

St. Patrick's Day Bash at the Old Brogue

SPRING FUN & ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

Betty Nalls Swartz Wins the Jean Tibbetts History Award

NEWS, PAGE 6

Removing Roadblocks

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The Old Brogue proprietor
Michael Kearney holds a
plate of fish and chips dur-
ing the 35th anniversary and
St. Patrick's Day celebration
last Thursday, March 17.

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Stunning Home with Approx. 5,000 sqft
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FX7553818 - \$2,199,000 - Great Falls
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FX9539587 - \$1,299,000 - Great Falls
897 Falls Bridge Ln: 6 BR, 4.5 BA
Spectacular Brick Colonial on One Beautifully
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Detailed Moulding, Palladium Windows, & Dual
Staircases. Gourmet Kitchen, Expansive Family
Room & FL Sunroom Leading to Large Deck.



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Coming Soon - Great Falls
807 Clear Spring Rd: 6 BR, 5 FB, 2HB
Approximately 6,000 Sqft on 3+ Acres
Incredible Space Both Inside and Out!



For Sale

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41603 Canongate Dr: 5 BR, 4.5 BA
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Chef's Gourmet Kitchen w/ GE Appliances.



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FX9582361 - \$718,000 - Alexandria
8604 Cotswold Ct: 5 BR, 3.5 BA
Colonial Home Loaded with Upgrades.
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6 Person Spa.



Sold

FX8744700 - \$1,150,000 - Great Falls
502 Walker Rd: 5 BR, 5 BA
This Spacious Home is Perfect for
Entertaining Year Round. Fully Updated
w/ New Kitchen, Bathrooms, & Flooring.
Oversized Bedrooms. Owner Agent



Sold

FX8747669 - \$985,000 - Great Falls
803 Sherlin Ln: 5 BR, 5 BA
Large Rooms, Soaring Ceilings, HW Flooring
on Main & Upper Level. MBR w/ Lux. Bath, &
Lg Walk-in Closet. Main Level Library with
Full Bath, Huge Family w/ Wall of Windows.



Coming Soon

Coming Soon - Reston
12202 Dorrance Ct: 3 BR, 2.5 BA
Spacious MBR with Sitting Area,
Expansive Kitchen, Backs to a Pond.

Join us Monday April 11th at our
Military Appreciation Monday (MAM)
Event at The Old Brogue in Great Falls.
We will be raising funds for
Our Military Kids

* The Old Brogue is located at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Walker Rd. in Great Falls.
Call (703) 759-3309 to reserve your table for either the 5:30 or 7:30 seatings.
(Bob and his Co-Sponsors will each make a 10% matching donation of your dinner tab!)

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Fairfax County Schools to Apply for FEMA Relief Funds

January blizzard cost
FCPS \$7.2 million.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Winter Storm Jonas, Snowmageddon, Snowpocalypse 2.0 — no matter what it's called, the county-crippling January 2016 blizzard cost Fairfax County Public Schools \$7.2 million to pay for employee overtime compensation, additional contractors and equipment rental.

At the March 10 regular meeting of the School Board, Superintendent Karen Garza said the school system will be applying for Federal Emergency Management Agency relief funds to reimburse that total.

"We'll see what happens," Garza said, pointing out that it's uncertain how much the agency might hand out. "It may take some time, but that's good news. We'll con-



Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza said the school system is eligible and will be applying for relief funds from FEMA for snow removal costs associated with the January blizzard.

tinue to monitor that."

Schools are eligible to submit for relief funds, as well as counties, towns or cities and certain nonprofit organizations. If FEMA determines the costs are eligible, the agency could reimburse three-quarters of the expenses, with the Commonwealth of Virginia kicking in another 12 percent.

Fairfax County director of Public Affairs Tony Castrilli said the preliminary estimated



Springfield District School Board representative Elizabeth Schultz.

costs from the blizzard for Fairfax County, the town of Herndon and public schools is \$19.5 million, according to the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.

"This was the most expensive snow event in the county due in part to large expenses relating to snow removal activities," Castrilli said in an email.

If FEMA determines the submitted costs eligible for reimbursement, it would be welcome, if not immediate, assistance for the Fairfax County government and school system, whose budgets are at odds with one another: Garza's FY2017 budget featuring

no additional cuts to programs or services, and notable increases to teacher compensation sits under-funded by roughly \$68 million from the advertised County transfer.

"The good thing about that," Springfield District School board member Elizabeth Schultz said about the potential FEMA reimbursement, "hopefully that'll give a little bit of breathing room to the other side."

At the March 10 meeting, the School Board unanimously approved revenue and expenditure adjustments from the Third Quarter Budget Review of FY2016 — including the snow removal costs.

Coming out of the review, the school system ended up with \$5.3 million in available funds, a result of \$2.8 million in increased revenue and \$2.5 million in decreased disbursements in the school operating fund.

Nothing will be done with those additional funds until the FY 2016 Final Budget Review, when the School Board may need them to cover one-time costs or the obligations for the beginning balance for FY 2018.

Removing Roadblocks

Aspiring nurses receive
scholarships in honor of
Harriet H. Fatzinger.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Amina Amisi of Falls Church and Ashley French of Great Falls are second-year nursing students at Northern Virginia Community College, each expecting to graduate with completed associate degrees in May this year.

Amisi has been accepted at The George Washington University, to begin work this fall on her bachelor degree, and eventually wants to work in the operating room on open-heart surgeries.

"It's the nurse who sews you back up," Amisi said, "not the doctor."

French plans to begin her career as a registered nurse over the summer and start her bachelor's degree in fall of 2017.

Both of these aspiring young women said their goals wouldn't be within reach without help from the Harriet H. Fatzinger Nursing Memorial Scholarship. This year's awards were presented during a luncheon at the Mount Vernon Inn on George Washington's estate, March 9.

"Finances have always been a roadblock to pursuing nursing education," said French, who had to drop out after one semester of previous coursework in Roanoke because she couldn't afford it any longer.

"This has just made that path so much more attainable," she said. "Now I can focus much more on school, and back off on work."

Amisi reflected on the experience that inspired her to become a nurse in the first place, watching other nurses work with her daughter back in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

"It touched my heart," she said, seeing the way

they cared for her daughter, even though they were strangers.

"You don't know me," Amisi said to the donors and friends of the scholarship foundation, "but care enough to invest in my life."

Each partial scholarship is worth \$1,200, Fatzinger said.

Amisi said the relief of financial stress also means a lot to her, is inspiring her to do better as a student and eventually be a better nurse.

"I appreciate what other people are doing for me," she said. "Much has been given, so I also can give back."

Fatzinger's husband Dr. Glenn Fatzinger, a Mount Vernon resident and adjunct professor at Northern Virginia Community College, said jokingly that his late wife would've been embarrassed by the large gathering.

"She was a quiet person," Dr. Fatzinger said. "She always wanted to be a nurse, but was a late bloomer; she had a lot in common with our community college students."

