CONFECTION McLean & Vienna

'Godspeed,' McLean High Class of 2021

News, Page 6

On behalf of the faculty at Mclean High School, Principal Dr. Ellen Reilly presents the Faculty Award of the Year to Sanjna Kaul.

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Democratic Primary: Decision Time News, Page 3

1st Stage Returns To Live Theatre News, Page 2 Аттеитіои Розтматекі. Тіме зеизітіve матекіаl. IS-0I-Ә эмон ім тотезтер IS-0I-Ә

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News

1st Stage Returns to Live Theatre with 'A New Brain'

Performance at a special outdoor location; The Boro at Tysons.

By David Siegel The Connection

fter more than a year of limits on live indoor entertainment with live audiences, the award winning 1st Stage will return to live performance with a special concert edition of "A New Brain" by William Finn and James Lapine.

"The 1st Stage Board and I are very excited to be able to bring the joy of theater back to our communities. Storytelling around the fire is as old an art form as it gets and as indelibly a part of the human experience as it gets," said Jack Wilbern, Board President, 1st Stage. "Come see us in the real world - or streaming - for this reawakening of theater in Tysons."

"We've been looking forward to bringing live theatre back to our beloved audiences," said Alex Levy, Artistic Director, 1st Stage. This live performance will be the first since February 2020, when performing arts venues shuttered themselves due to health and safety concerns due to the pandemic.



Boro Park, Tysons, site of the 1st Stage performance of "A New Brain."

Where and When

1st Stage presents concert reading of "A New Brain" on June 27, 2021 at 5 p.m. Through a partnership with The Meridian Group, this special event will be performed outdoors at Boro Park, 8350 Broad Street (in The Boro development), Tysons. This location is down the street from the 1st Stage physical theatre venue. Free livestream tickets and sponsorships with in-person tickets are available. Individual in-person tickets are also available. 1st Stage will be following CDC, State and Fairfax County health and safety requirements. Tickets and information at www.1ststage.org. Note: In the instance of rain, this event will move to livestream only.

The 1st Stage celebration will center on the concert reading of "A New Brain." It is a musical about hope, recovery, and finding



Alex Levy, Artistic Director, First Stage

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Gazette Hacket

onnection

the light even under the threat of illness. The story focuses on a lyricist and musician, career in the doldrums, who discovers, through his recovery from a life-threatening brain disease, how sweet his life has been.

n tickets are ailable. 1st Stage health and safety tstage.org. Note: estream only. The concert reading will have eight performers directed by Helen Hayes Award recipient and veteran 1st Stage director Kathryn Chase Bryer with music di-

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CENTRE VIEW

rection by Helen Hayes Award recipient and Northern Virginian Walter 'Bobby' McCoy.



Jack Wilbern, Board President, First Stage

Asked what audiences can expect at the concert reading of "A New Brain,

Levy indicated an "immensely talented cast telling the story of overcoming health fears and returning to life with a new understanding of love, community and connection...I am so proud to share it with our community as we remerge and remember the power of art and shared experience."

Founded in 2009, 1st Stage has received multiple Helen Hayes Awards (HHA) for outstanding theatre excellence in the DC metropolitan area. In the fall of 2020, 1st Stage received four HHA awards for its pre-pandemic production of "The Brothers Size" and one for its co-production of "The Royale" with Maryland's Olney Theater Center.

Celebrate the return of safe live theatre at 1st Stage with "A New Brain."

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News Decision Time for Virginia Democrats

Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8: Initial voter turnout low but enthusiasm high.

> By Mercia Hobson The Connection

oters across Fairfax County headed to the polls Tuesday, June 8, to cast their votes in person at the Democratic Party Primary.

Initial voter turnout appeared low. Shortly after the polls opened at 6 a.m., Rebecca Burton stood outside Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2, located at the Herndon Community Center. With no voters in sight, she said, "I'm going to be catching up on a lot of reading." At Precinct 222 Reston No. 3, located at the Lake Anne Community Center, only a handful of voters had cast their ballots one hour into the election.

