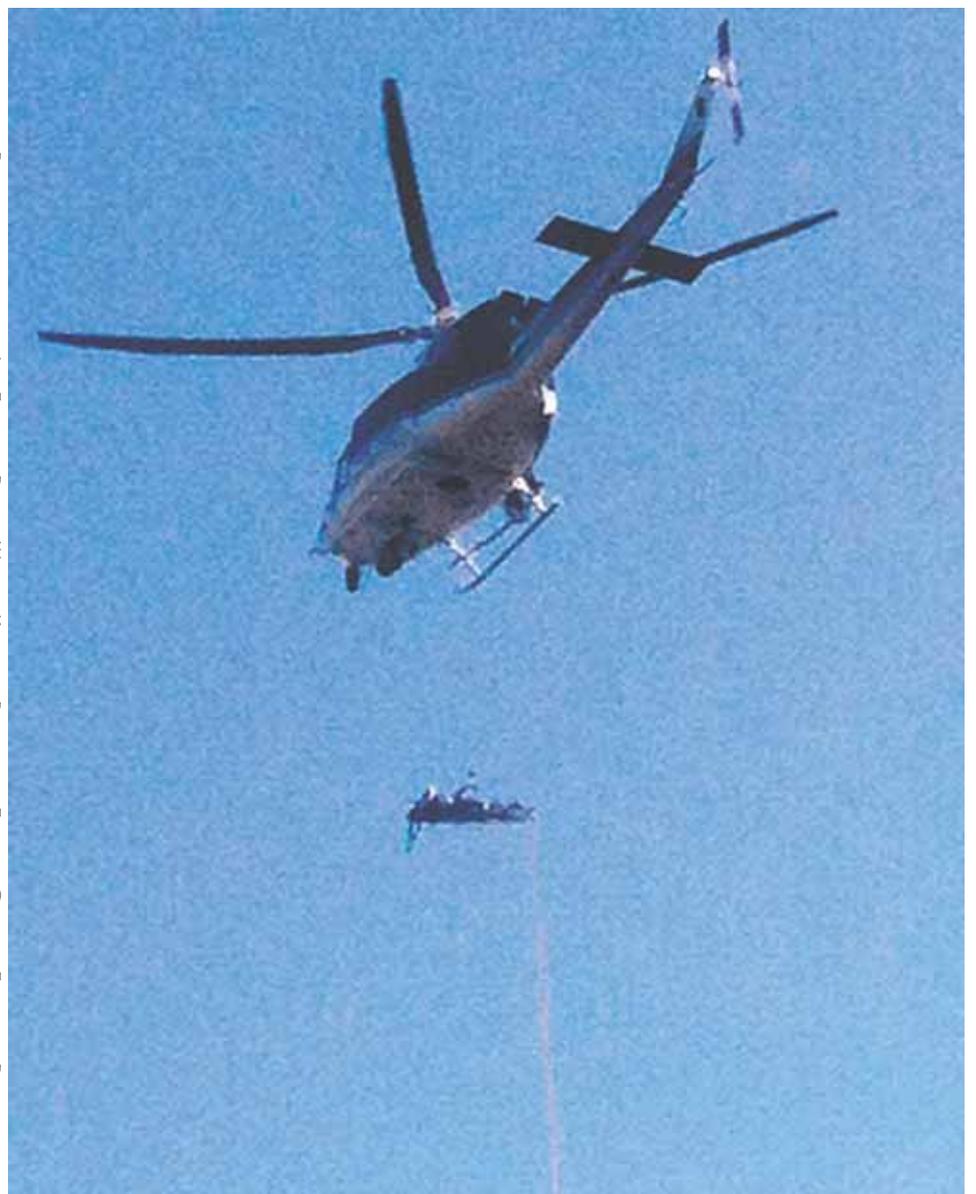


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PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LT. EDWARD PAYNE III AND KATELYN BITTINGER, FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue were needed by foot and helicopter to transport an injured hiker who fell from the rocks at Scott's Run on Sunday morning, Sept. 20.

## Helicopter, Hikers Needed for Rescue

Fire and Rescue personnel lifted an injured hiker from Scott's Run Park Sunday morning.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Units rescued an adult woman who fell from the rocks in Scott's Run Park in McLean at approximately 11:20 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20.

"Well, it was time consuming for sure,

because of the location and difficulty getting to the person," said Shawn Crisp, technician with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

"Given that she had to be medevaced," she said, "it's fair to say she had potentially life-threatening injuries."

She fell in a remote section of the park, according to rescue workers.

"Crews hiked into the area and began treatment for her injuries. Firefighters then secured the patient in a rescue basket and utilized the U.S. Park Police helicopter to hoist the woman from the cliff side and transported her to the hospital for further treatment," according to Fire and Rescue news releases.

"The units that work through that area go through extensive training learning the area that they get out and patrol," said Fire and Rescue Department Technician Shawn Crisp. "They get familiar with the surroundings and practice these things all the time."

The Fire and Rescue Department partners with the U.S. Park Police and other departments, too, she said.

One additional individual was transported to the hospital for minor injuries on Sunday, Sept. 20 during the rescue.

"Certain sections, the recommendation is to stay off the rocks and stay out of the areas that pose a situation like this," said Crisp.

"That particular section, I'm not sure, I don't know if that section was marked," she said, "but going out on the rocks can be dangerous."

### McLean Cares Golf Tournament to Be Held on Oct. 5

Keller Williams Realty of McLean and Great Falls announces its 6th Annual KW McLean Cares Charity Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held on Monday, Oct. 5, at Trump National Golf Club in Sterling. Be one of the first 120 to register and ensure that you will be playing on the recently completed Championship Course with beautiful waterfront vistas of the Potomac River.

This year KW McLean Cares, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, will be supporting two great military support organizations, Our Military Kids and Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund.

Our Military Kids provides grants to the

children of deployed military personnel. Four out of five children of active duty military personnel and reservists face increased stress while one of their parents is deployed in defense of their country or while recovering from severe injuries suffered during deployment. Of the monies donated, 95 cents of every dollar goes toward grants that help pay for sports, fine arts and tutoring programs to sustain and nurture the children during the time a parent is away in service to our country. Our Military Kids is located in McLean. Call 703-734-6654 or visit [www.ourmilitarykids.org/](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org/).

The Semper Fi Fund, and its program America's Fund, provide immediate finan-

cial assistance and lifetime support to the post-9/11 wounded, critically ill and injured members of all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, and their families, ensuring that they have the resources they need during their recovery and transition back to their communities. Since establishing the Semper Fi Fund in 2004, they've issued more than 97,500 grants, totaling more than \$113 million in assistance to over 14,000 of our heroes and their families.

For golfers, the tournament will offer a team caddy, cart, breakfast, lunch during the day, and a gourmet reception/dinner, open bar, live music, plus a live and silent auction for the ticket price of only \$350.

KW McLean Cares is also seeking sponsors of this event and auction item donors to help raise needed funds. Both sponsorship and play is tax deductible.

The event will start at 10 for registration and breakfast. Tee time is at noon with a shotgun start and golf will continue throughout the day until around 5 p.m.

Not a golfer? You can join after the golf is done. Keller Williams McLean/Great Falls will be throwing a gourmet reception and awards dinner that will include dinner open bar, music and a live auction/silent auction with auction items up for bid.

