



# McLean CONNECTION

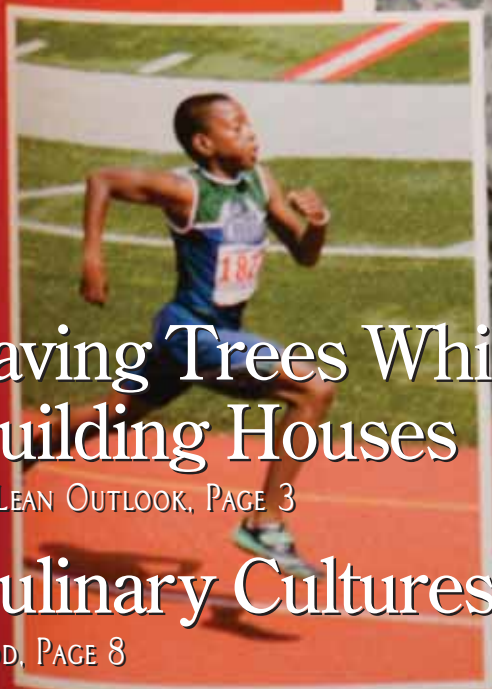
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## VOLUNTEER EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fairfax County is offering free **Independent Living Project sessions, Mondays, May 2-June 27, 10 a.m.-noon**. Calvary Hill Baptist Church, 9301 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Find out more and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Independent Living Project. Call **703-324-7721**, TTY 711, (Preregistration required. There is no session on May 30.)

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, May 10, 7-8 p.m.** This will be an open discussion on caregiving. Register beforehand at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Caregiver Support/Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call **703-324-5484**, TTY 711.

Fairfax County is offering the following free Chronic Disease Self-Management programs:

❖ **Take Control of Your Health and Your Happiness. Tuesdays, May 3-June 7, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Chronic Disease Management Program or call **703-324-5489**, TTY 711. (Preregistration required.)

❖ **Diabetes Self-Management Program. Fridays, May 6-June 10, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.** Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Chronic Disease Management Program or call **703-324-5489**, TTY 711. (Preregistration required.)

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

❖ **Legal Tools for Caregivers - WEBINAR, Wednesday, May 4, Noon-1 p.m.** Learn about legal tools that can help you ensure your loved one's wishes are carried out. Topics include durable power of attorney, trusts, guardianship, and advanced medical directives. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click

on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

❖ **Understanding and Caring for a Person with Dementia, Thursday, May 5, 7-8:30 p.m.** This class will discuss the different types of dementia, common behaviors, the reasons for troubling behaviors, communication techniques, and services available for caregivers. Herndon Harbor Adult Day Health Care Center, 875 Grace St., Herndon. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

❖ **Is it Normal Aging or Dementia - WEBINAR, Wednesday, May 11, Noon-1 p.m.** Learn what signs and symptoms are normal in the aging process, and which may indicate dementia. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

❖ **Five Questions to Consider About Paying for Long-Term Care - WEBINAR, Wednesday, May 18, Noon-1 p.m.** Get the answers that are right for your family. Learn how to use your resources wisely and avoid common money mistakes that caregivers make. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, May 18 at noon** at Burke Regional Library, 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults) and click on Commission on Aging. Call **703-324-5403**, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

**Korean Meals on Wheels** urgently needs drivers to deliver meals. Frail older adults are not receiving much-needed nutrition due to a shortage of drivers. (Speaking Korean not required.) Email [VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov), call **703-324-5406**, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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**Wallace Sansone, of Franklin Park, Margaret Malone, of Turkey Run Road, and Neil Ende, of Chesterbrook Woods, were able to voice frustration over diminishing tree canopy in McLean due to infill development.**

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION  
**Joyce Harris, of McLean Trees Foundation: "Trees rely on us." See <http://www.mcleantreesfoundation.org/>**

# Saving Trees While Building Houses

**McLean's Third Annual Tree Forum engages developers and homeowners on the importance of trees.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**D**evelopers at the third annual McLean Tree Forum surprised some audience members with their appreciation for trees.

Mark Stahl says his new property in Vienna is the home of the second oldest tree in Vienna. His neighbor owns a home with the oldest tree.

Stahl, of Stahl Homes, said his neighbor was nervous when he bought the property on which he was going to build his new house. There was no question he was going to ensure the health of both trees.

Shahl shifted the location of his tree back about 20 feet to ensure the safety of the two trees Vienna home- steads.

"I have over a half acre to work with, I had wiggle room," said Stahl. "We're going to take every precaution that we can."

Scott Murray, president of Focal Point Homes, told an anecdote about how insistent he was when trying to convince one of his customers to preserve a tree Murray thought was a beautiful part of the property.

Murray has built 65 homes in McLean.

His customer always wanted to have a big backyard for his children.

"We're not going to take that tree down," said Murray, who advocated to move the home back on the premise.

It was actually the arborist Murray hired, who told him that the tree wasn't healthy, that it needed to come down for safety reasons. That's when Murray relented.

Almost all future development in McLean



**Keith Cline, director of the Urban Forest Management Division, gave an overview of the evolution of Fairfax County's Tree Ordinance.**

## McLEAN OUTLOOK

will consist of infill development and redevelopment, which threatens many mature trees. When an older house on a lot with older trees is demolished to make way for a significantly larger house, many trees can come down in the process. Careful planning and expertise is required to preserve the trees which benefit the broader neighborhoods and the environment.

**THE McLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION** hosted the third annual Tree Forum Wednesday, April 20 at the McLean Community Center.

In addition to McLean Tree Foundation discussion of the importance and significance of trees to McLean and other communities, this year's forum featured a panel discussion involving citizens associations and developers.

More than 50 people attended the forum.

"What we're trying to do tonight is bring groups together," said McLean Citizens Association president Jeff Barnett. "When reasonable groups get together, reasonable

ideas happen. Let's just talk for a while," he said.

"Let's make it count," said forum organizer Merrily Pierce.

Foust thanked the developers, which included Greg Ruff, of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association and Louis Genuario Jr., president of Wakefield Homes, for coming Wednesday night.

"To get the industry to come talk with us and work with us is a big deal," said Supervisor John Foust. "They recognize the importance of trees to us."

**NEIL ENDE** voiced the frustration of McLean residents who feel helpless watching their neighborhoods that are named after forests and trees torn down to make way for larger houses.

"You have to appreciate that that is not the real world, that's not our world. You are the good guys, and that's why you are here," said Ende.

"There are bad developers," he said, who "play every game in the book." Some mark trees as diseased when they are healthy, he

said, "some developers tear down trees before plans are introduced."

"It is changing the fundamental aspect of the neighborhoods, house by house by house," he said.

"They know how to play the game," said Ende. "You don't see it because you do it right."

"Some do really good work," said Foust. "But there are those out there, my office sees, that should have done more to preserve tree canopy."

"We are concerned with unnecessary loss of trees," said Wallace Sansone, of Franklin Park.

"Is there anything that you, the building industry, can do to police this process?" asked Bob Vickers, Dranesville Tree Commissioner, who moderated the panel discussion.

