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Officer Ashley Block with Capt. John Trace. Block, a McLean District Station police officer, was severely injured while helping clear a road during the March 2 wind storm.

McLean CONNECTION

‘It Was the Right Thing to Do’

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Dr. Aleksandra (Any) Parpura, an expert in aging and dementia, leads our Caregiver Connect program and brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

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News

From left: Caroline Senich, Keelin Byrne, Katherine Senich, Megan Borsos, and Amelia Rewis had fun at World Heritage Night where they got to try new foods, hang out with friends, and learn more about other people's cultures.



Cooper Middle Hosts World Heritage Night at School

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots," stated Marcus Garvey, a prominent African American political leader and nationalist from the early 20th century. Seventh and eighth grade students at Cooper Middle School celebrated the world's cultural diversity and ethnic differences through a symbolic event on March 15.

"I would rate it [World Heritage Night] a 13 out of 10," says Alex Karloutsos, a student at Cooper Middle School. Families shared traditions through a potluck with

ethnic dishes, and cultural performances.

"My favorite part was seeing all the different cultures and food," said seventh grader Zoya Qadiri. Additionally, they admired displays, participated in workshops, and viewed festive booths.

By the end of the event, students and families went home with more cultural knowledge and experience than they had hours before.

— Sebastian Herbolzheimer and Aisha Shakeel

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submit your Letter to the Editor to editors@connectionnewspapers.com





Photo Courtesy of Capt. John Trace

Fairfax County Police Command Staff (from left) Capt. Paul Norton, Capt. Tom Rogers, Capt. John Trace, Lt. Brooke Wright, MOD's Dean Ladson, Capt. Chantel Cochran, Lt. Tim Field, MOD's Josh Kuster and Lt. Rob Hines.



Photos by Bonnie Hobbs/The Connection

From left, McLean police officers, PFC Rafael Orellano, Sgt. Laura Redman with son William, 3, PFC Alex Lipartiani, Lori Seiden and Sgt. David Kennedy.

'It Was the Right Thing to Do' Pizza fundraiser yields \$2,700 for injured police officer.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

Whether they're putting out fires or keeping the community safe from crime, public safety personnel are one, big family. And when one of their own needs help, they all come together to lend a hand.

And that's just what happened last Tuesday, March 20, at MOD Pizza in the Greenbriar Town Center in Chantilly. Police, firefighters and area residents ate lunch and dinner there to raise money for Ashley Block, a McLean District Station police officer who was severely injured while helping clear a road during the March 2 wind storm.

"She's a patrol officer who was newly cut loose from her field-training officer," said her supervisor, Sgt. Laura Redman. "There were trees down everywhere and, while one officer cut them up, Ashley was clearing away the debris. But the wind was so strong

that the top of another tree broke off and fell on her.

"It pinned her on the ground and impaled her leg," continued Redman. "She broke her femur, shoulder, elbow, four ribs and some vertebrae. Doctors expect her to fully recover, but it'll take a long time."

In fact, Block's injuries will likely cause her to be off work for 16-18 months. Like his fellow police officers, Lt. Ryan Morgan, assistant commander of the Sully District Station in Chantilly, heard about her accident and felt bad for her. And the next time he stopped in for a bite at MOD – which serves custom, artisan-style pizzas – he mentioned it to Dean Ladson, the store's general manager.

"Ryan's a regular here, and he was casually talking about what happened," said Ladson. "So my assistant general manager, Josh Kuster, and I suggested maybe we could do something to help. MOD believes in community giving, and we felt like this was our way of giving back."

Most restaurant fundraisers generally give 10 or 20 percent of their proceeds during a two- or three-hour period to the recipient. But in this case, Ladson wanted to do more. "So we asked MOD's fundraising arm in Seattle if we could make the proceeds 50 percent. We also made it all-day and counted the proceeds from anyone eating here March 20, not just those mentioning the fundraiser. In addition, we decided to donate 100 percent of the day's tips."

ON THAT DATE – despite freezing temperatures, sleet, ice and an impending snowstorm – residents and public-safety personnel flocked to the restaurant. And by day's end, some \$2,700 had been raised for the officer.

"From the time we opened at 10:15 a.m. until about 1:30 p.m., it was packed," said Ladson around 2 p.m. that day. "And we expect a big crowd at dinnertime, too, besides our normal dinner customers."

See Fundraiser, Page 7



Photo Courtesy of Capt. John Trace

Officer Ashley Block with Capt. John Trace. Block, a McLean District Station police officer, was severely injured while helping clear a road during the March 2 wind storm.



MOD Pizza's day-shift members are (from left) Jessica Gonzalez, Situ Manandhar, Eric Sosa, Dean Ladson, Josh Kuster, Endira Stewart and Joana Alkhatib.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



From left, Fair Oaks Police Officer Sladzana Resnik and MPO Lauretta Garrett.