## Route 7 Corridor Improvements Fairfax County

### Public Information Meeting

**Thursday, September 24, 2015, 6 – 8:30 p.m.**

Forestville Elementary School

1085 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

**Find out** about plans to improve a 6.9 mile segment of Leesburg Pike (Route 7) between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive in Fairfax. Proposed work includes widening Route 7 from four to six lanes, intersection improvements, as well as a 10-foot shared-use path on both sides of the road. These improvements will increase capacity, decrease congestion, improve safety, and expand mobility for cyclists and pedestrians in conformity with the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

**Stop by** between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. VDOT and Fairfax County staff will be available to answer your questions.

**Review** project information at [www.ConnectRoute7.org](http://www.ConnectRoute7.org), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2950, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

**Give your written comments** at the meeting, or submit them by **October 8, 2015** to Mr. William Dunn, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [ConnectRoute7@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:ConnectRoute7@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Route 7 Corridor Improvements" in the subject line.

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 the project manager at the above phone numbers.

State Project: 0007-029-128,P102,R202,C502,B610  
UPC: 52328

Federal Project: DEMO-5A01(439)



Larry Chloupek, of Potomac, Md., crosses the finish line during the 12th Annual Super H 5K Run, Walk and Wheel on Sunday, Sept. 20 in McLean.



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION  
Super H 5K Run, Walk and Wheel founder Harry Freedman opens the race to benefit MedStar's adaptive sports programs.

# Runners, Walkers, Wheelers Cross Finish Line in McLean

## 5K raises funds for adaptive sports program.

ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hether they wheeled, biked, walked, or ran to the finish line, participants of the Super H 5K all agreed on one thing—that last hill was hell.

Over 200 people gathered at Tysons Sport and Health in McLean on Sunday morning, Sept. 20, for the twelfth year of the race. Founder Harry Freedman, the H in Super H, opened the event.

Proceeds go to the adaptive sports program of MedStar National Rehabilitation Network, where Freedman spent some time after his accident 12 years ago. A front-end loader backed up on him and cost him his leg.

"The money from the race helps teams travel and compete," said Freedman. A runner even before his accident, it was at the national rehab hospital that he got the idea for the race. "It's a wonderful place," he said.

"The event really is a great example of what we

do...returning people to maximum level of function and independence no matter what your injury is," said the network's president John Rockwood.

"It's really important for us to be able to showcase people getting back to the communities and back to what they enjoy," said Rockwood. Many of the race participants are people who have gone through MedStar's program.

Jesse Graham, of Bristow, Va., broke his neck in a snowboarding accident 18 months ago, and he is racing today. "It's learning how to adjust your life," he said.

MedStar's adaptive sports program includes archery, basketball, bocchia ball, cycling, quad rugby, rowing, sled hockey and tennis.

Joan Joyce, director of the network's adaptive sports and fitness program, said that there has been a rise in adaptive sports in the last few years with the veterans coming back. "A lot of young soldiers, you get a lot more of them coming into the sports," she said. Anthony Caparella, of Silver Spring, Md., was the first to cross the finish line in his wheelchair, followed by runner Andrew Merritt, of Culpepper. Runner Andrea Meuser, of Vienna, was the first woman to cross the finish line. Chanelle Houston, of Fort Washington, Md., was the first woman to cross on a handcycle.

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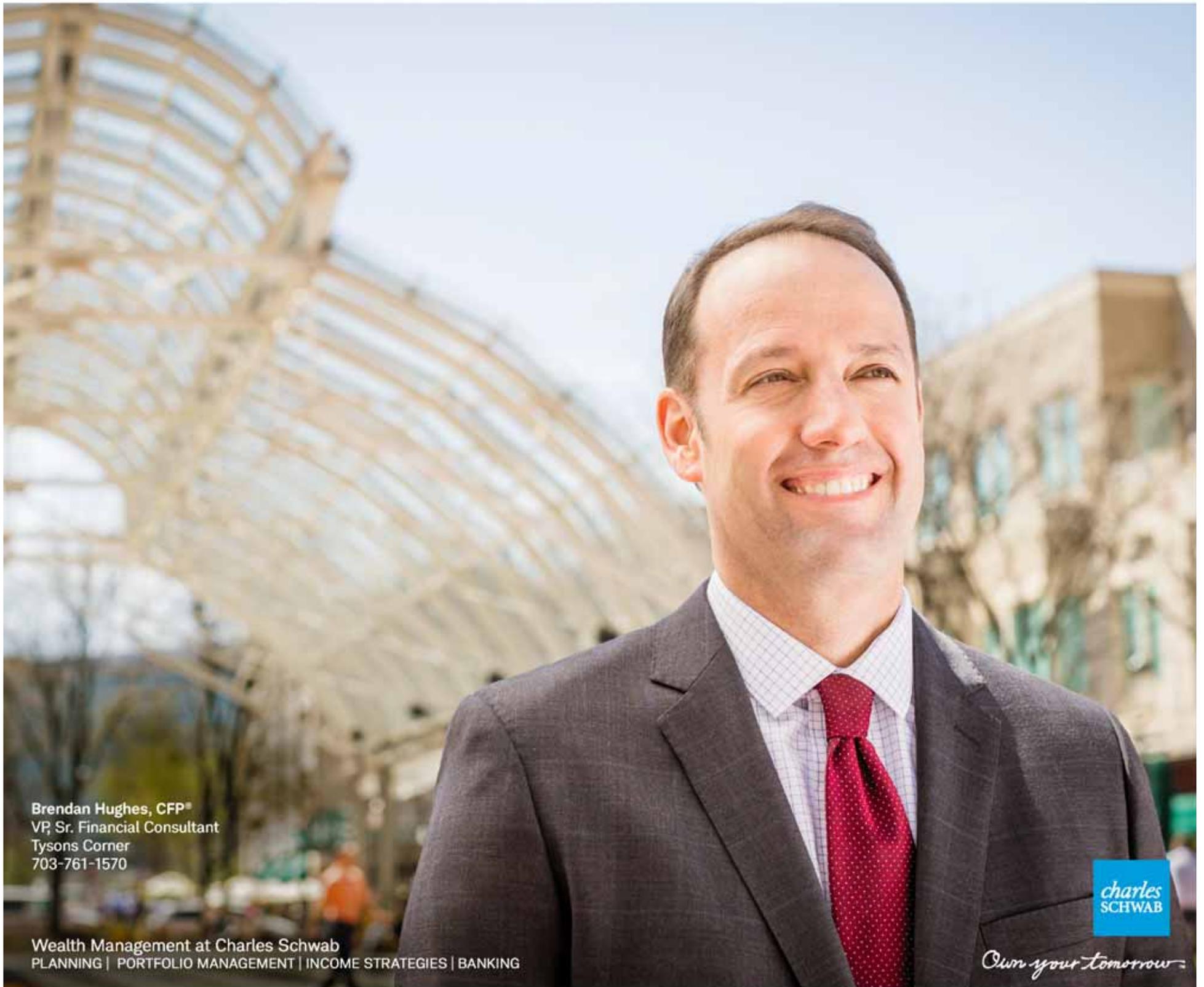
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## Weichert, Realtors Recognizes McLean Office, Sales Associate



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
**J.D. Callander**

Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced sales associate J.D. Callander of the McLean/Dolley Madison office was individually recognized for her exceptional industry success during the month of August. A top producer, Callander led the entire company for dollar volume, as well as the company and the region, which comprises offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for resale dollar volume.