**THE TIME** promised Ende, Sansone, and Margaret Malone, of Turkey Run Road, to ask planned questions was topped off prematurely.

But developers Genuario Jr. and Ruff offered an olive branch that gave hope.

They told Ende to call them if he witnesses a developer violating county code.

"If there is a builder disregarding the tree ordinance, then we want to know," said Ruff.

If the developers are members of the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association, Genuario said they would want to talk with them.

If they aren't, Genuario said, they could talk with the arborists and get feedback back to Ende.

"Concern about trees ties you with people from the past that agreed with you," said McLean historian Paul Kohlenberger, who gave a glimpse of McLean Citizens Association's history advocating for trees.

Organizers say the discussion last week was the only the beginning of collaborations between the county, citizens and developers.

"Trees rely on us. They need a community of caretakers and advocates, and that's what we are," said Joyce Harris, of the McLean Trees Foundation.



# PEOPLE

**Bensten Schone of McLean and his mother and father, Heather and Lance.**

PHOTOS BY  
LEIGH VOGEL/  
GETTY IMAGES



## McLean's Bensten Schone Receives Victory Award from MedStar

BY EMILY TURK  
SPECIAL TO MCLEAN CONNECTION

A little more than a year ago a devastating sledding accident put McLean native Bensten Schone in a coma—the result of a serious traumatic brain injury. On April 20, the 7-year-old proudly walked on stage with his parents, Heather and Lance, at MedStar National Rehabilitation Network's 30th Anniversary Gala to accept a Victory Award.

During the past three decades, MedStar National Rehabilitation Network has celebrated the "Victory of the Human Spirit" by recognizing individuals who have met and overcome serious challenges.

Bensten, a huge Washington Capitals fan, was nicknamed "B-Man" by the hockey team, who rallied behind him throughout his recovery. "Everyone—friends, family,

SEE SCHONE, PAGE 5

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## Schone

FROM PAGE 4

neighbors—helped us through this journey,” Heather says.

“Initially, it was a difficult vigil waiting to see if he would wake from the coma. But once he came to MedStar National Rehabilitation Hospital (MedStar NRH) it was as if we all turned a page,” she adds. “Then it was about teaching him to swallow again, sit up, and speak. And throughout it all, everyone at MedStar NRH encouraged us and Bensten. Most important, it is such a family-oriented environment—and that is so important to recovery. Some days there were eight or more of us in Bensten’s room—and that was just fine.”

For Bensten the best thing about rehabilitation was that it was fun. “My doctor asked me about what I like and what I needed to learn and put them together,” says Bensten, who also did some of his rehabilitation as an outpatient at MedStar National Rehabilitation Network’s McLean location (6858 Old Dominion Drive, Suite 200, McLean).

Last April, Bensten returned to McLean Little League to throw out the first pitch—into the hands of Nationals outfielder Jayson Werth. It’s a moment this little sports enthusiast isn’t likely to forget—nor is the powerful lesson this special young man learned during a very difficult time in his young life. “I learned that if I try real hard I can do anything. And that will help me for my whole life,” the “B-Man” says.

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## More Voters Might Not Mean Much More Voting

### Governor's action brings Virginia in line with 39 other states.

Last week, Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) restored the voting and civil rights of more than 200,000 Virginians who were convicted of felonies, served their time and completed any supervised release, parole or probation requirements.

This moves Virginia into the mainstream; only 10 states have more restrictive policies about voting for people who have been convicted of felonies. Previously, Virginia had been one of the most restrictive states in terms of restoring voting rights. Fourteen states automatically restore voting rights once the individual's term of incarceration is over, and two states allow absentee voting from prison.

While some claim partisan motivation, with most of those affected presumed to be Democrats, getting these men and women registered to vote and to the polls is unlikely to result in 100,000 new voters in November. Studies show that people who were previously convicted of felonies who are eligible to vote register and

vote at lower levels than the general population, according to the New York Times <http://nyti.ms/26kNrS2>, with a registration rate of around 30 percent and about 20 percent actually voting, although some suggest voting rates of between 10-15 percent. If, as the studies suggest, 55 percent of those would vote Democratic, then likely new Democratic voters would be around 22,000.

While that's a lot less than 200,000, it's also more than the margin of victory in quite a few statewide races. Consider that Attorney General Mark Herring (D) won his race by about 900 votes out of more than 2 million cast. These new voters could have an impact on statewide races.

Districts for members of Virginia's General Assembly are so gerrymandered, it's hard to imagine that the impact of these new voters will be huge in terms of local representation.

In a Democracy, it's better when more people vote.

McAuliffe said: "If we are going to build a stronger and more equal Virginia, we must break down barriers to participation in civic life for people who return to society seeking a second chance. We must welcome them back and offer the opportunity to build a better life by taking an active role in our democracy."

Again, this action brings Virginia into line with 39 other states, with more than 20 states

having less restrictive policies. For example, on Feb. 9, 2016, the Maryland General Assembly overrode the Governor's veto and restored the vote to all convicted felons immediately upon their release from prison. Previously, people convicted felonies in Maryland had to complete all parole and probation before they were able to vote. In Virginia, such individuals have to complete their term of incarceration and their term of probation or parole before voting rights are restored.

— MARY KIMM

### Send in Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 8 this year and every year at this time this newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, ages of children, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your contact information, just names and town of residence.) You can upload photos and information directly to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/) or email to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com).

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Firearms at the Convention?

To the Editor:

A Change.org Petition caught national attention recently because it sought to openly carry firearms at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The argument went like this..." Ohio is an open carry state... and all three remaining Republican candidates have spoken out on the issue and are unified in their opposition to 'gun free zones'". The petition garnered so much press that the Secret Service had to weigh in and infuse some common sense. Is this the new Republican Platform - to eliminate "gun free zones" including our schools and allow guns everywhere? Will Republicans elected at the local level adopt these more extreme positions fueled by Trump and Cruz to fire up the base or will they reflect more moderate views of their constituency? What will Rep. Comstock do? It's hard to get straight answers making us rely on her past votes and positions. When it comes to guns, the position she took in March 2015 gives us a glimpse.

Early last year the Federal Government through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) proposed a ban on armor-piercing bullets to protect law en-

forcement. House lawmakers wrote a letter directing the ATF to abandon the proposal. Although more moderate Republicans stayed off of the letter, Rep. Comstock signed on. ATF surrendered and armor-piercing bullets remain on the market today. If keeping armor-piercing bullets on the market is among Rep. Comstock's priorities it appears she just may be aligned with the Trump and Cruz ideology.

**Michelle Sandler**  
McLean

### Call to Protect Grizzly Bears

To the Editor:

Recently, several bears have been sighted in the Vienna/Oakton area. In Virginia we're fortunate to share our wild back yards with our wild neighbors. However, some states may not be as lucky, if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has their way.

The USFWS is making decisions for wildlife management that don't bode well for the recovery of the species they're supposed to be protecting.

Their recent proposal to delist Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) grizzly bears from the Endangered Species Act is premature

and threatens the very existence of this population. Their numbers are far too low, only around 700, and don't represent a healthy, recovered population that is large enough to be stable and to withstand trophy hunting.

