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# NEWS





Advocacy in action, both for and against the proposed application. The Planning Commission has a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, July 28.

# MCA Votes to Oppose Special Exceptions

Assisted living facility and expansion of an elementary school to be heard by Planning Commission later this month.

> By Ken Moore THE CONNECTION

he 40 residents who attended the McLean Citizens Association meeting last Wednesday, July 8, applauded when the board voted unanimously to oppose Sunrise's proposed assisted living facility.

"In 15 years, I've never seen so much opposition in any case," said Mark Zetts, chairman of MCA's planning and zoning committee. "We've been inundated with emails."

"In the 102-year history of the McLean Citizens Association, few issues have driven neighborhood anger like the proposed location of the 90-bed Sunrise Assisted Living facility at the corner of Kirby and Westmoreland roads in McLean. After studying the proposal for almost two years, MCA voted to oppose the multiple zoning adjustments that Sunrise needs to build on this lot," said MCA president Jeff Barnett.

Sunrise Development Inc. seeks a Medical Care Facility Special Exception permit to construct and operate an assisted living facility at 1988 Kirby Road, at the intersection of Kirby Road and Westmoreland

Homeowners associations, including L'Ambiance of McLean, Mayfair of McLean, Autumn Chase, Foxhall Road and civic associations El Nido, Marlborough-Nantucket and Franklin Area Civic Association all oppose the application, according to MCA draft documents.

"Given the mass it represents, we believe it should be on a full five-acre site," said

The facility would have a maximum of 73 units and 90 beds, according to MCA documents, in a 40,309-square-foot building. Approximately 90 employees would work at the facility, although a maximum of 25 employees would be on the site at any time, according to the documents.

Sunrise's corporate headquarters are in McLean, and the company operates more

### Why MCA Opposes Sunrise Development

In the 102-year history of the McLean Citizens Association, few issues have driven neighborhood anger like the proposed location of the 90bed Sunrise Assisted Living facility at the corner of Kirby and Westmoreland roads in McLean. After studying the proposal for almost two years, MCA voted to oppose the multiple zoning adjustments that

Sunrise needs to build on this lot.

The vote by MCA's Board of Directors was unanimous.

With few exceptions, families in the area strongly oppose this development. A 3-story, 42-foot high building is totally out of character with a neighborhood of single-family homes, many dating from the 1950s.

The Sunrise facility would generate 2



**Jeff Barnett** 

1/2 times the amount of traffic generated by private homes on this lot. The Kirby/ Westmoreland intersection is already overloaded during rush hour and school drop-off/pickup times. No traffic improvements are planned; expected growth alone will make today's unacceptable traffic jams even more intense and dangerous.

Protecting McLean's neigh-

borhoods remains the focus of the McLean Citizens Association. Proposals like Sunrise are sure to come again. Unless we want McLean to mirror Tysons, Alexandria or Arlington, our community of homes must constantly stand firm to protect the iconic residential nature of McLean.

> Jeff Barnett, President McLean Citizens Association

than 300 Sunrise Senior Living communities in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom, according to its website.

MCA debated last Wednesday for more than an hour before it voted unanimously.

"I feel this is a really tough issue. We are an aging community and I really believe there is a need for more," said MCA member Sally Horn. "But the concern of the surrounding neighborhood is something we need to take into account."

THE PLANNING COMMISSION has a public hearing scheduled for Thursday, July 28 on the Sunrise application.

Dranesville Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder attended the meeting on July 8.

"The proposed facility would differ from the previously approved facilities in that 1) the property is surrounded by low-density residential neighborhoods, 2) the building as viewed from the east would sit atop a 17-foot built-up grade, 3) the building as viewed from the north would present a 3story, 42-foot building," according to MCA

"While the site would accommodate the proposed 40,309-square-foot building, given the prominence of the subject property due to its shape, topography and the geometry of the Kirby/Westmoreland intersection, and given the height and mass of the proposed building, the building would be out of character with the neighborhood," according to MCA documents.

The documents also state that the intersection of Kirby Road and Westmoreland Street averages 21,000 vehicle trips daily "and has chronic traffic congestion during rush and school drop-off and pick-up hours due, in part, to the proximity of Longfellow Middle school."

The assisted living facility is projected to generate 248 daily trips, more than twice the number of trips if the land was developed for single family residential use, according to MCA documents.

"With few exceptions, families in the area strongly oppose this development. A threestory, 42-foot high building is totally out of character with a neighborhood of singlefamily homes, many dating from the 1950s," said Barnett.

MCA ALSO VOTED on a resolution regarding The School Board of the City of Falls Church's application to expand Mount Daniel Elementary.

That application is scheduled for a public hearing before the Planning Commission on Thursday, July 21.

Falls Church City Public Schools operates Mount Daniel Elementary School on a 7.31acre property located in a residential neighborhood at 2328 North Oak St. FCCPS has operated the school on the county property since 1952 and expanded the school by four classrooms in 2005, according to MCA draft documents.

"It is a lot of intensity for this small site," said Zetts.

Mount Daniel has a current enrollment of approximately 348 kindergarten and first grade students and 67 employees.

Enrollment would increase from 348 to 660, according to MCA documents.

Square footage of the building would expand from 40,347 to 79,491, said Zetts.

In 2015, FCCPS filed a 2232 Review application proposing to expand Mount Daniel to 36 classrooms with an enrollment of 792 students and 84 employees, according to the documents.

The McLean Citizens Association Board of Directors adopted a resolution opposing the potential expansion in 2015 because it was "excessive and incompatible with the neighborhood."

MCA also opposed the original application to expand the school in 2015 based on the "deficiency of North Oak Street, a 26foot-wide roadway, as the sole access to the school property" and "the impacts of schools operations on the use of North Oak Street by its residents."

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# REAL ESTATE

# McLean, Great Falls Market Enjoys Strong First Half 2016

By Karen Briscoe

he real estate market in the first half of 2016 was robust in McLean and Great Falls. The number of transactions is up 6 percent over 2015 in the same time frame. In addition, compared to the 2006 market ten years ago, it is up over 18 percent. This is excellent news for



Briscoe

the market area as we enter into the summer season. It indicates an environment for the potential for price appreciation, provided demand remains strong relative to supply.