Opinion

Cracking Down on Online Predators

Bipartisan legislation to protect sex trafficking victims.

By Barbara Comstock
US Rep. (R-10)



For years we have warned of human traffickers preying on our youth at a mall or places where teens may congregate. A predator would approach a young girl – average age 12 or 13 – pretending to be a boyfriend and groom them for sexual exploitation by showering them with gifts or drugs, and then exploit their naivety and traffic them for sex.

The same thing is going on today, only now the predator is using the Internet to reach out and exploit our youth.

Commentary Online predators now reach into our homes and target-unsuspecting children on computers and social media. Congress investigated this Internet sex trafficking and we came up with landmark, bipartisan legislation that will protect sex trafficking victims who have been targeted by online predators.

I cosponsored the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, which has now passed the House and Senate. It will give prosecutors, state attorneys general, and sex trafficking victims a clearer path to take legal

action against websites hosting advertisements for prostitutes, which, in reality, often turn out to be young girls and boys who are being illegally trafficked for sex.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, nearly three-quarters of all reports of online child sex trafficking can be traced back to the website called Backpage.com. In a recent CBS News article, a 14-year old girl who was trafficked on the site said, “They’re letting all of this happen on their website. I mean, without Backpage, I would have never been in any of this in the first place.”

Her mother continued, “Backpage has a primary purpose and it’s to sell sex. Backpage has not done anything to ensure the safety of the kids on there, period.”

Congress investigated the practices of Backpage and disclosed that its operators actually helped predators modify their ads to delete references to teenage prostitutes or young victims of human trafficking, and still allowed the ads to run. The Washington Post reported that Backpage used a company in the Philippines to solicit both prostitutes and johns from other websites and created new ads that facilitated trafficking.

It became apparent that current anti-trafficking laws could not be applied to websites like Backpage, which host thousands of exploitive

ads daily — too many of which are children being trafficked by adults. Backpage, time and again, successfully cited the Communications Decency Act, which they argued protected them.

In a 2016 case against Backpage.com, the First Circuit Court of Appeals made clear: “The remedy is through legislation, not litigation.” All 50 state Attorneys General joined the call for reform of this legislation to address the use of these sites for trafficking and both the House and the Senate responded on a bipartisan basis. This legislation included backing from many in the technology community such as Facebook’s COO Sheryl Sandberg: “Those of us in the United States must recognize that these deplorable acts of buying and selling children for sex don’t just happen in other countries. They happen here as well – right under our noses ... we at Facebook support efforts to pass amended legislation in the House.” Now our prosecutors will be able to crackdown on online predators.

Every summer, as part of my Young Women’s Leadership Program, we provide a session on the problem of human trafficking. We have made it a priority to educate young women about this threat that is online, as well as in their communities. With the passage of this legislation, there will be more tools to stop these unspeakable crimes against our youth.

‘Channeling Outrage into Activism’

By Adam P. Ebbin
State Senator (D-30)

Ebbin spoke to students at Lewinsville Park in McLean during the walkout on March 14. The students, who attend schools across Northern Virginia, were participating in a rally for gun violence prevention organized by Students Demand Action DMV following a 17-minute National Student Walkout held that morning at 10 a.m. in memory of the 17 who were killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla.

I’m Senator Adam Ebbin, and I have an “F” rating from the NRA. Across the country, the gun violence prevention movement is being led by students like you. You are doing more than just wearing an orange ribbon, you are taking action and leading a conversation. You are channeling your outrage into activism.

I’ve been moved and inspired by the bravery and resilience of the young people in Parkland. Today, we are amplifying their message. With your activism, we can make real progress.

Every day, 96 Americans are killed with a gun.

Every 10 hours a Virginian is killed with a gun.

153,000 students have been exposed to campus shootings since

Columbine.

For decades, the corporate gun lobby has dictated our gun laws.

Elect leaders at the local, state, and national level can make a difference; implore us all to take action. Hold legislators accountable for their voting records.

While Washington is mired in empty expressions of thoughts and prayers, it’s time for state legislators to step up.

I have worked for common sense gun laws for years. This year, over 60 bills addressing gun violence were introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, but every one was defeated. Del. Kathleen Murphy [D-34] and I have formed a General Assembly Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, but we need more voices — loud voices, informed and passionate voices, particularly voices like yours. I’m here to amplify your voice, to tell you that you don’t have to be a voter yet to shape the debate. Speak up by calling your elected officials.

Engage the community by writing letters to the editor.



Get involved at election time.

Register to vote as soon as you are eligible. Stay informed and stay active.

Vote.

Repeat until no school in America has to wonder “Who’s next?”

Refuse to accept the status quo. Demand an end to gun violence.

The NRA tells us the AR-15 shouldn’t be banned.