Precinct 304 McLean witnessed a similarly low turnout at Cooper

Middle School. "This morning, as of 8:21, a very enthusiastic ten voters," said Stew Lingley, Chief Election Officer. He attributed the apparent decrease in primary voters to increased absentee/early voting and no excuse needed for eligible voters to cast an absentee/mail-in ballot.

Anne Whipple at Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library said election officials were all trying to figure out "how much early voting was the right amount." Greg Stolp, Precinct 214 Vienna No. 2 Vienna Community Center said early voting turnout there was "a little lighter." "It's understandable since there is only one party.

Voters who cast ballots on June 8 voiced various reasons for doing so. Teacher Jeannine Everett of Great Falls said she voted that day because it was important to show her students everyone needed to participate in government. "We've been cooped up too long and we're forgetting we are neighbors," she said.

Elena Lowe of Great Falls said she preferred voting in person. "This seems easier."



Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2- Election Official volunteer Ashley Yea says, "I think it is important to be part of the democratic process."



Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2-Rebecca Burton says she has not voted yet but would be there all day volunteering. "Optimistically, I'm supporting Jennifer McClellan-super qualified; Sam Rasoul - a uniter, Mark Herring, and Irene Shinn."



Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2-Parents of Irene Shinn, Candidate for VA HD86 install her political signs outside the polling place. Asked why voters should cast their ballot for Shinn, Jenin Shinn said, "Because Irene will stand up for what is right."



Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library -- Great Falls voters (from left) Elena Lowe and Carol Rieger of Great Falls, prepare to cast their ballots at the County of Fairfax Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8



Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library - Jeannine Everette of Great Falls votes to show her students it is important to participate in the democratic process.

Photos by Mercia Hobson/ The Connection



Precinct No. 304 Cooper Mc-Lean-Caitlin Nguyen of McLean votes in her first Democratic Party Primary Election.

For Carol Rieger of Great Falls, learning about the candidates proved vital and waiting for the June 8 primary gave her time to research them.

Caitlyn Nguyen of McLean said she was voting on June 8 because she had just learned about the primary, and it was her first time voting in one.

Whipple said she was glad the Democratic Party held a primary even though they "can be messy, confusing, and tempers short." "But after tonight, we'll all be united behind our candidates. We believe in a multitude of voices deciding who will represent us in the General Election [on November 2]," she said.

- As reported by Election officials, the total number of votes cast June 8 at the polling places:
- Precinct 320 Herndon No. 2-110 at 11:20 a.m.
- Precinct 222 Reston No. 3-88 voters at 11:02 a.m.
- Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library - 74 voters at 11:36 a.m.
- Precinct No. 304 Cooper McLean-40 voters as of 11:36 a.m.
- No reply from Precinct 214 Vienna No.2 Vienna Community Center



Precinct No. 304 Cooper McLean - a voter shows her license before receiving her ballot. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Precinct 214 Vienna No. 2 Vienna Community Center-The polling place is empty 3.5 hours into the County of Fairfax Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8



 Precinct 328 Hickory at the Great Falls Library - No lines early Tuesday morning at the County of Fairfax Democratic Party Primary Tuesday, June 8
VIENNA/OAKTON / MCLEAN CONNECTION & JUNE 9-15, 2021 & 3

Opinion

VIEWPOINTS

Langley High Graduates Reflect on Graduating in Pandemic Time and the Next Chapter of Their Lives

As the Langley High School graduate candidates lined up for their Commencement Exercises at Jiffy Lube Live in Bristow, Va., on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, The Connection asked random groups of students three questions: How do you feel graduating in the pandemic time? Where do you go next? Where do you see yourself five years from now?

— Mercia Hobson



Lauren Ibarguen of Great Falls said she felt good about graduating during the pandemic. She added, "I'm going to Virginia Tech."

Holden Smith of Great Falls:" I feel exuberant and am so hyped to be finally done with school." Holden said he is going to Kansas University.