Invite this top neighborhood specialist in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer. She can be reached in Weichert's McLean/Dolley Madison office at 1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard, or by phone at 703-760-8880.

trict Service Academy Advisory Board getting to work and viewing the applications of our future leaders.”

Applications can be mailed or hand delivered to Comstock's Sterling office at 21430 Cedar Drive, Suite 218, Sterling, VA 20164. Interested students can request an Academy Nomination Application from Comstock's Web site at <https://comstock.house.gov/services/>

military-academy-nominations. The selection process is strictly a competitive one.

For more information about the congressional nominating process, contact Mary Ann Cannon in Comstock's Sterling office at 703-404-6903, or go to <https://comstock.house.gov/> and click on Military Academy Nominations under the Services section.

## Discussing 'Your Dream Car' at Tesla

The HUB is presenting its next industry networking event – “Your Dream Car: The Ultimate Connected Device” on Wednesday, Sept. 30, 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Tesla dealership in Tysons Corner, 8500 Tyco Road, Vienna. The discussion will focus on internet/cloud connectivity solutions and vehicle-to-X communications; interoperability in vehicle connection technologies; data generation and analytics; safety, security, and privacy; equipment innovations; state and federal autonomous vehicle testing initiatives; and opportunities for ICT companies. Additionally, attendees will get an up close and personal look at the latest in Tesla's smart car revolution and what the future of driving holds.

## Service Academy Application Deadline

Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) announced that the deadline for students interested in applying for a nomination by the 10<sup>th</sup> District Service Academy Advisory Board to one of the nation's military academies for the Class of 2020 is by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 1 in the Sterling office.

“Our country is only as strong as the next generation and that is why the Service Academies are so important to building America's future leaders,” said Comstock. “This process is open to everyone in the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District who aspires to be a part of the Class of 2020. I look forward to the 10<sup>th</sup> Dis-

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## VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

### I-66 Inside the Beltway Project Arlington County, City of Falls Church and Fairfax County Public Information Meetings

**Monday, October 5, 2015, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Presentation at 7:30 p.m.**  
 VDOT Northern Virginia District  
 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

*Visit [Transform66.org](http://Transform66.org) to view a live stream of this meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

**Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Presentation at 7:30 p.m.**  
 Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Cafeteria  
 7130 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

**Wednesday, October 7, 2015, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Presentation at 7:30 p.m.**  
 Washington-Lee High School Cafeteria  
 1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22201

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), will host Public Information Meetings for the Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Project. The project involves converting I-66 to dynamically-priced toll lanes in both directions during morning and afternoon rush hours between I-495 (the Capital Beltway) and U.S. Route 29 in Rosslyn, along with implementing a series of multimodal improvements that benefit the toll users of I-66. Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOVs) will now have the option to use I-66 during the morning and evening rush hours in the peak direction by paying a toll, while High Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs) with three or more passengers (HOV-3+) will ride for free. VDOT is also considering a toll scenario that would allow HOV-2+ to ride for free until improvements are completed outside the Beltway in 2021. Proposed improvements are intended to move more people, enhance connectivity and improve travel reliability on I-66.

**Stop by** to learn more about the project, discuss your questions with VDOT staff, and attend the formal presentation.

**Review** project information and project schedule at [www.Transform66.org](http://www.Transform66.org) and at the Public Information Meetings.

**Give your written or oral comments** at the meetings or submit them to Amanda Baxter, Project Manager, at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office (address noted above). You may also e-mail comments at any time to [Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov). Please reference “Transform 66 Inside the Beltway” in the subject line.

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State Project: 0066-96A-358, P101 UPC: 107371

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*“At Brightview I still have my independence. I love everything here and I have everything here that I need. My family is welcome anytime and the best part is they no longer worry about me.” – Sophia C.*

Please call either  
 Carolyn or Joanna to  
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**703-759-2513**

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PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

Churchill Road sixth graders Kolin Johnson, Joe Gladyszewski, Mia Cunha-Mendonca, Abby Seigel, Aya Al-Khunani and Katie Shaw work the compost line in the school cafeteria.

### Promoting Eco-friendly Practices

Students at Churchill Road continue the school's tradition of promoting eco-friendly practices. Sixth graders Kolin Johnson, Joe Gladyszewski, Mia Cunha-Mendonca, Abby Seigel, Aya Al-Khunani and Katie Shaw pitch in to help with the food collection, composting, and recycling routine in the cafeteria.

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Registration ends on October 12, 2015

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# OPINION

## Remembering Reston's Civil Rights Icon

**“A local giant is gone from our midst. But his spirit and legacy will remain in Reston and beyond.”**

BY GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
U.S. REP. (D-11)

No one can say Bob Simon didn't lead a full life, but that fact doesn't make his loss any easier. To the end of his 101 years, he was a grand man of extraordinary vision, heart, compassion, humor and charm.

Last year my office embarked on a project to celebrate the Civil Rights Movement by capturing the histories, memories and stories of those who fought for equality. Our goal was to make sure we allowed these brave voices to share their accounts, firsthand, and preserve them for future generations. Today, that archive is available at <http://ethnography.gmu.edu/collections/the-northern-virginia-civil-rights-archive>.

I was fortunate to bring Bob into this project and sit down with him for a few hours to hear his civil rights story. Most of us know Bob as the founder of Reston, but it is his legacy as a civil rights icon and its lasting impact on our community, that I will forever hold in my heart. You see, Bob hated discrimination and bigotry

because he experienced anti-Semitism firsthand as a young man. That experience forged in him a passion – a quiet passion – to build a small corner of the world where equality would be a reality.

Bob's insistence on making Reston the first racially-integrated housing development in Virginia made him a civil rights pioneer. It was not the popular thing to do, and he lost critical investment opportunities because of this decision. But to Bob, it was not a matter of doing the easy thing, or the popular thing. It was about doing the right thing. He had great clarity that to realize his vision of Reston there could be no racial barriers. To fulfill Reston's goals we had to be inclusive and welcoming.

Throughout his long life, Bob's moral compass remained true. He was an environmentalist before the term was invented, a patron of the arts, and passionate advocate for social justice. Northern Virginia owes much of its character and success to Bob. I feel this loss sharply and shall miss his dedication, his laugh and his friendship. A local giant is gone from our midst. But his spirit and legacy will remain in Reston and beyond.



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

**Congressman Gerald E. Connolly:**  
**“Bob's insistence on making Reston the first racially-integrated housing development in Virginia made him a civil rights pioneer.”**

## Chamber Urges Congress to Avoid Another Shutdown

Dear Members of the Northern Virginia Congressional Delegation,

On behalf of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (Fairfax Chamber), representing nearly 700 member companies with more than 500,000 employees across Northern Virginia, we urge you and your colleagues in Congress to act immediately to find a path forward to enact legislation to continue funding the federal government beyond Sept. 30, without interruption. For the federal government to shut down would be so harmful to our region it would be, in a word, irresponsible.

A substantial segment of Virginia's economy is tied to the federal government, with federal contractors in the private sector employing a vast number of workers here in our region and throughout the Commonwealth. In addition, Northern Virginia is home to more than 65,000 federal employees and is where more than 110,000 federal employees work. As such, Northern Virginia's diverse business commu-

nity, the economic engine of the Commonwealth, is tremendously impacted by federal expenditures.