When a soft nosed bullet leaves the barrel of an AR15, it is traveling at three times the speed of a bullet fired from a handgun. It will break the sound barrier leaving the gun, travelling at 3,000 feet per second, tumbling end over end until it makes contact with its target. When its target is a human body, the bullet enters and exits in less than the time it takes to blink, shredding tissue in a process known as cavitation, killing soft tissue for up to three inches around the entry path, and leaves an exit wound the size of an orange. A high capacity magazine on an AR-15 can unleash 50 of these rounds in less than a minute.

Outfitted with an NRA-supported bump stock this weapon can empty this magazine in a matter of seconds.

Don’t let the NRA tell you it shouldn’t be banned.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school first responders saw the power of this weapon, the twitch of a finger painting the hallways of their school with blood.

Don’t let the NRA tell you it shouldn’t be banned.

Don’t tell us that kids have a right to carry these into our schools and movie theatres and malls and concerts and unleash the fury of this weapon on Americans.

Don’t tell us that anyone has the right to carry a gun that holds 50 rounds and can be modified to fire them in under ten seconds.

Don’t tell us we shouldn’t be able to stop dangerous individuals from buying AR-15s at a sporting goods store.

Don’t let the NRA tell you that thoughts and prayers are enough.

Enough is enough.

We’re telling the NRA times up, we’re telling them no more.

No more fearing the next headline. We’re telling the corporate gun lobby we’re done with being afraid that when your friends go to school they might not come back. We cannot wait any longer.

The NRA can get out of the way, or they can get run over.

McLean
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News



Photo contributed

Elected Officials Join March

U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11), Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and others from Fairfax County at the March for Our Lives Saturday, March 24, in Washington, D.C.

CALENDAR

1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

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Public Hearings Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings/default.asp> beginning April 16, 2018.

Public meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Monday, April 16, 2018 Hampton Roads - Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320 | Thursday, April 19, 2018 Lynchburg - VDOT Lynchburg District Office Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501 | Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Richmond - Hilton Garden Inn 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834 |
| Monday, April 30, 2018* Northern Virginia - Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 <small>*meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.</small> | Thursday, May 3, 2018 Staunton - Holiday Inn and Conference Center 152 Fairway Lane Staunton, VA 24402 | Monday, May 7, 2018 Culpeper - Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701 |
| Tuesday May 8, 2018 Fredericksburg - Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408 | Thursday, May 10, 2018 Salem - Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017 | Monday, May 14, 2018 Bristol - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210 |

You can also submit your comments by email or mail by May 30, 2018:

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

Easter & Spring Fun

Easter Egg Hunts in the Area

THURSDAY/MARCH 29

EGG-Streme Teen Egg Hunt. 8-10 p.m. at Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Glow-in-the-dark-themed egg hunt begins at dark. Pictures with the Easter Bunny and obstacle course moon bounce. 10-14 years old. Bring a basket and a flashlight. \$5 per hunter. Register at apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity_Search/11522.

Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. At Cameron Run Park, Alexandria. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, and a camera to take photos with the Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. visit apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks for details and to register.

THURSDAY/SATURDAY/MARCH 29-31

Baskets and Bunnies Event. Assist with arts and crafts, help with registration, dress up in the Sunny the Bunny costume, assist with Mini Golf or be a Sunny the Bunny helper at Burke Lake Park. Volunteer on Thursday, March 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 4 to 7 p.m. On Friday, March 30, volunteers are needed from 4 to 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 31. Sign up for shifts at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake/baskets-and-bunnies



Great Falls Children's Festival: A Day When Community Comes Together

The Adeler Jewelers, in partnership with the Great Falls Optimist Club, celebrated their 34th Annual Children's Spring Festival on Sunday, March 25, providing the Great Falls families an afternoon of games, rides, food and fun. As seen in this photo from previous years, 'Egg Hunt' is always a special attraction.

THURSDAY/MARCH 29-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Fairfax County Parks. Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

park-news/2018/psa055.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting Dinoland in Nature Playce. The

program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child.

On Saturday, March 31, **Burke Lake Park** is hosting a day of fun called Baskets and Bunnies. There will be egg hunts, carousel and train rides, crafts and games. \$12 per person in advance; \$16 the day of the event. **Clemyjontri Park** is offering an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and photo ops with the Easter Bunny for children age 1-9. \$7 per child. Add a carousel ride for \$2. There's also an Egg Hunt that day at **Nottoway Park**. Register at the picnic shelter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2, 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4, 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11:30 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. \$10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. \$10 per child - cash only at registration.

SATURDAY/MARCH 31

Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt. 9-10:30 a.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Enjoy a continental breakfast, a craft or two, and an Easter egg hunt. Bring an Easter basket. Free. Call 703-451-2900 or visit gracepresby.org.