If we lose grizzly bears in the Yellowstone area, we risk losing part of what makes the region so incredible. GYE grizzlies are the most famous in the world and draw in millions of tourists looking to spot the large, rare species. Not to mention the significant impact those tourist dollars have on the local communities and businesses.

The public has 60 days to provide comments to USFWS on this proposed plan to delist Yellowstone area grizzly bears. I plan to submit comments opposing this plan and encourage others to the same.

**Cynthia Longo**  
Vienna

### Selfishness, Not Altruism, Behind Tax Increases

To the Editor:

The Board of Supervisors and School Board should give the approximately 12,000 classroom teachers salary increases, but give

no raises to other school and county employees. They should hold real estate taxes constant to spare the moderately poor, who are the most hurt by real-estate tax increases, many fleeing the county when taxes are raised and others becoming welfare dependent. Politicians gain by raising taxes so they can pay their employees more, employees who will dutifully reelect them. Politicians gain also by making more people dependent on government, people who will reelect them so welfare continues. Selfishness, not altruism, makes them raise taxes. Eventually, they will suffer the consequences of selfishness.

**Fred Costello**  
Herndon

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
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By e-mail:  
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### LEWINSVILLE ROAD PROPOSED THROUGH TRUCK RESTRICTION

Notice is hereby given that the Virginia Department of Transportation is accepting written and telephone comments through May 31, 2016 regarding the proposed restriction of through truck traffic on two sections of Lewinsville Road (Route 694).

Western Section: From Leesburg Pike (Route 7) to Spring Hill Road (Route 684). The proposed alternate route for trucks is via Leesburg Pike (Route 7) to Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) to Spring Hill Road.

Eastern Section: From Spring Hill Road to Dolley Madison Boulevard (Route 123). The proposed alternate route is via Spring Hill Road to Dulles Toll Road to Dolley Madison Boulevard.

**Submit your written comments by May 31, 2016** to Mr. Thomas K. Folse, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax VA 22030, or email [meeting\\_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Lewinsville Road Proposed Through Truck Restriction" in the subject line.

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PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**Ready to support the cause. From left — Our Military Kids volunteer Anne Callender, with Emily, Michael, and Claire. Military dad Michael, said “No rank for me tonight. I’m just here to support Anne and this great cause.” The Callenders reside in McLean, where nonprofit Our Military Kids is headquartered.**



**With both mom and dad in the military, the Mullen gang know how to line up and look sharp. Currently stationed at Quantico are Shannen, Nora, Kelly and Maven. Mom Jess just returned from a 6-month deployment in Kuwait, to the delight of all in the Mullen regiment.**

# They Serve, Too – Gala Benefits Children of Military Personnel

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

When a military parent is deployed, things change for the family left to wait. Sometimes it’s financial, especially for the families of National Guard and Reserve service members. For those families, there is often a loss of income when that mom or dad moves from their civilian job to their military role. To complicate matters, the families of Guard and Reserve personnel usually don’t have access to the same benefits and resources that are available on most military installations. These families aren’t “stationed” in some central location where help may be at hand. Instead, they live all around the country and may have limited, or no access to those support services.

Then there is the emotional toll on the ones left behind, particularly the children, who don’t have the distractions or the maturity that the “single” parent uses to cope. Anxiety, the change in routine, a possible tightening of the family’s financial belt all can have a real negative effect on the child who waits.

**OUR MILITARY KIDS** recognizes that those children sacrifice, just like every military child, and they do what they can to fill the gaps in support services and ease the burdens by awarding simple grants that pay for children’s activities and educational assistance.

The nonprofit, headquartered in McLean, was founded in 2004 and started small, helping one single



**Zuzanna Fernandez, 16, of Woodbridge, honed these blazingly fast rope jumping skills via a grant from Our Military Kids – and impressed the Gala attendees with them.**

National Guard unit in Winchester, Va. It wasn’t long before they were receiving requests from all around the state, from Maryland and from the District. By 2006 they started serving the children of Guards and Reservists from around the nation, and then expanded again to include the dependents of Wounded Warriors and the Fallen, as well.

On April 20, the organization held its inaugural Gala Benefit at the Army Navy Country Club in Arlington. “It’s fitting that we hold this event during the ‘Month of the Military Child,’” said co-founder Linda Davidson. Davidson explained that Our Military Kids is transitioning from a public-private group to one fully funded by the private sector. “We have never turned down a child, yet,” she declared, “and we don’t want to start



**Brian Steorts, left, owner of Flags of Valor, provided the wooden American flag that Gen. Peter Pace, USMC (Ret.) won in the Live Auction. Pace and his wife Lynn were honored at the Gala for their military service and their continuing dedication to military families.**

now. We need to get more people involved to help these kids.” The colorful “thank you” notes that decorated the tables in the banquet room helped put the attendees in touch with the children being served.

The evening’s entertainment included performances by children who had received Our Military Kids grants and used them to develop skills and talents. Zuzanna Fernandez, a 16-year-old from Woodbridge wowed the crowd with her championship jump-roping prowess. Matthew Mund, whose father, Gunnery Sgt. William Mund was left wheelchair-bound by a relapse from an allergic reaction to an anthrax vaccine during his 20-year military service, showcased his blossoming country western singing talents. The senior Mund told the audience how assistance to family members greatly relieves stress and improves morale

among those who serve.

**FUNDS** were raised by the silent auction of art works by grant recipients and by the spirited live auction of a handmade, antiques wooden American flag, donated by Flags of Valor, a company owned and operated by combat veterans, many of whom are significantly service disabled. Gen. Peter Pace, USMC (Ret.) and his wife Lynne, who were honored at the Gala for their “service to our nation and commitment to the wellbeing of military families,” won the auction, with a sudden offer five times the amount of the last bid.

“With a staff of only five people, you know that your support is going right to work,” said Katherine Spinney, executive deputy director. To request assistance or to find out how to donate or help, contact Our Military Kids at [www.ourmilitarykids.org](http://www.ourmilitarykids.org).

## Culinary Cultures Explored

**Profile: Bertrand Chemel, executive chef, 2941 and Pizzeria Orso in Falls Church.**

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY  
THE CONNECTION

Whether you crave a whole Neapolitan pizza from Pizzeria Orso or an upscale dish with house-made fresh potato gnocchi from 2941, you must thank the mastermind—and master chef—behind these very diverse Falls Church restaurants. That would be executive chef Bertrand Chemel, a native of the Auvergne region of France and now a resident of Tysons Corner. His culinary odyssey from one culture to another is the stuff of any cook’s dream.

“I started cooking at the age of 16,” he said, “so when I was 14 I took a summer job working in a local restaurant. I wanted the job so I could buy a motorcycle.” His grandmother lived across the street from a bakery and helped him get hired to wash the floors and do the dishes. He returned again the following summer because he realized he loved the food industry.

After several years of an externship and one year in service to the army, Chemel got a lucky break, a job in Megève, France, the gourmet capital of the Alps, at the chef’s fine-dining institution Restaurant Michel Gaudin. “I worked there for 4 years,” he said, “There were just the two of us, and we did it all. From September to May, we worked 7 days a week.”