Congress' inability in the past to enact individual appropriations bills, and rather to instead fund the government from continuing resolution to continuing resolution, has caused significant uncertainty and greatly disrupted business planning by federal contractors in the region. Such practices, combined with annual threats of government shutdowns and, in 2013, an actual shutdown, have caused private sector businesses of all sizes throughout Northern Virginia serious economic harm and forced them to lay off or furlough employees.

We are gravely concerned that such economic dislocation will again occur if the federal government shuts down on Oct. 1. Also, as you know, the impact of a shutdown would not be limited to the federal government and federal contractor workers in Virginia. As has been shown in the past, the downstream ef-

fects of a shutdown will also be harmful to small businesses in Northern Virginia and across the Commonwealth.

The Chamber recognizes the importance of restraining federal spending and different budget priorities for members of Congress. However with the U.S. economy continuing to underperform, Congress needs to act now to avoid inflicting any more substantial and enduring damage on the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States as a whole.

Congress must continue to fund the operations of government in a budget-conscious way, while avoiding any more damaging fiscal show-downs. We need and expect nothing less. Accordingly, we urge you to work with your colleagues and leadership to promptly enact legislation by Oct. 1 to fund the operations of the federal government without interruption.

Sincerely,

**Jim Corcoran**, President & CEO  
Fairfax Chamber of Commerce

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## The Leaders for Richmond

To the Editor:

In reference to the letter in the last issue (“Disappointing McLean Town Hall,” McLean Connection, September 16-22, 2015) I for one am very happy that our representatives in Richmond are neither

spending their time on the witch hunt against Planned Parenthood, nor chasing after Muslim refugees who are seeking to resettle in our country. And of course they spent their town hall discussing congressional redistricting and our governor's appointment to the State Supreme Court. They were reporting on the recent General Assembly session, which was

called by Governor McAuliffe so that our elected representatives could redraw our congressional district lines pursuant to a Federal court order, but which the Republican majority spent seeking to unseat a highly qualified female judge from Fairfax County. The net result was that our congressional districts will be redrawn by unelected judges, usually Repub-

licans' biggest bugaboo. Kudos to Senators Janet Howell and Barbara Favola, and Representatives Marcus Simon, Rip Sullivan, and Kathleen Murphy for reporting on the recent session. They are exactly the type of leaders I want to see in Richmond.

**Nadja Z. Golding**  
McLean

McLean  
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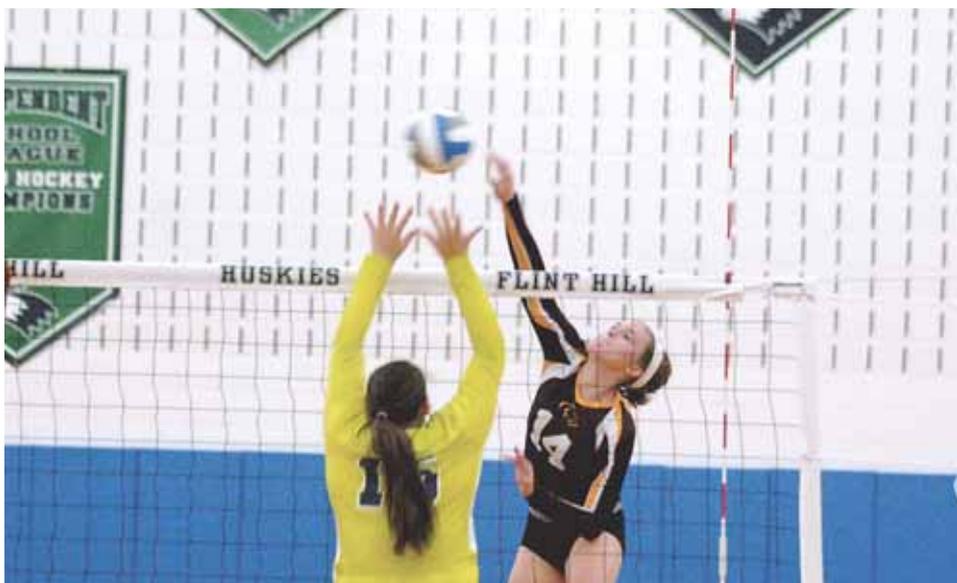
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**Oakton senior Emily Heier totaled 20 kills in Monday's win over Flint Hill.**



**Oakton junior Alice Yang finished with 21 kills against Flint Hill on Monday.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

# Oakton Volleyball Beats Flint Hill

**Yang finishes with 21 kills, Heier totals 20.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

First, members of the Oakton volleyball team had to get past the mystique of Flint Hill, one of the state's best programs in recent years. Banners inside the Vienna private school's gymnasium display the Huskies' achievements, including six of the last seven ISL championships and six of the last seven VISAA state titles. Last season, Flint Hill finished 34-0.

Once Monday's match started, Oakton had to deal with the powerful right arm of Flint Hill senior Morgan McKnight, who is capable of littering the court with high-velocity kills.

Oakton also had to overcome a slow start to the second set, which led to head coach Dan Courain telling the Cougars to "wake up" during a timeout.

On this night, however, Flint Hill's winning tradition, McKnight's 26 kills and a little adversity weren't enough to derail Oakton.

**OAKTON** defeated Flint Hill 3-1 (25-22, 22-25, 31-29, 25-19), beating the Huskies for the first time in four tries. The Cougars trailed in each set, but bounced back and improved their record to 13-2.

Flint Hill fell to 4-5. "They definitely have a lot of talent," Oakton senior Emily Meier said, "and in past years we've come in and were kind of like, 'It's Flint Hill, we don't really have to try because we know we're going to lose anyway.' But this year, we really wanted to win and we really wanted to come out strong. It was just very exciting to beat them."

The teams split the first two sets before Oakton took control of the match by winning a tightly-contested third set. With the score tied at 29, a kill by junior outside hitter Alice Yang gave the Cougars the lead before a Flint Hill error gave Oakton the



**Oakton senior libero Alex Marquis had 23 digs against Flint Hill on Monday.**

set. The Cougars led 18-17 in the fourth set before closing the match with a 7-2 run.

"It's always intimidating playing them because they've been so good," Oakton senior libero Alex Marquis said. "But when [opponents] are better, I think we come together more as a team and we know we have to work harder and it makes us play better together against good competition. We executed really well today and we just played as hard as we could."

Monday's win was another signature moment for an Oakton team with lofty expectations. The Cougars opened the season with nine consecutive victories, including winning the NVVA Invitational on Aug. 29 in Sterling. On Sept. 15, Oakton defeated Vienna foe Madison 3-2. The Warhawks finished state runner-up last season.

"It builds confidence," Courain said. "We really see that we can compete with anyone. There's not going to be a night we don't walk into the gym and believe we can win. But that being said, we've also got to be focused because we know every time we walk into a gym, we're going to get everyone's best. [Opponents] know that we're beating Flint Hills and Madisons and

... we can't take an off night."

**MONDAY'S VICTORY** didn't come easy. McKnight was a force for the Huskies, finishing with 26 kills. "As soon as you see her jumping up, it's always a little scary," said Marquis, who finished with 23 digs. "But this season we've been playing good against some teams and I knew that I could dig her if I was in the right spot and if I just go for everything. You just can't be intimidated and you have to play like you can dig every ball." McKnight wasn't the only player who had a big offensive night. Yang led Oakton with 21 kills, and Heier finished with 20.

