

Great Falls CONNECTION

Saxon Stage Serves Drama

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

Three strippers, played by students Elenitsa Sgorous (left), Anneka Noe (center, right) and Yoona Lee (right), teach Louise, played by junior Jessica Peros (center, left), the ropes of strip-tease in the number "Gotta Get a Gimmick" in Langley High School production of musical, "Gypsy."



OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY DIANA LIM

SunTrust, Pike Trail Debated in Great Falls

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK, PAGE 3

Great Falls Studios ArtFest April 29-30

CALENDAR, PAGE 10

APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2017

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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Animal Hospital to Host Open House

Great Falls Animal Hospital is hosting an Open House and Community Get Together in Great Falls on May 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Great Falls Animal Hospital is inviting the community to come tour the hospital and see the behind the scenes activities that keep pets healthy.

There will be demonstrations of animal CPR, x-rays, dental techniques, and teddy bear surgery on any stuffed animals brought for treatment.

Hope & Serenity Equestrian Center & Farm Sanctuary and The Wildlife Rescue League, both 501(c)(3) organizations, will be giving talks and providing the opportunity for animal interactions. There will also be a Pet Microchip Clinic - \$20 per chip, a \$40 savings. Wolf Trap Fire Station will be there to discuss pet safety in emergency situations. There will be Pet Talent Contest, the Cutest Pet Contest, and a Coloring Contest. Hourly door prizes will be awarded.

FAITH NOTES

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

Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel. The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. Contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holycorforter.com.

Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the

Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap if you have them. Contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

Mom's Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.

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SunTrust, Georgetown Pike Trail Debated in Great Falls

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Foust, D-Dranesville, and Benjamin Wiles, his staff aide who works on land-use issues, identified some of the developments within the Dranesville District — and specifically in Great Falls — that they will be focusing on over the next couple of months.

SunTrust Bank Comes to Town

The SunTrust Bank at 9912 Georgetown Pike applied with the county in November 2016 to relocate to 778 Walker Road within the Great Falls Village Centre.

The land is currently a paved parking lot next to a Wells Fargo Bank that the Great Falls Community Farmers Market uses for its summer operations. The lot is zoned for commercial use.

The Great Falls Citizens Association held a public townhall at the Great Falls Library to discuss the application on Tuesday, April 18.

Donald “Phil” Whitworth, member of the Great Falls Citizens Association Executive Board and Land Use and Zoning Committee, moderated the meeting.

“This is not another new bank in Great Falls, this is a relocation of an existing bank,” Whitworth said during the meeting.

SunTrust has proposed a new one-story, 32-foot tall building at the corner of Walker Road and Columbine Street with 3,327 square feet of office space and 14 parking spaces. The bank would be accessed by the current road inside the Village Centre.

“Doing that ordinarily would be by right ... but in order to stay competitive with the other banks in town, they want a drive-thru and it’s the drive-thru component that requires a special exception,” Whitworth said.

The GFCA Land Use and Zoning Committee has been working with SunTrust on the architecture and design since January.

“Anytime you do anything in Great Falls, you want to make sure it’s consistent with the village character,” Foust said. “Architecture becomes very important.”

The bank’s original design had a flat roof before it was quickly changed to a gable roof.

“Shame on us, we did start off with a flat roof, which was found to be quite objectionable,” Lynne Strobel said during the meeting. She is an attorney with Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh and is representing SunTrust.

The greatest concern expressed by attendees during the meeting was that the project’s approval would mean the community would no longer have a space to host its summer farmers market.

When people began criticizing bank representatives for taking away their farmers market location, they were reminded that the space is commercially zoned and for sale by the owner.

“It is commercially zoned, and without



PHOTO COURTESY OF LYNNE STROBEL

The blue box at the end of the drive-thru is a teller connect machine, which is an ATM that also allows users to interact with bank tellers working inside the branch when performing transactions. The drive-thru requires a special exception from the county.



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Lynne Strobel, an attorney with Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, represented SunTrust and gave a presentation during the community meeting.

the drive-thru, we probably wouldn’t even be here discussing it,” Whitworth said. “It is because of the drive-thru teller piece that requires them to get a special exception.”

“If it’s not SunTrust, it’s going to be somebody else,” Whitworth added.

Kathleen Murphy, the market manager of the Great Falls Community Farmers Market, stood up to clear the air.

“I would like to express with all my heart a huge gratitude to [the land owner] for his generosity over at last nine years for allowing the market to be there for free, just out of generosity for the community,” she said. “He has made it possible for us to grow community memories and community experiences and we know that is something that nobody is going to take away from us ... We’re not afraid and it doesn’t mean our market will disappear because we don’t



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Donald “Phil” Whitworth, member of the Great Falls Citizens Association Executive Board and Land Use and Zoning Committee, moderated the meeting.

Georgetown Pike Trail

Fairfax County sought input from community members as it designs the final portions of a 4-mile pedestrian and bike trail along Georgetown Pike in Great Falls.

“It’s a very important pedestrian project,” Foust said. “It’s got a lot of support in the community.”

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation held a community meeting about its Georgetown Pike Trail Phase III and Phase IV projects on Wednesday, March 22, at the Great Falls Library, where approximately 20 people attended.

“Overall, Georgetown Pike doesn’t have any continuous pedestrian facilities,” Doug Miller, environmental specialist for the FCDOT, said at the meeting. “There’s not really any safe way to walk on the shoulder of Georgetown Pike and so as a consequence it kind of forces people to get into cars even if they just want to go up to the grocery store or a restaurant and get a bite to eat.”

The county has been working since 2001 to change that.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors entered into an agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation to construct a pedestrian trail along the north side of Georgetown Pike from River Bend Road westward to Seneca Road in January 2001. The total distance for the continuous trail is 4.2 miles.

Phase I, located in the Village Center, and Phase II, between Utterback Store Road and Falls Chase Court, have been completed.

Phase III will complete a 250-foot section between Falls Chase Court and Falls Bridge Lane.

Phase IV will complete a 1,200-foot section between Falls Bridge Lane and Seneca Road. When these two phases are finished, the 4.2-mile trail will be complete.