William Healey of Mclean: "Graduating from the pandemic has been tough, but we made it work. William will be attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Ariz. As for where he sees himself five years from now, William said, "I see myself in the United States Air Force."

Audry Anikeeff of McLean: "I feel we accomplished a lot with a bad hand." Audry plans on attending Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. From there, "in the [United States] Army."





Alden Miller of McLean: "I'm super excited. It feels like I survived something big." Alden will attend James Madison University in Harrisonburg. In five years, she sees herself "hopefully graduating JMU."

Abrar

By Charles Childers

A poem in support of Fairfax County School Board member Abrar Omeish.

She has given birth to an inspired generation of Virginians, And when they acquire this nation it requires no explanation, Their grit and determination, Was transpired from her dedication,

To lift and motivate, Work swift and advocate, For a new gift to cultivate, A world in which all feel safe to celebrate, Speak of the state of change which changes our state.

She exists to demonstrate, That a hijab wearing Muslim can elevate and educate, People try to push down on her like a paperweight on a paper plate, But she refuses to fluctuate.

Hate holds no place in the hearts of Virginians. So no matter your biased, one-sided opinions, Hate not where three wise men once followed a star, Hate not Muslims, Jews, and Christians, and hate not Abrar.



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News



(From left) Eliza Bell-Presenter of the Student Address, Grace Liberty-Senior Class Officer, Khari Kingslow-Senior Class Officer, Eliana Durkee-Senior Class Officer, Dr. Ellen Reilly-Principal, and Skylar Tennant- Senior Class President.

'Godspeed,' McLean High Class of 2021

Highlanders honored at June 1 Commencement.

By Mercia Hobson The Connection

embers of McLean High School's Senior Class of 2021 who processioned in their red caps and red gowns across the stage at Jiffy Lube Live in Bristow, Va, on June 1, left with more than their diplomas and academic learning.

"We leave with lessons that will last a lifetime," said Eliza Bell, who presented the Student Address. The "crazy COVID experience" taught the seniors the value of personal relationships in the long months of an "incredibly lonely time," according to Bell. She urged classmates not to take relationships lightly. "Be more kind to others...We never know the struggles others face, what battles they're fighting."

Commencement speaker DeMaurice Smith, Executive Director of the National Football League (NFL) Players Association told the graduation candidates that their diplomas held many meanings, including not to take things "too seriously." Their diplomas should remind the graduates they are allowed to live in the moment instead of always thinking about the next step. "To the graduating class of McLean High School, Godspeed," he said.

McLean High School Principal Dr. Ellen Reilly presented the 2021 Faculty Awards to the two students who best possessed the qualities that captured a McLean Highlander. "Sanjna Kaul," said Reilly, "...[is] unrelenting in her hard world with a keen sense of social justice." "Eliana Durkee...[is] beyond extraordinary, unstoppable, and exceptional."

Paul Stanberry, Director of Student Services at McLean High School presented the graduates.

View a live stream of the McLean High School Graduation by Memories Videography at https://livestream.com/accounts/28386681/events/9663146. www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



DeMaurice Smith, Executive Director of the National Football League Players Association is the Guest Speaker at the McLean High School Class of 2021 Commencement.



Skylar Tennant, Senior gives the Presentation of the Class of 2021.



Officially announced graduates, the Langley High School Class of 2021 throws their caps in the air, symbolically ending a chapter in the graduates' lives.



A Rollercoaster Ride for the Langley High Grads

Saxons learn life lessons during the pandemic.

By Mercia Hobson The Connection

angley High School held its Commencement Exercises on June 2 at Jiffy Lube Live in Bristow, Va. Class of 2021 officers moderated the program beginning with Fatima Mahdi, who presented the welcome. Mahdi said she felt overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude because the Class of 2021 was there to celebrate their accomplishments in a year where commencement and celebration had been foreign.

"But we are here, sitting in person, one last time together...Our memories will remain with us forever," said Mahdi.