Senior opposite hitter Coral Hulcher tallied seven kills and nine digs.

Senior setter Meghan Wood totaled 46 assists. Six days earlier, Wood set the Oakton record for assists with 56 against Madison.

Oakton sophomore outside hitter Grace Cozad, who is third on the team in kills, suffered an ankle injury during warmups and did not play. Junior outside hitter Kaila Ross stepped in and totaled eight kills.

Oakton will host Washington-Lee at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28. Flint Hill will host Trinity Christian School at 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25.

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

### Langley Hires Assistant Ingalsbe as Head Boys' Lacrosse Coach

Langley has hired Saxons assistant Bo Ingalsbe to be head coach of the boys' lacrosse program.

Ingalsbe worked under former head coach Earl Brewer the last two seasons. Defensive Coordinator Matt Puccio, Faceoff and Transition Specialist Alex Berg, Offensive Coordinator Brian Laskowski and JV head coach Jamie Parrott also return to the Saxon coaching staff.

Brewer retired in July after 21 seasons at Langley. He compiled 288 wins and four consecutive state championships (2009-2012) with the Saxons.

### Langley Volleyball Defeats Osbourn Park

The Langley volleyball team defeated Osbourn Park 3-0 (25-18, 25-21, 25-23) on Monday.

The Saxons will travel to face Chantilly at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 28.

### Langley Field Hockey Beats Centerville

The Langley field hockey team beat Centerville 2-1 on Sept. 18, improving its record to 6-3.

Morgan Kuligowski and Kendall Raymond each scored a goal for the Saxons.

Langley will travel to face Yorktown at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25.

### McLean Volleyball Sits at 7-3

After winning seven of its first eight matches, the McLean volleyball team suffered its second straight loss, falling to Oakton 3-1 on Sept. 17.

The Highlanders (7-3) will travel to face T.C. Williams at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24.

### McLean Football Falls to Madison

The McLean football team dropped to 0-3 with a 30-0 loss to Madison on Sept. 18. The Highlanders will travel to face South Lakes at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25.

# CALENDAR



**On Sept. 26 head over to McLean Community Center's Harvest Happenings where The Amazing Kevin, a popular local magician will entertain children as well as enjoy a petting zoo, music and more.**

Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Wear your favorite pajamas and join us for stories and songs. All ages.

**Patrick Henry Book Club.** 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Recent title change: "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr. Adults.

**STEM Project.** 4:30 p.m. Dolley

Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. National Honor Society tutoring project in STEM subjects for elementary students.

**Reading Buddies.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Grab a buddy! Teen Volunteers available to read to or with beginning readers. Ages 3-9.

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

## ONGOING

**"Gold Rush."** Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. through Sept. 26. at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Artwork with "gold" as the theme. This can be interpreted in many ways, gold colors, gold coins, golden hair, gold leaf and more.

**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.

**"Along the Way."** Through Sept. 30 at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. "Along the Way," Jill Banks solo exhibit of original oil painting.

**"Figuratively Speaking."** Friday-Sunday through Oct. 11 at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Portraits and figures in watercolor and mixed media by Deborah Conn. Tickets: \$15-\$30. [www.1ststage Tysonson.org](http://www.1ststage Tysonson.org).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 23

**Elephant Appreciation Storytime.** 11-11:30 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean.

**Treasured Two-Fives.** 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. An early literacy enhanced storytime featuring stories, rhymes and songs. Age 2-5 with adult.

**Rock-A-Bye Baby.** 11:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. An early literacy enhanced storytime, featuring rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-12 months with adult.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 24

**Starlight Storytime.** 7 p.m. Dolley

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 24-26

**Used Book Sale.** Thursday: 1-8 p.m. Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Oakton Community Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Thousands of nonfiction, fiction, hardback and paperback books for sale. Come for the bargains and to support your library.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

**OFTC Friday Field Trip: Double Feature at AMC Tysons.** 3:30-10 p.m. Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. \$33/\$23 members.

**Pokemon League.** 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

**Unity Fall Festival.** 2-6 p.m. Unity of Fairfax campus, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Activities especially for families with children include learn about & paint a Mandala, learn to plant bulbs, face painting, nail painting, making Halloween masks, assembling small treat bags for children without homes, and family games. Safari Bingo the Clown and her hedgehog will stroll the festival. Tickets \$5-\$20. <http://www.unityoffairfax.org/UnityFallFest>.

**STEM Project.** 11 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. National Honor Society tutoring project in STEM subjects for elementary students.

**Talk on Writing.** 2-3 p.m. Books a Million, 1451 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Local Author Helaine Mario will talk about her novel of suspense, "The Lost Concerto." She will focus on inspiration, character and plot,

and on missing art and music during World War II.

**Harvest Happenings.** 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. This indoor-outdoor festival features live entertainment, craft projects and games that celebrate the change of season. \$5 per person/Free for children 36 months and younger. For children ages 3-8.

**"Max the Brave" Storytime.** 11-11:30 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 27

**Free Wine Festival.** 1-4 p.m. The Vineyard, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Held outside in the Palladium's Civic Green fountain courtyard, Wags and Wine features 20+ wines to taste provided by The Vineyard. Purchase food from Sloppy Mama's BBQ and Fluffy Thoughts Cakes.

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 29

**International Rabbit Day Storytime.** 11-11:30 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30

**Fall for the Book: Peter Straub.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Author Straub will thrill fans with a reading of his work.

**Busy Beavers.** 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Did you know that there are beavers in our creeks and ponds? Do the beaver dance, listen to some stories and make a beaver dam as we learn about these nocturnal animals.

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# NEWS

Miriam Burns is the orchestra's conductor and musical director. "One of my favorite things is to introduce people to a piece for the first time," she said.



## McLean Orchestra's Splash of Emotion

Local orchestra begins its 45th season on Oct. 10 at Oakcrest School performance hall.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

McLean Orchestra conductor and musical director Miriam Burns doesn't hesitate from knowledge that she can change a life in one evening.

"That's the kind of splash I want to continue making," she said.

When she conducts, she can feel the rapt attention of the audience when she and her orchestra perform at mastery.

"All of us on stage are thrilled to be sharing a mu-

sical masterpiece and telling a story on stage," she said. "I don't see how people can live without great music, it can be such a powerful force in life. We all need it."

Burns begins her fourth season as conductor and musical director.

"One of my favorite things is to introduce people to a piece for the first time and seeing and hearing and feeling the splash of emotion that comes out," she said.

The McLean Orchestra begins its 45th season, "A New Beginning."

SEE ORCHESTRA, PAGE 13

## A New Beginning: 45th Season

The McLean Orchestra performs at the Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean.

See [www.mclean-orchestra.org](http://www.mclean-orchestra.org)

**SATURDAY, OCT. 10, 8 P.M.**

### From the Games of Imagination

Ravel: Mother Goose Suite  
Chausson: Poeme  
(featuring violinist Regino Madrid)  
Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition

### A Holiday to Remember

**Saturday, Dec. 12, 8 p.m.**

**Sunday, Dec. 13, 3 p.m.**

Holiday favorites, featuring Oakcrest School Girls Choir

### Starcrossed: Tales of Love

**Saturday, Feb. 13, 2016, 8 p.m.**

Wagner: Prelude and Liebestod from Tristan and Isolde  
Verdi and Puccini: Arias  
(featuring Michelle Jennings, soprano)  
Prokofiev: Suite from Romeo and Juliet

### Vienna Nights

**Saturday, March 19, 2016, 8 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 20, 2016, 3 p.m.**

Schubert: Overture Claudine von Villa Bella  
Haydn: Symphony No. 90  
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5, Emperor  
(featuring Sara Daneshpour, piano)  
The McLean Youth Orchestra will join the symphony in a side-by-side performance on the Sunday Performance.