Traditional Easter Egg Hunt. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Herndon Municipal Center Town Green, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Features craft projects, story time, dance sessions with KinderJam, a petting zoo, coloring mural, potting station and photos with the Easter Bunny. Cost is \$9 per child in advance; \$10 onsite. Visit herndon-va.gov/recreation, or call 703-435-6800, ext. 2128.

MCC Spring Fest. 10 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's School, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Carnival games and arts and crafts projects, soccer demo, roaming duck, bunny and squirrel characters as well as magic tricks by The Amazing Kevin. A parent and child Easter Egg Hunt will be featured. For children ages 3-8. Hosted by McLean Community Center. Visit www.mcleancenter.org, and use Activity No. 4501.318. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY-711.

2018 Community Egg Hunt. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 720 Old Lee Hwy, Fairfax. The annual Egg Hunt at Van Dyck park is open and free to the community, thanks to Combined Properties. No registration required. All ages welcome. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/city-calendar.

SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; 1 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr., Tysons. The brunch buffets on both Easter, April 1, and Mother's Day, May 13, occur from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. and feature gourmet stations with an array of dishes. Arrive early as a maximum of 50 participants will hunt in each age group. In addition, the Easter Bunny will be available from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for photos. Reservations at 703-761-5131 or on OpenTable at opentable.com/harth.



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News

Fundraiser for Injured Police Officer

From Page 3

"I don't think we'd be as established as a community without the police force," said Kuster. "They really help out."

"And we knew it was the right thing to do," added Ladson. "We give people good meals, but also support our community. These folks [police and firefighters] come in and support us and other local businesses, and Off. Block was just doing her job and got injured in the line of duty."

"Ashley has the best personality; she's upbeat and a hard-charger," said Redman during the fundraiser. "She has spunk and she's always ready to go. She has heart for this job. The next day, when I visited her in the hospital, she was asking me when she could come back to work. She's the kind of new officer that every supervisor wants."

Sgt. David Kennedy, a former McLean officer now at Fairfax County Police Headquarters, said Block is "out of the hospital, on the mend and in good spirits. But even after she's recovered, she'll still be on light-duty status for a while."

Crime analyst Lori Seiden, also formerly at McLean, is now at the West Springfield station. "Ashley's always supporting my people," she said.

"She's really friendly and wants to serve her community. So with this fundraiser, we all want to help offset her medical costs."

All 14 members of Block's squad, the A shift, participated, as did friends, plus others from the McLean station, including the Tactical Squad, SWAT team, detectives and the station commander, Capt. John Trace. (He and Morgan used to work together when Trace was the Sully station's assistant commander).

"MOD Pizza offered up the idea to partner with a fundraiser to support our critically injured officer," said Trace. "Not only do they serve great food, but their company philosophy is very supportive in nature. Things went very well, even in the wintry weather. We had tremendous support from all of our public-safety friends and the community as a whole."

Among them were about 16 members of the county police Motor Carrier (motorcycle) Squad. "McLean was my old station, and I'm here supporting a fellow officer," said MPO Chris Huber. "But I also trained Ashley in speed measurement at the Police Academy, about six months ago. In class, she

was attentive and engaged in the course – which is hard to find in a new officer. She stayed focused, so I could tell she'd be a good officer, out on the street."

He tried MOD's Calexico pizza with gorgonzola cheese, chicken and jalapeños and pronounced it "nice and spicy – perfect for a day like today. I'll be back." He also noted that, at one point, MOD "had a line all the way around here, from the counter to the back wall. Since Ashley's only been an officer for six months, the amount of people that came out to support her says a lot. She's a family member because we are a family."

A WHOLE TABLE of firefighters from Fair Oaks Station 21's A shift was there, too. Lt. Eddie Thurston made his own pizza with "a little this and a little that" and said it tasted good. Besides, he added, "It was important to come help them with the fundraiser."

A shift Capt. E.J. Burroughs called Block "a fellow public servant, so this is one helping out another." He said his shift always eats together to build teamwork. Enjoying the Lucy Sunshine pizza made with garlic, artichokes, asiago cheese and tomato sauce, he said, "I'd absolutely recommend MOD because they make whatever you want and it's really good."

Joining them was Hazmat Technician Jorge Arce of Fairfax's Fire Station 40 on West Ox Road. Happy to pitch in for a police officer, he explained, "Whether we're police or firefighters doesn't make a difference. We still respond to calls together, so I wanted to help out. This was my first time here, but I'm definitely coming back. The pizza is fresh and good, and you can't beat their real pizza oven."

Also there were brand-new, Fair Oaks Police Officer Sladzana Resnik and her training officer, MPO Loretta Garrett. "This is our first time here," said Garrett. "We came for the fundraiser; we have to support our family members. I've never met Officer Block, but she had a terrible accident."

