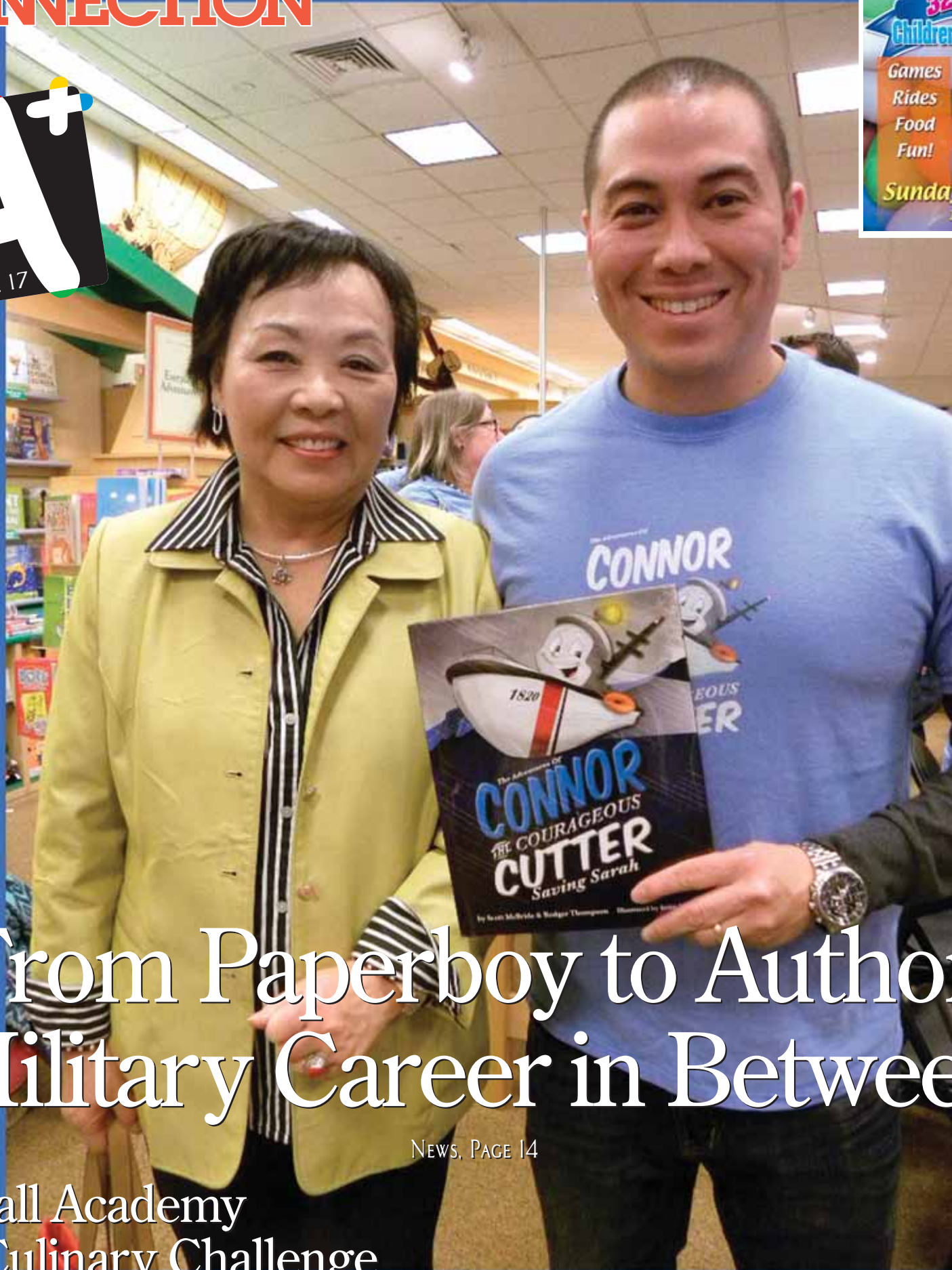


Author Scott McBride thanks his mother Cha, of Tysons Corner, for her support in writing his first book.



## From Paperboy to Author, Military Career in Between

NEWS, PAGE 14

### Marshall Academy Wins Culinary Challenge

NEWS, PAGE 4

### Inspiring Girls to Pursue STEM Careers

NEWS, PAGE 8



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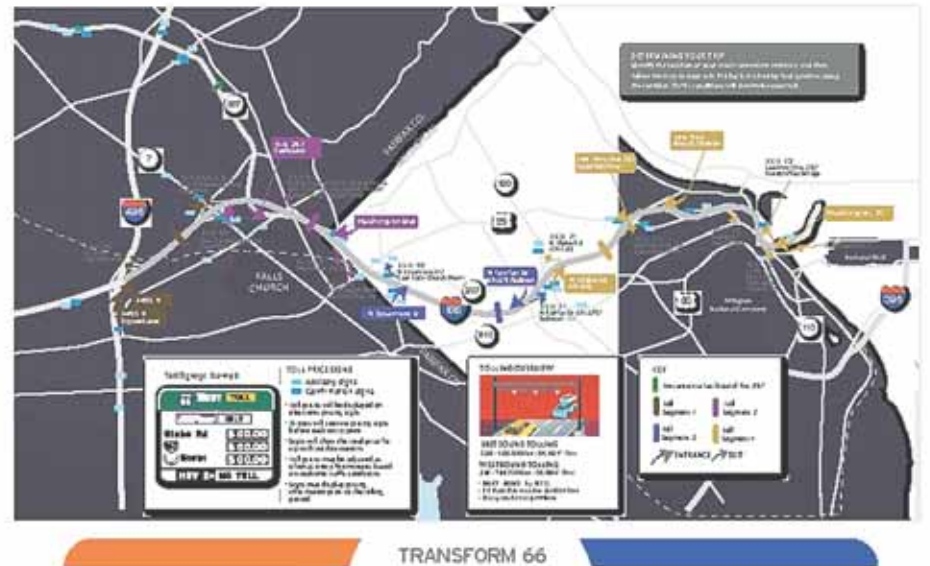


PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

At the table were Todd Horsley from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation, Nick Nicholson of the I-66 Team, and Renee Hamilton, VDOT deputy district administrator. Amanda Baxter, VDOT special projects manager stands behind the lectern.



## Understanding Your I-66 Trip



SLIDE FROM THE VDOT/DRPT PRESENTATION

The slide was one of many used in the presentation by VDOT special projects manager Amanda Baxter to assist the public in understanding the scope and design of the proposed changes to I-66 inside the Beltway.

# No E-Z Answers on I-66

VDOT's Transform I-66 Inside the Beltway meeting leaves public waiting for answers.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and their partner the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation hosted the third and final Design Public Hearing on their plans to improve I-66 inside the Beltway by the addition of another lane of traffic and by the conversion of the road to a completely tolled thoroughfare during peak morning and evening travel hours. The meeting, postponed from January when Storm Jonas came to town, was held on Wednesday, March 9, at VDOT's Northern Virginia District headquarters in Fairfax, but despite the lengthy delay imposed by mother nature, some of the audience members left with the feeling that they were being asked to wait even longer for answers to their questions and concerns. "By the time we get the answers," said Robert Bear, a resident from the Fair Lakes area, "they will have already awarded their contracts and the work will be underway."

**AFTER MAKING THE PRESENTATION** on the project's current status, Amanda Baxter, VDOT special projects manager who was helming the podium, did announce that the evening's proceedings would not take a "dialogue format" but that "team technicians would be available to respond to comments and questions." When adding her concerns about overspill traffic from motorists seeking to avoid I-66 and the tolls into the public record, Ginger Harrison of Arlington asked for clarification of that re-

sponse period. "I am a bit confused about the format," she asked. "Will we not get answers to any of our questions or be able to generate any comments this evening?" Baxter reiterated that the agenda was to receive comments, then there would be time remaining for technical experts to respond. "So we will get answers this evening. That's helpful, thank you," said Harrison. Some of the speakers and others in attendance seemed taken aback then, when Baxter concluded the meeting after the last official comments and invited the assembly to move out into the hallway where presentation boards were on display, manned by project representatives.

When it seemed that there wasn't a rush to accept this invitation, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova asked, "At what point will these comments and questions be addressed?" Baxter replied that comments would be welcomed from the public through March 24 and that VDOT expected to have responses available by the end of April. "So, you're not going to have some response tonight?" asked Bulova. "No," responded Baxter, adding that the format for the Design Meetings has been to accept comments and then allow for interaction individually with the technicians and for examination and explanations of the project materials. Further inquiry from Chairman Bulova did result in the announcement by Baxter that there would be published responses via the Transform I-66 Inside the Beltway website and other sources.

So, what were some of those comments and questions that were left, at least tem-

porarily, unanswered?

**SEVERAL OF THE SPEAKERS** questioned why the "transformed" I-66 would require an E-Z Pass or E-Z Pass Flex transponder to pay the toll. Fran Taylor of Falls Church cited examples of other jurisdictions around the country and in other parts of world that had alternative tolling methods. "The technology exists," she said. "Some places, you can call in, go online, or even use a machine at a gas station to pay within 24 hours of using the toll road. Why can't we do that?"

Jeff Barnes agreed, expressing concern for what would happen to those who get on the toll road following maps or GPS instructions "like tourists and other visitors, or people travelling to and from the airport." He said that these drivers were "valued guests, not the 'violators' that VDOT is calling them. This is not a good philosophy for Virginia."

Barnes also added his voice to Harrison's and several others who are unconvinced that "secondary" and connecting roads would not be negatively impacted, especially when the "free ride" for 2 or more passengers per vehicle changes to 3 or more in 2020. Barnes asked to see what studies had been done and what percentage of drivers VDOT expected would discontinue using the toll road under those requirements and return to the secondary routes.

Robert Bear, too, worries that when the already-crowded secondary routes receive the additional traffic from drivers avoiding the tolls, "You'll never get out" of those neighborhoods. "Has anyone who wrote these plans ever used these roads?" he asked.

There were also questions and comments of a financial nature. Rob Whitfield with the

Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance attends most of the transportation-related meetings in the region. He called the decision to only toll in one direction "a discriminatory plan." He also has serious reservations about the appointment by resolution of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC) to be the body that will handle the net toll revenue and distribute the funds for approved projects along the I-66 corridor. "The NVTC is unfit to govern this process or these funds," he said, believing that the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority would be better suited and also includes members from affected jurisdictions that are not represented on the NVTC.

Questions were also posed about noise and environmental impacts that had yet to be addressed in materials currently available on the website.

Eventually, many from the audience did leave the meeting room and engage with the technical team, all of whom seemed eager to assist, even shepherding some of the questioners to other team members with expertise in particular areas of interest or concern. "They were really pleasant and seemed to want to help," said Robert Bear, "but I heard a lot of 'it's because of this jurisdiction, or that politician or that regulation or this study.' Honestly, I am leaving here with more questions and concerns than when I got here. I guess I'll just have to wait."

The website [www.insidettransform66.org](http://www.insidettransform66.org) contains all of the materials presented at the meeting, as well as full plans for the project and many of the studies that have already been done. Comments and questions can also be submitted on the site by the March 24 deadline. Construction of the tolling gantries is expected to begin in 2017, with tolling operational by 2018.



# Real Food for Kids' Culinary Challenge

11 teams of middle and high school students compete in school food competition.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

Eleven teams of middle and high school students competed in the fourth annual Real Food for Kids' Culinary Challenge on Saturday, March 12 at Robinson Secondary School. Students from six middle schools, four culinary academies, and one high school competed by preparing the most nutritious and delicious school snacks, breakfast and lunch menu items.

The event included six expert-led workshops on food writing, promotion and photography, family meal planning and school gardening. There was also a breakfast discussion that addressed the future of school food by Rodney Taylor, the new Food and Nutrition Services director (FNS) in Fairfax County and a pioneer in the farm-to-school movement, and Loudoun County's FNS director Dr. Becky Bays, who also served as judges.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**The winner of the first place award in the culinary challenge went to Marshall Academy in Falls Church/McLean. Each student received a \$200 scholarship.**

It also included celebrity judges Marjorie Meek Bradley, a Top Chef finalist; Aviva Goldfarb of "Six O'Clock Scramble" books; chef Kate Sherwood of the Center for Science in the Public Interest; and Bonnie Benwick, deputy food edi-

tor of The Washington Post, who focused on "Food is Hot." Scoring for the students was broken down by 20 percent presentation; 40 percent taste; 30 percent adaptability to school lunches; and 10 percent team organization.