### 5,6,7,8: America Dances

**Saturday, May 14, 2016, 8 p.m.**

Barber: Overture to the School for Scandal  
Copland: Appalachian Spring  
Picker: Old and Lost Rivers  
Hindemith: Symphonic Metamorphosis

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# NEWS

## Orchestra

FROM PAGE 12

"It's all sorts of firsts for us," said John Devlin, music director and conductor of McLean's Youth Orchestra. "A new board, new leader, new ideas."

Devlin plans to give audience members opportunities to meet the musicians after performances and Burns plans to make classical musical even more accessible by sharing what to listen for before pieces are performed.

The orchestra performs at the Oakcrest School in McLean.

More than 80 musicians perform with the orchestra.

She guarantees that once she gets people in the doors, new audience members will return.

"That's easy," she said.

"We've been here for 45 years and there's a reason for that, the musical excellence," said Devlin.

**THE ORCHESTRA TAKES** responsibility for nurturing the next generation of classical musicians through its McLean Youth Orchestra.

"Students get remarkable experience working with the orchestra on a regular basis," said John Devlin, who conducts the youth orchestra.

The youth orchestra was founded in 1983 for advanced high school and middle school students.

A "perfect marriage of education and music," said Burns.

Kevin Robinson is a French horn musician with the youth orchestra.

"It's very inspirational," he said. "It gives me an accurate depiction what the professional setting is like."

"It's interesting to hear all the voices of the orchestra and to get the experience playing when you're in the midst of all the sounds," he said.

Watching Devlin and Burns has definitely prepared him to take the baton to be the drum major with his school's marching band.

"Now I get to understand when a conductor is complaining about what the ensemble is doing," he joked.

Burns is grateful for the opportunities she had to perform with advanced youth orchestras early in high school. She remembers one conductor warning her and her friends about the difficulties of making a career in music and to make sure they developed additional skills to make a living.

"I deliberately made sure I didn't have any other marketable skills," Burns said.



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10/7/2015 ..... Wellbeing Senior Living Pullout  
10/14/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle  
10/21/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools  
*Halloween is October 31*  
10/28/2015 ..... Election Preview

**NOVEMBER**

11/4/2015 ..... Wellbeing  
11/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle  
11/18/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools  
11/19/2015 ..... Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I  
*Thanksgiving is November 26*  
11/25/2015 ..... Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

**DECEMBER**

12/2/2015 ..... Wellbeing  
12/9/2015 ..... Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II  
12/9/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays  
12/16/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gifts Pages  
12/23/2015 ..... Special Issue - Safe for the Holidays  
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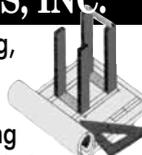
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## The Week After The Week Before



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's not what it was, but it is what it is: not perfect. But neither is it worse. It's a familiar pattern, to be sure, so nothing really has changed, which is a good thing; and the kind of "good thing" which I need to acknowledge, because cancer is a bad thing and one needs to counterbalance that negative with any and all positives.

And for yours truly, many of those good things involve food (you'll note I didn't say revolve). I don't eat much (variety), but I do relish (which I don't eat) the redundancy. As I like to joke: I eat about 10 things – repeatedly, so if circumstances, lack of availability or medication/side effects, prevent me from eating normally – for me, then the consequences are as I described them last week: unpleasant. And believe me, "unpleasant" is all it's cracked up to be. Not that deriving pleasure from food is mature, advisable, good for controlling weight and/or any other prudent course of action, according to health-conscious weight-watchers; nevertheless, for the rest of us down here in the eating trenches, a satisfying meal is hard to beat and even harder to resist. It's not exactly "The Borg," but when food has your name on it – so to speak – resistance might not be futile, but it's certainly near impossible.

Ergo my depression, when the week immediately after chemotherapy, the only thing that's futile is my attempts to find/taste any food that does anything other than disappoint. Add in the associated fatigue, difficulty sleeping and lack of initiative, and the week becomes a total drag, literally and figuratively. Ah, but the next week, this week in fact, the worm turns (no, I've not resorted to drinking Tequila), there's less drag and more coefficient. In effect, but not in actuality, my taste buds are thrown a bone. And once that "bone" begins to taste like something instead of nothing, my mood (but not my clothes) improve immeasurably. (If only the latter could improve as much as the former, how happy my wife would be). Then I have about 10 days of my atypical "foodish" behavior before the side effects from my every-three-week chemotherapy infusion begin to take their toll.

Now the challenge becomes not gorging myself in the interim. I have to be honest, it's difficult. To me, it's akin to coming up for air after being submersed too long under water; those first few breaths after reaching the surface are hardly measured. Quite the opposite, in fact. That's how I feel, and how I struggle to not overindulge during this next week or so. It's almost as if I've been shot out of a cannon; I'm going fast and furious, ravaging and rampaging innocent food victims along my way. I realize it's not any way for a grown man to behave, but this growing man is a cancer survivor who gets extremely hungry after a week of not-eating and even less oral-fixating.

Despite these food issues, this is a more enjoyable week, with an even better, more normal (eating-wise) one to follow leading up to Friday's infusion. And I look forward to it, mindful however of the eating/taste challenges inevitably to occur. It's not exactly how I'd draw it up in the huddle, but as I've said many times before: I'm just happy to still be in the game.

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

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

**FRIDAY/SEPT. 25**

**McLean Art Society Meeting.** 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Cynthia Farrell Johnson, an artist working in gauche and acrylics will be the featured presenter. Johnson is on the Advisory Board of the State University of New York. Her talk will be entitled "What Inspires Me!". She has been a U.S. Diplomat working in Africa and South America and has incorporated the bright colors and historic applications in her work.

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 26**

**Community Shredding Day.** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Parking lot between Whole Foods and Patrick Henry Library, 133 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Gain peace of mind by bringing outdated personal documents to on-site shredding service provided by TrueShred. Non-perishable canned good will also be collected for donation to Food for Others during this event.

**TUESDAY/SEPT. 29**

**Candidates' Debates.** 6:30 p.m. Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) is sponsoring four debates between key local political candidates. The Grange has limited seating, so residents are encouraged to arrive early to get a seat. For further information visit gfca.org or contact philip.pifer@gfca.org.

**TUESDAY/OCT. 13**

**Money Matters Book Discussion,** 7-8:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 20304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. "How Money Affects Our Lives" (multi books). 703-242-4020. Free.

**TUESDAY/NOV. 10**

**Red Cross Blood Donation.** 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Long and Foster Realtors, 1355 Beverly Road, McLean. McLean is holding a blood drive. Please sign up today at www.redcrossblood.org and search by Sponsor Code: LONGANDFOSTERMCLEAN or call 1-800-REDCROSS to schedule your appointment.

**Fire Station Open House.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Great Falls Volunteer Fire Station, 9916 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Firefighter demonstrations, station tours and fun instructional activities will be available for children and adults alike. Come learn about fire safety and why it's so important.

**ONGOING**

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. Visit www.scov.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email volunteer@scov.org.