But thanks to his boss he got to spend time at Geneva’s elegant Hotel du Rhône, where Gaudin sent all of his great chefs for training. Gaudin then sent him to a two-star restaurant in

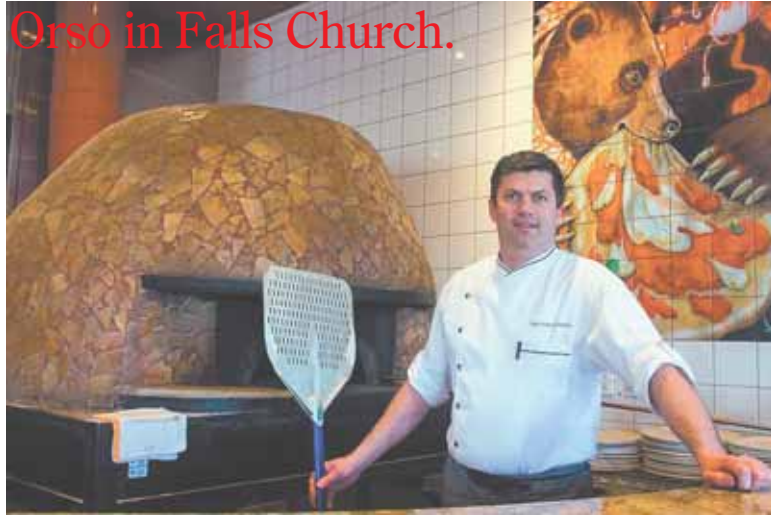


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Bertrand Chemel, a native of the Auvergne region of France, is now a resident of Tysons Corner.**

Southern France, when Chemel spent two more years before going to work at the Savoy Hotel and at the Connaught in London. With such excellent training, Chemel was ready for his next big step: a move to New York City to work for Daniel Boulud. “I told my parents I was going to New York,” he said. “My father laughed and my mother was scared.”

In Manhattan, not only did Chemel cook at Daniel restaurant and its sister, Café Boulud, he also worked for a fellow Frenchman from his hometown, Laurent Tourondel, at his now closed Cello restaurant. All that exposure to classic French cooking techniques shaped his culinary perspective, and when offered the chef’s job at 2941, he became the perfect fit.

Besides, he said, he and his family love living in Northern Virginia. “I was amazed by Virginia and its schools, beauty, and restaurants,” he said. “For me, it was like being back home with its rivers, former farming communities. My wife and I felt the same.”

Now overseeing 2941’s kitchen since 2008 and more recently, that

of Pizzeria Orso, Chemel has worked hard to reshape both menus. He has transformed the former very pricy luxury 2941 restaurant into an upscale casual destination that fits the local economy. Obviously, the lakeside setting is the same, and Chemel always chooses the best local and seasonal ingredients.

“We went from high-end expensive ingredients,” he said. “We still use great ingredients but the cooking is now more about the creativity of the dish....We use as much local as possible, but for me local means from Pennsylvania to Georgia, the East Coast local.”

He added that his meats are free of antibiotics because he has researched where the animals are raised and what the farmers feed them. “We must know where the product is from...it is always quality ingredients.” And he has followed that rule with the restructured Pizzeria Orso menu.

In the end, Chemel feels that he and the staff have achieved the optimal course at 2941. “It took us 6 months to one year to find the right balance,” he said. “Now we

## Executive Chef Bertrand Chemel Spicy Tomato Jam

*Yields about 6 cups*

Chef Chemel notes that this recipe goes very well with grilled or fried fish or a chilled crab salad.

5 pounds plum tomatoes  
2 pounds cherry tomatoes  
5 tablespoons olive oil  
3 ounces basil with stems  
1/4 ounce lemon thyme  
2 1/2 cups sugar  
1 1/2 teaspoons chili di arbol (dried pimento), crushed  
3 tablespoons sherry vinegar

Wash all of the tomatoes. Remove the stems, and score the bottom of each plum tomato—cut a shallow X. Bring one gallon water to a boil, plunge the plum tomatoes into the boiling water for about 30 seconds. Remove the tomatoes, and place them into an ice bath. With a paring knife, remove the skin, and cut the tomatoes in half, squeeze the juice and seeds out, and discard. Cut the cherry tomatoes in half. Tie the basil and lemon thyme together, and set aside.

In a deep sauce pan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the plum tomatoes (seeded and skinned), cherry tomatoes, basil and lemon thyme tied together, sugar and pimento di Arbol. Cook for 8 minutes.

Drain off all of the cooking liquid from the tomatoes, and reduce the liquid to a syrup in a separate saucepan. Place the tomatoes back into the saucepan and cook them slowly at low heat until the tomatoes start to dry out (about 6 to 10 minutes). Add the tomato syrup to the tomatoes and cook over low heat for another 10 minutes. Remove the basil and lemon thyme, add the sherry vinegar, and allow the tomatoes to cool down to room temperature.

have the right balance. We are doing a lot of things to get everybody excited.”

♦ **2941**, Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church . 703-270-1500. Hours: Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., 5 to 9 p.m., Happy Hour, 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 5:30 to 10 p.m.

♦ **Pizzeria Orso**, 400 S. Maple Ave., Falls Church, VA. 703-226-3460. Hours: Lunch and dinner, Tuesday-Sunday.

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**Virginia Department of Transportation**

**Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Project**  
**Eastbound Widening**  
**Arlington County, City of Falls Church and Fairfax County**

**Public Information Meetings**

**Monday, May 9, 2016**  
Washington-Lee High School Cafeteria  
1301 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22201

**Wednesday, May 11, 2016**  
Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School Cafeteria  
7130 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043

**Meeting Time: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**  
**Presentation: 7 p.m.**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will host public information meetings for the proposed eastbound widening as part of the Transform 66 Inside the Beltway Project. On February 10, 2016, Governor Terry McAuliffe and members from both parties and chambers of the Virginia General Assembly announced a bipartisan agreement to move forward on a plan to reduce congestion on I-66 inside the Beltway by widening a four-mile stretch from the Dulles Connector Road to Ballston. This proposal is intended to address an east-bound chokepoint where traffic merges onto I-66 from the Dulles Connector Road. The meetings will provide information about the Environmental Assessment (EA) that VDOT is preparing for the widening to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). To inform the EA, VDOT is conducting environmental analyses and coordinating with regulatory agencies to obtain information about environmental resources in the vicinity of the project.

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

**Review** project information and project schedule at [www.Transform66.org](http://www.Transform66.org) and at the public information meetings.

**Give your written or oral comments** at the meetings or submit them to Amanda Baxter, Project Manager, at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. You may also e-mail comments at any time to [Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov). Please reference “Transform 66 Inside the Beltway” in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT’s Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-417, P101, R201, C501 UPC: 108424



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**From left: Lessing Stern (representing Edgar Stern, deceased), Genia Fuller, Harry Kaiser, Chris Klug, Bob Salerno, Jim Martinson and David Ingemie**



# COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION

**Come out on Sundays and listen to some live music at the Great Falls Village Green, Sundays, 6-8 p.m., June 5-Sept 4.**



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

**Lewinsville Park transforms into a huge community playground during the McLean Day celebrations. This year McLean Day is on Saturday, May 21 at Lewinsville Park.**

## Spring Fun Abounds in Area

### ONGOING

**Concerts on the Green.** Sundays in June, July, August. Great Falls Village Centre Green. A Great Falls summer tradition. Check the website for updated information on performers. <http://www.greatfallsvillagecentre.com/events/>.