As was the case for the first quarter 2016, the segment that performed the best in these zip codes was the upper brackets, considered to be over \$1.25 million. Not surprising, most of the price points experienced greater sales year over year and higher than at 2006 levels as well.

The price points below \$1.25 million were flat for the first half 2016 over 2015, yet over the 2006 levels. The millennial generation comprises some of this market niche according to economists. This accounts for many of the condo purchases in the Tysons 22102 area of McLean. Further the first level move up buyer now is confident that their lower priced home will sell quickly so that they can more easily make the leap into the next price bracket with bridge or other available creative financing options.

One of the best performing price points continues to be the \$1.25 to \$2 million price range. Much of this comprises in-fill new home builders tearing down an older existing home for the land value. In many cases the lots are purchased off market which could be skewing the numbers for the lower price points. There is very little available land remaining for development in McLean and Great Falls, so hard to know how long this trend will last. As builders compete for lots, there is less available for end-user owners that would buy the homes to live in. Although this scenario can be a healthy sign of a rising market these dynamics can make it challenging for a first time home buyer to purchase.

McLean and Great Falls home sellers are currently experiencing "best of times" conditions in 2016 relative to 2006 which was previously a peak market year for the area. Looking forward into the balance of 2016 indicators are that homes priced correctly

McLean & Great Falls 1st Half Market Analysis of Home Sales (Based on Final Closed Price)

1# Half 2016 Sales: 532							
	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$750k-\$1.25 Mil	<\$750k		
1 <sup>st</sup> Half 2016							
22101	9	16	58	120	29		
22102	4	9	25	48	102		
22066	1	9	31	55	16		
	Total: 14	Total: 34	Total: 114	Total: 223	Total: 147		
	Combined	Total Upper I	Brackets: 162	Combined Total Lower Brackets: 37			

			1st Half 2015 Sali	es: 497		
1 <sup>st</sup> Half 2015						
22101	3	13	44	117	38	
22102	2	7	23	29	115	
22066	0	8	26	56	16	
	Total: 5	Total: 28	Total: 93	Total: 202	Total: 169	
	Combined Total Upper Brackets: 126			Combined Total Lower Brackets: 37		

1 <sup>st</sup> Half 2006 Sales: 448							
	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$750k-\$1.25 Mil	<\$750k		
1 <sup>st</sup> Half 2005							
22101	3	15	35	91	58		
22102	9	12	19	24	95		
22066	1	7	35	40	4		
	Total: 13	Total: 34	Total: 89	Total: 155	Total: 157		

for the market and in top condition will sell quickly for strong prices.

#### Contact Information

Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy and their team HBC Group at Keller Williams are active and experienced realtors in the Northern Virginia, suburban Maryland and Washington, D.C. marketplace. They would be delighted to assist whether for home buying or selling. Please contact via the means most convenient for you: www.HBCRealtyGroup.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCRealtyGroup.com

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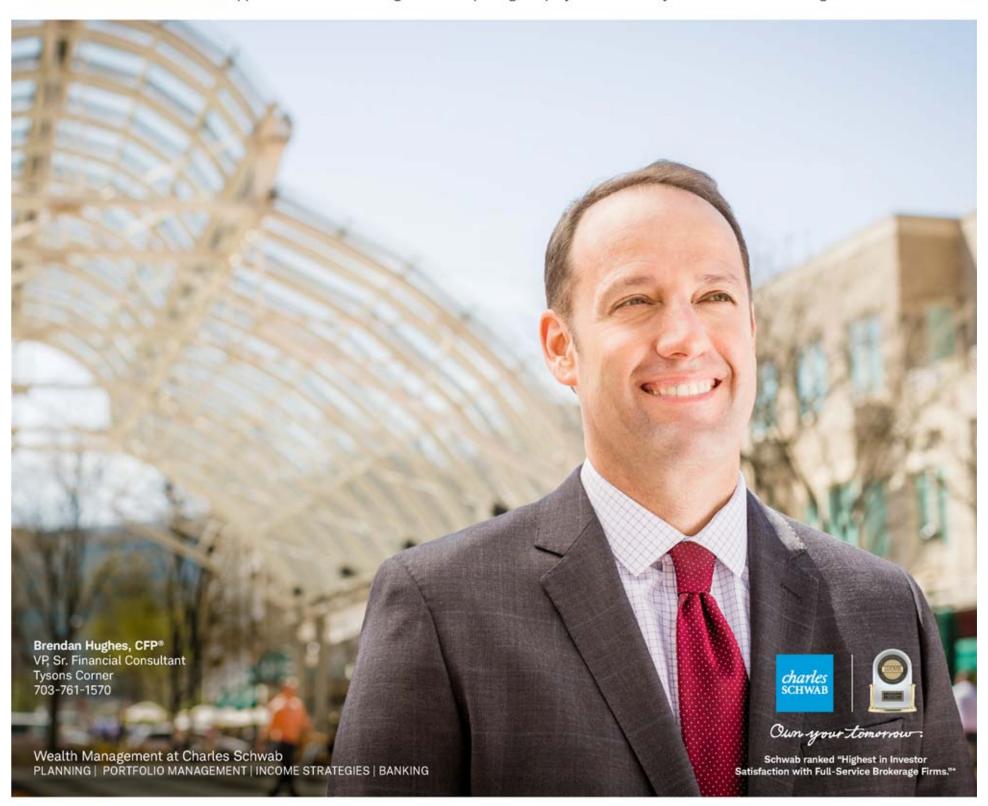
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# **OPINION**

# Be Part of Our Annual Community Guide

## Share tips in upcoming Newcomers and Community Guides.

he Connection's annual Newcomers and Community Guides will publish Aug. 24 with a deadline of

A bevy of interns, plus staff writers and editors, are preparing this year's 15 individual editions, but we need help from our readers.