**Food Addicts in Recovery.** Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at The Vine Church, 2501 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. Are you having trouble controlling the way you eat? Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a free twelve step recovery program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, under-eating or bulimia. For more information or a list of additional meetings throughout the U.S. and the world, call 781-932-6300 or www.foodaddicts.org.

**Vienna Toastmasters.** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center on the 2nd floor room opposite the elevator, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. A friendly place to get comfortable with public speaking and impromptu speaking for new and experienced speakers. Open to the public.

**Run With the Doctor.** Every other Saturday at 7 a.m. 8230 Boone Blvd., Tysons Corner. The Center for Orthopedics and Sports Medicine offers its services in a convenient format to runners at this running event. Free. facebook.com/runwiththedoctor.

**Senior Fall Prevention Classes.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles. \$10. 703-667-9800.



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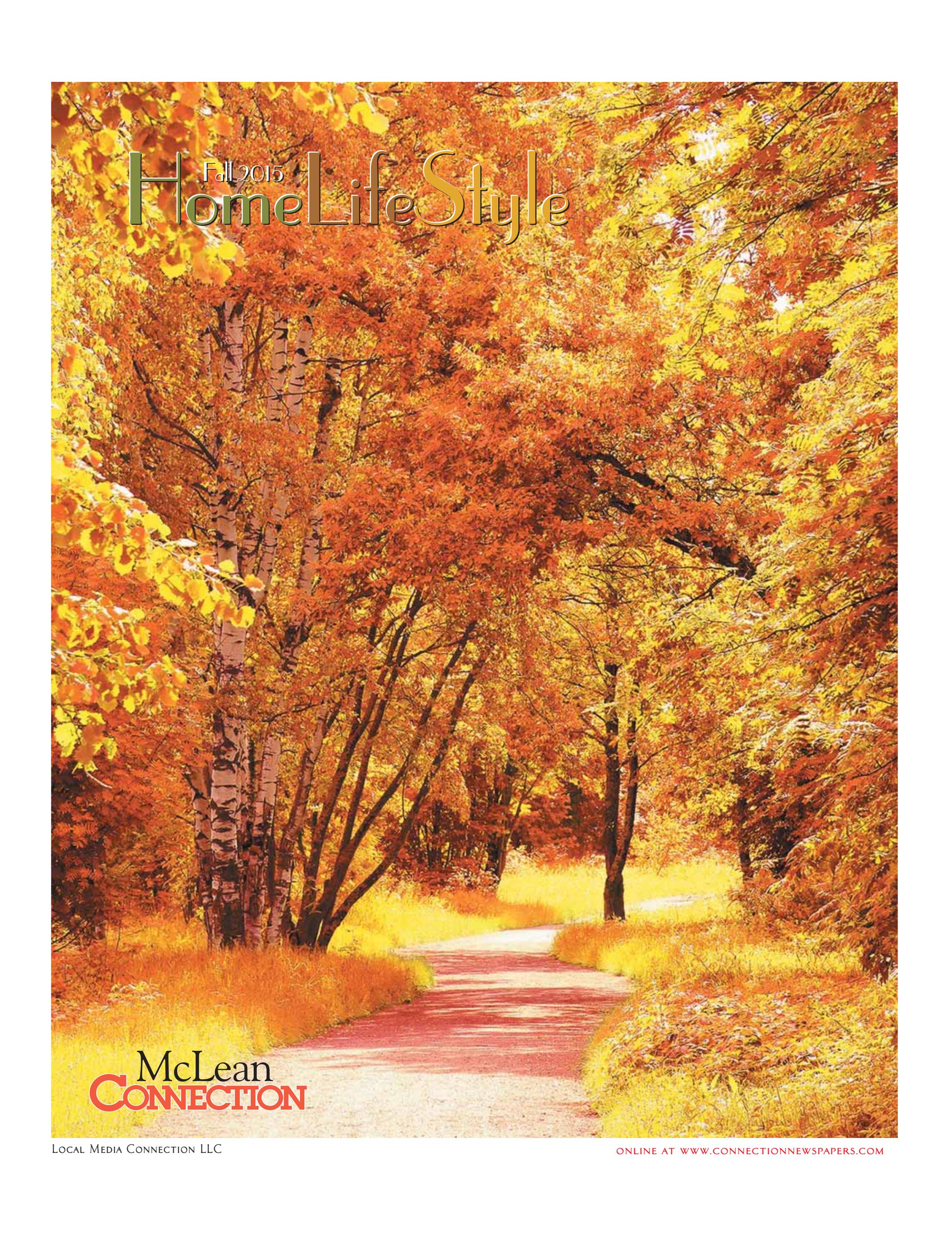


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**BOWA kitchen renovation in Arlington features under-counter microwave and beverage center.**



**BOWA basement renovation includes space for arts & crafts, games and media.**

## Remodeling Design in 2015: It's all about the Family

**Adapting your home so it tracks your family's development over the years.**

BY JOSHUA BAKER  
BOWA

**A**lmost every luxury remodel starts with the same question "How can we improve our family's life at home?" But this answer varies as our families grow, age and evolve. And the best designs consider both current and future needs.

For young families, the focus is almost always child-centric. Kitchens are designed with low drawers for easy access to the most important items, like sippy cups and napkins. Refrigerator drawers installed as beverage stations and below-the-counter microwaves allow the "vertically challenged" to help themselves. Study areas are incorporated into family spaces to allow for parent-child interaction at homework time.

Creative storage solutions and child-friendly finishes, like washable wall paint, chalkboard paint in play areas, and custom ceramic tiles featuring kids' artwork in their bath, all lend to a successful design.

In the teen years, the question asked most often is, "How do I create the house where all the kids and their friends want to hang out?" For this age group, creative basement remodels with game areas are most popular, and perhaps not surprisingly, basement bars are often minimized or omitted completely. As opposed to the closed-off theaters of the past, media viewing rooms are now open and designed as multi-purpose spaces that also facilitate informal gatherings and entertaining. For the ambitious, outdoor features, such as pools, patios and fire pits, can create a neighborhood destination. (Though pools and water features are of-

ten delayed until kids are old enough to be safe around water.)

Teen-friendly designs often include a family foyer, an entrance from the garage with plenty of storage for sports equipment, coats, backpacks, etc. Other potential opportunities for teens include creating small, fun spaces like lofts in bedrooms, themed bedrooms, and making sure that there are plenty of USB charging stations.

For empty nesters, remodeling typically involves "downsizing" within the home by planning to use the space more efficiently. Often, one-level living is designed for convenience and to reduce energy use. Heating and cooling systems are zoned so only the inhabited areas are fully conditioned when in use. Apartment-style washer and dryers are right sized for a couple. Smaller, drawer-style dishwashers are also available. And, perhaps now is the time to discuss repurposing spaces that were previously used as game rooms or homework stations into areas to accommodate hobbies and interests.

Almost all design discussions should at least contemplate the potential for boomerang kids (children coming home after college), in-laws, or elderly family members who might join the home. For those wanting more independence and privacy, in-law suites sometimes include private entrances and even a small kitchenette. Sometimes kids' rooms are moved to the basement to add more privacy.

For all of us as we get older, a house that incorporates the principles of universal design, which allow us to live comfortably and safely in the homes we love, is a critical conversation. Design considerations include creating accessibility-friendly baths, kitchens, entrances and passageways and

perhaps reconfiguring to minimize steps. Often, a strategy that comes up is the consideration of the installation of an elevator to facilitate long-time use.