SEE COMMUNITY OUTLOOK, PAGE 4



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COMMUNITY OUTLOOK

FROM PAGE 3

A complication to the projects is that Georgetown Pike is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its role as an essential link in opening a major transportation route between Virginia and the Capitol during the development of roads and road law in the state from 1813 to 1934, according to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Phase III is also a recipient of federal funding. Because of the federal funding and the classification of the roadway as a historic resource, the segment of the trail must comply with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Phase IV of the trail would construct a 6-foot wide asphalt trail entirely within VDOT right of way.

Phase III of the project is currently undergoing a federally-required environmental review process. The FCDOT will also be submitting conceptual designs for evaluation by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in June to determine if Phase III would have any adverse effects on the integrity of the roadway.

Upon completion of the review, a project schedule will be developed.

Phase III

Alternative 1

- ♦ The trail would have a wide buffer from the road
- ♦ The set-back trail would construct a 6-

foot wide asphalt trail on VDOT easements and private property, which would require the county to purchase right of ways from property owners

- ♦ Tree loss estimated to be 60 to 70 mature trees

Alternative 2

- ♦ Construct two crosswalks without signals

♦ The crosswalks would take pedestrians from the existing Phase II of the project across the 40-mile-per-hour road to existing trails on the other side and back to Phase IV of the project to avoid building Phase III of the trail altogether

"The crosswalks, even if we elected to do it, would likely not meet VDOT requirements," Miller said.

Alternative 3

- ♦ The trail would be closer to the road than alternative No. 1

♦ The trail would construct a 6-foot wide asphalt trail entirely within VDOT right of way

♦ Trail would require construction of a curb and gutter system as a buffer from the road

- ♦ Tree loss estimated to be 10 to 12 trees
- "All alternatives are still under consideration," Miller said. "The county DOT is supporting option No. 3, which would minimize private property impacts, avoid tree losses, but again that's our thought and we want yours."

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NEWS

The Arts of Great Falls School Announces Winners of Student Show

The adult winners of the Student Art Show were announced on April 14. Hannah Huthwaite received 1st Place and People's Choice with "Friendly Gathering" (Acrylic); Cindi Berry 2nd Place for "Flowers in a French Vase" (Oil); 3rd Place Jay Pigeon for "Cloud Burst" (Pastel); Honorable Mentions went to Kyle McAdams's "Terlingua Texas Farm" (Oil) and Alice Nodine's "Sky Meadows I" (Acrylic & Mixed Media). The judge was Elizabeth Floyd, an Alexandria-based artist.

The show with 50 pieces of art submitted by 27 adult students who took classes at The Arts of Great Falls School in 2016 was on exhibit through April 26.

* Youth Student Winners, Intermediate Category include: 1st Place – "Anatomy of a Man" by Isabella Zhu; 2nd Place – "Ear Study" by Maryam Bade; 3rd Place – "Star of the Night" by Georgia Brown; Honorable Mention – "Skull" by Kaylie McPhail; and Honorable Mention – "Study" by Gracie DeLuca.

* Youth Student Winners, Beginner Category include: 1st Place – "Reflections on Light" by Amy Lowen; 2nd Place – "Grapes & Apples" by Denise Wang; 3rd Place – "Still Life" by Erin Lee; Honorable Mention – "Thoughts" by Kylie Gillen and Honorable Mention – "Sweet and Sour" by Ava Fox.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED
Student Show judge Elizabeth Floyd (far right) announces winners at the awards reception.



Intermediate Category winners, from left: Isabella Zhu, Maryam Bade, Grace DeLuca, and Kaylie McPhail.



Beginners Category winners: Amy Lowen, Ava Fox, and Kylie Gillen.



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Your Summer, Your Child, Your Values

A time for parents to build humanitarian spirits.

BY SHARON STRAUCHS

It's summer. The rigors of homework, youth clubs and team-scheduled Saturdays are over. No more carpools. Now it's your turn to make empowering choices to impact your child's life and eventually the lives of their children.

While our kids are young, the challenge is how to find summer-perfect opportunities that are fun, yet meaningful, and how to get the kids away from their electronic devices. When choosing summer activities, this is your golden opportunity to focus on your specific family values. While swimming lessons, camp-outs, and sports are important, wouldn't it be wonderful to incorporate activities that help your children focus beyond themselves and to the world beyond Northern Virginia?

We educators emphasize that the earlier your child engages in volunteer activities you find important, the more likely children will grow up respecting your family's values. In the D.C. Metro Area, there is a plethora of humanitarian programs for the under-18 age group that will get them into the habit of helping others.

College advisers all know that beyond APs, GPAs, and SAT/ACT scores, colleges today scrutinize applicants' activities, their "resumes," to help determine acceptances and scholarships.

So start now, at a pivotal point in your child's life and witness the hot, summer days of NOVA becoming wondrous as you watch priorities slowly change. We recommend starting at www.VolunteerFairfax.org (Opportunities Just for Youth). Plus, in Virginia, kids have the opportunity to earn service-oriented awards such as the "Diploma Seal of Excellence in Civics" (www.doe.virginia.gov), or "The Prudential Spirit of Community Award," Virginia state-issued civics "diploma" for students in grades 5-12 who complete at least a 50-hour service project.

Where could you possibly begin to invest 50 or more hours, and for what cause? Our family discovered the famous "Meals on Wheels" program, started by former U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf, and delivered meals to senior citizens for our 10-year, part-time family project. (www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org)

For our "foodie" kids who are cooking or gardening enthusiasts, The Food Network

sponsors "No Kid Hungry." Proceeds from bake sales are donated to help end childhood hunger (www.bake.nokidhungry.org) and the Gardening for Good project encourages kids to grow vegetables to donate to senior centers, or help fight senior hunger by sharing a meal. This encourages kids to learn to cook, and helps your family bond with a senior while eating and storytelling. (www.hunger.generationOn.org)

What about our animal-loving children? They can develop a Dog Park Clean-Up plan at their favorite park or socialize with dogs and cats at local shelters with the Puppy and Kitty Love programs. This is great for families who love pets but can't actually own one. (www.GenerationOn.org/parents/resources/projects/animal-welfare).

As always, we parents must insure that activities are safe and the charities are legitimate. The benefits of helping humanitarian organizations while taking advantage of your relaxed summer schedule can create so many powerful, long-lasting memories and family summer traditions. Aesop states, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Sharon Strauchs has been Director/Owner of Herndon-based Cortona Academy in Northern Virginia. Visit www.CortonaLearning.com.