"Today is such an exciting event because it demonstrates our community commitment to providing healthy food to every child," said Megan McLaughlin, Braddock School Board representative. "I am so proud of the Real Food for Kids

organization for their leadership and advocacy in this area. Their powerful voice has inspired our school system to make real and substantive improvements to our school meals."

"The whole point of it is to encourage kids to participate in healthier cooking and foods that are in school. We're trying to encourage kids to help change school food and to live a more active lifestyle," said Diana Nash, Real Food for Kids event coordinator.

"This year we decided to open it up for middle schoolers and high schoolers. I'm really impressed with the level of skill and preparation of the teams today," said Jenny Hein, executive director of Real Food for Kids.

An awards ceremony at the end included \$200 scholarships, \$50 gift cards to Sur La Table, a \$500 raffle award to Williams-Sonoma, gift certificate to Earl's Kitchen & Bar for six people, cookbooks and a Veggetti Spiralizer, among other gifts. All participating students left with their own gift bags.

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## WEEK IN MCLEAN

### Public Hearing on MCC Programs Set for March 30

McLean Community Center's 11-member Governing Board is inviting residents of the Center's special tax district, Small District 1A-Dranesville, to share their thoughts on Center programs and services at a Public Hearing on Programs to be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30. The regular monthly meeting of the Governing Board will follow the hearing. These meetings were originally scheduled for Wednesday, March 23. All meetings of the board are open to the public. The Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

Residents of the Center's tax district who attend the meeting can voice their opinions on current Center offerings and make suggestions for improving current programs or adding new initiatives. The hearing is one step in planning for the FY 2018 budget cycle, which begins July 1, 2017.

Residents who would like to speak at the hearing may call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to have their names placed on the speakers' list so that a schedule may be established. Residents may submit written comments by mail, fax (703-556-0547), email (george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov) or in person up to seven days after the hearing.

### Deadline Approaches for Nominating Petitions

The filing deadline for the McLean Community Center's (MCC) 2016-2017 Governing Board election is 5 p.m. on Friday, March 25. Residents of Dranesville Small Tax District 1A who are interested in running for a seat on the board can still enter the race. The Board sets policy and provides general oversight for MCC facilities, which include the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Teen Center on

SEE WEEK, PAGE 9



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# OPINION

## Homelessness on Its Way Out in Fairfax

Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring;  
776 fewer homeless individuals in 2016 than in 2008.

**H**omelessness is down in Fairfax County in every major category, a fact confirmed on Jan. 28, 2016, the annual Point in Time Count.

There were 145 fewer individuals homeless than the Point In Time Count a year earlier, 138 of those in families, and seven fewer homeless individuals. There also were no families in overflow motels, and no families were unsheltered in the 2016 count.

Sixty-four percent of the 577 family members who were literally homeless on Jan. 28, 2016 were in transitional housing, with the rest in emergency shelter. There were vacancies in emergency shelters for families and in domestic violence shelters; no families were unsheltered.

"This trend is beautiful," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "The things we're doing are making a difference."

In 2008, the Fairfax County established the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness with a plan to end homelessness within 10 years.

"Seeing the numbers decrease in so many different areas is encouraging after working on the 10 year plan," said Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Since 2008, the number of people who are literally homeless on the day of the Point in Time Count has decreased by 776 individuals. "Since 2008 there has been a 42 percent reduction in the number of people counted as homeless, from 1,835 people in 2008 to 1,059 in 2016,"

### EDITORIAL

Klein reported to the Board of Supervisors on Monday, March 14.

Julie Maltzman, manager of Continuum of Care, reported the details to the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness on Monday afternoon.

A coordinated effort among partners, more housing options and flexible funding helped to get formerly homeless families into more viable housing with appropriate services, said Joe Meyer, executive director of Shelter House. More public awareness around homelessness is also making a difference, Meyer said.

Still, 341 children under the age of 18 were among those literally homeless in this year's Point in Time Count, 32 percent of all homeless.

Eighty percent (190 people) of the adults in homeless families were female; 66 percent of adults (155) in homeless families were employed; a slight increase from 62 percent in 2015. Twelve percent (21) of families were considered "youth households," with all family members under 25 years old.

Single adults made up 46 percent of all homeless people counted, a total of 482. Forty-two percent (202 people) of single adults who were homeless suffered from serious mental illness and/or substance abuse, a 13 percent decrease from last year. Many had chronic health problems and/or physical disabilities as well.

Thirty percent (146 people) were experienc-

ing chronic homelessness. This is a significant decrease from last year when 42 percent (203 people) were experiencing chronic homelessness.

Among the factors helping to reduce homelessness, Maltzman said: the adoption of a Housing First approach; increased homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing efforts; prioritizing housing for individuals with the longest history of homelessness and highest vulnerability; additional permanent supportive housing for singles experiencing chronic homelessness; focus on housing veterans including use of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers; new permanent housing opportunities for families with children.

To find out more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/>

Support the effort to end homelessness by contributing to the Build a Village campaign found there as well.

Support the nonprofit partners working to end homelessness, including FACETS, Cornerstones, New Hope Housing, Northern Virginia Family Services, Shelter House, United Community Ministries, Good Shepherd Housing, Alternative House, Homestretch, Pathways Homes and others.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm is a member of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness.

## A Circus Show

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

**I**ronically Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus moved into the Richmond Coliseum for its annual stand at the same time last week that a few blocks away the General Assembly concluded its annual meeting and members packed up and went home. Circus promoters need to come up with a new theme each year to keep its patrons returning; this year's theme was "Extreme." Reviewers are likely to come up with very different assessments of the General Assembly session. It was not as extreme as some sessions, but as always there were some really good things that happened and some not so good.

Legislative sessions tend to be ponderous—nothing as exciting as a flying trapeze or person being shot out of a cannon. Progress in changing laws is made mostly in small, incremental steps. This session I am pleased that small steps were taken to reduce the flow of students going from the classroom to the courtroom. More emphasis will start to be given to providing alternatives for youth who misbehave but who should not be treated like criminals. Very small steps were made in gun safety

by facilitating background checks for those not required to have one to purchase a gun but who volunteer to do so. My bill to require background checks for all purchases at gun shows was defeated. A new law will deny gun ownership for those against whom a permanent protective order has been issued. Persons who receive protection from the court through such an order will find an easier path to getting a concealed weapon permit, an idea I did not support.

School reform continues at a slow pace, but there seems to be a clear recognition that there is too much standardized testing. School systems struggling with their budgets will receive more state aid but still at a level below 2006. Economic development funds are increased which should help the super salesman Governor McAuliffe attract more businesses to the Commonwealth.

For the first time in history the legislature removed a Supreme Court Justice from office. The refusal to confirm Governor

The purpose of the legislative session is serious business and not entertainment like the circus. There are times, however, that it may be difficult to tell the difference.

McAuliffe's appointee had nothing to do with the credentials of the justice who was acknowledged by all to be eminently qualified but had to do with personalities and struggles between the legislative and executive branches. A one-day discussion of the possible nomination of former Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli brought a public outcry. The legislature in the end confirmed a new justice (without my vote) who is as ideologically conservative as Cuccinelli but not a political activist.

The biennial budget brought good news to many programs as the economic recovery has produced more revenue than in the past. Unfortunately, my bill to expand Medicaid coverage was not approved.

The purpose of the legislative session is serious business and not entertainment like the circus. There are times, however, that it may be difficult to tell the difference.

Information about legislative results from this session is at <http://lis.virginia.gov/lis.htm>.

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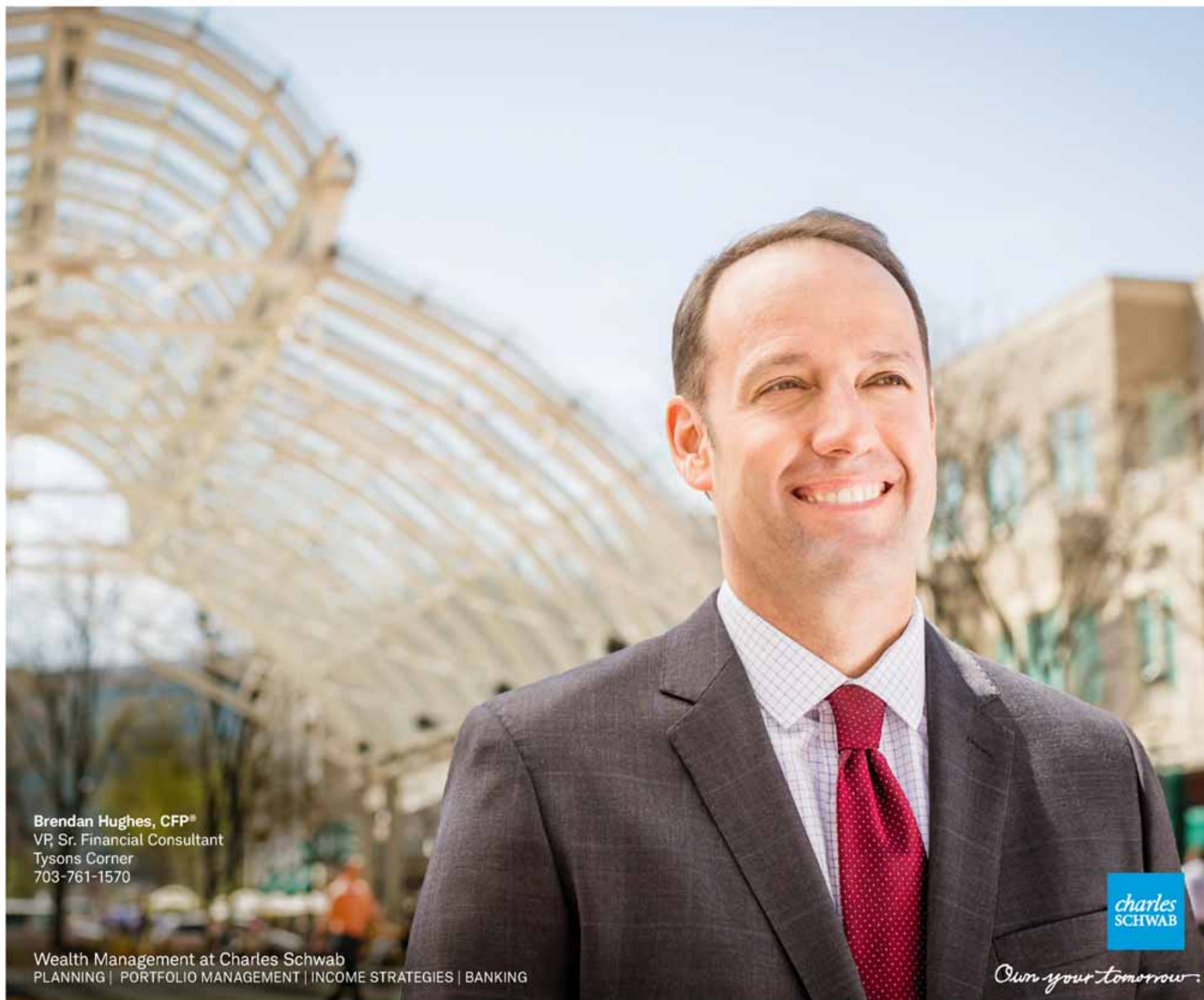




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## NEWS

**AAUW McLean Area Branch and STEMtastics 2016 Planning Committee member, Mary Lou Melley, center, is shown with keynote speaker Swetha Prabakaran, second from left, and her family. Swetha's sister Sanjitha Prabakaran, right, attended the student workshops, while her parents Prabakaran Muvugaiah, far left, and Deepa Prabakaran, second from right, also participated in the day's events.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**AAUW volunteers (from left) Joan Dimengo (Fairfax City), Gale Rogers (Fairfax City), Juanita Cullen (McLean Area), and Martha Nichols (Vienna Area) were among the 50 AAUW members who provided on-site support for STEMtastics 2016. Rogers served as MC for the Opening Session and Parent Workshops.**

## Inspiring Girls to Pursue STEM Careers

**K**eynote speaker Swetha Prabakaran, a junior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, spoke to a capacity crowd of 500 middle school girls and parents attending STEMtastics 2016 at NOVA-Annandale Ernst Center auditorium on Saturday, March 12. Students from 36 schools, including almost thirty McLean students from Longfellow and Cooper Middle Schools, attended the career day event designed to educate and inspire the students to consider careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Prabakaran provided advice and inspiration as she described her nonprofit organization "Everybody Code Now!" intended to encourage young women to consider computer science and other STEM-related activities. Following opening ceremonies, forty female presenters from across STEM fields ran interactive breakout work-

shops for the students. Parents had the opportunity to attend informational workshops on resources, financing options, and supporting their daughters.