**Summer on the Green Concert Series.** 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. A series of free performances presented by the Town of Vienna and its sponsors. Please bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. They recommend leaving pets at home. 703-255-7842. [viennava.gov](http://viennava.gov).

### FRIDAY/APRIL 29

**Tree Planting.** 4:30 p.m. Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St., NE, Vienna. Join the town in celebrating the newest tree in Vienna in honor of Arbor Day. 703-255-6300.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 30

**Taste of Vienna.** 11 a.m.-8 p.m. 400 Center St., South, Vienna. Showcases the many restaurants of Vienna. Rain or shine. Admission is free. [tasteofvienna.org](http://tasteofvienna.org).

### SUNDAY/MAY 1

**Sunrise Garden Opening.** 6-10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Photographers, birders, strollers, and anyone

who enjoys a peaceful morning walk are invited to visit during special hours. \$2.50-\$5. [Novaparks.com](http://Novaparks.com).

**NDWC Spring Fling Fashion Show.** Noon. Flemings Restaurant, 1960-A Chain Bridge Road, McLean. New Dominion Women's Club event features fashions from Bloomingdale's. Tickets at [www.ndwc.org](http://www.ndwc.org).

### SATURDAY/MAY 21

**McLean Day.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Enjoy live entertainment, great food, a petting zoo, exhibitor booths, balloon animals, games, tennis clinic, a magician, parking at free shuttle sites and more. Large and small carnival rides—tickets sold on-site. Free. [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org).

### SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 28-30

**ViVa! Vienna!** Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. 245 Maple Ave., W, Vienna. Family and community oriented celebration of Memorial Day and the greater Vienna Community spirit. <http://vivavienna.org/>.

### SUNDAY/JUNE 5

**Israel Fest.** Noon-4 p.m. Lerner Town Square at Tysons II, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons. Engaging events and interactive activities will run throughout the day. Celebrate Israel and her people. Free. [jccnv.org](http://jccnv.org).



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**Summer on the Green Concerts at the Town Green of Vienna begin May 20. There will be performances on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday nights from May to August.**

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## Saint Ann Catholic Church

### SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 AM  
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy

### DAILY EUCHARIST:

Weekdays  
Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM  
Saturday, 8:30 AM

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**PARISH WEBSITE:**  
[www.stannchurch.org](http://www.stannchurch.org)



**To highlight your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-778-9422**



# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**"Proof."** March 31-May 8. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Pulitzer Prize-winning play. \$30/\$26/\$15. 1ststagetysons.org. 703-854-1856.

**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. [viennaartsociety.org](http://viennaartsociety.org). 703-319-3971.

**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>.

**Weekly Storytime.** Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

**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](http://FreeTaiChi.org). 703-759-9141.

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/ APRIL 28-30

**"Loserville."** 7:30 p.m. George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. It's the 1970's.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NOVA PARKS

## See the sunrise and enjoy a peaceful walk at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens on Sunday, May 1.

Misfit computer geek Michael Dork and his friends are about to change the world. It's just that no one knows it yet! \$15/\$10. [Statesmentheatre.org](http://Statesmentheatre.org). 703-714-5450.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 30

**"Jazz Masters with John Eaton: The Music of Hoagy Carmichael."** McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Jazz pianist, musicologist and humorist, John Eaton brings his popular continuing education program. \$12/\$5. [mcleancenter.org.family5kandfunrun.com](http://mcleancenter.org.family5kandfunrun.com).

**Bike Collection.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Chesterbrook Elementary, 1753 Kirby Road, McLean. The class is partnering with Bikes for the World to collect all size bikes to refurbish to donate to the needy in third world countries and here in the US. \$10 donation. [htanpaa6@gmail.com](mailto:htanpaa6@gmail.com)

**Gospel Concert.** 3 p.m. Historic Pleasant Grove, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. This free community event features Voices of Worship community choir singing traditional gospel music and uplifting spirituals in a quaint 1895 church setting, now an historic site. For information, see [www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org](http://www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org).

## SUNDAY/MAY 1

**Audubon Bird Walk.** 7:30-9:30 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join leader Ray Smith from the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. \$2.50-\$5. [novaparks.com](http://novaparks.com).  
**NDWC Spring Fling Fashion Show.** Noon. Flemings Restaurant, 1960-A Chain Bridge Road, McLean. New Dominion Women's Club event features fashions from

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



**Invites  
You  
to**

## "Meet the Candidates" in the 2016 McLean Community Center Governing Board elections.

**When:**  
Sunday, May 1, 2-4 p.m.

**Where:**  
Community Hall  
McLean Community Center  
1234 Ingleside Avenue,  
McLean, VA 22101

**Who:**  
Nine adult candidates, three  
teens from the McLean High  
School boundary area, and  
four teens from the Langley  
High School boundary area.

**Format:**  
Informal Reception

Nine adults are vying for adult votes to fill three seats on the Governing Board. Three teens from the McLean High School boundary area and four teens from the Langley High School boundary area are vying for teen votes to fill one board seat from each high school boundary area.

Refreshments will be served.

For planning purposes, please let us know if you will attend by e-mailing [paulkohlenberger@mcleancenter.org](mailto:paulkohlenberger@mcleancenter.org)

**See you there!**



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



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

### Vote by Absentee Ballot through May 18 at either:

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

OR

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

### Requesting Absentee Ballots:

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

### Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:

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

### Absentee voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18.

Hand-delivered applications and ballots must be received at either MCC or OFTC by that time. Absentee applications and ballots returned by mail must be received at MCC on May 18.

### If you have questions:

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



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

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# SPORTS

## Madison Baseball Extends Win Streak to Nine

The Madison baseball team extended its win streak to nine games with a 16-5 victory over Fairfax on April 21.

The Warhawks improved to 14-2 overall, 10-0 in Conference 6 and remained unbeaten since returning from a spring break tournament in Florida.

Madison faced Washington-Lee on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Warhawks have regular season games remaining against South Lakes (Friday), Langley (May 3) and McLean (May 6) before competing in the conference tournament, which is scheduled to begin May 12.

## McLean Softball Wins Fourth Straight

The McLean softball team defeated South Lakes 5-0 on April 21, giving the Highlanders four straight wins. McLean's win streak included a 1-0 victory over private school Bishop O'Connell on April 16.

With the win over South Lakes, McLean improved to 13-3 overall and 7-3 in Conference 13.

The Highlanders faced Langley on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. McLean will host Yorktown at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

## Marshall Boys' Lax Improves to 9-1

The Marshall boys' lacrosse team defeated Wakefield 17-2 on April 19, improving its record to 9-1, including 4-0 in Conference 13.