Infant Screening Saves Lives

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

Several weeks ago at the invitation of their leader I spoke to a group of Boy Scouts about government and the responsibilities of citizenship. Talking with me helped the Scouts meet one of their requirements for a merit badge. One of the Scouts asked me about the most important legislation I had ever gotten passed. I told him about multiple issues on which I had worked, but I focused on one that I thought he might know little about but would show the range of issues with which legislators deal. I told him about my work to expand infant screening in the Commonwealth.

Prior to my election to office I served on the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. A member of that Board whose adult son was a resident at the Northern Virginia Training Center told me of the great hope there was in detecting health issues in infants at the time of their birth with blood screening. At the time Virginia had only three tests, one of which was pku testing. I remembered our conversation after I was elected, and I got new tests added as scientists developed them.

Metabolic disorders that can be discovered from a pin prick of an

infant's heel can lead to early and sometimes simple treatments that can lead to a healthy child and adult. Without treatment numerous medical conditions can develop including severe developmental delays and chronic illnesses. Metabolic disorders affect the chemical processes in your body that must work together correctly for you to stay healthy.

I was honored to work on legislation that added most of the 30 tests that are done in Virginia on that same spot of blood from an infant to detect these disorders. Last week I was reminded of the experience that I had working with Dr. Barry Wolf of the then Medical College of Virginia who had discovered that the disorder in which the body is unable to recycle the vitamin biotin can lead to developmental delays in children, hearing and vision loss, breathing problems, and problems with balance and movement. When discovered early such as through a screening test, the disorder can be treated with nutritional supplements that can result in a normal life for the person.

With Dr. Wolf's research and my legislative proposal, in 1984 Virginia became the first state in this country to begin infant screening for biotinidase deficiency. Since that time every state and many foreign countries have started the

screening. The March of Dimes recognized us for that accomplishment. The reminder of this story came from a local doctor in Reston who was a medical student at MCV at the time and knew of Dr. Wolf's research and my bill. She wrote to us both telling us of a teenage patient she had just met who at birth had been found to have the deficiency but with treatment was living

a normal life. She wrote to both of us that "because of researchers like you and advocates like you...our world is made a little better for all, and lives are saved for some precious few. That's something to be proud of."

I hope the Boy Scouts understood why I consider the work on infant screening to be among the most important I have done.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Comstock Should Support Protecting Democracy Act

To the Editor:

This past Tax Day, citizens across our nation demonstrated to demand that President Trump release his tax returns, as all his predecessors have done for the past 40 years. Clearly, Trump is trying to hide something, and the public has a right to know what it is.

The call for Trump to release his taxes even came from Virginia's 10th District U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock, whose voting record in the current Congress shows her to be a staunch Trump supporter. In a statement, Representative Comstock noted that Trump's tax returns might possibly shed light on Trump's ties to Russia.

But Comstock can, and should, do more. She should cosponsor the

Presidential Tax Transparency Act bill that requires the President and candidates for president to disclose the last three years of their federal tax returns.

Even more important than Trump's taxes is the Russian attack on our democracy during the last election. Comstock should cosponsor the Protecting Our Democracy Act that establishes an independent bipartisan commission to investigate Russian interference in our elections. Comstock's statement demanding that Trump release his tax returns is welcome, but compared to everything that is in her power to do it is a timid gesture.

Richard Markeloff
Herndon

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS

Great Falls Library to Name Meeting Room for Community Leader

The Friends of the Great Falls Library and the Great Falls Citizens Association announced that the largest meeting room in the library will be dedicated on Saturday, May 6 at 4 p.m. as The Marge Toni Gersic Community Room.

The public is invited to attend this special community award and commemoration ceremony. Marge Gersic was a long-time resident of Great Falls who died last year. She was instrumental in obtaining the Great Falls Library for Great Falls. She loved Great Falls and was active in community and county organizations, including as a member of the Fairfax County Library Board and President of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

Speakers who will discuss her many contributions to the community include Dranesville Supervisor John Foust, former Dranesville Supervisor Lilla Richards, Susan Blakely (chief of staff for former Supervisor Stuart Mendelsohn), Karrie Delaney (Chair-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Marge Toni Gersic

person of Fairfax County Library Board), Michelle Miller (Friends of the Library President), Ruth Carver (GFCA board member) and other friends and neighbors. Marge's son John Gersic will also attend from out of town as an honored guest. Beverages and light refreshments will be served.



Great Falls Studios

Spring ArtFest



Here are some samples!

April 29 - 30, 2017

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

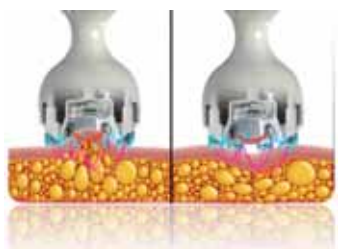
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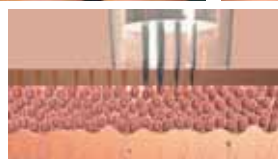
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The Kensington Falls Church is pleased to collaborate with the Parkinson Foundation of The National Capital Area (PFNCA) and Genesis Rehab Services to offer Energized Fitness for Parkinson's. The program provides a high-energy fitness experience geared toward improving mobility and strength while participants share time with others facing Parkinson's.

Energized Fitness is led by Sheetal Yadav, MPT, who brings many years of experience in providing physical therapy to geriatric clients. Sheetal is our ally in striving to maximize health and optimize independence for people with Parkinson's. Please RSVP to join us.



Sheetal Yadav, MPT, has 11 years of experience as a physical therapist, 7 of which have been working exclusively with geriatric clients in a variety of settings. She has extensive experience working specifically with clients who have neurological conditions, including Parkinson's. Sheetal, born and raised in India, came to the United States to Loma Linda University in California to pursue a Master's Degree in Physical Therapy.



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www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com



Fairfax County supervisors and their 2017 Community Champions posed together after being announced at the 25th annual Volunteer Fairfax Service awards on April 21.

Seeds of Change

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Volunteer Fairfax marked an historic 25th annual Service Awards ceremony April 21 with 193 individual and group nominations. Nominees and award-winners were recognized at a morning event held at the Waterford at Springfield for their hundreds of hours volunteering.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said the trick of putting people who want to help into action is harnessing them in a given direction. "That is the work of Volunteer Fairfax," Bulova said.

Bulova read a proclamation from the supervisors declaring April 21, 2017 an official day to recognize all volunteers around Fairfax County.