According to Dr. Fatzinger, the scholarship foundation has awarded \$70,000 to aspiring nursing students, so far.

Northern Virginia Community College president Dr. Scott Ralls helped Dr. Fatzinger present the scholarships.

"Students at community college have such remarkable stories," he said, "heroic stories, American dream stories."

During the program, Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) commended the people in the room for caring deeply about each other in the community and about health.

"We're trying to make a difference in all our lives by giving a hand up to the next generation," Storck said, "and little bit of money goes a long way."

For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation to the Northern Virginia Community College Educational Foundation, visit www.nvcc.edu/foundation.



Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) congratulates Harriet Fatzinger Nursing Memorial Scholar Ashley French (left) of Great Falls.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



Dr. Glen Fatzinger (left) and Northern Virginia Community College president Dr. Scott Ralls (right) present Ashley French (center left) and Amina Amisi (center right) with the 2016 Harriet H. Fatzinger Nursing Memorial Scholarships.

Student Peace Award recipients pose after the ceremony.

PHOTOS BY
REEM NADEEM/
THE CONNECTION



Mission: Promoting Peace

22 receive Student Peace Awards for efforts to promote peace.

BY REEM NADEEM
THE CONNECTION

With causes ranging from anti-bullying efforts to human trafficking awareness to interfaith dialogue, students in Fairfax County were recognized for their peacemaking efforts at the 11th Annual Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County on March 13.

Students and student groups in any of 29 Fairfax County Public high schools, as well as three private high schools, were eligible for nomination. This year, 22 students or student groups received the Student Peace Award, for their efforts to promote peace.

"As one of their counselors said, these are people who not only looked for opportunities to do good things, they went out and created the opportunities. So many, many of these students have gone and created their own organizations and their own clubs to help whatever the issue is they wanted to work on," organizer Margaret Fisher said.

Mason Professor Al Fuentres, who travels to areas affected by war and natural disaster, spoke at the ceremony. Fuentres congratulated the recipients and spoke about his personal and professional experiences with fostering peace. Students received awards for a variety of peacemaking activities, however.

"As long as a student's contribution is something for peacemaking or nonviolent resolution of conflict, the schools could decide for themselves what that meant, because we didn't want to limit their thinking, and there's just millions of ways you can make peace either in your life, or in your school, or the greater community or the world as a whole," Fisher said.

EACH HIGH SCHOOL is responsible for selecting students to receive the recognition. Club leaders or counselors make recommendations and some schools allow students to self-select. Recipients of the award were informed in December so that they could include the recognition on college applications.

Because the awards are given to high school

juniors and seniors, the Student Peace Awards program aims to give students another achievement to strive for, in addition to academics and athletics.

"What we want to do is find a way to promote peace, that's the only goal of this is to promote peace. We thought that encouraging young people to find projects that do that would be worth doing and we wanted to get the word peace into the conversation in schools," Fisher said.

In addition to rewarding good student behavior, The Awards also aim to promote nonviolent solutions within the community, which in turn can spread globally, according to planner Paul Murphy.

"We need to reward positive behaviors. And to get people thinking in problem solving modes, not just whenever there's a problem in the world, to think that it requires a military solution, but beginning with our communities, expanding nationwide and then internationally," Murphy said. "I think it's very important for people to see that there are alternatives to violence, and these kids are beginning to show it at a very young age and we want to encourage them."

Once nominated for the award, recipients were guided through the process by representatives. Nancy James, who has served as a representative for several years, said she was assigned to work with senior Laith Abuhaija of the Islamic Saudi Academy, who was recognized for his interfaith efforts and volunteer work.

As the award program has grown, so has its importance to families of nominees. Luis Urbina drove from North Carolina to attend the ceremony for his daughter and award recipient, Renata Urbina Dela Flor, a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"We talked and she mentioned some stuff, but it's good to see that it's a lot more than what she said. You know, she's very humble so it's nice to see something like an award," Urbina said.

RECIPIENTS were awarded \$250 as well as \$100 to be donated to an organization of their choice. However, according to organizer Nancy Davis, the monetary reward is certainly not the most valuable gift.

"I love to see the families' expressions," Davis said. "The families are just so happy to see their children recognized for this type of work. It's not the athletic field - which is important too - and the monetary gift isn't great but I think it's wonderful seeing the parents so proud."

VIEWPOINTS

What Did You Do to Win Peace Award; What Inspired You to Get Involved?

—REEM NADEEM

Kenzie Hines, senior, James Madison High School

"I'm the president of Amnesty International and Girls Learn International at my school. Mostly through Amnesty, we try to involve the student population in mostly Socratic discussions about tolerance, things that are happening around the world. And since we live in such a diverse area, how we affect that, how we feel about it because in this bubble nothing really seems real. So it's a lot of trying to educate the student population, my friends and people around me on how different the world is and how to accept that. Education breeds tolerance.

When I was an underclassman, I knew a bunch of seniors who were really in-



involved in Amnesty and the Amnesty club at my school is extremely welcoming, we do a lot of events that are a lot of fun and I wanted to be a part of that, so now I lead it."

Senior Drew Dean, Anti-Bullying Committee, Cedar Lane School

"We are accepting the Fairfax County Peace Awards for our anti-bullying work on the Anti-Bullying Committee at our school. Some other things we do on our committee, we try to unify the school more with activities through team building, just sort of to get everybody together, work together, settle differences, stuff like that.

With me, I've been bullied throughout a lot of my childhood and teen years so I just sort of wanted to give back to the community."



Arnaz Carter-Newman, Drew Dean, Jake Geyer, Seniors - Cedar Lane School

Doreen Ndizeye, senior, George C. Marshall High School

"I was nominated to be the recipient for Marshall High School for the Student Peace Award. I filled out the application after knowing that I fit a majority of the requirements and the things that they were looking for.

I'm very service oriented, so I like to do things that help out the community or help out my siblings because I'm an older sister. So I like to focus on things that help out younger generations. A lot of the things that I do in my spare time



are all to assist the younger generations and what they're going to do with their futures, so everything that I do is more of a mentorship program."

Scottie Tran, Britney Phan, juniors, and Yenni Tran, sophomore, of the Stepping Stones Club at Oakton High School

Phan: "We're here for our club, Oakton Stepping Stones, we're a sex trafficking awareness club, and we host awareness weeks and we just reach out, educate the school."

Tran: "I had a friend who was interested in starting this club, and we just basically came up with this idea because we were really passionate about this topic, we watched a documentary on sex trafficking, and it just really affected us. That's why we started this club.

Phan: One of the local Fairfax County detectives talked to us about this issue and I think all of the members and all officers were really affected by the issue when we heard him talk to us.



Scottie Tran, Junior, Britney Phan, Junior, Yenni Tran, Sophomore - Oakton High School

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Great Falls Elementary School to Hold Kindergarten Orientation

Great Falls Elementary will hold a kindergarten orientation on Tuesday, April 12 from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the school's cafeteria.