The Statesmen suffered their first loss of the season on April 2 — a 7-6 defeat against Langley. In the three games since, Marshall outscored Falls Church, Mount Vernon and Wakefield by a combined 54-9.

The Statesmen faced Stuart on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Marshall will travel to face Potomac Falls at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3 before closing the regular season on the road against Lee on May 9.

## Marshall Baseball Blanks Falls Church

The Marshall baseball team improved to 12-1 overall and 8-0 in Conference 13 with a 4-0 win over Falls Church on April 21.

The Statesmen win streak extended to nine games.

Marshall faced Stuart on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Statesmen will travel to face Edison at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

## Marshall Girls' Lax a Scoring Machine

The Marshall girls' lacrosse team defeated Wakefield 22-0 on April 19, improving its record to 9-2.

Through 11 games, the Statesmen averaged just under 20 goals per game. Marshall has outscored its opponents 218-37 and scored at least 20 goals in eight of 11 contests.

Marshall faced Stuart on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Statesmen will host Potomac Falls at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION  
**Carlo Alfano, seen earlier this season, and the Madison baseball team improved to 14-2 with a win over Fairfax on April 21.**

## Oakton Boys' Soccer Remains Undefeated

The Oakton boys' soccer team shut out Briar Woods 3-0 on April 20 to improve to 8-0-1.

The Cougars will wrap up Conference 5 play with a home match against Westfield Thursday, April 28, at 7:15 p.m.

## South Lakes Baseball Snaps 5-Game Skid

The South Lakes baseball team defeated Fairfax 1-0 on April 19, ending a five-game losing streak that started when the Seahawks were no-hit by Herndon on April 2.

The win improved South Lakes' record to 8-7 overall and 3-6 in Conference 6.

The Seahawks faced Yorktown on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. South Lakes will host Madison at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 29.

## South Lakes Boys' Lax Improves to 6-1

The South Lakes boys' lacrosse team improved to 6-1 and extended its win streak to five games with a 16-1 road win over West Potomac on April 19.

After dropping to 1-1 with a loss to Stone Bridge on March 31, the Seahawks defeated Yorktown, Madison, McLean and Langley before thumping the Wolverines.

South Lakes faced Hayfield on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Seahawks will host rival Herndon at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27.

## Herndon Girls' Lax Earns First Wins

After dropping six straight to start the season, the Herndon girls' lacrosse team earned back-to-back wins against Chantilly and Falls Church.

The Hornets captured their first win by beating Conference 5 foe Chantilly 14-13 at home on April 19. Two days later, Herndon beat Falls Church 22-4.

The Hornets faced Robinson on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Herndon will host Broad Run at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 28.

MCLEAN CONNECTION SPORTS EDITOR JON ROETMAN  
703-752-4031 OR JROETMAN@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Langley goalkeeper Megan O'Hara and the Langley girls' lacrosse program started 12-0 this season.**

## Team as a Family

### Goalie O'Hara helps Langley girls' lax start 12-0.

**T**he Langley girls' lacrosse team seems to be best known as a prolific goal-scoring group. At 12-0, the team has won 11 games by a margin of at least five goals, and seven of their wins came by double digits. What is not being discussed as much is the how the differential is being held on the defensive side.

Junior goalie Megan O'Hara has quietly been leading a defensive unit that has only allowed 75 goals in 12 games. Senior Mackenzie Regen, junior Allie Leto, sophomore Lilly Byrne and freshman Charlotte Smith anchor a ferocious defensive line. Lauren Bell, Samantha Lee, Marina Carlucci and Stephanie Long round out the strong group.

O'Hara began playing in the first grade for Great Falls Lacrosse coach Michelle Buller.

"I started out playing for Great Falls Lacrosse because my older cousins played and I was sick of soccer," O'Hara said. "Coach Buller gave me an old stick bag after a practice and I was hooked."

O'Hara credits the coaching staff with creating a team-first mentality.

"Coach Maggie (Kovacs) and Annie (Swanson) have brought

so much to the team this year, well beyond their lacrosse experience," she said. "They are creative, keeping the practices challenging but also fun and they build confidence in all the players. Coach Bucky (Morris) has personally been a huge help to me. He does goalie specific drills with me and just brings such a great spirit to the team."

Her greatest memory in her three starting varsity years at Langley occurred just this year

**"It's moments like that that I play for, when we aren't 25 different girls but a single family."**

**—Langley goalkeeper Megan O'Hara**

during the Fairfax game on April 19.

"We won [20-2] and even though it was not particularly close, it was the closest I've come to a shutout," O'Hara said. "After the final horn, the team stormed the field and tackled me in a huge group hug that practically brought me to the ground. They

were all screaming and yelling about how well we all played as a team. It's moments like that that I play for, when we aren't 25 different girls but a single family."

In her spare time, O'Hara loves to bake — especially rhubarb pie. The next time she makes her favorite pie, she says she'll be making at least two, so she can share the good food with the best family she knows: her team.



## ENTERTAINMENT



**A mother-daughter team will be featured when Peggy Fox hits the runway with her daughter Leah Horan of McLean High School.**

**Community leaders enjoyed participating last year for New Dominion's Fashion Show.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Fashion Show to Support Local Charities

### McLean community leaders as models.

**T**he New Dominion Women's Club (NDWC) has announced that "The 7th Annual Spring Fling Fashion Show, Luncheon and Raffle" will be held on Sunday, May 1, at noon to support local charities. This year's fun-filled event will feature the latest fashions from Bloomingdale's. For the first time, there will be both male and female community leaders who will model. It will be held at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse in Tysons Corner. The NDWC is accepting support through sponsorships, donations, raffle items, and ticket sales. To purchase tickets and find out more information, visit [www.ndwc.org](http://www.ndwc.org).

The beneficiaries are at the heart of the event. This year the NDWC will donate proceeds to SHARE, McLean/Falls Church Children's Center, McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) and Safe Community Coalition.

Community leaders serving as models include: State Sen. Barbara Favola; Del. Marcus Simon; Peggy Fox, Reporter and Anchor at WUSA9; Marcia Twomey, Executive Director of the Medical Care Children's Partnership Foundation; George Sachs, Executive Director, McLean Community Center; Christina Girardi, Director, Educational Programs at McLean Project for the Arts (MPA); Bill DuBose, Managing Director, District Financial Advisors; and Derrick Swaak, COO/Partner, TTR Sotherby's International Realty. Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) will make opening remarks.

Alina LeMay, President of the NDWC said, "Our fashion show is our trademark fundraising event each year. Bloomingdale's will dazzle you and you will love seeing the latest styles. And, you'll be able to

show your support for charity while having a great time."

Marcia Twomey said, "I am thrilled to have the opportunity to model again this year. The event last year was a huge success and this year will be even better."

The fashion show committee includes: Alina LeMay, Carol Brunner, Elizabeth Bertholon, Anne Deger, Kitty Gonzalez, Jennifer Salopek, Ignacia Moreno, Mary Ann Miller, Joan Murray and Desi Woltman. Flowers are graciously donated by NDWC member Sherri Heile.