"Each one of our 2017 nominees has strengthened the community with their selfless service and we honor them today," Volunteer Fairfax CEO Elise Neil Bengtson said in a statement. "May their service inspire others to join the network of strong community roots."

Senior, family youth and group volunteers were recognized, as well as Community Champions selected by each magisterial district supervisor.

Volunteers from the Friends Groups of Huntley — Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and the Friends of Historic Huntley — won a handful of awards at the event.

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) called the park "the crown jewel in the county," and that the care and vitality of the park couldn't happen without the volunteers.

"It's great to see them recognized and awarded," McKay said. "The natural environment is great for people — it's serene, peaceful."

Springfield resident Marie Monsen won the Volunteer Fairfax Lifetime Achievement award.

Monsen co-founded the Interfaith Communities for Dialogue after September 11, 2001 and for years has volunteered with the Annandale Christian Community for Action.



Right, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) with his district's Community Champion Penny Halpern. Halpern has been an adult volunteer with the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital since 1980 and was behind the Herndon Village Network that supports seniors in the area.

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION



Members of the Wolf Trap First Time Campers Program receive the Volunteer Fairfax Service award for Volunteer Program on April 21.



Left, Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) with her district's Community Champions, members of the Oakton Library. Smyth acknowledged the group for being an active organization before there was even a building or books, saying they have "built a library that has been the focal point for the Oakton community for the last 10 years."

Volunteer Fairfax honors service award-winners at 25th annual ceremony

Along with Rebuilding Together, they help low-income homeowners in the Annandale, Lincolnia, Bailey's Crossroads and Culmore areas of Fairfax County.

Monsen said giving back was just something she learned from the good values of her Scandinavian immigrant parents, being a child of the 1960s, as well as her faith.

She said she was attracted to the diversity in Fairfax County, and appreciates its tradition of government agencies working together with people.

"We have an opportunity to model," Monsen said.

Monsen added it was exhilarating to "see so many people doing so many things."

For more information, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

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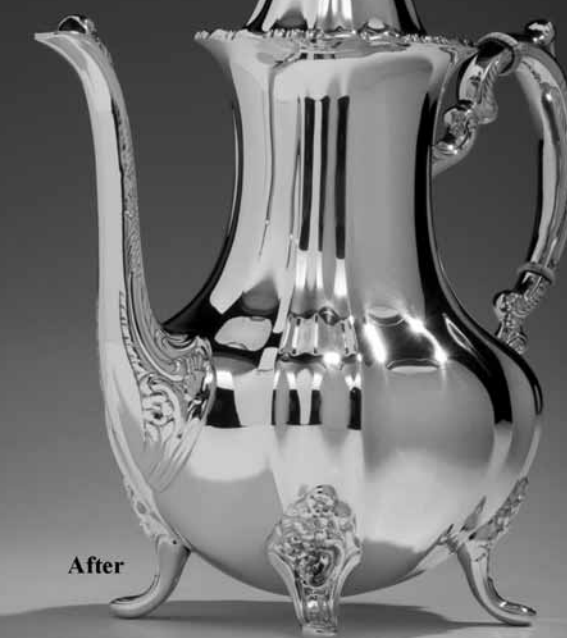
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Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips **Bowlmor Lanes**

Friday, April 28, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$55/\$45 MCC district residents

Jammin' Juniors Concert

Peter McCory

Wednesday, May 2, 12:30 p.m.
McLean Central Park Gazebo
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.
Free admission



Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Party

The Glow Party

Friday, May 5, 7-9 p.m.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents.
Advance registration is highly recommended.



Jammin' Juniors Concert

Two of a Kind

Wednesday, May 10, 12:30 p.m.
McLean Central Park Gazebo
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.
Free admission

Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips

Dave & Buster's

Friday, May 12, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$45/\$35 MCC district residents



McLean Day

Saturday, May 20, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Lewinsville Park
1659 Chain Bridge Rd.
Free admission

Jammin' Juniors Concert

Farmer Jason

Wednesday, May 24, 12:30 p.m.
McLean Central Park Gazebo
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd.
Free admission



The McLean Community Center

www.mcleancenter.org

Home of the Alden Theatre

www.aldentheatre.org

Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Dr.
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Ed Behrens' Photographs. Various times through April 30 at Katie's Coffee House, Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. The showing will celebrate Ed's ten years as a member of Great Falls Studios, his very active 80th birthday. Call 703-759-0927 for more.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

First Sunday Jazz Brunch 11-2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

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

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

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

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fundamentals of Watercolors. Mondays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts



Bluebells by Layla Gray



Pottery by Robin Smith

Great Falls Studios ArtFest April 29-30

Spring is an exciting time to be an artist in Great Falls. Not only does it give local artists the opportunity to get out and about with cameras, brushes and paints to work "plein air," but their April ArtFest, the start of the Great Falls Studios show season, enables them to share their artistic creations from the winter months and early spring. Many of the works on display will be brand new.

The Great Falls artists have been inspired to paint and photograph both locally and internationally: some fortunate to paint on their travels while Walt Lawrence has been observing and photographing the fascinating lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently announcing that spring is truly here in Great Falls. Begonia Morton has sketched community landmarks, now depicted on her new tea towel.

Oil painters have portrayed graceful ballet dancers, lush green landscapes, intricate still lifes, realism and abstraction. Irrum Merill has designed exquisite pearl jewelry, Vad Moskowitz presents her one of a kind woven purses, and potters display decorative and tableware pieces.

Visit and talk with member artists on this year's expanded Spring ArtFest, in four locations in town: the Grange and Old Forestville Schoolhouse, next to the library, and a three group studios in the Village center: The Artists' Atelier, the Loft and Artists on the Green.

Several of Great Falls artists teach and there will be a display of the winning art of students at The Arts of Great Falls, in The Grange during the weekend.

Great Falls Studios Artfest will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 29-30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit greatfallsstudios.com.

of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Still Life Painting. Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Still life provides a great tool to hone skills. Recommended for students of all levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org.

Evening Painting. Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/clothed figure from a live model. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Intro to Jewelry Design. Tuesdays 9 a.m.-noon at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. JJ Singh teaches a class for anyone interested in exploring the world of metal clay and its design possibilities. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

APRIL 22-MAY 31

Artists Show. Various times at the

Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. "Levels of Abstraction," show featuring the works of Hiromi Ashlin, Genna Gurvich, Sandi Ritchie Miller, and Buck Nelligan. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net or call 703-450-8005 for more.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

Blood Drive. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Long and Foster, 1355 Beverly Road, McLean. Long and Foster is partnering with Children's National for a blood drive, the blood mobile will be located in the front of the building. Call 703-790-1990 or visit www.cnmcblooddonor.com.