Parents and children eligible for 2016-17 kindergarten are invited to an overview of the school's kindergarten program.

A child may enter kindergarten if he/she has reached age 5 on or before Sept. 30, 2016.

Rising Kindergarten students will meet kindergarten teachers in the classroom for a special welcome and activities. Parents will meet in the cafeteria for a presentation from the school principal and staff. Classroom teachers will present an overview of the kindergarten curriculum and the daily schedule.

Parents who bring completed registration materials may register their child directly after the orientation. If necessary, the Physical/Immunization Form may be turned in at a later date, but must be received before school begins. The completed physical and all required immunizations must be received before your child may start school.

Registration packets are available online, www.fcps.edu. Click on the 'Forms' link, then select the 'New Students Enrolling' option under Bundled Forms for Parents. Registration materials are also available in the school's main office.

Great Falls Elementary is located at 701 Walker Road. For information, call 703-757-2100.

FAITH NOTES

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

40th Annual Easter Sunrise Service will be held outdoors at Great Falls Park on Sunday, March 27 at 6:30 AM. The event is offered by the eight churches of the Great Falls Area Minis-

tries. Free parking. All are welcome. 703-860-2276. Call for exact location.

St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean welcomes everyone to special music and worship at afternoon and evening Good Friday services on **March 25**.

SEE FAITH, PAGE 7

You owe it to your family to visit Brightview Great Falls.
It is the area's finest Assisted Living community.

"It's such a great feeling to know my mother is safe and warm at Brightview. Every storm for many years had us all so worried about her living alone. This is the first time I have actually enjoyed watching the snow come down. Thanks for everything you all do for our families."

— Chuck W.

"I am still me! This is just another stage in my life and at Brightview, I can still be who I am."

— Dr. Jennifer (PhD)

"Brightview offers possibilities, independence and choices. The people here are very caring and attentive. Brightview is a respectful and empowering community where we receive compassionate and dedicated care." — Sheila W.

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



Please call Carolyn to
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Betty Nalls Swartz Wins The Jean Tibbetts History Award

BY GREG HAYMANS, CHAIR
TIBBETTS AWARD SELECTION
COMMITTEE

Your child may have come home from school one day, telling you all about dairy farming in Great Falls. Betty Nalls Swartz, born and bred in Great Falls, and a member of the Nalls Family – owners of the last operating dairy farm in Great Falls when the farm was sold in 1989 – is the person who has been sharing the story of life as a dairy farmer with local elementary school classes.

As Chair of the Great Falls Historical Society's (GFHS) Educational Committee, I have had the honor of working alongside Betty as she documented the story of the local history of dairy farming that she shares with elementary and — coming soon — middle school children in our area.

As Chair of the Tibbetts Nominating Committee, along with Karen Washburn, and Kathy Pherson, long-time members of GFHS, and previous Tibbetts

judges, our committee reviewed seven nominations and unanimously selected Betty Nalls Swartz as this year's winner.

Betty meets all of the criteria that the Tibbetts Award honors: Outstanding contributors to the research, articulation, dissemination, and preservation of history of life along the Potomac River corridor from McLean, west to Dranesville, and south through Herndon. Betty was selected for her educational outreach to local students, which she enjoys enormously. (One question from the students: "Do brown cows make chocolate milk?" Another question: "How can you tell a boy cow from a girl cow?") Her documentation of local dairy farming history comes alive when she shares artifacts, which she has been saving for years, with the students: Her stainless steel 10-gallon milk can with farm insignia to show how milk was transported to the Sealtest plant in Georgetown via truck; her milking machine; an old Montgomery Ward catalog showing all kinds of products people used to enjoy in the past;

and an old 1930s telephone to show the "party line" phone service that used to run along Seneca Road in Great Falls.

Betty has been an effective advocate for the preservation of open spaces at the Turner Farm and, more recently, the Marmota Farm – both containing dairy barns of historical significance – as she pleads with the rest of us to protect the historic view sheds of our former dairy farming land. Betty recently reported to a group of open space advocates that she opens her car window when she passes Marmota Farm along Georgetown Pike — formerly known as Digges Farm – as the 20 plus acres, once a dairy farm, "still smells like a farm."

Beyond Betty's writing, advocacy, and sharing of local history, Betty has labored long and hard to disseminate local history through her coordination of Great Falls Day over many years, including coordinating Old School Days reenactments, and presentation of a 4-5 feet tall plywood cow, painted black and white to look



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Betty Swartz, Great Falls native, born and bred, last of the dairy farmers.

like a cow with an udder filled with water to give school children the experience of "milking," as well as her service to the Great Falls Historical Society as Corresponding Secretary, Public Relations Chair, Hospitality Chair, and member of the GFHS Board of Directors over the last 20 years.

Betty is "the real McCoy," born and bred here in Great Falls, Virginia. She gives us all a sense of what a reliable, dependable farmer and passionate community advocate is all about. Her "love of place," deeply rooted in her soul, is an inspiration to us all.

The Great Falls Historical Society established the Jean Tibbetts History Award in memory of former president, historian, and author, Jean Tibbetts, who died in September 2004. The Award car-

ries a stipend of \$200 and the award winner's name is placed in recognition on the Society's Great Falls Historian's Plaque that is displayed in the Great Falls Library.

The Great Falls Historical Society will celebrate Betty's many achievements and bestow the award on Betty at our annual Tibbetts Award Banquet which will be held at the Great Falls Grange at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 21. Betty has agreed to share her Dairy Farming presentation with us at the Banquet.

Please reserve your seats prior to April 1 by emailing gfhsva22066@outlook.com or by calling Jan Schar at 703-759-3940 or Betty Swartz at 703-759-2378. We will invite you to select your food and pay after April 1.

The Great Falls Historical Society was formed in 1977 to bring the past into the present, cultivating a sense of place and a spirit of community.

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FAITH

FROM PAGE 5

***From Noon until 3 p.m.** Meditations will be given by the Rector on "The Seven Last Words of Christ" and "The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross" by Théodore Dubois will be sung by the St. John's Choir with organ, harp and timpani. All are welcome to attend any portion of the service.

***At 7:30 pm** "Christus (An Unfinished Oratorio)" by Felix Mendelssohn will be sung by the St. John's Choir with organ and string quartet. The service begins with a brief Good Friday Liturgy. All are welcome. No tickets are required.

Other Lenten services are as follows:
Maundy Thursday, March 24: 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 26: 8 p.m. First Eucharist of Easter

Easter Day, Sunday, March 27: 7:30, 9:00, 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist - Music with brass and timpani at each morning service.

St. John's Episcopal Church is located one mile east of Beltway Exit 44, at 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean. For more information, call the Parish Office at 703-356-4902 or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, will host annual yard sale/flea market on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. You can now reserve a 10x10' space (\$25) to sell your own treasures or donate items to the church (they would pick up). Come shop, donate and/or sell your own things. 703-582-1640.

Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna, offers Passages DivorceCare. If you are experiencing the pain of separation and

divorce, this program offers a path toward healing. Fourteen-week series held Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Feb. 23. \$20. Scholarships available. For registration or information call 703-938-9050 or go to www.viennapres.org, or email Passages@ViennaPres.org.

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

The Antioch Christian Church offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. www.antiochdoc.org

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body and Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday

school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

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

Centering Prayer Group meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers the Religious Exploration (RE) program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path. The RE program offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. 703-281-4230.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at noon. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

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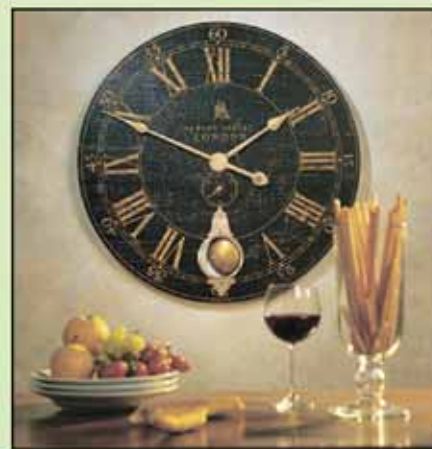
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OPINION

Purple State

Nonpartisan redistricting could support the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

While the case of Virginia gerrymandering argued before the Supreme Court on March 21 does not impact Congressional Districts in Northern Virginia, it shows again that partisan efforts have diminished voter power in the Commonwealth.

This is one of multiple challenges in the courts about how political boundaries are drawn in Virginia.

Consider that in statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, as we have said in previous editorials.

Here are the actual numbers:

In 2013:

McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789; Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389

Northam (D) 1,213,155; Jackson (R)

980,257

Herring (D) 1,103,777; Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

In 2012:

Obama (D) 1,971,820; Romney (R) 1,822,522

Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

It's reasonable to assume that a state so evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

How is possible then that Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats?

Why is it that Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of 11 Republicans and three Democrats?

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should be split about evenly. You could understand a split of five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and

seven split would smack of some unusual circumstance. But three and eight?

The answer is gerrymandering. Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the voters.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

The courts will have a hand in redrawing boundaries in some Virginia districts. It's past time for courts to challenge political gerrymandering in general. Virginia's current system is an incumbent protection plan. Every incumbent who sought reelection to the General Assembly last November won. Why? Their districts were drawn for them, not for the voters who live there.

Virginia should embrace nonpartisan redistricting that supports the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Misleading Headline

To the Editor:

The March 16-22 edition of The Connection carried an "Education=Learning=Fun" column headlined "Do You Keep a Gun In Your Home?" I thought the topic a bit unusual for that column. I also noted that the headline was misleading since the column focused not on whether the reader has a gun in the home, but whether the reader should ask other people whether they have guns in their homes.

My children are grown, but when they were younger, I focused on knowing the parents of their friends to determine whether I believed it was safe for my children to visit their homes. Admittedly, it was a time when parents seemed to worry less, and when they did worry, it was more about real danger.

That said, I understand parents wanting to keep their children safe, accordingly I would recommend parents inquire concerning the following about the homes their children might visit. I am basing my recommendations on 2009 statistics from the Center for Disease Control concerning "unintentional deaths," which we regular people call "accidents:" (Dated numbers because it takes awhile for the USG to put out their figures.)

1. Does the home have a swim-

ming pool? (drowning was responsible for 31 percent of deaths of 1-4 year olds; 15 percent of 5-9; 10 percent of 10-14)

2. Are they going to drive anywhere? (motor vehicle - responsible for 25 percent of 1-4; 49 percent 5-9; 68 percent 10-14.)

3. Do they have fire extinguishers and smoke detectors? (fire/burns responsible for 11 percent 1-4; 11 percent 5-9; 6 percent 10-14.)

To put things in perspective, homicide (all causes) was responsible for 8 percent, 5 percent, and 6 percent of the deaths in those respective groups. Unintentional death by firearm for children 0-14 in 2006 (as reported in the CDC's 2009 report) was just over one percent of all deaths in that age group. (That is about where it runs every year.)

Unfortunately, in this country people are rather bad about assessing relative risk. Many people are afraid of commercial flight, but are much more at risk in their private automobile; are terrified of snakes, but many more die from insect stings and bites. Parents obsess about guns but think nothing of letting their children be around swimming pools or ride in boats without wearing personal flotation devices; frighten their children so much about "stranger danger" that they won't seek help from people they don't know, even though most abuse and abduction of children is carried out by people the children know.

(Many of the figures I quoted are not current. Reliable statistics concerning accidents, death, and other social and economic information about this country is increasingly difficult to obtain for the average person since the Department of Commerce in 2012 ceased publishing, in order to save \$2.9 million and eliminate 24 jobs, the very useful reference, "Statistical Abstract of the United States" which the government had published since 1878. Commercial versions are available at 300 percent to 400 percent of the former cost.)

H M Padon
Great Falls

Time to Speak Out for Quality of Life in Fairfax County

To the Editor:

Fairfax County is a composite of many things that make the quality of life rich for people living here.

❖ Low crime rate thanks to the police whose budget also pays for the School Resource Officers and the School Crossing Guards;

❖ Access to a variety of good health care including a Health Department whose Health Department budget pays for school nurses;

❖ 500 square miles of public parks, 300 miles of trails and the nation's only national park for the performing arts; libraries to enjoy with a variety of programs;

❖ Public Schools with great staff, a graduation rate of 93 percent, and 74 percent of graduates going on to postsecondary programs;

❖ Safety net services for people in need, including Family Services and diversity of economic housing;

❖ County Government recognized for environmental excellence, innovation, and technology;

❖ Desirable location for businesses and access to skilled and talented workforce: two times as many Fairfax County adults hold a bachelor's degree or higher compared to the national average, home to Virginia's largest university and community college;

❖ Close to museums, theaters, restaurants, shopping, fit and healthy living that is accessible by public transportation.

The county's proposed budget is \$3.99 billion of which almost 60 percent is directly (52.2 percent) or indirectly (School Resource Officers, Crossing Guards, Nurses, and debt service for interest paid on bonds for construction or renovation of school buildings and athletic fields) going to public schools. This year it is proposed to give the schools an additional 3 percent or \$54.75 million. About 27 percent of county households have chil-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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SCHOOL NOTES

Sarah Boyle from Marshall High School, Razan Elbaba from Oakton High School, and Rosy Molina from Fairfax High School were recognized at the annual Scholastic Art Awards ceremony with a 2016 Uphoff Scholarship from the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Each student received a \$1,000 prize and their work is on public display at the Ernst Community Cultural Center from Feb. 21 through March 3. To find out more about the Arts Council's Uphoff Scholarships program, visit <http://artsfairfax.org/grants/programs/uphoffscholarship>.

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class **Zachary A. Thayer** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Thayer graduated in 2011 from James Madison High School.

Phoebe Natale of Vienna has been named to the dean's list in the University of Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters in Indiana for outstanding scholarship during the fall 2015 semester.