They each had salads and shared a pizza with tomato sauce, mozzarella cheese, onions, black olives and mushrooms. "It was amazing," said Garrett. "We'll come back again."

But last week, they were there for one of their own. Said Resnik: "As police officers, we work as one and take care of each other."

The Langley Robotics Team Wins Event, Creativity Award

The Langley Robotics Team finished in first place at the FIRST Robotics Chesapeake District Southern Maryland Event, March 16-18. Additionally, they were awarded the Creativity Award for the innovative design of their robot. The Langley Robotics Team is mentored by Physics teachers Mr. Foley and Mr. Swanson. The 60 person team is lead by Captains Nate Ludlow, Zach Lesan, Chris Larounis, Peter Swaak, Rania Saeed, Meso Kim, James Ellsworth and Shayan Golshani.

FIRST Robotics Competition is recognized as the premier high school engineering challenge.

Teams of students have six weeks to conceptualize, design, build, program, modify and test a robot to participate in a competition that changes each year. Following the design and build phase, teams enter competitions to compete for scores that



Photos contributed

Pictured, from left, are team members Joey Massaro, Abby Piper, Zach Lesan, Nate Ludlow, Peter Swaak, Team Mentor Robert Foley, Shayan Golshani, James Ellsworth, and Otto Janke.



Pictured, from left, are team members Abby Piper, Zach Lesan, Shayan Golshani, Peter Swaak, Joey Massaro, Otto Janke, Nate Ludlow and James Ellsworth.

earn them a place at the FIRST Chesapeake District Championship. By winning this event, the Langley Robotics Team have quali-

fied for and will attend the District Championship March 28-31 at the Xfinity Center at the University of Maryland.

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Calendar

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

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Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org 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. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

MCC Summer Camps. Plan now to register children for MCC's enriching summer camp programs for children ages 3 through 18. Summer Camp Registration begins Monday, Feb. 5, for MCC district residents and Monday, Feb. 12, for all others. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

THURSDAYS/SATURDAY/MARCH 29-31

Fairfax County Parks. Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/park-news/2018/psa055.

Hidden Oaks Nature Center is running a Dinosaur Egg Hunt on March 29, 30, 31 and April 1. Enjoy a dinosaur-themed program and outdoor egg hunt while visiting



Photo contributed by Donna Moulton

The Home & Garden Tour will take place in Great Falls, Vienna, and McLean on April 24 as part of the 85th Historic Garden Week in Virginia.

Home & Garden Tour

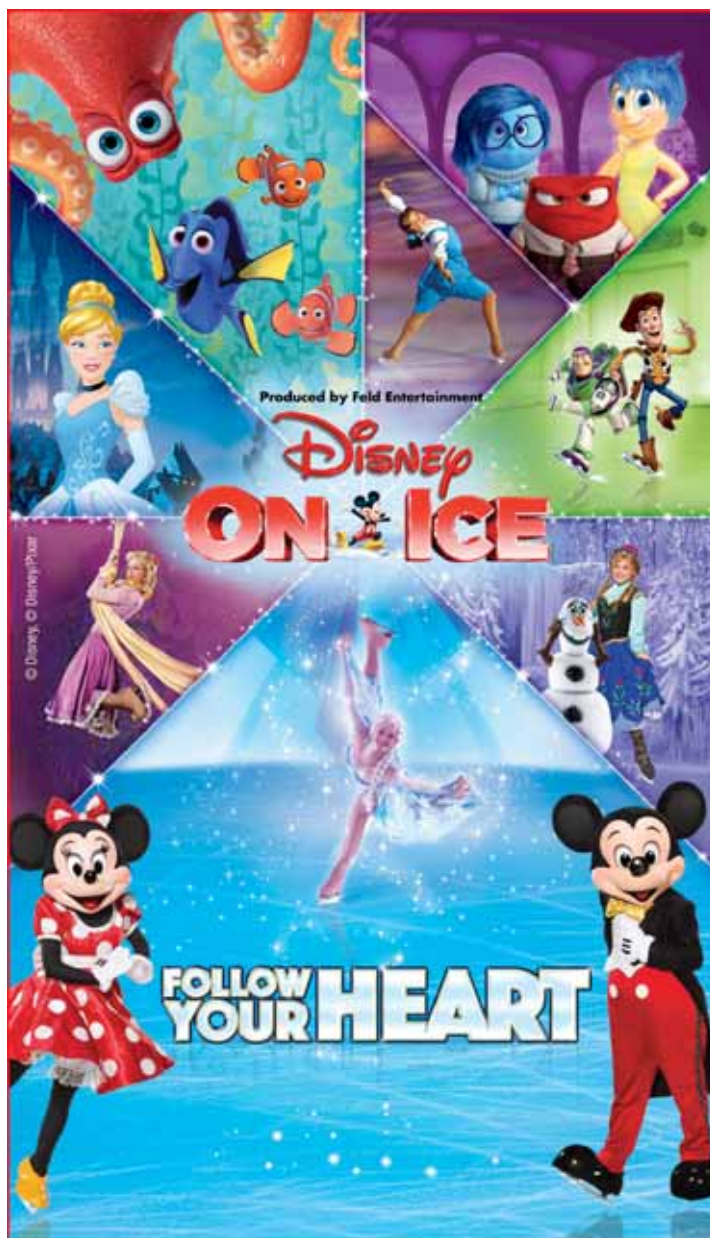
Tour four homes and gardens in Great Falls, Vienna and McLean on Tuesday, April 24, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. – from a “quilt garden” at a 1750 home to a garden and cottage designed for retirement. Advance tickets are \$40 by April 17; tickets on day of tour are \$50 at Meadowlark Gardens, tour homes and the Great Falls Library. Contact Garden Club of Fairfax at fairfax@vagardenweek.org or visit www.vagardenweek.org.