Ritvik Chennupati led all in the Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the Langley High School Madrigals, Class of 2021, led by Dr. Mac L. Lamber, Choral Director.

In a moment of silence, Grant Kim remembered those who could not be there that day. He recognized two members of the Class of 2021 who had committed to defending our nation. "Vera Martinez... will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy, and Genevieve Middleton will be attending the U.S. Coast Guard Academy," Kim said.

Holden Smith introduced his fellow Class officers and Class sponsors Michelle Huang and Jay O'Rourke. Ellison Soobert introduced honored guests, including Scott Brabrand, Superintendent Fairfax County Public Schools, and Elaine Tholen, Dranesville District School Board Member.

In her Student Address, Devron Johnson said there were 531 Langley gradu-

ates in the Class of 2021. All experienced the Saxon life differently, but everyone found that life was not always easy,

and things would never be handed to them. "But it is worth the time and effort spent...We have never been told to shy away from a challenge but rather to embrace things that scare us."

In the Principal's Message, Kimberly Greer said the Class of 2021 achieved beyond anyone's wildest dreams, excelling in all areas of academia, on the stage, and fields. "You have made Saxon country proud. We thank you for the rich legacy that you are leaving behind...and have left very big shoes for succeeding classes to fill."

Greer presented the Principal's Award to Brook Van Beuren, a student who remained ready to give every task for broadcast journalism her best effort. "She loved being part of the team...and a natural in front of the camera...This student never broke a sweat. She remained calm and confident and excited to bring the Langley community the top news of the day," Greer said.

James Sykes, Assistant Principal, Senior Class Administrator, presented the Faculty Award to Lily Fowler. Throughout her four years at Langley, Fowler modeled what it meant to be a team player both in and outside the classroom.

Finally, the moment everyone had been waiting for, the Presentation of Diplomas and Principal Greer's words, "I hereby confirm that the seniors of the Class of 2021, whose names have been presented to me, are now graduates. Congratulations."

The Langley High School Graduation on Livestream can be viewed online.



6 ♦ Vienna/Oakton / McLean Connection ♦ June 9-15, 2021

Calendar

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS IN RESTON Reston Community Center is pleased to announce that free summer concerts will return

to venues around Reston beginning in June. Lunchtime with the Arts at Mason – Thursdays in June, Reston Town Square Park. 12:30-1:30

p.m. Take a Break – Thursdays, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza

Summerbration Fab Fridays – 7 – 9 p.m., Reston Station

Family Fun Entertainment Series – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., Reston Town Square Park Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah

Conservatory – Sundays, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m., Reston Town Square Park

OUR SPECIAL HARBOR OPENS

The Fairfax County Park Authority's Our Special Harbor spray park is now opened. This fully accessible Chesapeake-Bay-themed sprayground has water features such as a spraying osprey nest, Chessie the sea serpent, misting sunflowers and a lighthouse. The beach area allows for quieter play with softer bubblers and interactive water tables while the computerized water maze and dumping crab basket provide more lively activity. Located at Lee District Park at 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. Visit https://www.fairfaxcounty. gov/parks/recenter/lee-district/family-recreation-area.

GOLF CAMPS

- Join the nationwide resurgence of the classic, lifelong game of golf. Laurel Hill Golf Club and Twin Lakes Golf Course are offering weeklong summer camps taught by professionals from The Eisman Golf Academy. Junior golfers ages 8-14 will learn and improve on golf fundamentals in a fun environment. Class sizes are limited for personalized instruction and camp includes on-course play. Also included are swag bags, hat, games and prizes. Camps will take place at Laurel Hill June 14 -18 and July 12-16, 2021; and at Twin Lakes on June 21-25, July 19-23, and Aug. 9-13, 2021. All camps run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, visit the Junior Golf Fairfax website.
- Laurel Hill Golf Club is located at 8701 Laurel Hill Crest Drive in Lorton. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road in Clifton.