The event was sponsored by the Fairfax City, McLean Area, Springfield-Annandale, and Vienna Area branches of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), in partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools and Systemic Solutions. AAUW has been a leader in sponsoring STEM education programs and introducing girls to female role models. To raise money for STEM awards and educational scholarships, the McLean Area Branch will hold its 47th Annual Book Sale on Sept. 16-18 and collect book donations from May through August. For more information on STEMtastics or the McLean Area Book Sale, visit the AAUW McLean Area website at <http://mclean-va.aauw.net> or send an email to [mcleanaauw@gmail.com](mailto:mcleanaauw@gmail.com).



**Student workshop presenter Kassidy Hook, far right, a physical therapist at Physiotherapy Associates in McLean, engaged the girls in activities, as well as described a career based on one of the STEM fields. Each girl attended three 40-minute workshops.**

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## WEEK IN MCLEAN

FROM PAGE 5

Chain Bridge Road. MCC is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

All residents of the Center's tax district are eligible to run for a seat on the 11-member board. Candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in order to have their names placed on the election ballot. Nominating petition forms are available at the Center.

Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Adult board members serve three-year terms. Youth members serve one-year terms. Adult candidates must be at least 18 years old as of McLean Day, Saturday, May 21. Youth candidates must be 15 to 17 years old as of McLean Day. One youth member who lives within the McLean High School boundary area will be elected; one youth member who lives within the Langley High School boundary area will be elected. Youth candidates are not required to attend either school; however, they must reside in the boundary areas served by one of the schools as defined by Fairfax County Public Schools.

Residents of the tax district may cast their votes in the election between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 21, at the McLean Day 2016: Celebrating Our Hometown festival at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road. Adults may vote for up to three adult candidates, and youth may vote for one youth candidate from the Langley High School boundary area and one

candidate from the McLean High School boundary area. Residents may vote by absentee ballot. Applications for absentee ballots will be available at the Center and at the Old Firehouse Teen Center (1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean) from Monday, April 11, through Wednesday, May 18.

For more information on the MCC Governing Board Election, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, send an e-mail to elections@mcleancenter.org or visit the Center's website, www.mcleancenter.org.

### Drivers, Volunteers Needed for Shepherd's Center

The Shepherd's Center of McLean, Arlington and Falls Church needs volunteers to help transport people to and from medical and therapy appointments, the pharmacy and grocery store.

No long-term commitment is required and you accept to take someone to a medical appointment, make a visit or call only when your schedule permits.

To find out more about the Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church and how you can become a volunteer driver, visitor or caller, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmafc.org. Visit www.scmafc.org.

- ATTENTION -

## Fairfax County Public School Employees

If you are a participant in the **Fairfax County Public Schools 403(b) Plan**, we would like to speak with you about our investigation of the fees charged on your **Great-West Mutual Funds**.

Please call:

**Mark Boyko**

Law Offices of

**SCHLICHTER BOGARD & DENTON, LLP**

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**THE HONEYBAKED HAM CO. AND CAFÉ**

**SMOKED OR ROASTED TURKEY BREAST**  
Fully cooked and serves 6-8

**HURRY, EASTER IS SUNDAY, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>!**

*The best-tasting Easter Sunday yet.*

**Reserve your Easter meal for pick-up at HoneyBaked.com**  
**RESTON • 1480 North Point Village • 703-733-3860** (On Reston Parkway between Rt. 7 & Baron Cameron Dr.)

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**THE HONEYBAKED HAM CO. CAFÉ**

**\$3 OFF**  
Any Bone-in Half Ham, Quarter Ham or Half Boneless Ham  
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Only valid at participating retail locations. Must present coupon at time of purchase to receive offer. May not be combined with any other offer. One coupon per person per visit. While supplies last.

**THE HONEYBAKED HAM CO. CAFÉ**

**\$3 OFF**  
Any Turkey Breast, Smoked or Roasted  
SKU 719435 4 00007 19435 9  
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Only valid at participating retail locations. Must present coupon at time of purchase to receive offer. May not be combined with any other offer. One coupon per person per visit. While supplies last.





**St. John's EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**INVITES YOU TO GOOD FRIDAY**  
**AND EASTER WORSHIP**

**March 25 - Good Friday**  
**Noon-3:00 pm** MEDITATIONS AND MUSIC  
 Meditations by the Rector  
 on the Seven Last Words of Christ  
*The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross*  
 by Theodore Dubois  
 sung by the St. John's Choir  
 with organ, harp and timpani

**7:30 pm** **GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY AND MUSIC**  
*Christus (An Unfinished Oratorio)*  
 by Felix Mendelssohn  
 sung by the St. John's Choir  
 with organ and string quartet

**March 26 - Easter Vigil**  
**8:00 pm** THE FIRST EUCHARIST OF EASTER

**March 27 - Easter Day**  
**7:30, 9:00, 11:15 am** HOLY EUCHARIST  
 Music with brass and timpani accompaniment

**5:30 pm - HOLY EUCHARIST**

For more information:  
[www.stjohnsmclean.org](http://www.stjohnsmclean.org)  
 or 703-356-4902

All are welcome. No tickets are required.

**One mile east of Beltway, Exit 44, at 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101**



*Celebrating our 50th Anniversary*

**Azalea Festival in Norfolk by Motorcoach, April 21-24 .....**\$650  
 Includes coach from Vienna or Rockville, 3-nights oceanfront hotel in Virginia Beach, Daily Breakfast & Dinner, & portage. Reserved seats at Parade, Virginia Intl. Tatoo Show, Sightseeing - Call for detailed itinerary.

**Rehoboth Beach, DE, May 9-13 .....**\$659  
 Includes Motorcoach from Vienna or Rockville, Oceanfront Hotel for 4 night - short walk to restaurants, shopping & theatre. Special luncheon with drinks on last day. Great opportunity to be at beach before the crowds!

**IRELAND, May 22-June 1 .....**\$3199  
 Includes air from Dulles to Dublin, 9-nights hotel with Irish Breakfast Daily, 8 Dinners, Irish Coffee, Welcome coffee/tea & scones, Daily Sightseeing -Call for detailed itinerary. Visiting Galway, Donegal, Derry, Giant's Causeway, Belfast, Newgrange, Letrim & a stay in Cibra Castle in Cavan!

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 for a listing of all our upcoming trips and socials.



THE UNITED STATES  
**NAVY BAND**  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

**COMMODORES**  
 JAZZ ENSEMBLE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 7 P.M.**  
 Alden Theatre  
 McLean Community Center  
 1234 Ingleside Ave.  
 McLean, Va.

All concerts are FREE and open to the public. Tickets or reservations are not required. For more information about additional concerts in your area, please check our online performance calendar at: [www.navyband.navy.mil](http://www.navyband.navy.mil).

[WWW.NAVYBAND.NAVY.MIL](http://WWW.NAVYBAND.NAVY.MIL)

## CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**Time Traveler Tuesdays.** 4:30 p.m. March 29-June 7. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. This weekly series will take participants on an interactive journey through time, focusing on a different period in Virginia history each week. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill/events.htm>.

**Scholarship.** Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend college or community college in fall 2016. Information and application instructions can be found at <http://bullruncwrt.org>.

**Pigments of My Imagination.** Jan. 4-March 31. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Long time Great Falls resident Donna Barnako, has created over a dozen colorful and whimsical small works. Her subjects are varied, from pigs to puppies and cowboy boots.

**Margaret Newton Original Oils.** Through March 31. Modern History Collection, 8100 F Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Great Falls original oil paintings. Opening reception with artist, Thursday, April 7 from 6-8 p.m. 703-942-6507.

**“Witness: Close Encounters of the Painting Kind.”** March 1-31. Katie's Coffee at the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks' solo exhibit of backyards, bars, beaches and other scenes keenly captured. JillBanks.com.

**Weekly Storytime.** Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center,

McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

**Gentle Yoga.** Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase your flexibility, improve your breathing and health, reduce your stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. [www.edimprovement.org](http://www.edimprovement.org). 571-213-3192.

**Tai Chi Beginners' Practice.** Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. FreeTaiChi.org. 703-759-9141.

**“Wishes and Dreams” Exhibit.** March 1-April 2. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Free. [viennartstsociety.org](http://viennartstsociety.org). 703-319-3971.

**Goldstein Artist Showcase.** March 1-23. Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Great Falls Gallery will feature the pastels and mixed media paintings of local artist, Lynn Goldstein. [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net). 703-450-8005.

#### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

**McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Monthly Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. Peking Gourmet Inn, 6029 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Cabi clothing stylist, Allison Bateman, will speak, providing us with all the latest spring trends for 2016. \$24. RSVP by March 11 to



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Rescheduled performance of “The Importance of Being Earnest” will be at The Alden Theatre on Wednesday, March 30.**

Susie Osser at [sosser@verizon.net](mailto:sosser@verizon.net). [McLeanNewcomers.org](http://McLeanNewcomers.org).

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 17

**Spanish Storytime featuring CommuniKids.** 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Give your child the love of language at a fun, engaging Storytime in Spanish. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

**Game Night: Splendor.** 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

**St. Patrick's Day Chef's Table.** 6:30 p.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Taste the talents of executive chefs, Edwin Amaya and Moreno Espinoza, as they prepare and personally present a custom four-course menu with optional beer pairings. \$40-\$55 per person. To reserve, call 703-442-9110.

#### FRIDAY/MARCH 18

**Flashlight Egg Hunt.** 7 p.m. Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St., NE, Vienna. Enjoy a family evening searching for eggs and prizes in the dark! Please bring a flashlight so you can find the eggs. Jump like a bunny in the moon bounce and visit the Easter Bunny. 703-255-6360.

**McLean Art Society Meeting.** 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Linda Maldonado, a painter who uses mixed media and creative collage, will be the presenting artist. Guests welcome. 703-790-0123.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**Easter Egg Hunt at Colvin Run Mill.** Starting at 10 a.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Hunt for eggs filled with treats and treasures of the grounds of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site. Separate hunts by age group. Before the hunt, make egg-cellent crafts to take home. Bring your own basket; program will be held rain or shine. Ages 2-9. \$6/\$8. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill/events.htm>.

**Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt and Roll.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. Freeman House, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Children 12 and under and their parents are welcome to participate in an egg roll and visit with Easter Bunny, hosted by Historic Vienna, Inc. 703-938-5187.

**Mr. Jon and Friends.** 10:30 a.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. This energetic family music is all about fun, movement, and laughter. Mr. Jon & Friends makes music for kids and their families that inspire fun, laughter, and dancing. \$25. Family pack available. <http://jamminjava.com/event/1032603>.

**Author Reading and Signing.** 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. New York Times bestselling children's author Jonah Winter will read and sign copies of his new picture-book biography “Hillary.” Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

**Tiszla Ensemble Hungarian Dancers.** 7:30 p.m. UUCF Sanctuary Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Hungarian dancing in

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

### St. Patrick's Day at The Old Brogue

The Old Brogue's 35th anniversary celebration will take place on St. Patrick's Day, March 17. The Snuggery (Katie's Coffee House space) will offer five seatings for a sit-down 3-course meal and music by Pennywhistle from County Donegal, Ireland. Reservations are required.

The St. Patrick's Day Pub Bash next door begins at 10 a.m. and features three bars serving traditional Irish beers, live music all day by Ted Garber, and the \$10 cover charge includes an official 2016 commemorative button. For more information or to make reservations, call The Old Brogue at 703-759-3309.

### CELEBRATING SPRING

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 17

**St. Patrick's Day Chef's Table.** 6:30 p.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Taste the talents of executive chefs, Edwin Amaya and Moreno Espinoza, as they prepare and personally present a custom four-course menu with optional beer pairings. \$40-\$55 per person. To reserve, call 703-442-9110.