Dinoland in Nature Playce. The program is for children age 2-8. \$8 per child.

On Saturday, March 31, **Clemyjontri Park** is offering an Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and photo ops with the Easter Bunny for children age one to nine. \$7 per child. Add a carousel ride for \$2. There's also an Egg Hunt that day at **Nottoway Park**. Register at the

picnic shelter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2, 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4, 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11:30 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. \$10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. \$10 per child – cash only at registration.

See Calendar, Page 9



Opening Night Tickets \$15!

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- 1(877) 895-1136

*Registration is limited.
Photo ID may be requested at event entrance.

Complimentary parking option may be available.

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Calendar

From Page 8

FRIDAY/MARCH 30

"Clue." 7 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join The Alden staff as they quote along with the dialogue from "Clue" (PG). Admission and popcorn are free. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Don a secret identity, select a room, but leave lead pipes and ropes at home. Prop bags are \$5 each. Supplies are limited and advance purchase is recommended. Visit mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 31

MCC Spring Fest. 10 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's School, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Carnival games and arts and crafts projects, soccer demo, roaming duck, bunny and squirrel characters as well as magic tricks by The Amazing Kevin. A parent and child Easter Egg Hunt will be featured. For children ages 3-8. Hosted by McLean Community Center. Visit www.mcleancenter.org and use Activity No. 4501.318. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY-711.

SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt. 11 a.m.; 11:30 a.m.; 1 p.m.; 1:30 p.m. at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, Tysons. Brunch buffet from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Arrive early as a maximum of 50 participants will hunt in each age group. Easter Bunny will be available from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. for photos. Reservations at 703-761-5131

Take Back the Forest. Volunteer to combat invasive plants this spring. The Fairfax County Park Authority has many volunteer opportunities available to work in local parks to remove non-native invasive plants from the parkland and replace them with native plants. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/invasive-management-area. Or contact Erin Stocksclaeder at 703-324-8681.

MONDAY/APRIL 2

"The Wall's Embrace" Film Screening. 7 p.m. at The Angelika Film Center, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Produced and directed by Nancy Frohman of Potomac, Md., the film explores the psychology behind the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and its power to heal. Visit www.goldendoodleproductions.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

A Tour of Italy Supper Club Wine Dinner. 7 p.m. at the Playroom at McLean Racquet & Health Club, 1472 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Cost is \$85/person. Join certified sommelier, Laurent Lala, for a vinous tour of Italy. Each wine is paired with an Italian-inspired food course. Call 703-356-3300 or visit www.mcleanrhclub.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 8

Talk on John Mosby. 4 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Featuring local author Greg Wilson speaking on "Private John Mosby, First Virginia Cavalry, Picketing Fairfax County before becoming the Grey Ghost." gfhs.org.

Amadeus Orchestra with Steven Honigberg, Cello. 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A. Scott Wood will begin at 3:15 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased at the door or online at www.amadeusconcerts.com. Students 17 and under and active military are admitted free.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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March 30
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Some Restrictions Apply

News

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout April 28
Service is free, anonymous and no questions asked.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

Unused medications in homes can create a safety concern due to accidental ingestion, theft, misuse and abuse. In response, Fairfax County Government announced that in conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Prescription Drug Take-Back Day, it is holding Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout: Saturday, April 28, 2018.

Fairfax County reports drug take-back programs are important, "Because they are a safe method for disposing of prescription drugs and are organized and closely monitored by local, state, and federal government agencies. Safe disposal of unused or expired medications prevents drug abuse and misuse, accidental poisoning, and protects the environment."

Residents in Fairfax County can drop off medications at any of eight Fairfax County District Police Stations between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2018. Pills and liquids will be accepted; no pressurized canisters or needles.