Robert A. Williams of Vienna was named to the Dean's list for the fall 2015 semester at Radford University. Robert is

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

a graduate of Marshall High School. He is majoring in Business.

Sarah Brooks of McLean has been named to the Dean's List for the 2015 fall semester at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

John Poyner of Great Falls, a Management Information Systems/Finance major, has been named to the Dean's List for the 2015 fall semester at The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

Christine Maria Veiga of Vienna was named to the Dean's List at Virginia Polytechnic Institute for the Fall semester of 2015. She is majoring in Human Food, Nutrition, and Exercise in preparation for a degree in Nursing.

Lindsay B. Benedict, a teacher at McLean High School, has achieved Certified Journalism Educator status from the Journalism Education Association (JEA). JEA is a nonprofit that encourages professional standards for journalism programs and student publications.

Christie Sweet of Vienna is on the Dean's List at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Va. for the fall 2015 semester. She is majoring in health and

exercise science.

Vitale Alexander Christy, of Great Falls, graduated from the University of Tampa in Florida on Jan. 19 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and a minor in Writing.

Maria Kehrli, of Great Falls, qualified for the Dean's List at High Point University in North Carolina for the Fall 2015 semester.

Victor Zheng, 21, of McLean, is among five University of Virginia scholars who have received Critical Language Scholarships to assist them in pursuing their love of language. They will spend seven to 10 weeks in intensive language institutes this summer in one of 13 countries to study languages the U.S. government has deemed "critical." Zheng will study Chinese in Dalian, China. He is a third-year history and Chinese major who is learning Mandarin Chinese.

"I applied out of a desire to have another opportunity to go back to China and be immersed in its environment," he said. "I also just inherently love being abroad where I believe I learn the best and the most." Zheng, who is a member of U.Va.'s Virginia Glee Club, plans to pursue a master's degree in international relations.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

dren in the public schools. This ratio of increasing taxes paid to schools and the percentage of households with children in the public schools is not sustainable to keep all quality of life services at the current level,

especially with the huge increase in the 50+ age population the county is expecting in the next decade.

Residents who care about these quality of life programs should speak out to the Board of Supervisors during the budget cycle through April 9, 2016. Email, call,

write, or testify that you want the entire elected Board of Supervisors to fairly and equally represent all interests and all services for all county residents. Speak out for the total quality of life in Fairfax County.

Johna Gagnon
Franconia

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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. 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 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. 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. fairfaxcountny.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. fairfaxcountny.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 or 703-424-6652. 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>.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs.** For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov. Fairfax County needs a volunteer.

Senior Center Marketing Coordinator to assist the Friends of Fairfax County Senior Centers with marketing. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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The Boyle School of Irish Dance entertains the crowd with Irish dancing. The dancers included: Andrea Mueller, Emily Miller, Jillian Jenkins, Rose Francis and Megan Jenkins.



A group of senior women from the Ashby Ponds community in Ashburn had lunch at the Old Brogue for St. Patrick's Day.



Musician Ted Garber has been performing at the Old Brogue St. Patrick's Day Bash for 15 years.



Pennywhistle with Barry and Donal Nelson flew in from Donegal, Ireland, to perform.



Dressed in St. Patrick's Day cheer are Chad Kennedy, Dave Woods, Nathan Perry and Wes Fine.

St. Patrick's Day Bash at the Old Brogue

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/
THE CONNECTION

For the 35th year, it was a festive wearing of the green where 1,200 customers celebrated a St. Patrick's Day Bash at the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls, last Thursday, March 17. With three seating areas decorated in holiday banners, the entertainment included the Boyle School of Irish Dance dancers, Pennywhistle with Barry and Donal Nelson from Donegal, Ireland, and musician Ted Garber on guitar and harmonica. On the menu were Irish bangers, fish and chips, shepherd's pie and traditional Irish stew, and for dessert, Jameson Irish Whiskey cake and warm bread pudding a la mode, among other entrees. Of course, the pub serves Irish rarebit and beers every day of the year.

"A lot of people have been coming here for years. It keeps the Irish tradition going," said Michael Kearney, proprietor of the Old Brogue and Katie's Coffee House next door. "I always feel like St. Patrick's Day is the rite of spring as we really tuck winter behind us and get to enjoy the new spring season."

—STEVE HIBBARD



Enjoying St. Patrick's Day at The Old Brogue are Sue Boras, Thomas Gallucio, Lee Amuso, George Boras, Fran Meadows, Sebastian Fonss and Mike Rickard.



Enjoying the festivities at the Old Brogue are Lee Amuso, Terry Myers, Matt Phumhrey and Kristin Moats.

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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Spring Fest

Saturday, March 26, 10 a.m.–Noon
\$5 per person; Free, infants to 36 months

Onstage @ The Alden
American Shakespeare Center on Tour

"Julius Caesar"
Tuesday, March 29, 7:30 p.m.;
Live music begins at 7 p.m.
\$35/\$20 MCC district residents



"The Importance of Being Earnest"



Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.;
Live music begins at 7 p.m.
\$35/\$20 MCC district residents

Public Hearing on FY 2018 Programs

Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.
District residents, come share your thoughts on MCC programs and services.

The Old Firehouse Family Movie Night
"Inside Out"

Friday, April 1, 7–9:30 p.m.
\$3 per person

Onstage @ The Alden
U.S. Navy Commodores
Saturday, April 2, 8 p.m.
Free Admission

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

1234 Ingleside Ave.,
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711





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


The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR
Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

APRIL
4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
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
5/11/2016.....HomeLifeStyle
5/18/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools, Proms, Summer Planning
Memorial Day is May 30
5/25/2016...Summer Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

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- Burke Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- Reston Connection
- Centre View
- McLean Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Chantilly Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

CALENDAR

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

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. 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/store/2238>.

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. 703-790-0123.

Bring Back Bluebirds. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Discover the world of bluebirds while making a difference. Build your own bluebird box and learn how to monitor for success. \$10 paid to instructor at class for each box. Meet at the Nature Center. Discover the world of bluebirds while making a difference. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

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.

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



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Jan Heginbotham: Pond's Edges.

Great Falls Library Showcases the Work of Local Artist

Area residents and visitors can find more than books at the local library when painter/sculptor Jan Heginbotham's work is exhibited at Great Falls Library from April through June.

Her paintings will be on view for the first time at the library's small conference room from March 30 through June. A selection of sculpture will also be at the library for the month of April in the hall cabinet.

Heginbotham is known in the area as a sculptor, having exhibited bronze sculptures locally and nationally for more than three decades. Her sculptures are in public and private collections, and have won awards in National competitions.

Painting is a newer endeavor, one she has been exploring for three years. "Painting lets me see the world in new ways," Heginbotham said. "There is more color in the world than I realized."

She is a Great Falls resident and a native of the Washington metro area.

To see Heginbotham's sculpture and painting, visit Great Falls Library from April through June. www.JanHeginbotham.com



Jan Heginbotham: Strings 1998, bronze & wood.