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your

not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

What are your favorite parks? Favorite historic sites?

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

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

We will publish a selection of local tips along

neighborhood know about? Events that should with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

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

> photos Email tips and editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at http:/ /www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/ letter/. Send in your Insider's Tips by Wednesday, Aug. 17.

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Misinterpretation and Misdirection

To the Editor:

This is a response to Mr. Peter Storm's specious letter, ("What Was the Founding Fathers' Intent?" (Connection, July 6-12, 2016) and the broader leftist propensity toward historical misinterpretation and misdirection regarding the 2nd Amendment.

Mr. Storm applied a selective "Founding Fathers" taxonomy (limited to the 56 signers of the Declaration) to assert that it's not possible to determine the Founders' intent behind the 2nd Amendment because they were "hardly involved" in authoring the Constitution, save the six men who signed both.

With this logic, readers are presumably supposed to feel compelled to foreswear an originalist hermeneutic and submit to the latest progressive assault on individual liberties.

Not so fast. This is a distinction without a difference.

Whether the authors and signers of the Constitution are billed as "Founders" or not has almost no bearing whatsoever on one's ability to discern their intent, or on their authority when it comes to interpreting what they wrote or agreed to. Besides, the more widely accepted taxonomy for the "Founding Fathers" is one that includes the delegates to the Constitutional Convention, a taxonomy to which our own National Archives subscribes.

And irrespective of how narrow or broad one's definition of "the identify and present the Founding Fathers" is, the histori- transgender issue when only .3 cal record is replete with compelling evidence that those men recognized and sought to protect an individual right to bear arms, as level? A question never really the Supreme Court reaffirmed posed to the board.

most recently in Heller, and in so doing, serve as a check on the abuse of federal power.

So, when your readers hear things like Representative Connolly's call for reinstatement of the scary-looking (er...assault) weapons ban, they can easily consult any number of fellow Virginian Founders to see how contrary to their intent such proposals are: Thomas Jefferson and Richard Henry Lee (Declaration signers); or George Mason and James Madison (Convention delegates).

Progressives rely heavily on emotional appeals and logical misdirection to advance their anti-gun agenda, counting on the public to have forgotten their history. Your readers should not fall for it.

> Jonathan Clough Springfield

# School Board Politics and Transgender Policy

To the Editor:

The perception from many like me is that the Fairfax County School Board is hungry for national media attention as evidenced by their 2015 vote on the Gender Nonconforming and Transgender Student Policy. The fact is the board has had a strong nondiscrimination policy for many years, its verbiage covered race, gender, culture, etc. So why did the board take it upon itself to percent (according to a Williams Survey) of the population identified with this issue on a national

The Fairfax County School Board has lost its focus of the real issues such as the delivery of education in a global environment, renovations of current facilities in a timely manner, partnering education opportunities with institutions of higher learning, expanding language programs to the elementary schools, etc. It is my understanding the gender issue became a topic of discussion due to the persistence of a few individuals who took it to an at large member and then later to the local Democratic party. However, board members are to be impartial of political party loyalties but let us not be naive, board votes are driven by party directives.

Our education board is broken if they are letting political parties determine board topics and votes on matters of curriculum and other issues for the sake of gaining party votes during an election year. Let there be no misunderstanding, this is exactly what the transgender issue is all about; party votes and expanding a social agenda. It is doubtful parents and constituents know the board's vote in 2015 impacted the budget, student sports, the use of bathrooms, locker rooms, etc. Their seven-page policy is not meant for the occasional light reader.

The board has hit a sensitive

fers to shy away from additional media controversy and discussion. In fact many parents are unaware the Transgender Policy is being brought forth again at a School Board Forum on July 14, which proves excellent planning on the board's part. The month of July is a wonderful time for controversial issues, the timing takes advantage that a large majority of parents and residents are gone on vacation: therefore it is easier to pass motions and generate policies. After such, the board will go into recess and all controversies will seem to be forgotten due to a lack of media attention. Thus there is little vocal objection from the public or notice.

nerve with its constituents and

parents on this issue and now pre-

Unfortunately for Elizabeth Schultz, FCPS Springfield District School Board representative, she has little hope in changing anything on this issue due to the board's political party influence and the timing of this issue. Her vote will continue to be a lonely vote. Common sense and true educational issues have been lost in Fairfax County.

#### **Elizabeth Torpey Bradsher** Former Fairfax County School

**Board Member** Fairfax Station

#### Volunteer Events and Opportunities

Fairfax County's free Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, **August 9, 7-8 p.m.** We will discuss When Your Loved One is Hospitalized". Register beforehand www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadultservices and click phone Caregiver Support Group. Call box. The survey deadline is Aug. 1. **703-324-5484**, TTY 711.

NEW FAIRFAX COUNTY PODCASTS: ❖ 50+ Podcast: Northern VA Senior Olympics. Jim MacKenzie, chairman of the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, discusses the Sept. 10-21, 2016 games.

\* 50+ Podcast: Enhanced Mobility Survey. Susan Shaw, the county's new Mobility Manager, explains why you should take the county's enhanced mobility survey. To take the survey, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ ilts and look in the "Hot

❖ 50+ Podcast: Meet the Insight Memory Care Center. Robin McGlothin, assistant director for the Insight Memory Care Center in Fairfax, discusses how this program provides services to people with dementia and

### **FAITH**

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

Oakton Church of the Brethren will have its Vacation Bible School, August 1-5, 9:20 a.m.-12:30 p.m. \$20 per child; 40 family maximum. Online registration is open at www.oaktonbrethren.org. 703-281-4411. The church is located at 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna.

Epiphany United Methodist Church is holding a Vacation Bible School, July 18-22 from 9 a.m. to noon. Free. Register at http://epiphanyumc.weebly.com/vbs-registration-form.html. The church is located at 1014 Country Club Lane NE, Vienna. 703-938-3494.

**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

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.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.

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms** are open, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

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.