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#### SUNDAY/MARCH 20

**32nd Annual Children's Spring Festival.** 1:30-4:30 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walk Road, Great Falls. Games, rides, food, fun. Sponsored by Adeler Jewelers, 703-759-4076; and Great Falls Optimist Club.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 26

**Easter Egg Hunt.** Starts 9:30 a.m. Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Special appearance by the Easter Bunny. Bring own basket and hunt for candy and eggs filled with treats. Ages 1-9. \$10 per child. Cash only. Information call 703-324-8566.

**Springfest.** 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Spring Fest is a special event that includes self-guided arts and crafts projects, entertainment and the opportunity for children to get a professional-quality photo with “Bunny.” \$5, Free to children up to 36 months. [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org). 703-790-0123.

**Easter Egg Hunt and Buffet.** 9-11 a.m. Wildfire, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Brunch and egg hunt. Special guest host Melissa Mollet of NBC 4. \$15/\$20. 703-442-9110.

#### SUNDAY/MARCH 27

**Easter Brunch at Tysons.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sheraton Tysons Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Modern buffet. Easter bunny. \$22/\$46. [sheratontysons.org](http://sheratontysons.org).

vintage costumes at a family friendly fundraiser. Bring your dancing shoes and learn a few new steps. \$20/\$5. [uucf.org](http://uucf.org).

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 24

**Game Night: Codenames.** 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

**Rodin Lecture.** 7-8:30 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Join Jeffrey Allison, Paul Mellon Collection Educator and Manager, Statewide Programs and Exhibitions, as he explores the life and work of Auguste Rodin, the greatest sculptor of the 19th- and early 20th-centuries. [mpaart.org](http://mpaart.org). 703-790-1953.

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 26

**Meet Biscuit.** 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Special Storytime with one of the most beloved children's book characters of all time - Biscuit! A brief Meet and Greet with Biscuit will follow Storytime. Free. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/>



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**SAVE 50% on Opening Night Tickets!**

Savings applies only to the face price of tickets. Restrictions, exclusions and additional charges may apply. Subject to availability. Excludes premium seats.

**MAR. 31 – APR. 3** 

**APR. 6 – 17** 

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 [Ringling.com](http://Ringling.com)



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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE II

Special guest host Melissa Mollet of NBC  
4. \$15/\$20. 703-442-9110.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 27

**Easter Brunch at Tysons.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sheraton Tysons Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Modern buffet. Easter bunny. \$22/\$46. sheratontysons.org.

### MONDAY/MARCH 28

**Native American Crafts and Games Workshop.** 9 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Shoot a bow and arrow, launch a spear and make cool crafts as you learn about daily Native American life long ago. Bring snack, lunch and drink. Register and download forms at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 29

**"Julius Caesar."** 7 p.m. The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Presented by the American Shakespeare Center. Shakespeare shows us a world on fire; a world turned upside down; a world where some of history's most famous men commit horrific crimes in the name of patriotism and honor. \$35/\$20. aldentheatre.org. 703-790-0123.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

**"The Importance of Being Earnest."** 7 p.m. The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Presented by the American Shakespeare Center. Wit and style, brilliant and wicked comic masterpiece. 35/\$20. aldentheatre.org. 703-790-0123.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 31

**Game Night: Lanterns.** 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1, 2, 8, 9

**"In Living Sound."** 8 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., S, Vienna. An evening of food, fun and theatre. Entertaining radio shows from the 1940s: "Adventures of the Thin Man: The Case of the Goofy Groom" and "The Big Story: Manhunt in Manhattan." \$25/\$30 includes dinner, drinks, dessert. [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Maria Luisa Bertolini, left, and Angela Diaz-Bonilla receive \$5,000 scholarship as recipients of the Oakcrest School's Veritas Awards.**

## Oakcrest Awards Scholarships

Oakcrest School in McLean awarded scholarships to Maria Luisa Bertolini, current Oakcrest eighth-grade student, and Angela Diaz-Bonilla, a homeschooled student, as the recipients of the Class of 2020 Veritas Award.

The merit scholarship award consists of a \$5,000 tuition remission scholarship to Oakcrest School, renewed annually through graduation, as long as the recipient continues to

meet award expectations. The Veritas Award is granted to the successful applicants who best display the qualities of an Oakcrest student, including high academic achievement, leadership and character.

Oakcrest School is an independent school for girls in grades 6-12, guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church. Oakcrest prepares young women for a life marked by excellence, goodness and joy.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Churchill Road third graders Sophia Huang, Olivia Park, Ava Jackson and Avery Orfitelli formed a production line to make sandwiches for Martha's Table.**

## Making Sandwiches for Martha's Table

Churchill Road Elementary School continued its long-standing community service tradition by making sandwiches for Martha's Table, a nonprofit organization in Washington, D.C. that serves sandwiches to those in need. On Wednesday, March 9, more than 100 Churchill Road kindergarteners, first, second and third graders, along with family

members, made more than 2,200 sandwiches during this final sandwich-making event of the year, bringing this year's total to more than 4,500. The sandwiches were warmly received by the volunteers at Martha's Table when delivered by the PTA Community Service Committee co-chair Robin Hoeymans and Sarah Walter.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2018 Programs

**Please Note Date Change**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.**

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2018, which runs July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

**The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas on considerations for class offerings, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours, youth events and teen activities during the renovation period.**

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: [george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov)



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

## Journey with us through Holy Week

Remembering the compassion of Jesus' life and preparing our hearts for the resurrected Christ.



**Palm/Passion Sunday**  
March 20  
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.



**Maundy Thursday**  
March 24  
7 p.m.



**Good Friday**  
March 25  
7 p.m.



**Easter Sunday**  
March 27  
Sunrise 6:30 a.m.  
8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
Celtic 6 p.m.

**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
[WWW.UMTRINITY.ORG](http://WWW.UMTRINITY.ORG)

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd.,  
McLean, VA 22101

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# Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

## 2016 Assessments by Area

Also home values for members of  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)**

2015 — \$638,100

2016 — \$674,430

5.69%



Dranesville Supervisor **John Foust (D)**

2015 — \$2,939,290

2016 — \$2,788,330

- 5.14%



Mason Supervisor **Penelope Gross (D)**

2015 — \$462,630

2016 — \$478,490

3.43%



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)**

2015 — \$774,620

2016 — \$728,080

- 6.01%



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)**

2015 — \$664,480

2016 — \$677,950

2.03%



Mount Vernon Supervisor **Daniel Storck (D)**

2015 — \$579,700

2016 — \$585,460

0.99%

Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)**

2015 — \$645,830

2016 — \$665,090

2.98%



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herry (R)**

2015 — \$599,600

2016 — \$587,370

- 2.05%



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)**

2015 — \$611,280

2016 — \$617,810

1.07%

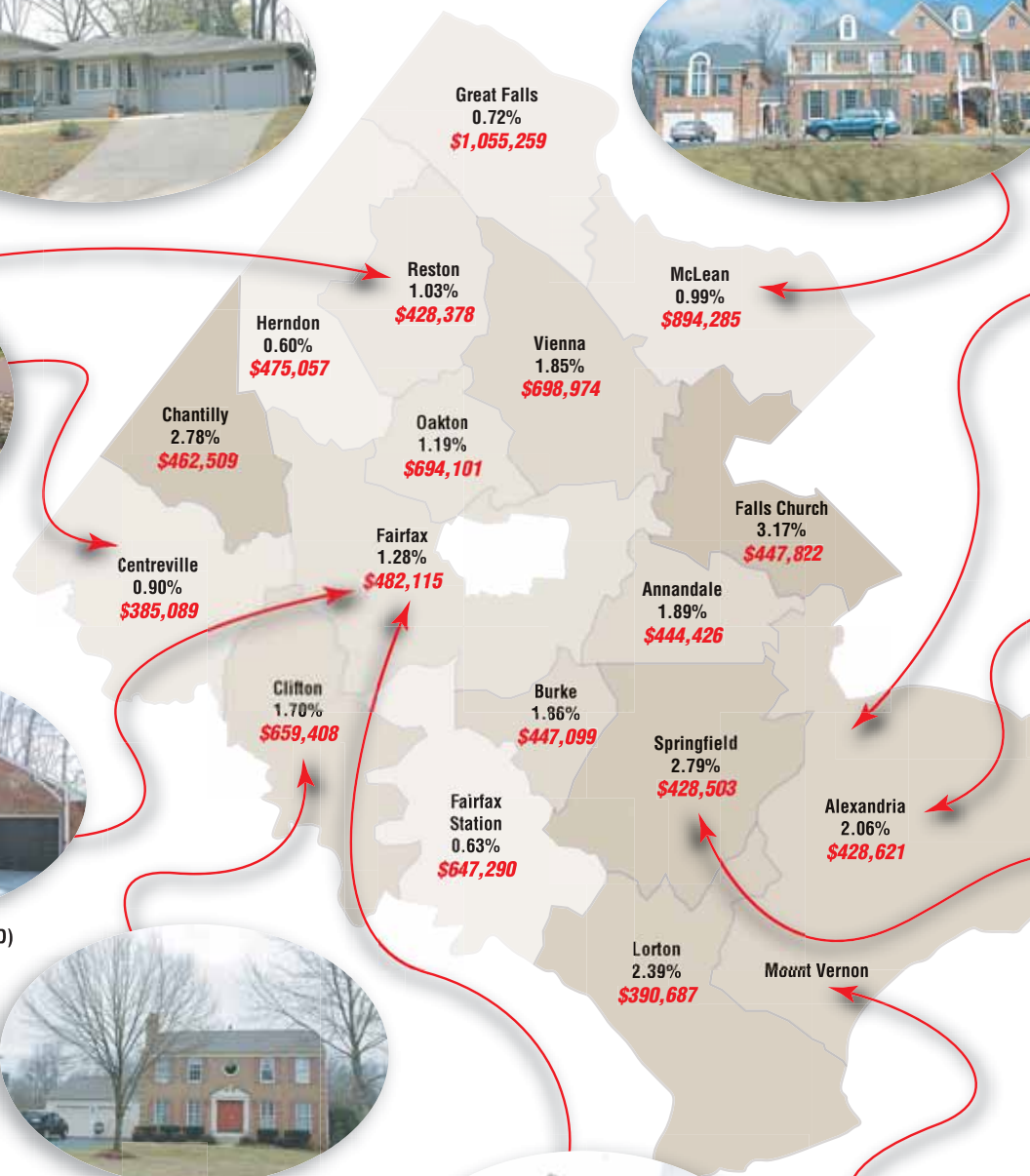


Sully Supervisor **Kathy Smith (D)**

2015 — \$579,780

2016 — \$607,140

4.72%



0% Percent Change 4%

2016 Countywide average for all homes — \$527,648

Single family-detached homes — \$632,507, up 1.69 percent

Townhouse/duplex properties — \$392,951, up 2.05 percent

Condominiums — \$261,792, up 0.73 percent

ZIP CODE AREA	2015 MEAN	2016 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria/Mount Vernon	419,966	428,621	2.06
Annandale	436,194	444,426	1.89
Burke	438,919	447,099	1.86
Centreville	381,645	385,089	0.90
Chantilly	450,015	462,509	2.78
Clifton	648,374	659,408	1.70
Fairfax	476,037	482,115	1.28
Fairfax Station	643,207	647,290	0.63
Falls Church	434,062	447,822	3.17
Great Falls	1,047,755	1,055,259	0.72
Herndon	472,236	475,057	0.60
Lorton	381,572	390,687	2.39
McLean	885,556	894,285	0.99
Oakton	685,967	694,101	1.19
Reston	424,021	428,378	1.03
Springfield	416,853	428,503	2.79
Vienna	686,293	698,974	1.85

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

The average assessed value of a  
single family home in Fairfax County  
for 2016 is \$632,507, up 1.69 percent

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY





PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

From left, Rod Thompson, Scott McBride and Brian Martin hold an animated reading of their book at Barnes and Noble in Tysons Corner on Saturday, March 12.



Scott McBride faces an audience of children, friends and family, as he reads from his book in front of a hometown audience at Barnes and Noble in Tysons Corner on Saturday, March 12.

# From Paperboy to Author, Military Career in Between

Langley High alum comes home for a reunion of sorts.

BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO  
THE CONNECTION

Scott McBride, a Langley High School alumnus, co-author Rod Thompson and illustrator Brian Martin, read from their book “The Adventures of Connor the Courageous Cutter: Saving Sarah” on Saturday, March 12 at Barnes and Noble in Tysons Corner.