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>.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1-3

Lea Colie Wight Workshop: Painting the Head in Color. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Arts of Great Falls School, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Guides participants through exercises designed to extract specific information from the live model. \$400. greatfallsart.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Build Your Own Bat House. 9 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Bats help eat mosquitoes, and pollinate plants, but they are having a hard time. Help these important animals thrive by building a bat house to hang in your yard. \$8. \$15 per bat house. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.
Wagon Ride to Poohsticks Bridge. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Meet at the Nature Center. Journey through the woods to Poohsticks bridge. Listen to Winnie the Pooh's story and play Poohsticks on the bridge. \$6/\$8. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.
Trunk Sale. 9 a.m.-noon. Colvin Run Elementary School Parking Lot, 1400 Trap Road, Vienna. Come and spend a fun morning shopping for

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

treasures. Spring bargains can be found on gently used household and children's items. Free parking and admission. Rain date April 9th. Free. cresevents@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Salamanders Undercover. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Learn about the secret lives of these important amphibians through hands-on discoveries. \$8/\$10. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

Author Allan Topol. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Book signing of "The Italian Divide: A Craig Page Thriller." <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

Book Launch. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Richelle Mead's "The Glittering Court." Book signing and reading. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

Creativity and Aging. 7-9 p.m. Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Discussion focusing on the exciting connection between creativity and aging by Caroline Edasis, Manager of Art Therapy for Mather LifeWays. Free. GreatFallsStudios.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Fairfax Volunteer Awards. 8 a.m. The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Join Volunteer Fairfax, Chairman Sharon Bulova and the

Spring Calendar

ONGOING

Spring Delights. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 4-May 2. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. Exhibition of Vienna Arts Society members. viennaartssociety.org. 703-319-3971.

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, year round. Great Falls Village Centre, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

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. 703-790-0123.

Bring Back Bluebirds. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Discover the world of bluebirds while making a difference. Build your own bluebird box and learn how to monitor for success. \$10 paid to instructor at class for each box. Meet at the Nature Center. Discover the world of bluebirds while making a difference. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 2-3

Spring Book Sale. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bag sale on Sunday. Sponsored by Friend of Patrick Henry Library. 703-281-3831.

SUNDAY/APRIL 24

Vienna 5K and One-Mile "Run for Fun." Starting at 8:10 a.m. 128 Center St. S, Vienna. Sponsored by the Vienna Elementary School PTA. \$15-\$30. www.vienna5krun.org. 703-282-0084.

Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce 5K. 8:30 a.m. Near Bloomingdale's Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. \$25-30+. <http://www.tysonscharity5k.com/>.

Oakton Elementary Family 5K. 8:30 a.m. Centennial Park, 131 Church St., Vienna. Proceeds benefit enrichment program at Oakton Elementary. \$12-\$35. family5kandfunrun.com.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and other community leaders to celebrate the work of volunteers. Purchase tickets by April 4. \$50. For information and tickets go to www.volunteerfairfax.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Ellis Paul. 6:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Folksinger, storyteller. \$20/\$22. jamminjava.com.



Student Art on Display at Great Falls Starbucks

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Colvin Run Elementary School is on exhibit in the meeting room at Great Falls Starbucks, Great Falls Center, 9863 Georgetown Pike. CRES art teachers Lauren Grimm and Sandra Pugh present a mix of student art in collage, colored pencil and watercolor. The show, one in a rotating schedule of local elementary school art, continues through mid June and is sponsored by Great Falls Studios www.GreatFallsStudios.com in cooperation with Great Falls Starbucks. Works can be seen during regular Starbucks' store hours.





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News

Older adults who participate in the arts have better physical health, mental health and social connection.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAROLINE EDASIS

Utilizing Arts to Age Well

Presentation to focus on the link between creativity and aging.

On Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m. at Great Falls Community Library, Large Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls Studios will welcome Caroline Edasis, manager of Art Therapy for Mather LifeWays, an Evanston, Illinois based nonprofit that serves more than 37,000 older adults each year.

The community is invited to this presentation and discussion focusing on the exciting link between creativity and aging. Mather LifeWays' art therapy programs have proven to be successful in building rela-

tionships with residents, families, caregivers and the surrounding community.

These programs are built on current research that the aging brain is actually a creative brain. Older adults who participate in the arts have better physical health, mental health and social connection.

Edasis will share her personal insights from art therapy with older adults living with cognitive and physical impairments that incorporate visual art, poetry and music. Using examples from her professional experience she will share strategies for adults to utilize the arts to age well.

Caroline Edasis is the daughter of GFS member, Linda Jones. A portfolio of her work as an artist and art therapist can be found on her website <http://carolineedasis.com/>

Learn more about Great Falls Studios at www.GreatFallsStudios.com



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CAREGIVING

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, April 12, 7-8 p.m.** Learn techniques for effective communication and holding family meetings that will help keep communication open and more productive. Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on Caregiver Support. Call **703-324-5484**, TTY 711.

Fairfax County and partners are sponsoring the **Living Well, Aging Well Summit** on **Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. This free event explores multiple ways to age well and features a transportation/mobility expo, technology fair, volunteer opportunities, a CarFit program, health screenings, presentations and more. Register at www.livingwellfairfax.org or call **703-324-7647**, TTY 711. Call 703-324-5219, TTY 711 for ADA requests.

Meet dozens of job recruiters at the **50+ Employment Expo** on **Monday, April 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** Attend seminars on changing careers, online job searching, continuing education, starting your own business, job training, and job interviewing. Chief Meteorologist Doug Hill from ABC 7/WJLA-TV News is the keynote speaker. This free event is sponsored

by Fairfax County, Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, D.C. and partners. It takes place at Sheraton Tysons Hotel at Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Find out more at www.accessjca.org/50plusjobexpos or call Micki Gordon at **301-255-4209**, TTY 711.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, April 20 at noon** at the Burke Regional Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A public comment period begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call **703-324-5403**, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Fairfax County is offering the following **Free Seminars for Family Caregivers of Older Adults**:

Making Life Easier: Gadgets, Gizmos and Home Modifications, Tuesday, April 5, 7-8:30 p.m. Learn about technology, home modifications, and inexpensive devices that can help you or your loved one maintain independence at home. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

Caregiving 101 - WEBINAR, Wednesday, April 6, Noon-1 p.m. Learn helpful information and strategies

to help you manage your important caregiver role. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

Strategies for Difficult Conversations, Tuesday, April 19, 7-8:30 p.m. Conversations with an older family member about issues like driving, accepting help in the home or moving to a safer environment are often difficult. Learn how to approach these conversations. West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

Prepare to Care, Wednesday, April 20, 1-3 p.m. Learn the five steps every caregiver should take. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

Medicare 101 - WEBINAR, Wednesday, April 27, Noon-1 p.m. Learn the facts about health insurance for seniors. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

PEOPLE

Exhibit curator Joshua Oliveira, right, talks with Yamine Iskander about her work as Magdi Iskander and Tristann Brown look on.



PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

March Melee

McLean special needs artist featured in Old Town exhibit.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Like most children growing up, Yamine Iskander liked to color with crayons. And like most mothers, Silvia Sagari was proud of everything her daughter created. But four years ago, when someone suggested to Sagari that Yamine genuinely had talent, she took notice. Because Yamine Iskander is not like most children. “Yasmine has a complex medical history,” Sagari said of her 19-year-old only child. “Among other things, she is deaf and has intellectual disabilities. But when she is painting, she comes alive.”

A chance meeting with John Bordner, the vice president of the Del Ray Artisans in Alexandria, led to Yasmine entering one of her paintings in DRA's latest exhibit, March Melee. Her work was accepted and Yasmine and her family attended the March 4 opening reception at the Nicolas A. Colasanto Center.

“When Silvia showed me some pictures of Yasmine’s work on her phone, I thought ‘Wow! What color, what vibrancy, what life!’ Bordner said. “I thought the theme of March Melee exactly described Yasmine’s work – just a riot of color and cheer so I encouraged her to submit one of her paintings. This was a very competitive show but I am not at all surprised that one of her pieces was accepted.”

Yasmine’s painting, “The Volcano,” was not only accepted, it was awarded one of only four Curators Awards.

“I’m very excited to be here tonight,” said Yasmine as she mingled among the crowd. “I love art. It makes me happy and when I paint, I feel it in my heart.”

Yasmine, who has also begun working in pottery, said that most of her ideas just “pop into my head.”

“I make art because it is fun and creative,” Yasmine said. “Art is something that is always new.... there is always something I can learn and I like to learn new things.”

Yasmine, a senior at McLean High School, has un-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

McLean artist Yamine Iskander puts the finishing touches on a painting.

dergone 25 surgeries, including five procedures on her heart and three on her brain.

“I am so proud of her,” said Yasmine’s father Magdi Iskander. “She is always so full of kindness — she wins the Good Samaritan award every year at school. To me, she is the face of God on earth.”

When asked if Yasmin inherited her talent from either of her parents, Sagari laughed.

“Us? Heavens no,” Sagari said. “We’re economists. Yasmine’s talent for art is a gift she was blessed with.”

Yasmine continues to take classes, studying with Marsha Staiger and Sharon Malley, and hopes to enter more shows like those with the Del Ray Artisans.

“DRA is not in the business of creating art,” Bordner said. “We’re here to create opportunity, hope, joy. It humbles me to see the kind of excitement and joy that being here tonight has sparked in Yasmine.”

The March Melee exhibit runs through March 27 at the Del Ray Artisans Nicolas A. Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. For more information, call 703-838-4827 or visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

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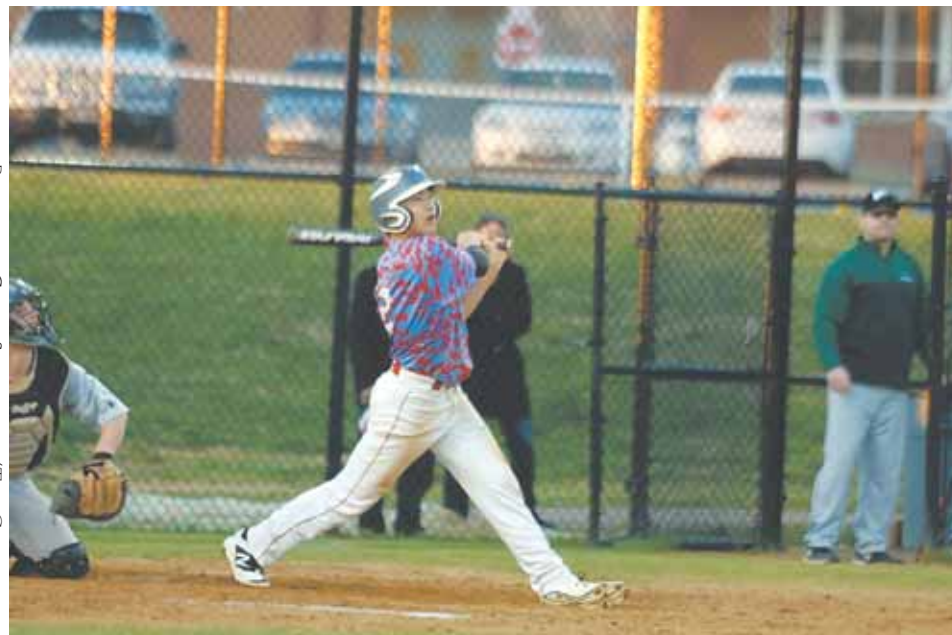
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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Steven Johel is the Marshall baseball team's most experienced returning pitcher.



Senior second baseman Justin Han earned VHSL first-team all-state honors last season.

Marshall Baseball Enters 2016 with High Expectations

Statesmen reached 5A state final last season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Marshall baseball program graduated a trio of all-state players from its team that reached the 2015 5A state championship game. While the Statesmen have a different look in 2016, head coach Aaron Tarr said he expects similar results.

Marshall enters the season with a pitching staff featuring seniors who have waited their turn, and a lineup led by returning first-team all-state second baseman Justin Han. The Statesmen won their first three games, beating Wakefield, Manassas Park and Centreville.

Gone are catcher and VHSL state Player of the Year Mitch Blackstone, first-team all-state pitcher Will Brooke and second-team all-state third baseman Matt Borowski from the 2015 team that won the Conference 13 title and finished 5A North region and state runner-up behind Stone Bridge. Tarr, however, said this year's Statesmen can succeed with depth.

"The team dynamic is really different," Tarr said. "There's a ton of roster turnover, so it doesn't feel like the same group of guys. ... My expectation is that we get to the [state final] or win that game. I think we're capable of that. I don't want to say it's better team, it's just different."

This year's pitching staff is led by senior

Steven Johel (Coastal Carolina). As a junior, the right-hander saw limited time on the mound during the regular season, but his workload increased during the playoffs. Tarr said Johel can throw 90 mph with a quality curveball and should benefit from pitching in pressure situations last season.

"That's everything," Tarr said. "If there's going to be a question mark on us going forward, it's going to be [Johel's] returning [with] a ton of innings and [experience with] pressure stuff and the other guys not as much."

Senior right-hander Jamie Handley, and senior left-handers Ben Kerns (Ursinus) and Nick Cintron (Cornell) have limited varsity experience on the mound but will be key members of this year's Marshall pitching staff. Tarr said Handley throws in the mid-

80s with quality curveball, Kerns throws in the low 80s but is a fierce competitor, and Cintron throws 85-87 mph with a strong splitter.

Marshall's lone returning all-state player is second baseman Han (Middlebury). Tarr has plenty of confidence in the senior, who hit .493 last season started this year 7-for-9 with four doubles and a triple.

"[Han batting] over .500 [for the season]?" Tarr said. "I'd bet the ranch on that, for sure."