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# HomeLifeStyle



A large picture window is the focal point of this white kitchen by Anthony Wilder



A Potomac, Maryland, kitchen was lightened, brightened

and redesigned by Rill Architects to give the home's own-

A cramped and dark Potomac,

Maryland, kitchen was lightened,

brightened and redesigned to give

the home's owners a connection to

their natural surroundings, which

included a landscaped yard created

The kitchen was designed by Jim

Rill of Rill Architects who added a

working island around which the

family can gather and prepare

meals. He described the new look

as a, "simple, clean design with

We added functional space with

for outdoor entertaining.

subtle elegance." "

spring, winter and fall."

ers to a connection to their natural surroundings.

... [we designed] a custom glass

cabinet piece, which is accessible

from both rooms," said St. Claire.

The new unit gives the

homeowners extra storage and a

place to display their crystal. Sun-

light from the new picture window

in the kitchen reflects off the crys-

tal stemware and refracts, causing

both rooms to glisten with radiant.

- Allie Mann,

Case Design Build, Inc.

A Potomac, Maryland, kitchen was lightened, brightened and redesigned by Rill Architects to give the home's owners to a connection to their natural surroundings.

# Bright White

# White kitchens are a trend with staying power.

the National Kitchen and Bath Aspull-out trash and bookcase for sociation. The organization reports cookbooks make the island functhat white cabinetry is the top tional. Facing the dining room is a choice for 67 percent of its mem-shallow cabinet with mullioned bers. In fact, the percentage of glass doors. homeowners requesting white kitchens has increased by 20 per- remainder of the kitchen and white cent over the past two years.

said designers. When a family of prep sink and a gas range with a five returned to the Washington, in the U.S. Foreign Service, they cabinet doors [give] visual depth settled into their home in Bethesda, and make space feel larger," said a 1960 brick Dutch colonial that Wentworth. they purchased in 1986. They deliving room. They needed a larger result was a room with a crisp and Underwood said. space to accor ilv of five.

wanted the new kitchen space to friends.

By Marilyn Campbell such as an antique table and chairs. Designed by Bruce Wentworth of

Wentworth Inc., the new kitchen he clean, crisp look of is sunny and spacious. It includes a white kitchen has white cabinetry and an island with staying power and ver dark gray granite countertops. A satility, according to large stainless sink, dishwasher,

Granite tops the counters in the cabinetry houses a sub-zero refrig-The trend is also apparent locally, erator, microwave drawer, small stainless steel range hood. "Wall



D.C. area after spending 30 years cabinets with clear glass mullioned In this kitchen, designed by Wentworth, Inc. a cabinet with mullioned glass doors face the dining room.

When the owners of an Arling- Underwood of Case Design/Re- said Underwood. cided to give the home a makeover ton home decided to update their modeling. "I think the grouping of because, after being a rental for dark and dated kitchen, they materials the client selected with combination of the various matemany years, it felt dated and dingy. opened the space to the living and us are unique, definitely not rials, from smooth and glossy to The family felt that the kitchen was dining rooms and added natural cookie-cutter, and these make the rough and textured, is simple but old, dark and closed-off from the lighting and white cabinetry. The space really interesting,"

"I think in general the perfect interesting and shows beautifully," said Underwood.

of Anthony Wilder Design Build, Inc. The project included adding additional space to the back of the house and removing a wall between the kitchen and the dining

**Natural lighting and white cabinetry** 

helped transform this kitchen, by Case

Design Build, Inc. into light and airy space.

"Although we opened up the wall space, which was designed by Allie everything, so kitchen could be airy aesthetic. The new, open con- Among the fixtures, accessories A large picture window over- between the kitchen and dining Mann of Case Design Build. Inc., cleaned up and used as an entercept allows the homeowners to and materials used are Caesarstone looking an expansive backyard is room, one challenge was maintain- was brightened with white taining area," Rill said. The homeowners knew they better interact with family and countertops, a marble and granite the focal point of a white kitchen ing a distinction between the two cabinetry, a built-in pantry and a The family wanted a white backsplash and reclaimed shelving, in Falls Church. When the spaces, which was important to the custom cherry wood island. "The kitchen, he said, because it, "crebe free flowing and light-filled. "Prior to the remodel, the kitchen provided by homeowners, which, homeowners decided to renovate client," said St. Claire. "In order to white kitchen is classic and time- ates a great backdrop for art and They also wanted to incorporate was essentially closed off to the rest "made the kitchen look more and expand the space, they enlisted create a feeling of separation, while less," said Mann. "It can work with accentuates the exterior colors of some of their existing furniture, of the home," said April Case unique and gave it an eclectic feel," the help of designer Keira St. Claire preserving the sense of openness most color accent palettes."

natural light. White cabinetry was contrasted against dark wood as part of a kitchen renovation in Centreville. While the basic layout of the kitchen remained the same, the lots of windows and a place for

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

## When Building an Addition, **Add Green Features**



An addition can be a good opportunity to cure some of an existing house's energy evils. An addition offers an excellent opportunity to incorporate benefits for the whole house. For instance, if an existing building is sited poorly for solar gain and day lighting, look into the possibility of using windows, skylights, and solar massing in the addition that can add heat to the house. Or, plan an addition that can shade other parts of the house.

Before you plan to add out with a new foundation and floor space, also consider adding up, which uses fewer materials, is less disruptive to a site, and could save money and tread more lightly on the environment.

A new space shouldn't be any larger than it has to be. Keeping the new space as small as possible pays dividends in at least two ways: by keeping construction costs low and by reducing operating and maintenance costs. A smaller addition also makes less of an impact on the site and the neighborhood.



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News

Hunter Watson smiled as he graduated high school in 2014 at The Potomac School, where he attended since kindergarten.



PHOTOS COURTESY

# Remembering Hunter Watson

Hunter Brooks Watson, 20, remembered for lighting up the room with his unforgettable smile and laugh.

amily and friends reminisced about the life of Hunter Brooks Watson, a 20-year-old man who died in a car crash in Delaware on June 18. On July 9, a memorial service was held at The Potomac School, which Watson attended from kindergarten through high school.