The design priorities for each remodel are unique to the family, but thinking about all the different phases of family life is critical to long-term success.

*Josh Baker is the founder and co-chairman of BOWA, an award-winning design and construction company specializing in luxury renovations, remodels and additions in the greater Washington, D.C. area. BOWA has more than 25 years of experience and has been honored with 170 local and national awards. Visit [www.bowa.com](http://www.bowa.com) or call 703-734-9050.*



**Renovated home office by BOWA features space for the whole family.**



**Custom designed cabinetry in this renovated family foyer in Great Falls, VA keeps a busy family organized.**

## Elegant Organization

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**D**esign elements can make maintaining organization throughout the school year elegant and stylish as the activities start to aggregate, notices pile up and calendars start to fill.

“Designate a location for baskets for each family member, such as the entryway or mudroom, and use them daily to keep mail [and] school notices ... organized and in one place,” said Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors. Meyer used this technique in a Potomac, Maryland home recently.

“Consider a couple baskets for each person, one for notices and one for objects such as toys that can be taken to designated spaces throughout the day.”

It makes life easier on everyone, even the smallest family members. “I also like to keep my kids’ different items for activities in tote bags or bins in our mudroom area,” said Jody Al-Saigh of Picture Perfect Organizing in Arlington. “They can quickly grab what they need for soccer or Girl Scouts on their way out the door, rather than searching all over the house for stray items.

“We make it a rule that those items always live in the designated bag or bin,” said Al-Saigh. “If uniforms are washed or water bottles cleaned, for example, they are returned to that area when they are clean.”

A home’s entryway often becomes a depository for shoes, hats, gloves and other items that are re-

moved when busy families come home after a long day. Simple shelving can offer a solution with aesthetic appeal, especially with mounds of clutter.

“If there’s space within an entry closet, install shelving along the top for hats, gloves and miscellaneous seasonal items so they can be reached easily and not fall out each time you open the door,” said Elle Hunter, director of project development, Case Design/Remodeling. “If there is currently a single shelf but room for another, consider hiring a handyman to add that extra storage. It will go a long way.”

For larger or double entry closets, consider installing storage bins or shelves for shoes and boots. “There are shoe trays that can work in a pinch, but also consider building in shelving for bonus organization,” said Hunter. “In one instance, we installed closets around a bench in a home for ... ultimate ... entryway organization.”

If you don’t have a closet in the entryway, invest in a hall tree with hooks or a bench with storage, advises Hunter. “These can often be built into an underused space or under the staircase,” she said.

The kitchen is often a hub of a busy family’s activities. Afternoon snacks are simplified with latest in kitchen and appliance design including beverage drawers or centers. “They make it easy for young ones to grab a juice box or healthy drink by themselves,” said Brian Knipp, remodeling consultant with Fred, a division of Case Remodeling. “Consider installing these if you’re planning a kitchen remodel any time soon.”

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# Caution for Local Economy

Home sales have increased, particularly in Fairfax County, which saw a 22 percent uptick.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

Vienna-based realtor Craig Lilly with Long and Foster agreed with how Ken Harney, the moderator for the 2015 Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) Economic Summit, described the current year's market trends at the gathering earlier this month at the Fairview Park Marriott.

"His assessment of 2015 is on target with what I am experiencing," said Lilly. "So far, so good."

Harney, a nationally-syndicated columnist, categorized 2013 as the "rebound year" when sales and house prices seemed to be back on a roll after years of post-recession doldrums. Then 2014 started out impressively strong as well, but mid-year the market became more "restrained."

"Last Spring things were rocking," said Lilly. "I think that caused some sellers to price too aggressively too quickly in a market that was changing. That certainly had an effect on the slowdown we saw for the rest of the year."

The data for 2015 is on Harney's side. Home sales have increased, particularly in Fairfax County, which saw a 22 percent uptick in sales. Figures just released by Real Estate Business Intelligence report the second-highest level of August sales since 2006, with inventories remaining fairly healthy and time-on-the-market about equal with the same period last year. The August report also showed the average sales price of single-family homes down slightly (.02 percent), while the average price of attached homes and condominiums rose slightly.

But even those positive numbers didn't keep the summit's panellists from making presentations that leaned decidedly towards the cautionary, for both short-term real estate transactions, and the future economic health of the region.

**LOOMING ON THE HORIZON** is the spectre of another potential government shutdown if Congress fails to pass even a temporary budget by the end of the month. Describing the region as a "company town," and as such, somewhat "vulnerable" to Congressional activity, panellist Dr. Terry Clower, director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, said he wouldn't discount the possibility of a shutdown, despite the insistence of others that neither political party would tolerate that turn of events.

For a region where almost 40 percent of the economy is directly related to federal wages and salaries, procurement and other federal activity, Clower's analogy of the "company town's" vulnerability seems right on target.

The seemingly endless "Federal Reserve Watch" for interest rate hikes was also discussed by Clower, and by Dr. Lawrence Yun, chief economist with the National Association of Realtors.

"A rate increase is coming, probably sooner



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left — Jonathan Aberman of TandemNSI, Jill Landsman, NVAR VP of Communications, and summit moderator Ken Harney at the 19<sup>th</sup> Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Economic Summit.

rather than later, before the end of the year," predicted Yun, but he also believes that any increase will not have an immediate impact on mortgage rates.

That's an opinion that Weichert Realtors Fair Oaks managing director Lorraine Arora shares. "People will still be buying and selling. I think the current situation continues to make people a bit cautious, as Yun suggests, but I agree that we probably won't see much impact on mortgage rates, at least for awhile," said Arora.

Lilly was more struck by Yun's powerpoints showing homeownership at a 50-year low combined with rental vacancies at a 30-year low and rents at a seven-year high. "There's some things to be thinking about as a Realtor, and really as anyone living and working in this area," he added.

In Yun's research, millennials - who currently represent a large portion of the renters - are actually the most confident about the housing situation, and despite the many obstacles to their entering the market, the majority want to eventually become homeowners. Their achievement of that goal is crucial, according to Yun, who noted that the net worth of homeowners tends to exceed that of renters.

One positive note on real estate trends by Yun that the Realtor attendees appreciated was his belief that the "trade-up" market would probably see an improvement, with potential buyers having more cash-in-hand from their current homes' sales.

Back on the subject of the "company town" dependency, Clower and Yun both argued that diversification of job sectors is critical to the region's future economic success, requiring greater regional cooperation.

Speaking of robots, drones, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and the "We Work" models of sharing work, living spaces and resources, Jonathan Aberman, chairman of TandemNSI, focused on technological trends and how they would affect our daily lives. Aberman said that any region that doesn't prepare for these changes with an emphasis on affordably "educating people on how to think," will be quickly left behind.

Aberman said that more effort is needed to keep the federal dollars spent on technology and related research here at home. "We need to be encouraging our next generation of 'gazelles,' what we call our fast-growth companies and entrepreneurs. And we need to consider that these people will be more interested in data-ways than highways when considering their work options."

To Aberman, that includes rethinking the number of "trophy offices" under construction and in the pipeline. He worries about over-building in commercial properties that sit empty for so long that they cease to be Class A buildings. Before they can be occupied, many are already not up to par for the next wave of change, either technologically, or culturally speaking, he said.