Junior Robert Guenther returns at short-stop, and junior catcher Jack Jones takes over for Blackstone behind the plate. Senior third baseman Nate Scheinman will play for Skidmore College.

Marshall will travel to face Falls Church at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29.

Langley's Galiani, Shafer First-Team All-State Selections

The Langley girls' and boys' basketball teams each had a player receive VHSL 6A first-team all-state honors.

Senior guard Paige Galiani and senior forward Nate Shafer were each all-state selections for the Saxons.

Galiani became the girls' program's all-time leading scorer during the 2015-16 season. She helped the Saxons win the Conference 6 championship, the program's first district/conference title since 1988, and reach the state tournament for the first time. Langley beat Landstown in the state quarterfinals and upset previously unbeaten Oakton in the semifinals before falling to Cosby in the championship game.

Shafer was a 6-foot-5 defensive presence for the boys' team, which finished 20-6 and won the Conference 6 championship.

Girls' first-team selections: Galiani, Noe'll Taylor (Fairfax), Genesis Parker (Stonewall Jackson), Jocelyn Jones (Cosby), Tyra Whitehead (Cosby), Cynita Webb (Landstown) and Asia McCants (Woodbridge). Jones was named Player of the Year and Cosby's Rachel Mead earned Coach of the Year honors.

Boys' first-team selections: Shafer, Tyler Scanlon (Westfield), James Butler (Lake Braddock), Keaton Simmons (Stonewall Jackson), Jerry Carter (Hylton), Chris Orlina (Woodside), Donald Hicks (Oscar



PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR

Langley senior guard Paige Galiani was a 6A VHSL first-team all-state selection.

Smith) and Daryus Evans (Landstown). Scanlon was named Player of the Year and Westfield's Doug Ewell was named Coach of the Year.

Langley Boys' Lax Splits First Four Games

After winning its season opener against Westfield, 12-9, on March 15, the Langley boys' lacrosse team dropped a double-overtime contest against Yorktown on March 17 in Arlington.

The Saxons opened Conference 6 play with a 9-8 loss to the Patriots, during which Langley overcame a two-goal fourth-quarter deficit to force overtime. After neither team scored during the first four-minute OT, Yorktown's C.J. Stowell scored the game-winner in the second OT.

Langley senior midfielder Jon-Michael Duley scored four goals — all in the second half. Junior attackman Daniel Orme, junior midfielder Michael Levetown, junior midfielder Michael Killion and senior midfielder Parker Kaplan each had one.

The Saxons defeated Battlefield 14-9 on March 19 and lost to Chantilly 10-4 on March 21 — both games were at Robinson



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Langley senior midfielder Jon-Michael Duley scored four goals against Yorktown on March 17.

Secondary School.

Langley, led by first-year head coach Bo Ingalsbe, will travel to face two-time defending 6A state champion Robinson at noon on Wednesday, March 23. The Saxons' home opener is scheduled for 8 p.m. on Friday, April 1 against Dominion.

NEWS

Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Awards \$380,000 in Local Grants

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Five of 36 grant awardees speak at “Cocktails & Conversation” event.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

When Lorton residents Marcy Mager and husband David Lunter’s daughter Michell Merhige was killed in 2009, they wanted to establish a scholarship in her honor but knew handling the financial logistics would be tricky.

“Michell was a very generous person, with her time and talents,” Mager said. “She was a businesswoman, worked for orphanages and the youth ministry at her church.”

Mager and Lunter adopted Merhige at 14. She had been homeless, lived in orphanages herself and foster homes.

Four years ago, Mager and Lunter connected with the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, a philanthropy organization that helps connect donors around the region with the community. In Fiscal Year 2015, the Foundation awarded \$4.2 million in grants to local nonprofit organizations, faith groups and schools, and \$215,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

“They were a vehicle for us establishing this scholarship,” Mager said, which is now awarded to one graduating Fairfax County senior each year. With the Foundation administering the scholarship funds, it allows Mager and her husband to focus on collecting money and organizing the selection committee.

Though not necessarily a requirement, they tend to look for a senior who’s overcome obstacles, who may have been orphaned or spent time in foster homes like their daughter. Or it may be a student who has to work to help support their family.

Mager and Lunter joined other donors and members of the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia March 15 at the Capital Grille in McLean to celebrate the Foundation’s Community Investment Fund grantees.

With the biggest cycle of the year, the Foundation awarded \$380,418 to 36 organizations around Northern Virginia. The categories for nonprofits included Child, Youth Development and Education; Health, Mental Health and Aging; Poverty Relief; and Military Personnel and Their Families.

The 36 grantees were chosen from a field of 119 applications by committees filled with community experts in each field that were set up by the Community Foundation.

“These represent our most critical needs,” said Community Foundation of Northern Virginia president and CEO Eileen Ellsworth, of Oakton.

Representatives from one grantee from



The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia hosted a “Cocktails & Conversation” event March 15 at the Capital Grille in McLean to celebrate awarding \$380,418 in 2016 Community Investment Grants.



Sari Raskin, director of Grants and Community Leadership for the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, based in Oakton, speaks at the “Cocktails & Conversation” event March 15.



Kathy Banks is executive director of the Falls Church-McLean Children’s Center that received a Community Investment Fund Grant for the Education category.



Community Foundation for Northern Virginia Board of Directors chair Paul Leslie, CEO of Dovel Technologies in McLean, said he loves having the opportunity “to be part of an organization that’s giving something back to the community, after building businesses here for 30 years.”



Jeanne Comeau is president and CEO of NAMI Northern Virginia, based in Reston, that received a Community Investment Fund Grant for the Health, Mental Health and Aging category. NAMI Northern Virginia is the local, self-sustaining chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, serving Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Falls Church, and Loudoun.



Heather Taylor is Greater DC Director of the Tahirih Justice Center that received a Community Investment Fund Grant for the Poverty Relief category.



Marcy Mager and husband David Lunter of Lorton worked with the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia to set up a scholarship in honor of their daughter who died in 2009.

which provides mental health and other services and resource information for military veterans and their families.

“The Community Foundation is more than a funder, they’re a partner,” Spycher said. “They help provide connections. It’s an amaz-

ing feeling, to know we have that support.”

For the full list of all 36 local nonprofits that were awarded 2016 Community Investment Grants, visit www.cfnova.org/our-programs/community-investment-funds/2016-awardees.

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Please Check
Kenneth B. Column
Next Week!



21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Wow Enterprises, Inc trading as Whitlows On Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On & Off Premises/ Keg Permit/Delivery Permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Gregory Cahill, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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 or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Cheesetique Ballston LLC trading as Cheesetique, 800 N. Glebe Rd. Arlington, VA 22203. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On & Off Premises, Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Philippa Erber, member
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Made in Thailand, LLC trading as Thai's Corner, 8607 Westwood Center Dr, Vienna, VA 22182. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mixed beverages Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Pilasenee Worachaiyapra, vice President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

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