He had recently finished sophomore year at Syracuse University. Watson was remembered for lighting up the room with his unforgettable smile and laugh. He lived in the moment and would dedicate his undivided attention to whomever he was speaking. He was described as larger than life and persevering, so much so that he inspired others to take risks and accomplish more.

Watson was also remembered as creative and clever at school, renowned for being fun-loving and using the classroom as his stage. He was musically talented and would spend much of his free time attending concerts, listening to and producing music. He had a talent for producing videos, as well.

As a 10-year-old, Watson produced a music video that has had over 5 million views to date for a song his band wrote called "Video Games" that parodied children



Hunter Brooks Watson recently finished sophomore year at Syracuse University.

addicted to video games.

He is survived by his his mother, Judy Watson, father, Jerry Watson and, one sibling, Theodore (Teddy) William Watson, 25, NYU Class of 2016; his aunt Connie (Zeigler) Thomasson (husband Mike); and cousins Denise Fruik (husband Chris); Lynn (Watson) Ireland (husband Robert); Nancy (Watson) Thomas (husband George); and Jamey Watson (wife Lisa).

#### WEEK IN MCLEAN

### History Revisited at Claude Moore Farm

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm will host 18th Century Summer Market Fair Saturday and Sunday, July 16 and 17; 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Watch colonial Virginia tradesmen, such as the blacksmith and try crafts such as spinning and dyeing. Test your watercolor and writing skills. See heritage breed animals including turkeys, pigs and chickens. Enjoy music, games and dancing as well as interacting with colonial family members in costume and character. Savor grilled chicken, sausages, cheese and breads, seasonal vegetables, watermelon, roasted olives, fruit pies and more. Colonial Tavern offers cask ale, beers and authentic ginger ale. Period food, beverages and wares available for purchase. Fun, educational and affordable.

Adults: \$8; Children 3-12 and Seniors: \$3; Children under 3: complimentary admission. Free parking. Directions at www.1771.org. Weather permitting.

The Claude Moore Colonial Farm is located at 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean.



From left: Shirley Clark, the CEO and executive director of the Women's Center in Vienna; Sally Turner, the president and chair of the Women's Center Board of Directors; U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), who hosted the event; and representatives of Women Giving Back—Terri Stagi, the president of the executive committee; Pat Leader, the secretary and treasurer; and Fiona Hughes, the vice president.

# Benefits of Giving Back

Young Women Leadership Program highlights importance of volunteerism for high school girls.

By Alyssa Miller The Connection

n Friday, several dozen high school girls gathered at Great Falls Library to hear about how they could get involved in volunteer opportunities. As part of Congresswoman Barbara Comstock's 10th Congressional District Young Women Leadership Program, these students were taught about the benefits of giving back to their communities.

A panel of guests spoke at the event, many of whom were from the organization Women Giving Back, which provides free clothing to homeless women and children in the area.

"Volunteerism really makes a difference," said Terri Stagi, the president of the WGB executive committee. "It adds something to your life."

According to Stagi, the young women at the program could volunteer for WGB by sorting clothing or even being personal shoppers for some of the teenagers being served by WGB.

Shirley Clark, the CEO and executive director of the Women's Center in Vienna, echoed Stagi's sentiments. According to Clark, volunteering is about more than just building a resume — although it can help with that as well.

"Volunteerism looks great on a resume, but more importantly, it helps you think differently," said Clark.

Clark and Sally Turner, the president and chair of the Women's Center Board of Directors, also discussed combatting pressures on women in the workplace.

According to Turner, when she was growing up, girls were told they could be secretaries, teachers or nurses. However, her grandfather owned a business school, so Turner went to business college during the summers and was able



U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) introducing the panelists for the Young Women's Leadership Program at the Great Falls Library: Students were taught about the benefits of giving back to their communities.

to get a job in the IT field. Turner urged the girls to get out of the office and meet people in their future careers, and to know when to move on from one job to the next.

Clark said she noticed during her banking career that many women didn't speak up or use their voice at work.

"While they may have had food and clothing and housing and even a job, they were really disadvantaged, as well, because they didn't have the confidence or the support they needed to get to the next level," said Clark.

Clark said that seeing women "give our power away" encouraged her to get started working to help women,

She encouraged the girls to volunteer and help women, even if only for a short

Comstock, who hosted the event, said that volunteering helps to enrich the lives of those who are helping, as well as those who are being helped.

"Whatever that passion is that you have," said Comstock, "when you share it, you probably learn more about yourself and your abilities by doing that."

# News



Campers rehearsing during Summer Strings Camp.



Bass players.

Photos by Alyssa Miller/The Connection

# Summer Strings Camp Mixes Monsters and Music

Campers keep orchestral skills fresh through sight reading, music history.

> By Alyssa Miller The Connection

uth Donahue knows children need to have fun to learn. That's why every year at Summer Strings music camp, Donahue's elementary school campers are encouraged to dress up in costumes while they rehearse for their upcoming concert.

"Kids need to experience playing [music] in the summer, because it's so much fun," Donahue said, adding that practicing when they're not in class helps keep their skills fresh for the school year.

According to Donahue, a typical camp week includes dress up days on "Messy Monday," "Wacky Wednesday" and "Freaky Friday." Campers dress as everything from a Ghostbuster to a giant squid.

They sight read — play without previously



From left, Amin Kaleen and Rami Abdalla rehearse at Summer Strings Camp.

reviewing the material — around 50 pieces. The campers then vote on the pieces they want to play at the end of camp.

Noor, a camper who plays the viola, said his favorite part of camp is "playing [music] with everyone and doing all different pieces."

Donahue, who started Summer Strings camp in 1983, also teaches composer history



Campers rehearsing.

to the campers. The camp is held in St. Thomas Episcopal Church in McLean and is sponsored by local music store Music Masters.

While the idea of keeping several dozen elementary school children engaged while playing music for hours may seem daunting, Donahue's strategy is simple: 'Just playing as

much as possible" and providing downtime only in small amounts allow the campers to stay focused and ready to learn.