The NDWC is a civic organization, based in McLean, committed to promoting, encouraging, supporting and cultivating the civic, cultural, educational and/or environmental welfare of the community through volunteer service and/or financial contributions while providing an opportunity for fellowship among women. Members are asked to donate their time and talents whenever possible to volunteer opportunities. NDWC coordinates the Children's ArtWalk featuring artwork at MPA's festival. It showcases art from elementary age children from schools in McLean on the first Sunday in October. Members participate in Adopt-a-Highway on Westmoreland Street on McLean, and Reading is Fundamental at Falls Church/ McLean Children's Center. Members also donate time and financial support to help with the holiday party and backpack program and food pantry at SHARE, Inc. Among other things, over the past years, the NDWC has held a Spring Fashion Show, whiskey tasting evening and Arts Night Out Gallery Silent Auction at MPA. Members are also encouraged to join in other activities and social events, such as our monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month, coffee mornings, and more.

Flemings Prime Steakhouse is located at 1960-A Chain Bridge Rd, McLean. Parking is available on-site at the Courtyard Marriott.



PHOTO BY IRISH EYES PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY/ COURTESY OF MCLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

## Zingers and Slammed Doors Galore

### McLean Community Players present "Unnecessary Farce."

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

### Where and When

**A** happily buoyant McLean Community Players (MCP) cast and crew described what audiences can expect at the uproarious production of the award-winning "Unnecessary Farce." Written by Broadway actor Paul Slade Smith, "Unnecessary Farce" combines farce with a contemporary American plot full of incompetence, comic characters, mistaken identities, wrong assumptions and plenty slamming doors.

Add in there plenty of edible donuts and strategically seen funny underwear very visible on the Alden Theatre stage.

Veteran director Jessie Roberts described "Unnecessary Farce" as "an eight door farce. A barometer for how crazy a farce is should be based on the number of doors in the set. An eight door farce is about as crazy as you can get." She described the MCP cast as "stellar and ready" with the technical artisans as "an imaginative cadre of designer and crew."

"Unnecessary Farce" takes place in a bargain budget motel. A mayor is suspected of embezzling public funds. He is supposed to meet with his accountant to discuss next steps in the caper. But, two undercover cops have been tipped off and are in the room next store. They are supposed to record the meeting on video tape; then bring the culprits their comeuppance. Well, that is the expectation until everything goes very astray.

Things don't quite work, as there is oodles of chaos and confusion. The proceedings

McLean Community Players present "Unnecessary Farce" at McLean Community Center/Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Performances April 29-May 14. Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$18 (seniors & students), \$20 (adult).

Call OvationTix 1-866-811-411 or visit [www.mcleanplayers.org](http://www.mcleanplayers.org).

Note: Adult language; suitable for ages 15 and up. Audio description services offered at the matinee performance on May 8. American Sign Language interpretation will be offered at the evening performance on May 14.

take on a frantic pace centered upon the two cops, at least three crooks and eight doors. Listening to the production's cast and crew it was clear they wanted to treat Alden audiences to a frantic muddle of who's in which room, who's watching the video, and who really took money. Oh, add in a hit man, and loud noises from crashing doors and other sound effects.

Featured in a many previous MCP productions, Bob Sams plays Mayor Meekly in "Unnecessary Farce." He called the play "a dynamite, funny play with plenty of laughs and great pacing." It's entertainment to just "sit back and enjoy." Brendan Chaney, playing a Scottish hitman, described the show as "a farce and proud of it. It has plenty of energy and silliness." Making her MCP debut, Brianna Goode is the Mayor's accountant who will seem "rather not totally in control of herself. Also even the costumes are funny with a purpose."

Director Jessie Roberts wanted audiences to know: "Unnecessary Farce" is a joy. We can always use a good farce."

### CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Bloomingdale's. Tickets at [www.ndwc.org](http://www.ndwc.org).

#### TUESDAY/MAY 3

**Small Standard Flower Show.** 1-2:30 p.m. Vinson Hall Retirement Community, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Presented by The Gardeners of the Junior League of Washington. Free. 703-970-3712. [fredj@vinsonhall.org](mailto:fredj@vinsonhall.org).

#### SATURDAY/MAY 7

**Document Shredding.** 9 a.m.-noon. Long and Foster, 1355 Beverly Road, McLean. Free, secure paper shredding for the community. Here's your opportunity to clear your home or office of paper clutter! Spring clean your office and shred outdated documents. 703-903-8643.

**Yard Sale/Flea Market.** 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

To reserve a space to sell or for more information call 703-582-1640.

**Social Justice Yard Sale.** 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Proceeds from the sale will be shared with the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV), The National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mosaic Harmony and Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Circle. 703-281-0538.



# Weight For It, Wait...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"MRI looked good. CT stable. Smiley face." Words and personality from my oncologist with which I can most definitely live. And arriving via e-mail, six days prior no less, to my next regularly scheduled, post-scan appointment – when typically such results are discussed, in person, per the doctor's preference. But I can take good news electronically, especially before the weekend, when further communication is not likely. So the sound you may have heard at six pm-ish last Friday was me exhaling, and the follow-up thud was the weight of the world falling off my shoulders and hitting the floor. Not shattering, unfortunately, only repositioning until a few months hence when once again it will return to its figurative perch as I await the results of my next quarterly scan.

Such is life, and I'm happy to live it. Moreover, given my original prognosis from February, 2009: "13 months to two years," there's very little that I deem complaint-worthy SEVEN YEARS LATER. Nevertheless, there are realities that cancer patients and/or other patients similarly characterized as "terminal," as I was, must endure. And given my projected life expectancy then, I am "pleased as punch" now – to invoke a long-ago Vice President/Democratic nominee for President, Hubert H. Humphrey – to be enduring anything.

And "endure" isn't really the right word, but it's most assuredly in the running. Still, if I don't find a way to lighten the emotional load (other than receiving amazingly good scan results and equally positive e-mails from my oncologist, all of which is not exactly in my control), I will likely crack under the weight of it. I'm not exactly Atlas condemned to hold up "The Heavens," but I am holding something; maybe just my sanity. And just as "Hawkeye" Pierce joked about war in a M\*A\*S\*H episode back in the day: "If truth is the first casualty of war, I guess sobriety is second," a cancer patient might joke (if he or she had a sense of humor): "If one's hopes and dreams are the first loss from cancer, your sanity is second." As Mark Twain "self-effaced" later in his life: "Out of all the things I have lost, I miss my mind the most."

A "terminal" cancer patient loses lots of things. Control of one's emotions has to be the first to go. Certainly you still know right from wrong, but the figurative re-wiring of your brain – which begins immediately upon hearing your cancer diagnosis/prognosis, is difficult to stop. It's as if it has a mind of its own, and it sort of does: yours. It's not as if you can't maintain any self-control or not joke at inappropriate times, you can. After all, you're still human. You're just a bit more flawed than you were before. And who's to say, maybe the change will do you good? You don't always have to say what you mean unless you're the Dowager Countess from "Downton Abbey."