The Drop-off sites are Reston District Station, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston; Fair Oaks District Station, 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax; Franconia District Station, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria;

Mason District Station, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale; McLean District Station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean; Mount Vernon District Station, 2511



Photo by Mercia Hobson/The Connection

Operation Medicine Cabinet Cleanout: Saturday, April 28, 2018, residents in Fairfax County can drop off medications at any of eight Fairfax County District Police Stations between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Pills and liquids will be accepted; no questions asked.

Parkers Lane, Alexandria; Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly; and West Springfield District Station, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield.

On their website, Fairfax County recommends that to dispose of syringes, needles and other medical sharps: "Place in (a) plastic container with (a) screw-on top. Mark the container 'residential sharps' and place in the trash."

DEA Diversion Control Program reports the total weight collected on National Take Back Day 2017 was the most ever collected: 900,386 pounds; that's 450 tons from 5,498 sites, beating the previous high of 447 tons from 5,400 sites in 2016.

"Wastewater treatment plants and onsite sewage disposal sys-

tems are not designed to remove these chemicals. As a result, these medications can end up in the environment and eventually in our drinking water."

In addition, DEA states on their website that the majority of prescription drug abusers report in surveys that they got their drugs from friends and family. "Americans understand that cleaning out old prescription drugs from medicine cabinets, kitchen drawers, and bedside tables reduces accidents, thefts, and the misuse and abuse of these medicines, including the opioid painkillers ... Eight out of 10 new heroin users began by abusing prescription painkillers and moved to heroin when they could no longer obtain or afford those painkillers."

K9 Teams Hold Workshop, Training

Recently, multiple local agencies with K9 teams from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue (VA-TF1), Fairfax County Police Department (PD), Prince William PD, and George Mason PD came together to train at the K9 Drive Building Workshop. The workshop was taught by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Assistant Chief (ret) Garrett Dyer at the Perfect Pet Resort in Maryland.

One goal of the workshop was to teach participants how to become a better handler and helper for the working dog. First half of day consisted of lecture and discussion. The rest of the day involved field work with the K9 and handler to help enhance the K9's desire to detect their target odor.

There were also teams from out of the area including K9's from Massachusetts and Virginia Beach. It was a fantastic learning experience for all involved.

—Technician Trish Danula/Fairfax County Fire and Rescue



Photo courtesy of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue
The workshop was held at the Perfect Pet Resort in Maryland.

Bulletin

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATES

The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking candidates to run for seats on its 2018-2019 Governing Board. A candidate must reside in the Center's tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville). To have their names placed on election ballots, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories (either adult or youth). Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Key Election Dates:

- Monday, April 9: Absentee Voting begins at the MCC Administrative Office, 6631 Old Dominion Dr., and The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
 - Sunday, May 6: Candidates Meet and Greet, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of MCC, at the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
 - Wednesday, May 16: Absentee Voting ends at the MCC Administrative Office and the Old Firehouse Center at 5 p.m.
 - Saturday, May 19: Elections at McLean Day from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the Center's website: <http://bit.ly/2ix7qc1>.

SUNDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 25-APRIL 1

- Antioch Christian Church**, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Call 703-938-6753 or visit www.antiochccvienna.org.
- Thursday, March 29: Passover/Seder Dinner (6:30 p.m.), RSVP with the church
 - Friday, March 30: Good Friday (7:30 p.m.)
 - Sunday, April 1: Easter Sunday (10:30 a.m., regular service)
- St. John's Episcopal Church**, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Call 703-356-4902 or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.
- Wednesday, March 28: 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
 - Maundy Thursday, March 29: 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing in service designed for children and 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar with music and choir
 - Friday, March 30 (noon-3 p.m.): Good Friday – Meditations and Music – Meditations by the Rector on The Seven Last Words of Christ and music on the Seven Last Words of Christ sung by the St. John's Choir with organ accompaniment. All are welcome for any part of the service.
 - Friday, March 30 (7:30 p.m.): Liturgy and Music – Solemn Vespers by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart sung by the St. John's Choir with organ, strings, trumpets, and timpani
 - Saturday, March 31: Easter Vigil – 8 p.m. – The First Eucharist of Easter and Renewal of Baptismal Vows
 - Sunday, April 1: Easter Day – 7:30, 9, 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist – Music with brass and timpani at each morning service

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

Public Hearing on MCC Programs. 7:30 p.m. at the Center's temporary administrative office, 6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The McLean Community Center Governing Board is anticipating the completion of the renovation of its Ingleside Avenue facility later this year. The Board invites residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville to a Public Hearing on FY2020 Programs. The hearing will be followed by the Board's regular monthly meeting for March. Residents who wish to speak at the hearing may call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to have their names placed on the speakers' list. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

1 Million Cups. 8:30 a.m. networking; 9-10 a.m. program at Make Offices at Tysons, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean. Each week a different business owner gives a brief six-minute presentation about where they are in their business. They then offer up a challenge question about a new idea, product, expansion or something they are facing in their business. The group then masterminds solutions. Free and open to the public. Visit www.1millioncups.com

THURSDAY/MARCH 29

Maundy Thursday Service. 7:30-8:30 at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. On Maundy Thursday, the day of the "new Commandment" to love and serve one another, hear Jesus speak of his death as his glorification. Call 703-237-0358 or visit www.lewinsville.org.