McBride’s first job was at The Connection

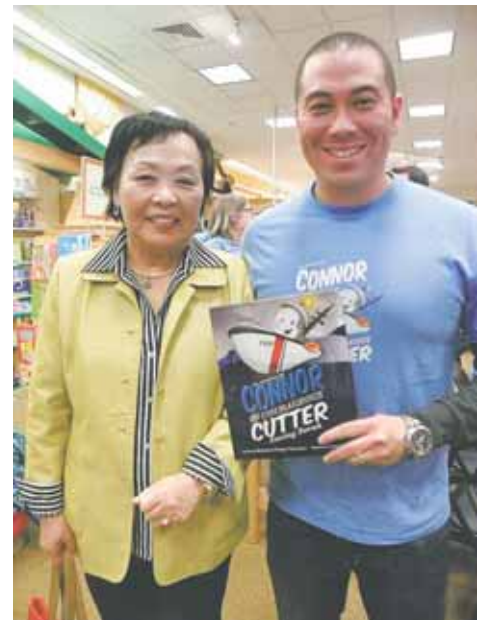
Newspapers, as a paperboy when he was in the seventh grade. His mother Cha drove him and his sister Jackie around as they delivered the McLean Connection door-to-door. She saw how hardworking her son really was.

“I don’t know what they did with the money, I don’t think they did anything with it. They just wanted to tell people ‘I work,’” said Cha, who lives in Tysons Corner.

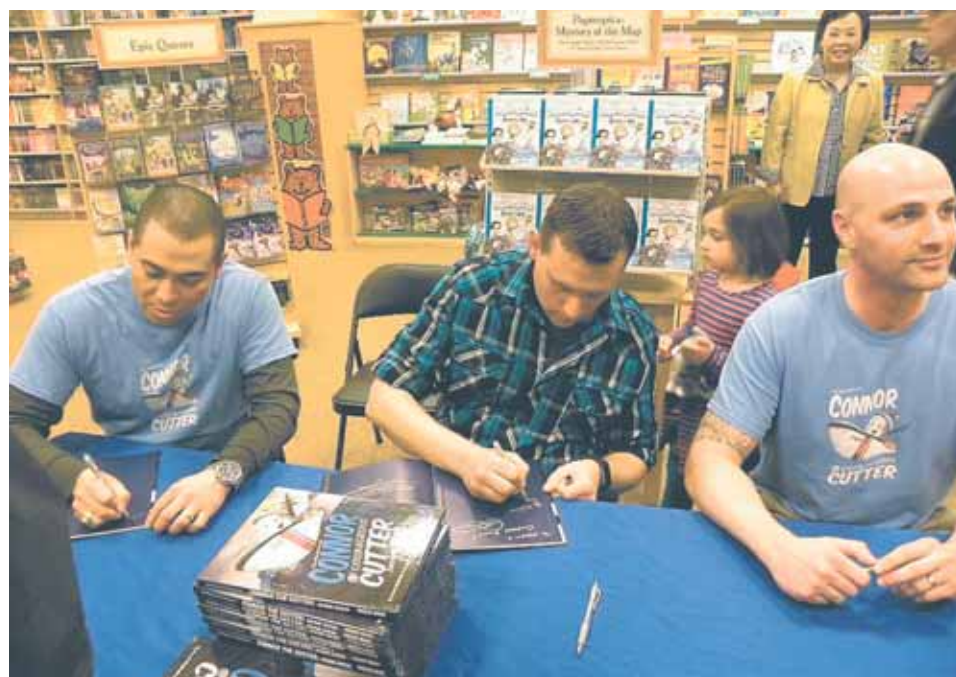
McBride’s hard work paid off. He was accepted at West Point and the Naval Academy. He chose to go to Annapolis. His mom believes he went there, even though his father was in the Army, because it was close enough to home that his mother can drive and bring home-cooked foods, which she did every other week.



From left, Authors Scott McBride and Rod Thompson, Preslie Martin, 5, and illustrator Brian Martin hold copies of “The Adventures of Connor the Courageous Cutter: Saving Sarah.”



Author Scott McBride thanks his mother Cha, of Tysons Corner, for her support in writing his first book.



Scott McBride, left, signs “Dream big. Be creative” on copies of his book “The Adventures of Connor the Courageous Cutter: Saving Sarah.” Co-author Rod Thompson, right, and illustrator Brian Martin, middle, join him during a reading and signing at Barnes and Noble in Tysons Corner on Saturday, March 12.

rageous Cutter: Saving Sarah” in a week and a half.

A cutter is what the U.S. Coast Guard, where McBride works as a public affairs officer, calls its boats. Perusing Brian Martin’s illustration, it becomes clear very quickly what McBride and Thompson mean by cutter.

The reading was a reunion of sorts for McBride, as family, friends and former Langley High School classmates attended.

“For me it’s about empowerment. People should know, especially children who read this, that you can do anything you want with your life...Go out and do things that require courage. Live a courageous life,” said Thompson.

McBride knows from experience, “I think if kids realize that they have a dream and they work hard toward it, with a little bit of help and faith, you can accomplish anything.”

He went to graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to study strategic communications. Out of the blue his advisor asked him if he ever thought about writing children’s books. McBride wondered why he asked that. “Was my writing so elementary?” But his advisor must have seen something, and the question stuck with him.

McBride approached Thompson, who went to the same church, to pick his brain about writing for children. Thompson did puppet ministry and he was good with children. McBride was in the Coast Guard; Thompson was in the Navy. Both love boats and ships. Both have sons named Connor.

They met at a Panera to do some character outlines but ended up with the entire book outline in an hour and a half. They wrote “The Adventures of Connor the Cou-



## REAL ESTATE

### Basheer & Edgemoore Introduces New Neighborhood at Maymont

Basheer & Edgemoore has announced their final encore at the National Community of the Year, Maymont, near Tysons. Now selling, Maymont on the Park offers new home designs that back to woods with views of parkland and a pond.

The Maymont community, reminiscent of the rolling hills of Tuscany and the French countryside, was recognized as the National Community of the Year by the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB) in 2014. Maymont on the Park features 5,000-to-8,000-square-foot European-inspired home designs that offer lavish master suites and include options for multi-generational living; such as main level guest rooms with baths, elevators and expansive lower level living spaces. All homes are built with superior quality and craftsmanship, providing exquisite finishes with



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Keller Williams announced that the McLean/ Great Falls market center is the No. 1 real estate brokerage in the Virginia/West Virginia region by sales volume. Selling almost \$1 billion, the associates at Keller Williams McLean/Great Falls finished 2015 at \$915,479,416. KW McLean/Great Falls agents closed 1,547 units in 2015.

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Led by CEO & Team Leader Amina Basic, the McLean/Great Falls office has no plans of slowing down in 2016. "Our dynamic growth reflects the value we're providing our associates to build their businesses and expand market share in their local markets," said Amina Basic.

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Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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*Easter Sunday is March 27*

4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/27/2016.....Mother's Day Celebrations,  
Dining & Gifts I

4/27/2016.....Spring Outlook 2016

### MAY

5/4/2016.....McLean Day Pullout

5/4/2016.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II

5/4/2016.....Wellbeing

*Mother's Day is May 8*

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# SPORTS

## Langley Girls' Basketball Finishes State Runner-Up

**Saxons fall to Cosby in 6A championship game.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

In the early days of her Langley coaching career, Amanda Baker hoped to lead the girls' basketball team to a .500 record.

After three losing seasons, the Saxons finished 21-5 during the 2014-15 campaign and the team's focus turned to competing for championships.

When Langley defeated Edison, one of the state's top 5A teams, during the second game of the 2015-16 season, Baker realized the Saxons could be something special.

"[T]hat's when," Baker said, "the vision got a little bit bigger."

Three months later, the Saxons were on the state's brightest stage with a chance to tie in the closing seconds against the two-time defending champion. While Langley would fall short of the ultimate prize, the Saxons received praise from their opponent following the conclusion of the best season in program history.

The Cosby Titans won their third consecutive state championship, beating Langley 42-37 in the 6A final on March 9 at VCU in Richmond.

Langley senior guard Lizzy Shamloo scored with 1:23 remaining, cutting the Saxon deficit to 40-37. Langley got the ball back with less than a minute remaining, but Cosby senior guard Jocelyn Jones came up with a steal and was fouled with 10 seconds on the clock. Jones, who will play for the University of North Carolina, made a pair of free throws and the Titans took home the title.

Jones finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Tyra Whitehead, a 6-foot-2 post who will play for Wake Forest, scored 12 points and grabbed 16 boards for the Titans.

While dealing with the Cosby duo was a difficult task, the Saxons didn't back down.

"They were relentless on defense, they rebounded well, they shot pretty well," Cosby head coach Rachel Mead said. "... They didn't back down. They're scrappy."

Langley trailed by nine points entering the fourth quarter but worked its way back. A Shamloo 3-pointer with 7:40 remaining cut the Cosby lead to six. A 3-pointer by Paige Galiani 30 seconds later cut the deficit to five. Shamloo's bucket with 5:39 on the clock cut the Titan advantage to 39-35, and when Shamloo scored again with 1:23 remaining, it was down to a one-possession game.

"They're good players and they're talented, so I think we were a little bit intimidated," Shamloo said, "but we knew that we have a strong team and we've gotten this far. We've earned this spot that we're in. It's not like someone gave it to us."

Shamloo led Langley with 12 points, nine rebounds and three steals. Galiani finished

**Lizzy Shamloo led the Langley girls' basketball team with 12 points during the 6A state championship game against Cosby on March 9 at VCU.**



PHOTOS BY  
WILL PALENSCAR



**Langley's Ari Aulisi, left, and Lizzy Shamloo defend Oakton's Kailyn Fee during the state semifinals on March 8.**

with 11 points, four rebounds, two blocks and knocked down a trio of 3-pointers. Junior guard Ari Aulisi scored nine points.

While Langley (26-6) lost in the state final, the scrappy Saxons put together a season to remember.

Langley won the program's first conference/district championship since 1988, beating previously undefeated Fairfax in the Conference 6 tournament final. The Saxons qualified for the state tournament for the first time in program history with a win over perennial power West Springfield in the region quarterfinals. After a three-point loss to then-unbeaten Oakton in the region semifinals, Langley defeated Herndon in the third-place game.

In their first-ever state tournament game, the Saxons went on the road and defeated Landstown in the quarterfinals at ODU. Langley got another shot at Oakton in the

semifinals and the Saxons held the Cougars to a season-low point total and handed them their only loss of the season, 47-38, on March 8 at VCU.

"I think we started the game the best way we possibly could have started — extremely aggressive, looking to score, getting them on their heels early," Baker said after Langley beat Oakton, "and then we just kept it going the entire game."

The Cougars, led by 6-foot-1 forward Maddie Royle, 6-foot forward Delaney Connolly and point guard Alex Marquis, entered the contest averaging 61 points per game, but managed just 18 through the first three quarters.

Connolly recorded a double-double, finishing with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Royle scored four points on 1-for-7 shooting.

"We put a lot of prep into making sure

we could defend them properly, especially [since] they have a really good high-low game, and we went through a lot of drills making sure we could get that right," Langley senior Stephanie Sipple said about defending Oakton's 6-foot standouts. "It just took a lot of hard work in getting around them because they're very skilled players and they really know how to get a body up against you. It was amazing what we could do as along as we were talking."

Marquis finished with eight points on 3-for-12 shooting. Junior guard Kailyn Fee scored 10 points on 3-for-10 shooting for the Cougars.

"I thought [Langley] played an excellent game," Oakton head coach Fred Priester said. "They were able to stick to their game plan very, very well and cause us some difficulties, so they definitely deserved to win the game. We just got out-played today. We felt like we were in pretty good shape coming in. It's tough to go undefeated all year. It's just a lot of pressure."

Jordyn Callaghan led Langley with 14 points against Oakton. The sophomore point guard made 12 of 13 free-throw attempts. Shamloo finished with eight points and seven rebounds, Galiani scored eight points and Sipple finished with six points and 10 rebounds.

Langley led by as many as 16 points, when an Aulisi 3-pointer with 5:18 remaining in the fourth quarter gave the Saxons a 34-18 advantage.