Tree Celebration. 4:30 p.m. at Meadow Lane Park, 400 Courthouse Road SW. In celebration of Arbor Day, Mayor Laurie DiRocco will be joined by Cub Scout Pack 1116 to plant an oak tree. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Dinner and Whisky. 7 p.m. at Ruth's Chris Steak House in Tyson's Corner, 8521 Leesburg Pike. Introducing a

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Saxon Stage Serves Drama Langley High School presents "Gypsy."

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

What happens when a renowned strip-tease artist raises her two daughters to lead a life of show business and onstage performance?

Plenty of drama.

Langley High School's new musical, "Gypsy," follows Mama Rose Hovick and her two daughters, June and Louise, as they travel the American vaudeville circuit of the 1920s.

The cast finished its first round of performances last weekend, but the Saxon Stage will raise its curtain for a second round of shows from Thursday through Saturday, April 27-29.

Taking audiences along for the journey involved creating more than a dozen sets, according to junior Madison Deyo, 17, who is the stage manager for the musical.

"Our set changes a lot and the lighting changes for each scene," she said.

This is Deyo's sixth mainstage production at the school, working



PHOTOS BY DIANA LIM

Farmboys, played by students James Shun, Cuinn Casey, Sean Leech, Josh Guinn, and Sam Buroker; Mama Rose, played by junior Jamie Goodson; and June, played by senior Sydney Copp (blonde wig); wish Louise, played by junior Jessica Peros (center), a happy birthday.

her way up the ranks to call the shots from behind the scenes.

"If I mess up, we're in trouble," she jokes. "I'm there to make sure everything runs smoothly."

But the emotions on the stage run wild.

"It's a train," said senior Jamie Goodson, 18, who plays Mama Rose. "It just never stops. When I finish a run through, I'm just emotionally drained."

Stepping into a role of a mother who is much older than she is also complicates her experience.

"It's the hardest role I've ever played," she said. "I have to imagine what it's like to take care of people."

But she and her character do share something in common: A passion for the stage.

"Theater is her life and she's wanted to do this her whole life,"



Herbie, played by sophomore Mark Bosset, and Mama Rose, played by senior Jamie Goodson, finally agree to marry each other with a kiss on stage.

said Goodson, who will start attending the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio to pursue a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in musical theater next fall.

By the end of the show, which spans over a decade, her character deals with the frustration of not having much to show for her work and sacrifices in the number

"Rose's Turn."

"The end is so vulnerable for me," Goodson said.

She uses some of her own personal memories to deliver the performance in the song.

"If it's not coming from a real place, the audience isn't going to feel for you," she said. "I hope I don't end up like her. I'm in a place she was once."

The aging of the actors is a challenge that the whole cast embraced.


"I age a decade in the show," said sophomore Mark Bosset, 16. His character, Herbie, requires applying powder to his hair with a toothbrush to age his character, a graying effect.

"It's fun to put yourself in the shoes of this character," he said.

There is also a strobe light effect to dramatically age the actors, who are played by elementary students, to the high school actors.

"It looks amazing," said Deyo. "It took a couple of rehearsals, but it looks good."

General admission for the show is \$13.41 online at www.lhsgypsy.brownpapertickets.com and \$15 at the door while seats remain.



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Invites You to

"Meet the Candidates" in the 2017 McLean Community Center Governing Board Elections.

When:
Sunday, May 7, 3-5 p.m.

Who:
Six adult candidates, two teens from the Langley High School boundary area, and four teens from the McLean High School boundary area.

Where:
The Old Firehouse Teen Center
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
McLean, VA 22101


Format:
Informal Reception

Six adults are vying for adult votes to fill three seats on the Governing Board. Two teens from the Langley High School boundary area and four teens from the McLean 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 emailing elections@mcleancenter.org.
See you there!



The McLean Community Center
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org



Can't Vote at McLean Day for the 2017-2018 MCC Governing Board?

Vote by Absentee Ballot now through May 17 at either:

McLean Community Center (MCC)	Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC)
<p>Administration Offices: 6631 Old Dominion Dr. McLean, VA 22101 703-790-0123</p> <p>Class Programs/Registration Office: 6645 Old Dominion Dr. McLean, VA 22101 703-744-9348/TTY 711</p> <p>Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Closed on Sunday</p>	<p>1440 Chain Bridge Rd. McLean, VA 22101 703-448-8336/TTY 711</p> <p>Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (closed on weekends)</p>

OR

Absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be returned to one of these locations by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17.

Requesting Absentee Ballots:
You can pick up absentee ballot packages and vote at both MCC offices or OFTC. You can also request absentee ballot packages by email at elections@mcleancenter.org or by telephone at 703-744-9348.

Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:
You can return your absentee voting affidavits and ballots to the front desk at either MCC location or OFTC. You may also mail them using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed in the absentee ballot package.

Mailed affidavits and ballots must be received at the administrative offices by due date.

Absent voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17.

Hand delivered absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be received at either MCC location or OFTC by that time.

If you have questions:
Please call 703-744-9348 or email elections@mcleancenter.org



The McLean Community Center
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www.mcleancenter.org






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To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Mount Vernon Gazette will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 6
Music 4 years to 2nd grade
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

five-course dinner paired with Johnnie Walker Whisky. Call 703-848-4290 or visit www.ruthschris.com/Restaurant-Locations/tysons-corner for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 28

Community Service and Scholarship Awards Gala. 7 p.m. Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Urban League honoring champions in the community for leadership and community service and awarding student scholarships. Call 703-836-2858 or visit www.nvul.org
Fairfax Genealogical Society. 7:30 p.m. at Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station Hall, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Sarah R. Fleming presentation "From the Ashes—A Burned County Case Study," efforts to piece together evidence to determine ancestors; reviews strategies and records used despite a courthouse fire. Call 703-644-8185 or visit www.fxgs.org/events.