Nevertheless, you are forever changed by your cancer diagnosis, whether you like it or not. The trick is, actually there is no trick, it's a mindset; somehow, you must not take yourself or your circumstances too seriously. (I know, how do you not take cancer seriously?). Either you learn to laugh or there won't be anything funny about it. You know the expression: "Funny as a heart attack," well, you can add another: "Uplifting as a cancer diagnosis." As challenging as it is (and has been), you need to find a way to navigate the slings and arrows of the outrageous misfortune you have encountered. The pressure; conscious, subconscious or even unconscious (for all I know?) has to be released really, or in your imagination. There's no doubt a cancer diagnosis and life living with cancer is less than ideal, but since those are the cards you were dealt, you better learn to play the hand.

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

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# Summer<sup>2016</sup>Camps

Education&Activities



McLean  
CONNECTION



## From Colonial History to Future Entrepreneurs

Campers can explore diverse interests in specialty summer camps.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

This summer dozens of elementary school-aged children will travel back in time to the Colonial Era where, among other things, they'll learn to spin cotton into cloth for garments.

Learning how to run a lemonade stand like a Fortune 500 company and use the profits to invest in the stock market will be on the agenda for other local children. Both activities are offered by local specialty camps aimed at giving children opportunities to explore their interests in a way that they cannot during the school year.

"I think summer camps are a great way to promote thriving if it is done right," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria and a camp consultant. "During the school year, there is so much emphasis on testing that the creative and collaborative nature of children gets lost. A great camp can create space for our children to flourish."

**SPECIALTY CAMPS** offer young campers a chance to focus on a specific area of interest such as cooking, financial literacy and even gaming.

For example, Spark Business Academy, a Northern Virginia based organization that teaches financial literacy to young students, is offering its Future Millionaires Camp in Arlington. Students learn about money concepts that range from setting up a lemonade stand that makes a profit to understanding the stock market.

"The name is definitely tongue in cheek," said Chuchi Arevalo, the organization's founder. "We teach personal finance, leadership and innovation. We give them life skills that they aren't learning in school and promote financial literacy that is fun even for students in first and second grade."

Rising fifth- and sixth-grade students will get a chance to take a trip back in time this



PHOTO COURTESY OF VISIT FAIRFAX

**Camp Washington at Mount Vernon gives campers a glimpse of early American life.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF MASON GAME & TECHNOLOGY ACADEMY

**Students in the Mason Game & Technology Academy Summer Camp will be offered classes in Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense.**

### For More Information

**Game and Technology Summer Camps**

[potomacacademy.gmu.edu/mgta/summer/](http://potomacacademy.gmu.edu/mgta/summer/)

**Future Millionaires Bootcamp/ Stock Market Acres**

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

**Camp Washington and more at Mount Vernon**

[www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/camp-washington-summer-day-camp-at-mount-vernon/](http://www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/camp-washington-summer-day-camp-at-mount-vernon/)

summer at Mount Vernon's Camp Washington. During each of the three one-week sessions, campers explore the history of George Washington's estate.

From farming and spinning fibers into cloth to making ice cream and meeting the estate's heritage breed animals, hands-on activities will give campers a glimpse of many aspects of early American life at Mount Vernon.

"The summer camp is designed to help engage students while having fun," said Melissa Wood, spokeswoman for Mount Vernon. "[It] gives kids the opportunity to go behind the scenes and experience history in their own backyard."

Young game-design aficionados can spend the summer with Mason Game & Technology Academy's (MGTA) camps. Students take classes such as Game Design, Creation and Entrepreneurship, Minecraft and Cyber Defense. "We run our classes at Mason in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William," said Vera Lichtenberg, Director of the Mason Game & Technology Academy at George Mason University.

"We also do a great deal of community outreach to train teachers, engage underserved students, and generally, help students realize that Game Design is a STEM field that not only engages those who love technology, but also those on the artistic side: writers, music composers [and] designers. MGTA is part of the Mason Computer Game Design Program and the Community Outreach Youth Program for the Virginia Serious Game Institute.



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## CAPPIES REVIEW

### McLean High Production of 'Cinderella'

BY GRACE MATTES  
CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL

Everyone knows the timeless tale of the pauper girl who lost her shoe on the steps of a castle after a night spent dancing with her prince. The story of Cinderella and her fairy tale has been a popular bedtime story for decades. McLean High School brought a modern twist to this classic story in their production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella."

In 1957, Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II were tasked with writing a musical version of "Cinderella" for television. With Julie Andrews as Cinderella, the broadcast pulled in more than 100 million viewers; this number made the program the most viewed television broadcast of its time. After the 1957 success, the musical was revised for television in 1965 and in 1997. The musical was also adapted for stage and premiered on the West End and in the New York City Opera. Most recently, the musical was adapted with a new book by Douglas Carter Beane and opened on Broadway in 2013. This version starred Laura Osnes in the title role and Santino Fontana as her prince. Though the story is based on the well-known fairy tale, it has some modern twists like a revolutionary as one of Cinderella's not-so-evil stepsister's love interest.

The cast of McLean's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" brought the magic of the beloved fable to life with their fabulous energy and engagement onstage. The wonderful tech bolstered the cast's effort. The crew's hard work was obvious in all the different facets of technical elements.

Syd Kirk's performance as the title character blew the audience away. Her impressive vocals and embodiment of Cinderella exuded the kindness of the classic character. Kirk's ability to carry the show on her shoulders as a freshman was astounding. Christophe Jelinski portrayed the lovable Prince Topher. His enthusiasm and witty line deliveries brought a unique sense to the character. Both Kirk and Jelinski had excellent chemistry onstage. Their roman-

SEE CINDERELLA.  
CAMPS PAGE 4



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## CAPPIES REVIEW

### McLean High Production of 'Cinderella'

FROM CAMPS PAGE 3

tic kisses and dances gave the love story credulity.

Without the excellent supporting cast, the show could not have succeeded. Tori Garcia's absolutely flawless vocals as Pinkleton, a lady of the court, stunned audience members. Though she had less stage time than some of her other cast mates, her incredible voice

and humor made her stand out among the crowd. Abby Comey played the stepsister, Gabrielle. Comey's consistency in the character's very distinct physical and vocal attributes highlighted Gabrielle's adorable goofiness. Jeffrey Nolan portrayed the revolutionary, Jean-Michel. Nolan brought variety to Jean-Michel's personality with moments of seriousness contrasting with moments

of lighthearted humor. Comey and Nolan had fantastic chemistry. Their clumsy attempts at romance built up to a pinnacle: their kiss, which can only be described as aggressively awkward. Heidi Deger played Marie, a crazy woman turned fairy godmother. Her performance of the song, "There's Music in You" showcased her beautiful voice.

The show's technical elements

established the setting and mood throughout the show. The portable set was suitable for the fairy tale setting. Although it had moments of precarious wobbling, the charming cottage, palace, and forest transported the audience all over the mythical kingdom. The show's costumes were also impressive. The costumes were hand-crafted and most of them were well tailored. Cinderella's costumes became more beautiful as the show

progressed, culminating in her gorgeous wedding dress. The production requires two difficult onstage costume changes; these changes went smoothly as Cinderella transformed from pauper to princess.

McLean High School's magical performance of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" brought audience members back to the beloved fairy tale kingdom of their childhoods.

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