"They control the tempo in such a way [that] when we fell behind it was very, very difficult to come [back]," Priester said. "When we played them last time, we never fell behind."

Langley didn't score many points this season — the Saxons averaged 46.3 per contest — but its opponents scored even fewer. Langley limited teams to 36.8 points per game and held opponents to less than 40 points in 21 of 32 contests. The Saxons allowed 50 or more points only twice and no opponent scored 60 points in a game.

Did the Saxons have to be sold on playing this brand of basketball?

"I definitely think the pride on defense is what has gotten us this far," Galiani said after the semifinal win over Oakton. "We realized it was working, we didn't have to be sold, that was it."

Langley will graduate six seniors, including starters Galiani, Shamloo and Sipple. Galiani was the Saxons' top offensive threat and became the program's all-time leading scorer during her senior season.

Starters Callaghan and Aulisi figure to be Langley's top returners for the 2016-17 season.

"We got some great experience," Baker said. "We do have returning players from that starting five that now know what it takes to get this far and we had a bench full of juniors who have been putting in a really hard season going against [the starters] every day. I think they understand the work ethic it takes and then what kind of competition we're going to be facing down the line."



# ‘Do You Keep a Gun in Your Home?’

## Starting conversations about gun safety can help prevent play date tragedies.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Starting the conversation felt awkward. After all, she didn’t want to offend another parent. It also felt necessary, because putting her 5-year-old son in harm’s way was not an option. After procrastinating, role-playing and even discussing it with a therapist, Sara Hayes finally initiated the dialogue. Before scheduling a play date, she wanted to know if the families of her son’s friends owned guns.

“My son had started making friends in kindergarten and of course I wanted him to have playmates and go on play dates,” said Hayes. “But I had this fear of him being in someone’s house where there was a gun that he could get his hands on.”

Statistics from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence indicate that one out of three homes in the United States with children have guns and almost 1.7 million children live in a home with a gun that is unlocked and loaded. Child development experts say that because many children are naturally curious, the odds of a child finding and playing with a gun that is relatively accessible are high. Even if a parent has never thought to ask about guns in a home or finds the topic too uncomfortable to raise, the conversation is vital to helping parents make decisions about safety, because simply telling a child to stay away from a gun is not enough to change that child’s behavior.

“Each family needs to decide what information they would like to know. Parents should be aware that children’s judgment alone is not a reliable security measure,” said Bethesda, Md.-based child psychologist Stacie Isenberg, Psy.D. “Way too often curiosity wins over judgment.”

A study by a researcher at Eckerd College showed that educating preschool children about the potential dangers of guns didn’t prevent them from playing with guns. In writing about her findings, Marjorie Hardy, Ph.D., explained, “... We brought a police officer to a class of 60 children and he told them: ‘Don’t touch guns — they’re dangerous. If you see a gun, leave the area. Go tell an adult.’”

After the officer’s presentation, the children could repeat what they’d been taught to do when they saw a gun. “But when we left them alone with disarmed guns, they picked them up and shot everything in sight,” she wrote.

Officer Roger Henriquez of the Fairfax County Police Department, Franconia District Station says that parents might consider asking a parent before a play date: “How many guns do you own, and how do you keep them stored?” “Do you have a lock box or other safety features ... like trigger locks?” “Do you take your kids to a firing range?”

Such questions will help parents gather information to determine whether their child’s playmates’ parents share their views on gun safety and storage, since parenting philosophies run the gamut from lax to strict where guns are concerned. “Some parents take their kids to a firing range and other kids are told nothing except ‘Stay away from this box,’” said Henriquez.

Starting such conversations can be fraught with anxiety, and many parents are reticent to broach the subject, especially with friends. “It’s uncomfortable to talk honestly with other parents about issues such as guns because they are so politically divisive,” said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax. “It’s also difficult to ask other parents questions that may be taken as a judgment on [their] parenting.”

To increase the chance of a smooth and amicable conversation, Best suggests that bringing up questions about possible firearms and their storage should happen well before a play date, rather than when a child is dropped off at a friend’s house.

“A parent can begin with letting the hosting parent know if your child has any allergies,” said Best. “This can be followed by ‘I just wanted to make sure if you have guns at home, they are secured in a lock box.’”

A straightforward approach is an essential part of initiating these conversations. “It is important to be honest about your concerns,” said Isenberg. “Parents can tell the other family that prior to a play date at a new home, they

always inquire as to the presence of guns.”

The statistics, say child researchers, bear out the importance of overcoming initial discomfort about a potentially controversial conversation. “I think most parents support firearm safety, if that means keeping children safe,” said Best.

### Tips

The Center to Prevent Youth Violence has created a resource for parents who want to inquire if there are firearms where their children play. They offer these tips, which might make it easier to open a dialogue:

❖ **Ask with other questions.** Include the question along with other things you might normally discuss before sending your child to someone’s house — such as seat belts, animals, or allergies.

❖ **Use the facts.** Over one-third of homes with children have a gun. Many of those guns are left unlocked and loaded. That is why you are asking — you just want to make sure that your child is safe.

❖ **Don’t be confrontational.** Present your concerns in a respectful manner. You are simply trying to make sure your child is in a safe environment.

For more information, visit: <https://askingsaveskids.org>



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# "I Have Cancer"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Hardly a news flash, as you regular readers know. But when I said it the other day in response to some general conversation, I almost couldn't get the words out. It was peculiar, since I'm not usually uncomfortable discussing cancer or any of the associated experiences, and I certainly spend enough time writing about it. But when I said these words, I almost shook with anxiety or fear or something. And it scared me because it was a reaction/sensation I had never felt before; well, hadn't felt in a long time, anyway.

And it's not as if I spend a majority of my time denying my affliction. I wouldn't say I embrace it, but neither do I shrink from the responsibility of living with it and trying to overcome it. Nor do I mind being asked questions about cancer or my feelings before, during and throughout any and all ongoing treatments, scans, appointments and lab work and how it all relates and impacts. I'm open and honest and try to be "self-effacingly" positive in the midst of/against terrible odds. Generally speaking, not much bothers me. In fact, I've found a little humor goes a long way, and a lot of humor can mask a multitude of negative/unproductive emotions. (As you might imagine, there's no shortage of these.)

So it was odd – to me, when I went unexpectedly negative, experiencing an almost physical reaction to words (which aren't supposed to hurt me; after all, they're not "sticks and stones"). Words which I must have said in some context hundreds of times since I was diagnosed seven years ago, and rarely if ever shuddering – literally, at the mention of them. But shudder I did. I thought I had become accustomed to acknowledging them. Perhaps not?

But this is what cancer does; it sneaks up on you and takes control, physically and emotionally. And not merely when you least expect it, but when you thought you had passed the point of expecting it because you felt you had been there and doing it long enough that you were resistant to its ravages. Well, I was reminded quite clearly by this recent conversation that I will likely never get out from underneath its influence and effect. And here I thought I was Mister Well-Adjusted/Cancer Cool. Not so much, apparently. I'm just another cog in the cancer machine. Granted, I have my moments where I'm Charles and in charge, but this past week has shaken me to the core.

Not that I'm rethinking my approach to being a cancer patient/survivor; more that I've gained newfound respect for my adversary. You know, all things considered, I've had an amazingly easy time of it since I was diagnosed in late February, 2009, and perhaps I've misjudged/miscalculated/totally misinterpreted that amazing good fortune, thinking that somehow I was immune to cancer's insidious nature. Well, if I wasn't convinced before, I'm definitely convinced now. I don't suppose cancer schemes, but now I sort of feel like a pawn in a chess match and all I am is the timer.

But it is Spring Training (baseball) when all things are possible and hope is eternal. And though I have admitted some of my deepest and darkest fears, nothing is inevitable. My original prognosis was "13 months to two years" SEVEN YEARS AGO, so I'm not easily swayed. Presumably, in the future, there will be blips on my health radar, but it's nothing I can't handle. This recent experience actually confirmed it. It made me rethink some of my situational self-assessments and encouraged me in a way. I'm not exactly sure how or why but strangely enough, I sort of feel stronger and more capable going forward. On the whole, an excellent result.

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

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## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

### ABC LICENSE

Chipotle Mexican Grill of Colorado, LLC trading as Chipotle Mexican Grill, 3556B S. Jefferson St. Falls Church, VA 22041. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) FOR A Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, M. Steven Ellis, Manager  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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THE CONNECTION  
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### SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**Library Forum.** 10-11:30 a.m. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Help plan the libraries' future by sharing your input. [fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/library). 703-324-8319.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 22

**Virginia's Offshore Energy.** 7-8:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Sierra Club/Great Falls Group will host a presentation about the federal government's plan to allow offshore drilling off the coast of Virginia and the energy alternative of offshore wind. Free. [s-weltz@yahoo.com](mailto:s-weltz@yahoo.com).

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23

**Public Hearing on Programs.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Residents of the Center's tax district who attend the meeting can voice their opinions on current Center offerings and make suggestions for improving current programs and/or adding new initiatives. [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org). 703-790-0124.

### SUNDAY/APRIL 3

**Richmond Wrap-Up.** 2-4 p.m. Virginia International Conference Room, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Learn what your area legislator did during the Virginia General Assembly. Hear from state legislators. Bring your questions. Join the discussion. For more information go to [s-a-l-t.org/](http://s-a-l-t.org/) or call 703-591-7042 ext. 352.

### TUESDAY AND THURSDAY/APRIL 5, 7

**ESL Registration.** 7-8 p.m. St. Mark Catholic Church, Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road Vienna. \$25 for classes, \$10 for conversation. Cash only. Classes from April 12-June 9, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-9:30 p.m. 703-502-9433.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 9

**Bereavement Volunteer Training.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. St. Mark Catholic Church, 9770 Vale Road, Vienna. Education regarding childhood grief, and prepares volunteers to take part in our camp programs. Comfort Zone Camp is a nonprofit organization that provides free therapeutic grief programs for young people ages 5-25 who have experienced the death of a parent, guardian, or sibling. [www.comfortzonecamp.org](http://www.comfortzonecamp.org). [jtensley@comfortzonecamp.org](mailto:jtensley@comfortzonecamp.org).

### TUESDAY/APRIL 12

**Library Forum.** 7-8:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Help plan the libraries' future by sharing your input. [fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/library). 703-324-8319.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 14

**Library Forum.** 7:30-9 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Help plan the libraries' future by sharing your input. [fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/library). 703-324-8319.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 29

**Annual Spring Event: Luncheon & Silent Auction.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Hosted by Assistance League of Northern Virginia to benefit its Operation School Bell programs. Event will feature a presentation on Identity Theft and Personal Safety. \$65, \$30 is tax deductible. [lindamshilts@gmail.com](mailto:lindamshilts@gmail.com) or 703-424-6652. [www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).

### ONGOING

**Scholarship.** Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend college or community college in fall 2016. Information and application instructions can be found at <http://bullruncwrt.org>.

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# Welcome!! Great Falls “Egg Hunt” 2016



**W**OW...32 years ago we invited the children of the community to a small “EGG HUNT” to show our gratitude to Great Falls for making us feel so welcome when we decided to open our doors in the Village Centre. Look where we are now!!! 31 amazing years later and eventually with the wonderful partnership of the Optimist Club and the support of many many local businesses, friends and neighbors, this event has become a tradition of this community.

We feel honored and proud to be able to bring this to the families of Great Falls and we hope that through this festival we are able to show our tremendous gratitude and appreciation for your continued support of our family and our business. We would not be here were it not for your loyal patronage. Enjoy the day and Happy Hunting!

\*\*Just as a reminder, 100% of the ticket sale proceeds are collected by, and benefit the Great Falls Optimist Club Youth Fund and stay in Great Falls too!

—JORGE ADELER



## Visit the Great Falls Village Centre!

The Great Falls Village Centre is located around the lovely village green in the heart of Great Falls, Virginia. We have been part of Great Falls, Virginia throughout its extensive growth and development and have worked hand in hand with the residents of Great Falls to enhance and build the sense of community that is prevalent today. We offer boutique shopping, delicious restaurants and quality services right in the center of town.

There is always something fun going on at the Village Centre, from weekend events like Cars & Coffee and the Farmers Market to Summer Concerts on the Green, 4th of July Parade, annual Christmas Tree Lighting, Halloween Spook-tacular, art exhibitions and more! Visit our Website: [www.GreatFallsVillageCentre.com](http://www.GreatFallsVillageCentre.com) or just stop by and see why the Great Falls Village Centre is not only located in the center of town, but truly is the “heart” of the community.