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The Daze Continue To Go Bye



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You know, if my feet didn't hurt so much, I could almost forget that I have cancer, other than being aware of my upcoming infusion: April 6; my upcoming CT Scan and MRI: April 18; and my upcoming follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results: April 27.

Nevertheless, the goal is to not think about the fact that I have non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. The kind for which there is no cure; made clear by my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting when he advised me that he "could treat me but that he couldn't cure me." What?! At that surreal moment, what goes in one ear flies out the other.

But here I am, nine years and counting; you bet I'm counting. That's one of the recurring thoughts I have as a multi-year cancer survivor; although, as my friend Frank has said to me: "you're in pretty good condition for the condition you're in."

Other than schedules and my underlying diagnosis (and my original "13 month to two year" prognosis), I regularly consider how long I've lived, one month now into year 10. It's both scary and reassuring: Am I further from the beginning or closer to the end? See. I can't stop thinking about it.

Generally speaking however, I am not bogged down by my diagnosis/circumstances, as anybody who knows me, knows. Nor am I preoccupied with the imminent danger in which my diagnosis places me everyday. And I'm certainly not bemoaning the likely reduction in my life expectancy from what I assumed it would be: mid to late 80s, given how long both my parents lived, to what is logical to believe it will now be: late 60s; considering all the statistics for similarly diagnosed individuals. Typically, one diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer doesn't just live with it (as a chronic-type disease), rather you die because of it.

This column is more for public consumption than it is about private perception. In truth, although a second, minute or hour doesn't go by when I don't think/remember/acknowledge the facts of my case, I am able, most of the time, to keep a smile on my face and not bring a frown to others.

Moreover, I want/need those others to forget that I have cancer as much as it is possible for it to be forgotten. And I want my behavior to be a contributing factor to their forgetting. If I don't start it then there's no reason for them to finish it.

And I'm being selfish in saying so? Absolutely! Because the better vibrations I receive from others, the better I'll feel about myself. And the better I feel about myself, the better and more able I'll be to deal with my disease and all its emotional and physical side- and straight-on effects. Effects which are hardly the stuff with which dreams are made. To invoke and rework a quote from the legendary screen actress Bette Davis: Having cancer is not for sissies.

But it is indiscriminate and projections into the not-to-distant future are frightening: for both males and females, one in three have a "lifetime risk of developing or dying from cancer," according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Database, based on "data compiled between 2012 and 2014, the most recent available."

So how do you put that in your pipe and not smoke it? If you're unlucky enough to be one of these new "diagnosees," you either roll with the punches or get rolled over instead. The choice is yours, as it was mine.

"Get busy living or get bust dying," as Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red," (Morgan Freeman), in the Oscar-nominated "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994). And I try to remind myself of that every day, and every night, too.

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



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Per MREIS

Don't miss my annual Community Clean-up Day!

**BRING YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS (FURNITURE, APPLIANCES,
ETC.) CLUTTERING UP YOUR HOME TO US AND WE'LL
DISPOSE OF THOSE ITEMS FREE OF CHARGE!**

WHEN: Saturday, April 7th, 2018
8:00am-12:00pm

WHERE: Chesterbrook Elementary
1753 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101

For questions and
information about what and
what NOT to drop off, please
call us at:

(703)821-1025

*I look forward to seeing
you on April 7th!*



BEST WASHINGTONIAN 2017



301 S. West Street
Falls Church, 22046
\$1,249,000



1601 18th Street #516
Washington, DC
\$415,000



Offered for... \$889,000

6208 Loch Raven, McLean

***WONDERFUL* 5BR/3BA home in sought-
after Potomac Hills!** This home includes eat-
in kit, formal living & dining rms; sunny LL
family rm; hrdwd floors throughout ML;
freshly painted; MBR w/his & her closets and
en suite BA! Rear screened in porch & large,
level, manicured yard! **Chesterbrook,
Longfellow, and McLean Schools!**



6636 Gordon Avenue
Falls Church, 22046
\$1,590,000



7073 Idylwood Road
Falls Church, 22043
\$669,000



7709 Bridle Path Lane
McLean, 22101
\$1,050,000



6805 Lumsden Street
McLean, 22101
\$1,795,000



5906 Calla Drive
McLean, 22101
\$2,650,000

Call Me Today for a Free Analysis of Your Home's Value!