Sarah, a camper who plays the violin, enjoys the ability to "learn more techniques" at camp.

The children, with Donahue conducting, play everything from country to jazz to classical music on their string instruments, taking a short break to play kickball during the day. Donahue doesn't have a favorite piece, but emphasizes the idea of providing a variety of options.

She also gets input from the campers; they vote on every piece to decide whether or not it will be performed in the concert, and she asks campers what pieces they want to review during the day.

Many of the campers are enthusiastic about tackling a challenge. Nafisa, a violinist, said her favorite part of camp is the music, and she loves "playing fun pieces."

Nicolas, a cellist, said he likes playing what he considers their hardest piece, a military march called "Men of Harlech." He said the hardest part of the piece is the difficult timing. While Nicolas won't be able to attend the concert, he can't wait to hear about "Men of Harlech" from his friends.

"I'm interested to see how that will work out," said Nicolas.

### Arts Council Recognized for Innovative Public Art

The Arts Council of Fairfax County was recognized by Americans for the Arts' Public Art Network Year in Review program for its Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles temporary public art and engagement project with artist Julia Vogl. "We are delighted to have Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles selected for the 2015 public art Year in Review," said Linda S. Sullivan, president and and CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. "We've had wonderful public participation in this project and great community support. We look forward to continuing Imagine Art Here as a public art and community engagement series throughout the county."

The Arts Council is currently in the process of planning two new Imagine Art Here projects — at Seven Corners and Springfield — to be carried out in 2017-18. Working with Fairfax County government, National Endowment for the Arts, corporate sponsors and community partners, the Arts Council will continue to engage, inspire and provide a vision for future public art in Fairfax County. Imagine Art Here: Tysons Tiles can be viewed at http://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/networks-and-councils/public-art-network/pan-year-in-review-database.

To find out more about the artist Julia Vogl, visit http://www.juliavogl.com.



Installation at Tysons West by artist Julia Vogl.

# ENTERTAINMENT



The Curiosistanians, Cirque du Soleil "Kurios."

# Cirque du Soleil magical 'Kurios' Under the Big Top at Tysons II

BY DAVID SIEGEL The Connection

he dazzling, fantastic world of Cirque du Soleil's "Kurios - Cabinet of Curiosities" will be under the famous blue-and-yellow Cirque du Soleil Big Top at Tysons II. It promises to be an astonishing journey meant to open the mind and imagination. And it is all live.

"Nothing is predictable in this magical, romantic, very ingenious world of dreams," said Michel Laprise, artistic director behind "Kurios." Laprise made clear that the show "is meant to transport both young and old into a steampunk fantasy world where all is possible." It is a world not needing computer generated animation or 3-D effects. The real-life cast of performers "is taking daring risks right before everyone's eyes," said Laprise.

"Kurious" is meant to transport the audience into an alternative world full of characters conjured into life by a Seeker who becomes the Master of Ceremonies. He believes there are invisible worlds waiting to be connected to the curiosity in everybody.

In a show that Laprise calls "wild and free," the Seeker is helped by Mr. Microcosmos with a fanciful collection of otherworldly, hybrid characters. They perform in an eccentric large-scale, steampunk fantasy with working mechanical marvels. It all takes place under the colorful 62-foot-high Cirque du Soleil Big Top with its capacity to seat 2,500.

What will pop out, float down from over 40 feet into the air or appear out of nowhere will be contortionists, acrobats, large hand puppets, aerial swinging bicyclists, comic acts, flying performers, an invisible circus, trampoline net performers, chair balancing acts, an upside-down world full of mirrors, to name just a few of the many acts. There will also be arcade-like performers, such as an accordion man, and others.

There will be well over 400 props and 100 unique costumes to further express, all without words, what is happening before the audience. Even the hard-atwork stagehands will be visible and in costume. And if the weather permits, there will be artists up on the exterior of the Big Top greeting everyone.

"The show was created and is performed so that the audience will not miss their computer screens themselves 'how do they do that?'"



COSTUMES: PHILIPPE GUILLOTEL 2014 CIRQUE DU SOLEIL Rola Bola

#### Where and When

Cirque du Soleil "Kurios – Cabinet of Curiosities" at Tysons II, The Lerner Town Center, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons. Performance July 21 to Sept. 18, 2016. Tickets \$39-\$170. Tuesday-Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Call 1-877-9 CIRQUE (1-877-924-7783 or visit cirquedusoleil.com/kurios

and smartphones," said Laprise. "What if, by engaging our imagination and opening our minds, we could unlock the door to a world of wonders?"

Laprise added that he wanted the audience "to feel close and connected with the performers and asking



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan School of the Arts

From left, top row: MSA Students: Levi Meerovich (Springfield), Angelica Miguel (Fairfax), Sarah Lore (Alexandria), Gulet Isse (Fairfax), Merritt Palmer (Fairfax), Tyler King (Springfield), Emmeline Jones (Southern Md.), Marc Manaloto (Fairfax), Rachel Turner (Fairfax), Bethel Elias (Springfield); bottom row: Erin Claeys (Arlington), Carlos Castillo (Silver Spring), Lexi Rhem (Springfield), Quentin Araujo (VA Beach), Usman Ishaq (Woodbridge) and Drew Bondy (Fairfax)

# 'Spring Awakening' at 1st Stage in Tysons

Students of the Metropolitan School of the Arts of Alexandria are putting on their fifth student-directed and produced show—the Tony Award-nominated "Spring Awakening." The performances are on Friday, July 29 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, July 30 and Sunday, July 31 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the 1st Stage Theater at 1524 Spring Hill Road in McLean. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased www.metropolitanarts.org.

"Spring Awakening" is based Wedekind's Frank groundbreaking and controversial play, as well as Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik's brilliant rock score and book. It's the story of a sexual awakening, youth revolt and self-discovery into a new century. It's 1891, and grown-ups hold all the cards. Headstrong Melchior and naive Wendla stumble into each others' arms, passionate and curious, while anxious Moritz struggles to live up to the stringent expectations of society. With only each other for guidance, this group of young men minds, and themselves along the way. An electric, vibrant cel-

ebration of youth and rebellion, fuses issues of morality, sexuality, and rock and roll into a story that packs a powerful emotional punch.