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## President Message

# Great Falls Optimist Club's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Great Falls Children's Spring Festival 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

What a great time to reflect and be thankful to Jorge Adeler of Adeler's Jewelers, The business community, and the multigenerational families that have continued to come and contribute to what has become an annual tradition at this time of year in our community.

Adeler Jewelers hides 500-800 gemstones in the 8000 plastic eggs stuffed with candy in the exciting egg hunt at the end of the festival to the delight of children and parents alike! All profits are contributed to Great Falls Optimist Club Children's Fund to give back to the community.

The Great Falls Optimist continues to sponsor programs such as Scholarships for winners of Oratorical and Essay contests among teens including deaf and hard of hearing, Respect for Law, Bicycle Safety, and Child identification programs.

The Helping Hands program recognizes youth who have acted above and beyond in their schools and are given funds to be used as they please for their schools.

We deliver Holiday and Week End Meals and holiday gift cards to those families who are struggling to make ends meet. We have paid for equipment that allows home bound cancer students to remain audio/visually in touch with their peers at school. The Optimist International has a huge Childhood Cancer Research Initiative with John Hopkins.

We Invite You and Your Friends to Join Us in our efforts to support the youth of today in an effort to invest in a Better Tomorrow! Please contact George Hersey, membership chair at 703-759-2251 for inquiries into membership.

Call Wendy Adeler at 703 759 4076 to volunteer for the Children's Festival.



## The Optimist Creed Promise Yourself:

- ☺ To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind;
- ☺ To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet;
- ☺ To make all your friends feel that there is something in them;
- ☺ To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true;
- ☺ To think only of the best, to work only for the best, and to expect only the best;
- ☺ To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own;
- ☺ To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future;
- ☺ To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile;
- ☺ To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others;
- ☺ To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear, and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

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# Birthstones

## January - Garnet

Garnet, the birthstone for January, signifies eternal friendship and trust and is the perfect gift for a friend. Garnet, derived from the word granatum, means seed, and is called so because of the gemstone's resemblance to a pomegranate seed. References to the gemstone dates back to 3100 B.C., when the Egyptians used garnets as inlays jewelry. Garnet is the name of a group of minerals that comes in a rainbow of colors, from the deep red of the pyrope garnet to the vibrant green of tsavorites.

## February - Amethyst

Amethyst, the gemstone believed by ancient Greeks and Romans to ward off the intoxicating powers of Bacchus, also is said to keep the wearer clear-headed and quick-witted. Throughout history, the gemstone has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. English regalia were even decorated with amethysts during the Middle Ages to symbolize royalty. It has been associated with many myths, legends, religions, and numerous cultures. Amethyst is purple quartz, a beautiful blend of violet and red that can found in every corner of the earth. Historically, the finest amethyst were found in Russia and were featured in much royal European jewelry.

## March - Aquamarine

The two birthstones for March are aquamarine and bloodstone. The name aquamarine is derived from the Latin word aqua, meaning water, and marina, meaning the sea. This gemstone was believed to protect sailors, as well as to guarantee a safe voyage. The serene color of aquamarine is said to cool the temper, allowing the wearer to remain calm and levelheaded. Its pale, cool color beautifully complements spring and summer wardrobes. Aquamarine is most often light in tone and ranges from greenish blue to blue-green; the color usually is more intense in larger stones.

The second birthstone for March is bloodstone, a dark-green jasper flecked with vivid red spots of iron oxide. This ancient stone was used by the Babylonians to make seals and amulets and was believed to have healing powers - especially for blood disorders. It is sometimes called the martyr's stone as legend tells that it was created when drops of Christ's blood stained some jasper at the foot of the cross.

## April - Diamond

As the April birthstone, diamonds are the ideal gift for a loved one. And now you have more choices than ever. Get creative and give the ultimate gift of beauty: a fancy-color diamond. Fancy-color diamonds are natural, rare and truly exotic gem of the earth. Diamonds in hues of yellow, red, pink, blue, and green range in intensity from faint to vivid

and generally the more saturated the color, the higher the value. In fact, diamonds sparkling with intense color are rare and may be priced higher than a colorless diamond of equal size. Because fancy-color diamonds are very desirable, color is sometimes introduced in a laboratory.

## May - Emerald

As the birthstone for May, the emerald, a symbol of rebirth, is believed to grant the owner foresight, good fortune, and youth. Emerald, derived from the word smaragdus, meaning green in Greek, was mined in Egypt as early as 330 B.C. Today, most of the world's emeralds are mined in Colombia, Brazil, Afghanistan, and Zambia.

## June - Pearl and Alexandrite

June counts three gems as birthstones, pearl, Alexandrite, and moonstone.

Historically, pearls have been used as an adornment for centuries. They were one of the favorite gem materials of the Roman Empire; later in Tudor England, the 1500s were known as the pearl age. Pearls are unique as they are the only gems from living sea creatures and require no faceting or polishing to reveal their natural beauty.

## Alexandrite

A relatively modern gem, Alexandrite, was first discovered in Russia in 1831 during the reign of its namesake, Czar Alexander II, and is an extremely rare chrysoberyl with chameleon-like qualities. Its color is a lovely green in both daylight and fluorescent light; it changes color to a purplish red in incandescent light.

## Moonstone

The third birthstone for June is the Moonstone. It was given its name by the Roman natural historian Pliny, who wrote that moonstone's appearance altered with the phases of the moon - a belief that held until well after the sixteenth century. A phenomenal gemstone, moonstones show a floating play of light (called adularescence) and sometimes show either a multirayed star or a cat's eye. Considered a sacred stone in India, moonstones often are displayed on a background of yellow (a sacred color) and are believed to encapsulate within the stone a spirit whose purpose is to bring good fortune. Part of the family of minerals called feldspar, moonstone occurs in many igneous and metamorphic rocks and comes in a variety of colors such as green, blue, peach, and champagne.

## July - Ruby

There's no better way to demonstrate your love than by giving a ruby in celebration of a July birthday. Rubies arouse the senses, stir the imagi-

SEE BIRTHSTONES, PAGE 8

## Great Falls' Irish Corner!



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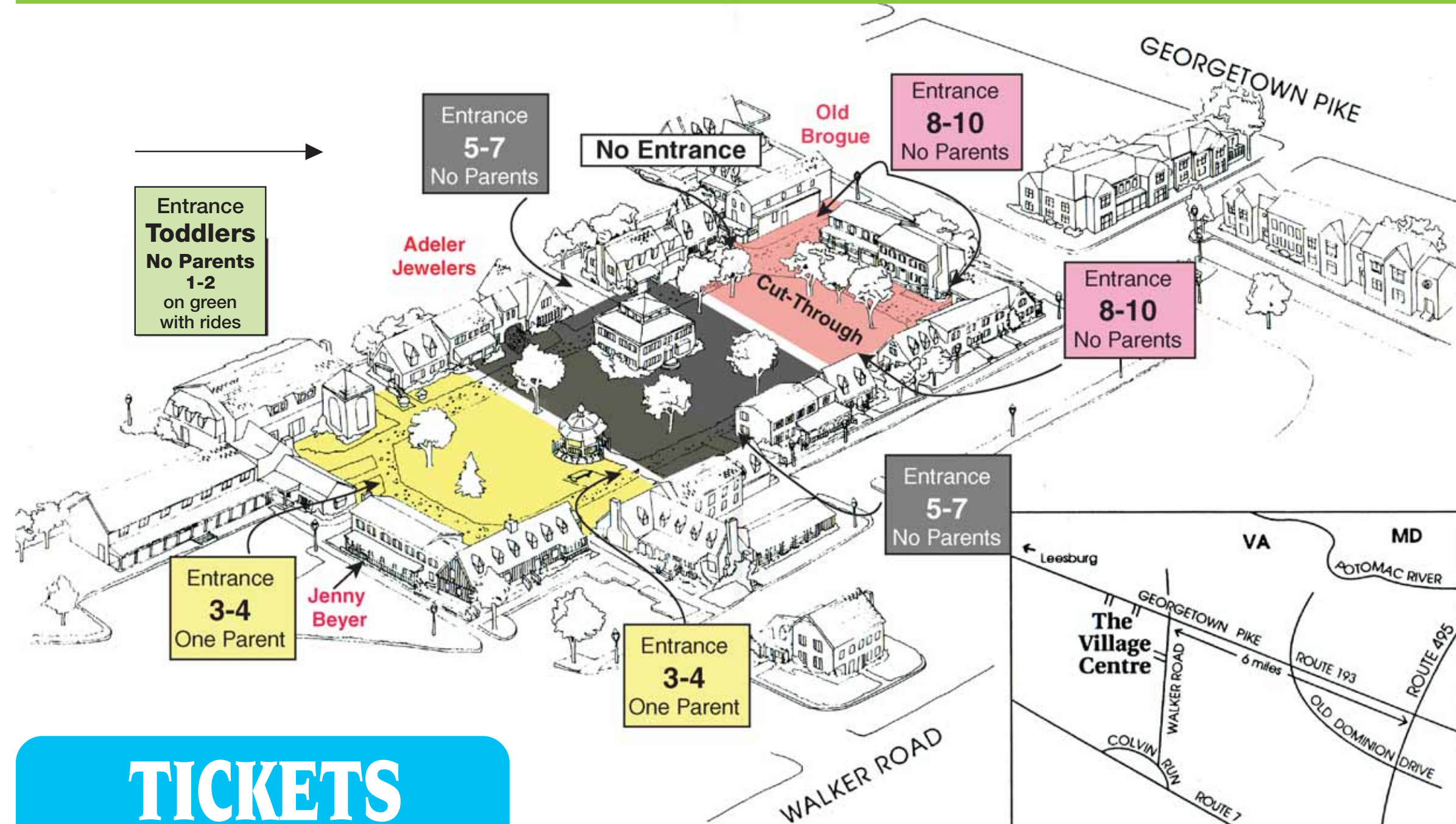
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# 32th Annual Egg Hunt brought to you by Adeler Jewelers and the Great Falls Optimist Club at the Village Centre



**TICKETS**  
Go on sale at: 12:30  
\$10 per child  
Ages 1-10 and  
Parents are free  
Donations welcome...

**Tickets go on sale at 12:30**  
**Games and rides are from 1:30-4**  
**The egg hunt from 4:00-4:30**

The egg hunt includes over \$8000 worth of gemstones donated by Adeler Jewelers, mixed with candy and stuffed into 8,000 plastic eggs that will be scattered around the Village Centre for children ages 1-10 to find. All Rides at own risk.

If you would like to know what your "gem" is, please go to [www.AdelerJewelers.com](http://www.AdelerJewelers.com) and follow the link under *Learn More*.

## Important Information

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: Candy in the Egg Hunt may contain nuts! We do our best to avoid this, but we cannot guarantee it because even nut-free candy MAY HAVE BEEN MADE on machines that previously processed candy that did contain nuts.

**NO RAIN DATE:** Due to the size of this ever-popular event, and to

scheduling requirements for the Village Centre and volunteer staff, we are unable to provide a rain date for the egg hunt. Please call 703-759-4076 after 9:00 am on March 29th to verify the status of the event if you are concerned about cancellation due to inclement weather.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We can always use more volunteers to help with a range of

jobs, including staffing an entrance, helping with set up and clean up the day of the hunt, and other activities. If you are interested in helping with this fun, family-friendly event, please contact us at 703-759-4076 or [info@adelerjewelers.com](mailto:info@adelerjewelers.com). This is a terrific opportunity for Scout troops and students looking for community service opportunities!

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## Birthstones

FROM PAGE 5

nation, and are said to guarantee health, wisdom, wealth and success in love. Ruby is a variety of the gems species corundum. It is harder than any natural gemstone except diamond, which means a ruby is durable enough for everyday wear. Fine-quality ruby is extremely rare, and the color of the gem is most important to its value.

### August - Peridot

Two birthstones are available for August birthdays: Peridot and Sardonyx.

Peridot is said to host magical powers and healing properties to protect against nightmares and to bring the wearer power, influence, and a wonderful year. As peridot is a gemstone that forms deep inside the Earth and brought to the surface by volcanoes, in Hawaii, peridot symbolizes the tears of Pele, the goddess of fire and volcanoes. Today, most of the peridot supply comes from Arizona; other sources are China, Myanmar, and Pakistan.