THURSDAY/JUNE 10

Courtney King. 7-9 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. King's 4-piece rock band will play songs from her latest release, Feel Good Swiller, as well as works she cowrote from her St. Louis band, Slow Down Scarlett. King, a classically trained flutist from Chicago, always infuses flute into her performances utilizing guitar pedals and a style similar to that of Jethro Tull.

JUNE 8 TO JULY 4

Paintings by Rich Moore. At the Loft Gallery, 33 Mill Street, Second Floor, Occoquan. "The skies proclaim the work of His hands." Psalm 19:1 showcases the artistry of versatile landscape oil painter, Rich Moore as he endeavors to reveal a unique glimpse into the magnificence and wonder of the "handiwork of God." Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. Online Facebook Live Artist's Reception: Friday, June 11, 2021 7:00 pm https://www.facebook.com/loftgalleryoccoquan.

THURSDAY/JUNE 10

Searching for Sully's Enslaved. 7-9 p.m. Zoom. Sully is much more complex than simply the home of the Lee family. Join author Beth Sansbury as she discusses her book, Searching for Sully's Enslaved. Contact PaulHancq@ aol.com to register. Visit the website: https:// www.historiccentrevilleva.org/historic-centreville-society/

JUNE 13-JULY 25, SUNDAYS

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. 5 p.m. At McLean Central Park Gazebo 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Sunday, June 13 -- Josh Lovelace; Sunday, June 20 -- Lucy Kalantari & the Jazz Cats;

TUESDAY/JUNE 15

"Duck Harbor" Web Series. 8 p.m. Episode Three. Sponsored by 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. Duck Harbor is a web series about a long-distance love in later life. The piece is brought to audiences through a creative series of short scenes in which the actors, just like the characters, are meeting for the first time. Audiences will get to experience the magic of the theater and the excitement of new love between these two lonely hearts reaching out from charming small towns on opposite sides of the country. Every week, each of the two actors, who live on opposite coasts, will be given only their half of the script and will experience the other side of the story with a sincere and genuine freshness, "on stage," in front of our audience. Performances will take place every Tuesday, beginning on June 1 and ending on August 17. Get your tickets today at www.1ststage.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 18

Golf Exhibition. 6 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Hill Crest Drive, Lorton. Josh Koch and Justin James, two of the fastest swingers in the world, go head-to-head in a golf hitting exhibition. Watch Koch and James tee off on hole one with club speeds over 150 mph, ball speeds over 225 mph, and balls carrying up to 400 yards. Activities include a long drive contest, swing demonstrations, trick shots, and even crowd participation! You may be selected to pair up with Josh and Justin, so be ready.

SATURDAY/JUNE 19

The Destruction of Slavery in the Civil War. 3 p.m. Via Zoom. When the Civil War began, African Americans wasted no time fleeing their enslavers and rushing to the Union lines. Their great struggle would end with the destruction of American slavery and the passage of the 13th Amendment. Scholar and author Dr. Richard Bell will touch on these topics during his talk in honor of Juneteenth. This talk will be offered via Zoom. For more information, call Sully Historic Site at 703-437-1794. The talk is sponsored by the Sully Foundation Ltd. Visit: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/juneteenth.

SUMMERFEST AT TYSONS CORNER CENTER

- Tysons Corner Center announced its line-up of this season's socially distant happenings. 'SummerFest 2021,' which kicked off this month and will run through October 2021, is filled with six months of activations and events, such as live music, art, fitness, festivals, and more.
- Movie Nights, in partnership with AMC Theatre Tysons Corner
- First Saturday, Monthly at Sundown Bingo Night - presented by DC Fray and Barrel and Bushel
- Third Thursday Monthly, 6 8 p.m.
- Art on the Plaza Final Thursday, Monthly -- Join Tysons Corner Center, Barrel & Bushel, and AR Workshop for a monthly crafting event. Each event will feature seasonal art projects along with applicable retailer pop-ups and an extended happy hour.
- The Plaza Live Thursday-Sunday Weekly starting May 6; 4-7 p.m, Thursday & Friday;
- 2-7 p.m. Saturday & Sunday. Each week on The Plaza the center will welcome local musicians to perform as well as other live entertainment such as caricature and balloon artists, face painters, etc.