Led by MSA students -director, Chad Vann of Lorton; musical director, James Woods of Alexandria; producer, Sam Cornbrooks of Springfield; choreographer, Georgia Monroe of Ashburn, assistant stage manager, Emma Cook of Lorton; and stage manager, Kyle Dannahey of Springfield -- this youth-directed production brings a non-traditional interpretation focusing on the importance of communication between adults and adolescents. This production will include thematic elements reminiscent of Wedekind's original play and promises a darker interpretation of the popular musical. "Spring Awakening" contains some mature language and themes might not be suited for young audiences.

"Our student-run musical theatre group continues to inspire, create and excel in bringing great musicals to our local and women travel the fraught stages—we're so proud of and rocky path of adolescence, them," said Melissa Dobbs, discovering their bodies, their founder and executive director of Metropolitan School of the Arts Alexandria.

# Calendar

announcements Send connection newspapers. com/Calendar/.Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

#### **ONGOING**

Evenings on the Ellipse. 5:30-7 p.m. Thursdays through Aug. 25. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fun music and good company. Paradise Springs and The Winery at Bull Run will be offering complimentary tastings of their premium reds and whites. If it rains, concerts will be moved inside to the Government Center Forum. http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances/

**Great Falls Summer Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker

Road Great Falls. http:// greatfallsfarmersmarket.org Great Falls artist Betty Ganley.

Month of July. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Nautical and and floral subjects in watercolor. 703-759-4673. "**Footloose**." Fridays and Saturday, 8

p.m. Sunday 2 p.m. July 8-24. Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Based on the movie of the same name. McLeanPlayers.org. 866-811-4111.

McLean Farmers Market. 8 a.m.noon. Fridays from May 6-Nov. 18. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market provides area residents an opportunity to purchase locally grown or produced products. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/farmersmarkets.

Krop's Crops Flea Market. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Second and fourth Saturdays from May to August. 11110 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Shop



Satisfaction will be something you will get on July 24 when this Rolling Stones tribute band plays at McLean Central Park as part of the The Alden Summer Concerts.

for vintage, antique and used items. Or sell you treasures. kropsfleamarket@gmail.com.

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. 703-759-9141.

#### MONDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 11-15

Olympic Camp. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean. For rising first-to sixth-graders. Cooking for fun, acting, experiments and explosions, magic, dance and sports. ProvidenceToday.org. 703-893-5330. WEDNESDAY/JULY 13

Stories and Sprinklers. 1 p.m. Vienna Town Green. Join Historic Vienna, Inc. for a good story and some water play each Wednesday afternoon. Free. 703-255-6360.

#### THURSDAY/JULY 14

**Delta Spur**. 6 p.m. Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road Tysons Corner. Part of Summerfest Concert Series on the Plaza. tysonscornercenter.com.

Ms. Virginia Senior Pageant. 1 p.m. James Lee Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Entertainment-filled afternoon to honor this year's contestants and Virginia's seniors. RSVP to 703-549 7012 or

msvirginiasenioramerica.com. Pakistan Night. 6:45-8:45 p.m. Church of the Apostles Vale Road Meeting Place, 10922 Vale Road,

Oakton, A fun, informative, and interactive event to learn about the culture of the people of Pakistan and the work of the Stock family there Children will find the interactive activities engaging. All welcome. Free. Dinner included, with special Pakistani dishes. www.ChurchoftheApostles.org/ special-events. 703-591-1974.

#### SATURDAY/JULY 16

Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Sponsored by the AAUW McLean Branch. Also, bring your CDs, DVDs, software, children's book, records, and recent textbooks, in good condition. Proceeds benefit scholarships for women. aauwbookfair@gmail.com. (703) 527-

#### SUNDAY/JULY 17

The Reflex. 5 p.m. McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. 1980s tribute band. Part of the Alden's Sunday Summer Concerts. Free. aldentheatre.org. 703-790-

#### TUESDAY/JULY 19

Kehinde Wiley Lecture. 6-8 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Karen Getty will discuss contemporary artist Kehinde Wiley and his latest collection of portraits and sculptures, "A New Republic," on display at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Free. mpaart.org. 703-790-1953.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 20 Faith@Work Evenings. 5:30-7:30

p.m. Maggiano's Little Italy, Tysons II, 2001 International Drive, McLean. \$25/\$35. Food, networking, inspirational speaker and discussion. Speaker Shira Harrington. http://www.bridgepointconnections.org/ faith-at-work/.

#### FRIDAY/JULY 22

**Magic!** 7 p.m. Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner. Part of Summerfest Concert Series on the Plaza. tysonscornercenter.com.

#### SUNDAY/JULY 24

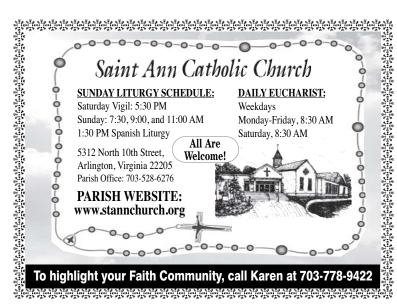
South Bay. 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green, Great Falls. High energy Pop, Rock and Alternative covers with their own unique spin. http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/

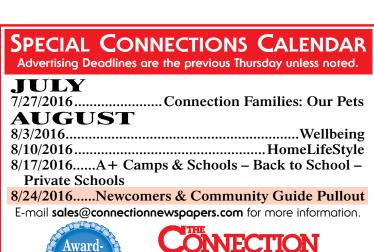
concerts-on-the-green/. **Satisfaction**. 5 p.m. McLean Central
Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. The International Rolling Stones Show tribute band. Part of the Alden's Sunday Summer Concerts. Free.

aldentheatre.org. 703-790-0123. **Parlor Talk**. 2 p.m. Freeman Store, 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. Author of "Chronology of the Civil War in Fairfax County" Edward T. Wenzel of Vienna, will give a talk. 703-938-

#### TUESDAY/JULY 26

Preschool Science ABC. 2:30 p.m. Dolley Madison, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. An adventure with song, dance and puppets presented by Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist Penny Russell. http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ branches/dm/.