### Sardonyx

Sardonyx is a form of onyx and is recognized by its layers of reddish brown and white banding. It was popular with the ancient Greeks and Romans who carried into battle talismans of sardonyx engraved with images of heroes such as Mars or Hercules, believing that this would bring courage and victory. Because of its attractive banding, sardonyx has long been used to fashion cameos (carved raised figures) and intaglios (the reverse of cameos). This gemstone is found throughout the world.

### September - Sapphire

Sapphire, the September birthstone, has been popular since the Middle Ages and, ac-

SEE BIRTHSTONES, PAGE 10

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Annual event occurs Sun-  
day March 20, at Village  
Centre in Great Falls.

❖Although the weather might  
be a little too chilly to tell, the  
Great Falls Optimist Club and  
Adeler Jewelers are ready for the  
annual Children's Festival to take  
over the Village Centre Sunday,  
March 20 — a sure sign of spring  
in the community.

❖“We'll have an Easter egg hunt  
for the children, filled with candy  
and gems.

❖The Children's Festival is the  
biggest fund-raiser for the Opti-  
mist Club, with proceeds going to  
help children in Fairfax County.

❖“We provide Thanksgiving and  
Christmas meals to needy families  
and also try to meet their Christ-  
mas gift wish list,” she said.

❖In addition, some of the fami-  
lies have children in need of spe-  
cial-education classes for emo-  
tional disabilities, she said, and in  
the past some of the money has  
gone toward purchasing special  
equipment for classrooms.

❖“We've purchased computers,  
word processors, LCD projectors,  
anything to help the teachers and  
make it easier for the students,”  
she said.

❖THIS YEAR, there will be ad-  
ditional donation containers  
placed throughout the festival  
area, where donations for the In-  
ternational Optimist Club's current  
project, funding cancer research  
for children.

❖“The International Optimists  
are trying to raise \$1 million for  
cancer research at Johns Hopkins,”  
said Linda Thompson, president of  
the Great Falls Optimist Club.  
“This is our flagship program this  
year.”

❖The money from admission  
tickets and other donations will

SEE GRAND OPENING, PAGE 11  
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## Birthstones

FROM PAGES

cording to folklore, will protect your loved ones from envy and harm. Medieval clergy wore sapphires to symbolize heaven, while commoners thought the gem attracted heavenly blessings. Blue sapphires range from very light to very dark greenish or violetish blue, as well as various shades of pure blue. The most prized colors are a medium to medium dark blue or slightly violetish blue.

### October - Tourmaline and Opal

October is another month with two birthstone choices - Tourmaline and Opal.

Tourmaline has become a favorite gemstone among jewelry designer, and gem collectors the world over. Since it is available in a wide variety of colors, it is ideally suited to almost anyone's taste.

Tourmaline also is known for displaying several colors in the same gemstone. These bi-color or tri-color gems are formed in many combinations; gemstones with clear color distinctions are highly prized. One multi-color variety is known as watermelon tourmaline, and features green, pink, and white colors bands; to resemble its namesake, the gemstone is cut into thin slices having a pink center, white ring, and green edge.

The name opal derives from the Greek Opallos, meaning "to see a change (of color)." Opals range in color from milky white to black with flashes of yellow, orange, green, red, and blue. An opal's beauty is the product of contrast between its color play and its background. Opal is a formation of non-crystalline silica gel that seeped into crevices in the sedimentary strata. Through time and nature's heating and molding processes, the gel hardened into the form of opals.

### November - Topaz and Citrine

Two gems are appropriate for November birthdays - Topaz and Citrine.

Topaz is a gemstone available in a rich rainbow of colors. Prized for several thousand years in antiquity, all yellow gems in antiquity were called topaz. Often confused with citrine quartz (yellow) and smoky quartz (brown), quartz and topaz are separate and unrelated mineral species. The most prized color of topaz is called Imperial topaz after the Russian Czars of the 1800s and features a magnificent orange body color with pinkish undertones.

Citrine, the other birthstone for November is known as the "healing quartz". This golden gemstone is said to support vitality and health while encouraging and guiding hope, energy and warmth within the wearer. Citrine can be found in a variety of shades ranging from pastel yellow to dark brownish orange. It is one of the most affordable of gemstones and plentiful in nature.

### December - Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise

The three birthstones associated with December are Tanzanite, Zircon, and Turquoise.

Discovered in the late 1960s in Tanzania, and found exclusively in this tiny area of the world, tanzanite exhibits a rich violet-blue color for which the gemstone is treasured; often it is heat-treated to achieve this color. Colors range from blue to purple, and tanzanites that are medium dark in tone, vivid in saturation, and slightly violet blue command premium prices.

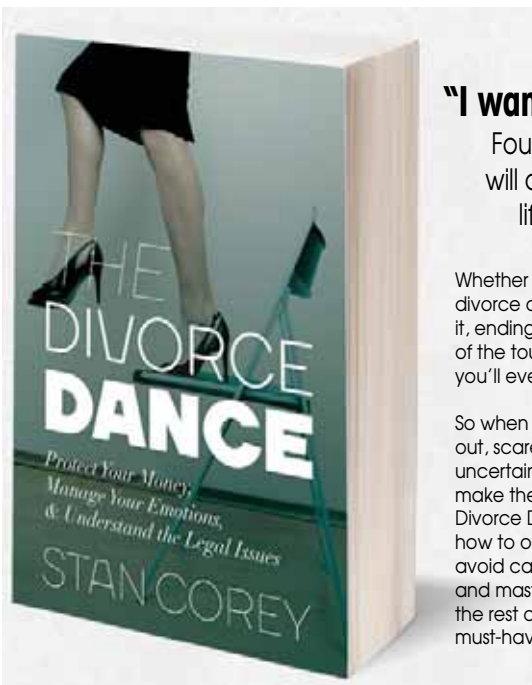
Derived from the Arabic words zar and gun, meaning gold and color, zircon is found in a wide range of colors such as: blue, yellow, orange, brown, green, colorless, and red (the most prized color). For many years colorless zircon was used to imitate diamonds. Folk wisdom grants zircon the power to relieve pain, whet the appetite, protect travelers from disease and injury, to ensure a warm welcome, and to prevent nightmares guaranteeing a deep, tranquil sleep.

The name turquoise, from the French expression Pierre tourques or Turkish stone, originated in the thirteenth century and describes one of the oldest known gemstones. Turquoise varies in color from greenish blue, through robin's egg-blue, to sky blue shades and its transparency ranges from translucent to opaque.

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by Stan Corey



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# Through The Years



## The Grand Opening of Spring with the 32th Annual Childrens Festival, March 20th.

FROM PAG 9

remain in Great Falls, he said, to help needy children. "Sometimes we'll have a scholarship or help purchase band instruments," she said.

❖A veteran of several Children's Festivals, Linda said her favorite part of the day is "seeing the smiles on the faces of the children. It's absolutely beautiful.

Plus, this is an occasion where parents attend with their children, they don't just send them along alone," he said.

❖Linda thanks the many volunteers from Great Falls who come out every year to help with the festivities. "They're the ones who make it a success. Everyone thoroughly enjoys it," he said.

❖The Festival began as a way for Adeler Jewelers to thank the community for its support, said Wendy

Adeler Hall, whose father began the celebration over 30 years ago.

❖"He's very community-minded and always wanted to do something like this," she said.

❖During the course of the day, there will be an ongoing egg hunt for children under the 3, she said, with older children having a different area to hunt in to allow for a more equitable outing.

❖"WE HAVE AN age limit and two separate areas so that shy children can have a fair chance," she said. "Three- and 4- year-olds can have one parent with them in the egg hunt area, but ages 5 through 10 are on their own."

❖The eggs all contain candy, but some of the 6,000 to 8,000 eggs will contain gems, donated by Adeler's Jewelers.

❖"We usually hide about \$5,000 of gems mixed in," Adeler said.

"Typically, the gems include amethyst, garnet, peridot, blue topaz, citrine, some rubies and emeralds, all the typical birthstones," she said.

❖In addition, local vendors have sponsored rides, like a moon bounce, a mini Ferris wheel and a tilt-a-whirl for the children to enjoy, she said.

❖"The \$10.00 per child admission gives each child a bracelet that's good for unlimited rides," she said. "We don't charge the parents admission, but they're free to make donations."

❖The event will take place rain or shine, Adeler said, and parents can call 703-759-4076 starting at 9 a.m. that day if the weather is bad to find out when the event will start. Tickets will be available beginning at 11 a.m. in the Village Centre.



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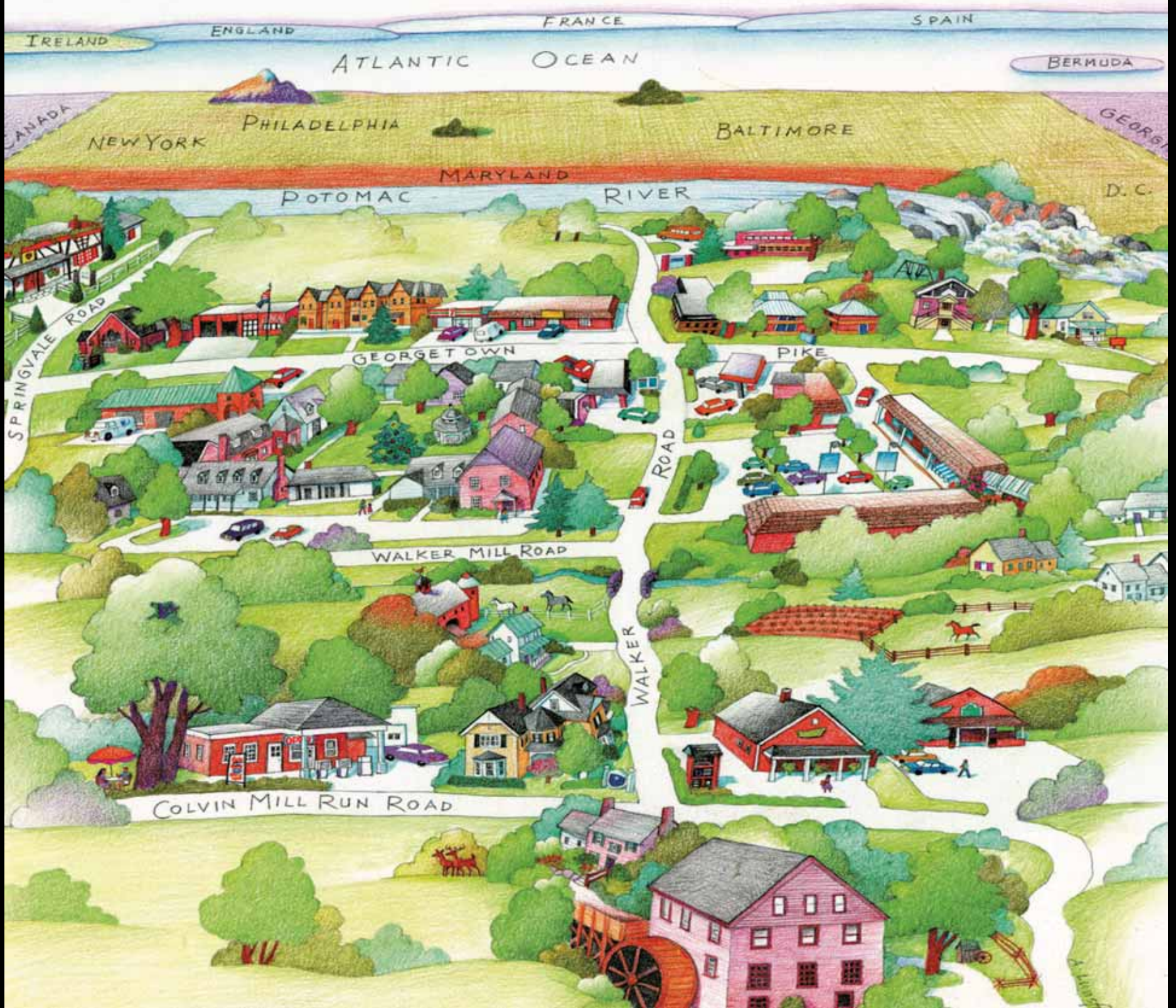




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