APRIL 28-30

Spring Art Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday at Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. ValeArts "Fresh Paint," Spring Art Show features guest artists Mary Beth Gaiarin and Andrea Cybyk among others. Visit www.valearts.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Rummage Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Donate gently used items in the Fellowship Hall April 24-28 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 703-281-3987 or visit www.GoodShepherdVa.com.
Fairfax County Anniversary. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Virginia Room, City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. "A Place Called Home: Fairfax County. A 275th Anniversary Event" is a day-long exploration of the history of Fairfax County. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-293-6227, ext. 6.
Korean Culture and Food Forum. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Korean United Methodist Church of Greater Washington, 1219 Swinks Mill Road, McLean. Cultural programs such as Korean dance performances, paper folding, trying on traditional Korean costumes and games for children. Call 703-863-2259 for more.
2017 Summer Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Opening Day, Great Falls Farmers Market, 778 Walker Road. Visit greatfallsfarmersmarket.org.
"Preserving Family Heirlooms." 10 a.m. at Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station Hall, 2148 Gallows Road,

Vienna. Tina Beaird presents a brief history of paper manufacturing and photography while describing how to store and preserve such items, and techniques for preserving historic and modern scrapbooks. Call 703-644-8185 or visit www.fxgs.org/events.

Community Shred Day. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at the AOG Wealth Management Office, 10130-E Colvin Run Road. Free. Email mmiller@aogwealth.com or call 703-757-8020.

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department fire station at 400 Center St. S. Free admission and live entertainment. Proceeds from the sale of food and beverages will benefit the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. Visit tasteofvienna.org for more.

Homeless Community Forum. 1-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Representatives from local government, nonprofits, and faith groups gather for a community forum on homelessness in Fairfax County. Call 703-281-1767, or visit unityoffairfax.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 30

Green Expo. 2-5 p.m. at the Windover Heights Historic District, 277 Windover Ave., Vienna. The yards and gardens of approximately 50 homes in the Town's northwest historic district will be open to visitors as part of the annual Walk on the Hill. Open air artist, jazz ensemble, Hickory Grove performances and historic tour. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

MONDAY/MAY 1

Love Your Baby Day. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Beloved Yoga, 1137 Walker Road, Suite 2, Great Falls. Learn about the many aspects of the prenatal and postnatal journey and support available to have a healthy pregnancy, and raise a healthy and happy baby and family. Visit www.belovedyoga.com for more.
Willy Porter in Concert. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Performing with his singing/songwriting partner, Carmen Nickerson. Visit jamminjava.com.
Spiritual Practices Class. 7-9 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Explore the world of spiritual practices in this experiential survey class. Call 703-281-1767 or visit unityoffairfax.org for more.

TUESDAY/MAY 2

Girls Night Out and Social. 5-8 p.m. at Kona Grill, 11724 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Email rebecca@novahousewives.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 3

Great Falls Historical Society. 6

p.m. at L'Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls. 40th Anniversary Celebration. Call 703-759-3800 for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Oak Hill Fun Run. 6-10:30 a.m. Oak Hill Elementary School, 3210 Kinross Circle, Oak Hill. Support the school or earn service hours by running the annual Oak Hill 1K or 5K. Call 703-467-3535 or email OakHillES.Attendance@fcps.edu.

Ayr Hill Garden Club. 8 a.m.-noon on the lawn next to the Freeman Store, 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. This year's sale, which features plants that come largely from club members' gardens, will emphasize benefits of native plants to the local ecology. Garden flea market items also will be available. Email emilielarson@rcn.com.

World Labyrinth Day Workshop. noon-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA. Free. Call 703-281-1767 or visit unityoffairfax.org for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 7

Community Open House. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Great Falls Animal Hospital, 10125 Colvin Run Road. Tour the hospital and see the behind the scenes activities that keep your pets healthy. Visit www.GreatFallsAnimalHospital.com for more.

Jazz Concert. 7 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. Featuring Duke Ellington's "Almighty God Has Those Angels" sung by Metropolitan Opera soprano Danielle Talamantes Visit viennapres.org/ or call 703-938-9050 for more.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

Road to Independence Gala. 6-10 p.m. at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The Road to Independence Gala celebrates Northern Virginia Family Service as the leading resource for Northern Virginia families in need. This prestigious event features live and silent auctions, and draws 600 business and community leaders invested in local families. This year's honorees are Karen Cleveland and former U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf. \$300. Call 571-748-2502, or email scrosley@nvfs.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 13

Love Your Baby Day. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Beloved Yoga, 1137 Walker Road, Suite 2, Great Falls. Learn about the many aspects of the prenatal and postnatal journey and support available to have a healthy pregnancy, and raise a healthy and happy baby and family. Visit www.belovedyoga.com for more.

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ARTS

Capturing the Life of Bald Eagles in Great Falls

It is that time of year when our community art organization, Great Falls Studios, comes together to hold its annual Spring ArtFest which is scheduled for next weekend on Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. This year is featuring an expanded set of venues to include all the group studios in the Great Falls Village Centre as well as in the Great Falls Grange and Schoolhouse.

I will be showing my work in my studio at The Artists' Atelier located just two buildings down from the Old Brogue. I have been photographing a pair of Bald Eagles in Riverbend Park since last fall and have collected hundreds of images as they built their nest, fell in love and are now raising a family. I cannot tell you how many trips I have made to the park to observe and photograph these two, now three, but it is close to



Bald Eagles in Formation

three or four times a week. As a result I have added several images to my portfolio of Great Falls wildlife, landscapes and landmarks. It is one thing to see a solitary eagle perched in a tree but it is some-

thing much more to see a pair perched next to each other on the same branch or soaring lazily together overhead or even chasing each other in formation.

So mark your calendar, come to



PHOTOS BY WALTER LAWRENCE

Bald Eagle Landing

the Spring ArtFest and plan to stop by The Artists' Atelier. If you are looking for something for your home or office or perhaps a graduation or wedding gift, I'm sure there is a solution here some-

where. Even if you are not in shopping mode stop in to see the eagles, pictures that is, and say hello.

— WALT LAWRENCE

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And So It Begins ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The onslaught of radio and television advertising for grass seed and riding mowers. I suppose if I was a responsible homeowner, given the time of the year: spring/April, I might have an interest in such timely offerings. However, since I'm not and since I'm still unable to manage the two acres that I own, affectionately referred to as "Belly Acres," going on 25 years dating back to May '92 when we initially took ownership, the best I can do is borrow my neighbor's riding mower and spend a couple of hours every two weeks or so trying to keep the grass below my knees. Cancer issues not totally withstanding.