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The Masks are Off ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... and I suppose life is back on, especially for those of us who have been vaccinated. No more hiding your emotions and expressions behind your face-covering as you once again start interacting with the general public. They can see you and of course, you can see them - and you can hear/understand them, too. Conversations will flow more evenly now that they won't be interrupted by an "Excuse me. I can't understand you," or a "Could you please repeat that?" Conversations that were previously affected by fits and starts will revert back to questions and answers and what abouts. For me, the mask was an impediment to normal conversion. Necessary and prudent during a once-in-a-lifetime, public health emergency, but apparently, the time has comer. Previous directives: masks, social distancing, contact tracing, quarantining and vaccinations were all most of us ever talked about. Now with vaccinations getting into more arms, our lives are expanding. From our living room to just plain living.

Though there are still mask-on requirements: in schools, on public conveyances, and in airports, train stations and the like and while obtaining healthcare services, we are now, especially those of us vaccinated, free to return to our previous life, mostly. Soon capacity restrictions will be lifted as our lives, so far as the activities which involve large crowds, both inside and out, can open back up in their entirety. Moreover, social distancing will likewise become a thing of the past. Now, all those round stickers marking six feet of distance as well as the plexiglas dividers will disappear as well. However, individual businesses retain the right to require visitors to mask up. As Bobby Brown used to sing: "That is my prerogative," and so too will businesses have their own prerogative to require patrons - or not, to abide by their mask-wearing requirements.

All of that being said and understood, even though I'm fully vaccinated, I still feel like I should mask-up. From the national vaccination statistics, there are plenty of people who have not yet been vaccinated and/or are unwilling/ unconvinced they need to comply. I can't quite understand the "vaccine hesitancy" or the disinterest in following these most recent public health advisories. It seems like such a small, relatively risk-free/preventing risk step to take. I mean, whatever temporary side effects/discomfort one might experience a day or two after the injection pales in comparison to the effect on your body and/or life expectancy contacting the virus might have. I'll take a definite over a maybe anytime.

Besides, I don't want to be responsible for my own demise, or any others for that matter. In this situation, I'm happy/proud to conform to the public health directives. The virus is bigger - and badder, than any one of us; so to be bigger and badder than the virus, literally and figuratively, the more of us who receive the vaccine, the more of us will be able to survive this pandemic and safely embrace our former lives while not fearing the consequences of our inactions.

The other day at my local Giant, I happened to walk by the customer service desk where I heard a customer bragging to an employee about not planning on getting a vaccination, like he was proud of it. What a disconnect! I'm proud to have gotten my vaccination, and I'm equally proud to have participated in a national effort to try and combat the greatest health crisis this country has suffered since the Spanish Flu first infected Americans over 100 years ago.

I just wish more people would put the country ahead of themselves. For all that we're given here, it really doesn't seem too much to ask. In this circumstance, paybacks are not hell, they're heaven.

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







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with bay window; family room with fireplace and walkout to large deck; elegant, light-filled living room and dining room w/ bay window; finished, walkout LL includes spacious rec room with fireplace, wet bar, builtins & full ba; upstairs includes amazing owner's suite w/ lux ba + upper lvl laundry; Falls Church City Schools!

3307 Chicamuxen Ct, Falls Church **FABULOUS** 5BR/3 full BA home on 2 levels, located on over 1/3 acre lot in Falls Church! Hardwood floors on the main level; updated kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances; elegant living and formal dining rooms; wonderful screened-in porch; nicely updated bathrooms; loaded with light and top quality finishes and updates! Big, fenced backyard; 1-car garage; conveniently located close to Rt 50, 7, Columbia Pike, Bailey's Crossroads, shopping and restaurants! Cul-de-sac location! Not to be missed!

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