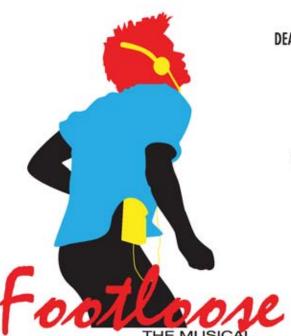


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Winning

# Penchant for Pills

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If I have done anything consistently well in my seven-plus years of being a cancer patient, it is to have ingested upwards of 50 pills or so every day. For all I know (and of course, I know very little), the presumptive benefits of these various pills might actually have had a positive effect and extended my life. Or perhaps, it has merely been a placebo-type effect. I think (certainly hope) they should be positively affecting me, so

Swallowing 50 pills a day is not a hardship - for me. In fact, I know of some cancer patients who take hundreds of pills per day (and some protocols that require it). In addition, there are still others who take coffee enemas, spend time in oxygen chambers and saunas, immerse themselves in Epsom salt baths, get infused with massive doses of vitamin C, use essential oils (Frankincense as an example); grow, blend and then drink their own wheat grass; and on and on and on. All in an attempt to stabilize and/or kill the cancer cells.

Am I living proof that what I am doing is working (keeping the cancer cells from growing/moving)? Impossible to say. However, it doesn't seem to be hurting; I will admit to that. But given the fact that the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) doesn't research/ analyze/corroborate/dispute the alleged benefits of non-prescription supplements, I may actually be winging and praying my way through life. No matter. I'm happy to live with the consequences of my actions. Quite frankly, it would be naive to think that if I took no action I'd experience similar results. In the cancer-patient world, wishing and hoping likely doesn't make it so. Being proactive, at least for me, has been a path of least resistance. Doing nothing would have been giving in to the disease, which I have no intention of doing. Ergo, to keep my pill inventory fully stocked, I either mail-order them or shop locally. I try to reorder/buy so that I never miss a dose. But if I do, I try not to stress over it. I figure the years-long effort I've made has built up enough pill-equity in my body that it will barely notice a day or two without dandelion root, beta glucons or my newest pill: Chinese wormwood (as but a few examples).

I guess one could characterize my philoso phy as mind over matter. I don't mind not knowing - definitively, whether or not any of what I'm doing is helping. Unfortunately, there are very few guarantees in cancer treatment. But so far, according to my quarterly CT scans, semi-annual PET scans and yearly MRI, I see no reason to change horses whether I'm mid-stream or struggling to reach dry land. At this juncture, I seem to have found a balance between what I'm capable of doing and what I'm not capable of, and am not worried about what I'm not doing/ have not done. Given my nature and personality, I can only do what I can do. And early on in my cancer experience, I realized my limitations and decided to not beat myself up emotionally over tasks I couldn't complete or strategies I couldn't employ. Moreover, there's a certain amount of control one has to cede to your new reality as well as some you need to maintain - for your own sanity.

Speaking of which, Albert Einstein is alleged to have said: "Doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results is the definition of insanity." Well, call me crazy if you want but I am happy to continue doing the same thing over and over again and expect similar results.

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

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#### 21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

VA Taco II LLC trading as Taco Bamba Taqueria, 164 Maple Ave W. Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer/Mixed Beverage Restaurant on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic

beverages. William Susinski, Managing Member NOTE: Objections to the issu-ance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later that 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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ABC LICENSE Cafe Paramount, LLC trading as Conveniently Yours, 2101 Wilson Blvd, Ste 102, Arlington, VA 22201. The above es tablishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. David Hussain owner

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 Sugar Factory Pentagon, LLC trading as Sugar Factory (and Sugar Factory American Brasserie), 1100 South Hayes Street, #H, Arlington, VA 22202. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On; Mixed Beverage (seating capacity 151 seats or more) license to sell or manu-facture alcoholic beverages. Charissa L. Davidovici, Manager

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later that 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be regis-

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOS NFATC MASTER PLAN UPDATE

**NOTICE: Public Scoping Meeting** 

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE DOS GEORGE P. SHULTZ NATIONAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS TRAINING

The U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State (DOS), is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze potential impacts resulting from implementation of the Master Plan Update for the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center (NFATC). The DOS is updating the 1989 Master Plan for the 72-acre NFATC, located at the former Arlington Hall Station in Arlington Virginia. NFATC is the headquarters for the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). As part of the Master Plan Update, the GSA, on behalf of DOS, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. GSA is the lead federal agency for the EA.

GSA will analyze a range of alternatives including the no action alternative for the proposed Master Plan Update. As part of the EA, GSA will study the impacts of each alternative on the natural, cultural, and social environment. GSA will begin consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f and intends to partially fulfill the Section 106 public notification and consultation requirements through the NEPA scoping process.

PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING: An open-house style public scoping meeting will be held as follows:

**Tuesday, July 19, 2016** 6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington** 4444 Arlington Boulevard Arlington, VA 22204

The meeting will be an informal open house where visitors may receive information on the project and provide comments.

WRITTEN COMMENTS: Agencies and the public are encouraged to provide written comments on the scoping issues in addition to or in lieu of giving their comments at the public scoping meeting. Written comments regarding the EA for the DOS Master Plan Update must be postmarked or received no later than August 19, 2016 and sent to the following address:

U.S. General Services Administration, National Capital Region Attention: Ms. Alexis Gray, Project Manager 301 7th Street, SW, Suite 4004 Washington, DC 20407

Email: www.gsa.gov/portal/content/136234 using the subject line: NFATC Scoping Comment

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Alexis Gray, Project Manager, General Services Administration, National Capital Region, at 202-260-6895. Please also call this number if special assistance is needed to attend and participate in the scoping meeting. Information regarding this project may also be found at www.gsa.gov/portal/content/136234



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