Actually, aside from having little interest, minimal experience and multiple home/tool maintenance issues/pre-existing conditions, I am the perfect target: a homeowner who can't do anything on his own and needs help all the time for everything. Specifically as it involves my yard; I have grass, trees, bushes, shrubs, daffodils, flower beds, wild flowers, weeds and more weeds. If I were so inclined and wanted to confide to someone in a Lawn & Garden store, I would have to admit that a novice looks experienced compared to me. I need to be taken by the hand — literally — and instructed as if the words being spoken to me were a foreign language. Which of course, they are.

This previous paragraph presumes however that I have a budget and even a passing notion to attempt to improve upon the randomness that characterizes "Belly Acres." I can still remember a conversation I had with a local lawn and garden consultant when we first moved in. A gentlemen came by and together we walked around the property. After ending up back at the house, he asked me what I wanted to do. I said something like, "I don't know, you tell me." He responded with words I could semi understand but mostly it was unintelligible — to me, so I asked for a clarification.

After grasping the obvious, finally, I asked: "Is what you're telling me that I could hire someone to work full time for the rest of his life and still the work wouldn't get done?"

"Yes," he said.

That's when I fully understood the problem. I then thanked him for his time and haven't revisited the issue since. Talk about pointless. And so, all these years later, the property remains nearly as it was. Oh sure, tress have fallen down, branches, limbs, sticks and stones have hit the ground — and house, and together have cluttered up the general appearance. However, any effort beyond paying people to clean up the miscellaneous yard debris has been lost in the passage of time and in my lack of initiative. Throw in a "terminal" cancer diagnosis and at least for me, pulling weeds, etc., became a fairly low priority.

Still, it doesn't mean that I don't pay attention to advertising aimed at homeowners, especially the ones promoting grass seed and riding mowers. Many of which are quite funny and clever. Not quite clever enough to get me off the couch and into a store to spend money on a project, especially on one whose timeline might not match mine. That's not to say that I'm living like I'm dying so why bother? No. it's more about common sense and gratification. I don't need to wait for — anything. Oh sure, I need to plan for tomorrow but not at the expense (pun intended) of today. It's not exactly akin to a fool and his money but when you've been diagnosed with cancer, priorities change, as do budget/time allowances; in fact/feeling, everything changes.

I don't mean to imply that I'm a closed book, unable to get out of my own way or incapable of taking the good with the bad. As you regular readers know, I'm really pretty flexible when it comes to my less-than-ideal circumstances. Nevertheless, it doesn't mean that I don't have my moments. Hearing/seeing these lawn and garden promotions has given me pause though. Not enough to change my mind but enough to motivate me — to write a column.

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

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issuance of this license must be
submitted to ABC no later than 30
days from the publishing date of
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per legal notices. Objections
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SCHOOLS

Potomac School Student, Teacher Honored

Senior Peter Holmes, a student in The Potomac School's Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC) program, was awarded third-place honors at the regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS), held at Georgetown University in March. He received a scholarship and the opportunity to present his research, which focuses on a new method for producing ethanol as a biofuel, at the national JSHS in San Diego in April.

This is not the first time Peter has been recognized for this research. In January, he was named one of 300 Regeneron Scholars nationwide, as part of the Regeneron Science Talent Search, a prestigious pre-college competition that also awards scholarships.

Peter began working on his project as a junior. Having read about using algae to make ethanol, he said, "I tried to think outside the box about a new way that could be more productive and more efficient. That would be to have a single organism, or at least one system, that can both ferment and photosynthesize at the same time, making the whole process more effective." Peter's research advisor, Dr. Isabelle Cohen, said, "His scientific approach was one of the soundest I have witnessed in my many years of research and teaching."

Cohen's support prompted Peter to nominate her for the regional JSHS's 2017 Teacher Award, which she received at the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Peter Holmes '17 and Dr. Isabelle Cohen

symposium. In his nomination, Peter wrote, "I would characterize Dr. Cohen as the most intelligent, hard-working, and considerate person I know. Within her role as an advisor in the SERC program, Dr. Cohen oversees approximately 10 students a year in their independently crafted research projects.

...Dr. Cohen does much more than merely monitor; she becomes a trusted confidant throughout the whole process. ...Without Dr. Cohen constantly pushing me to my greatest potential, I would not be where I am scientifically, nor appreciate the field nearly as much."

Cohen teaches science in Potomac's Upper School; she has been a member of the school's faculty since 1997.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, visit connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

SOBER-RIDE FOR CINCO DE MAYO

Free Sober Rides. Friday, May 5, 7 p.m. through Saturday, May 6, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code CINCODC in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit www.soberride.com.

THROUGH SUMMER

Vienna Street-sweeping Program. The Town of Vienna began its annual street-sweeping program beginning March 20. The Town is divided into eight sections for purposes of the sweeping program. During the first pass through Town, the Public Works Department asks that residents not park on the street. Find the "sweeping" sections at viennava.gov/sweeping. Additionally, signs will be placed on streets marking a window of 7-10 days during which the truck will come through. Contact public works at 703-255-6380.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

Autism Awareness Month. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other cognitive disabilities may not recognize danger, react well in an emergency or

be able to seek help. Attend this workshop to learn safety risks for individuals with special needs, proactive steps to reduce the risk of potential dangers, information on the new Yellow Dot Program and more. Register online at bit.ly/2ogNf84 or call 703-204-3941.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at McLean District Station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Drop off unused or expired medications at a Fairfax County Police district station (pills or liquids only, no pressurized canisters or needles). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb or email wwwcsb@fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

TUESDAY/MAY 2

Town Elections. 6 a.m.-7 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. Town of Vienna residents will cast votes for three Vienna Town Council seats. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 6

Document Shredding Event. 9 a.m.-noon at Long & Foster 1355 Beverly Road, McLean. Free, secure document destruction for the community, bring your unwanted documents and TrueShred will do the rest. Call 703-790-1990 for more.



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A photograph of four children playing tug-of-war in a grassy field. In the foreground, a girl in a pink shirt and a boy in a red shirt are pulling the rope. Behind them, another boy in a blue and white striped shirt is also pulling. A fourth child is visible in the background, wearing a green and blue striped shirt. The children are all smiling and appear to be enjoying the activity. The background is a lush green field with some trees in the distance.

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Nursing Camp for HS Students

Campers will get a real-world view of the nursing profession.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

This summer a group of high school students with an interest in health care as a profession will get a chance to experience the real-world work of nurses when they attend a nursing camp at George Mason University.

"Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not," said Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor and director, School of Nursing George Mason University. "We find that we have students come to Mason who declare nursing as their major, but have never had any experience with nurses outside of their health care provider's office or the school nurse. We want to introduce them to nursing as a career, and the many opportunities that exist in nursing beyond working in a hospital."

The camp will provide small group projects and hands-on simulation to introduce core concepts of nursing. Nursing faculty hope to expose students to the diverse career paths available to those with a degree in nursing.

Urban says that students will be taught healthcare skills, such as how to take a blood pressure and how to check a pulse. "We will provide ... time in our nursing simulation laboratory where we have our human simulators," she said. "[Campers] will have observational experiences in a hospital with nurses and will be given an opportunity to talk with nurses we have on our faculty who have been in unique career fields including a forensics nurse, and a researcher who works globally in sub-Saharan Africa."

The camp will also expose students to new trends in healthcare. "Healthcare delivery is changing and the camp is exposing the students to the changing healthcare climate," said Christine M. Coussens, Ph.D., associate dean of Community Engagement in the College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University. "In the newer healthcare models, nurses will have a significant role in how and when healthcare is delivered and they will continue to be leaders for ensuring the health of patients and communities."

DURING A TYPICAL DAY at the camp, students will spend several hours in the nursing skills laboratory learning basic skills and techniques. "Then they may have some time in our nursing simulation lab, working with a [simulated human] patient and using some of those skills to practice caring for the



PHOTO BY ALEXIS GLENN/CREATIVE SERVICES/GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
GMU College of Health and Human Services Nursing student Megan Holmes works in the Simulation Lab at the Fairfax Campus.

patient," said Urban. "On another day, they will spend several hours in one of the local hospitals on a nursing unit, observing the nurses in-action, and learning about what nurses do there. They may also spend some time in one of our Mason and Partners clinics, learning how nurses care for patients in a clinic setting and how valuable educating patients about their health is to improving their health."

Students will also have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with nurses to gain insights into real world experience. "They'll have conversations with nurses about their careers and learning what education and experiences they needed for that kind of a job. For example, what does a forensics nurse do?" asked Urban.

Coussens hopes that students will leave the camp knowing the diversity of options that a degree in nursing can offer. "A degree in nursing opens possibilities for students to work in hospitals, healthcare management positions, policy positions ... globally in clinics and with aid organizations, in forensic roles [and] research institutions," said Coussens. "There are limitless opportunities. A degree in nursing can open doors because of the clinical license and analytical ability."

Admission to the nursing camp is competitive because of the limited number of available spots.

"We've run this camp before and it has been well-received," said Urban. "Graduates' of the camp have said that it really opened their eyes to everything a nurse does, and the great career potential that nurses have. They are amazed at the various opportunities a nurse can have. It also makes them aware that nursing is hard, but rewarding — it isn't just what you see in the media, it's real work. But more importantly, they see the passion that nurses have for that work, and the reward of seeing a patient and family member helped by the work that nurses do."

The camp will run from July 10-14. The cost is \$275. For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm.

Nursing Camp for High School Students

JULY 10-14, 2017

Cost: \$275

Time: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Application deadline: May 8

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Fighting Summer Brain Drain

Academic camps keep minds engaged when school is out.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Summer often evokes images of pool splashing and backyard barbecuing. For some educators though, warm weather months represent a potential loss of skills acquired during an academic year.

Known as “brain drain,” this concept refers to research that shows that, on average, students lose one to three months of learning when they are not engaged in academic activities during summer months. Academic camps can address this loss of academic skills while allowing children to enjoy summer fun.

“... Students have the opportunity to explore a topic in depth, without juggling competing scholastic demands or intramural activities,” said Dr. Janine Dewitt, professor of sociology at Marymount University in Arlington.

For example, campers at Summertime Camp at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of specialized camps ranging from physics and French to zoology and rocket and space science.

“Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons and to challenge yourself,” said

Jim Supple, associate dean of students and director of summer programs at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School. “One of the best things about specialty offerings is that there are so many. Children are naturally curious — specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their curiosities and interests.”

Campers at 3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp at Marymount University will explore science through nature and electronic gadgets, mathematics through making boats and geodesic domes, language arts through writing stories, and fine arts through creating dramas and cartoons.

Ana Lado, Ph.D., camp director and a professor at Marymount, says that the goal is to give students a chance to brush up on, gain or maintain academic skills in a relaxed environment.

“Campers will be in small groups with a low camper to counselor ratio,” she said. “Throughout each week of camp, campers will be able to choose among a variety of projects that pique their interest. Campers will create new social connections, grow academically, and develop physically.

For parents concerned about balancing the need to maintain academic skills with the need for downtime, Dewitt says that, “Parents can prevent academic burnout by limiting the number of scheduled activities over the course of the summer, and selecting only those that foster their child’s natural curiosity. Summer courses that allow students the freedom to select different types of learning activities can be both energizing and fun.”



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Arlington, Virginia



Rock Camp-Learn how to play in a band with like minded musicians in a creative, fast paced, high-energy learning environment. On the final day of camp, record at a professional recording studio in Leesburg! On Aug 17th you will give a live performance on the Herndon town green for Arts Herndon's Third Thursday's event!

Mini Camps-Jump start your education on a new instrument or get ahead for the following school year. Classes include, Introduction to violin, viola, cello, Introduction to ukulele, Introduction to guitar, Transition from elementary to middle school strings, Transition from middle school to high school strings

Private Summer Flex Lessons-Choose 4, 6, or 8 days/times that fit YOUR busy schedule for private lessons. Students that continue with lessons over the summer will not need to "re-learn" the same skills and techniques that they would have otherwise lost during their time off. In fact, most students who study during the summer enjoy substantial gains in their playing ability due to more time and less stress from school.

(703) 956-6563

The Arts of Great Falls School



**SUMMER
ART
CAMPS**
In Great Falls, VA

- Weekly sign ups
- Half day camps
- From week of June 26 thru week of Aug 21
- Camps for ages 6-9, 8-12, or 12-18

Classical Drawing

Teen Figure Drawing

Fun with Paper Art

Manga

Art Basics

Mixed Media

Sculpture

Teen Color Study

DRAWING & PAINTING

Schedule & Registration Online

www.greatfallsart.org/school-of-art