

Great Falls CONNECTION

Community's Day Out

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Colvin Run Welcomes New Principal

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Elizabeth Elliott, her son Caleb Henson, Chloe Anzia and mother Emily Anzia drove in from Alexandria especially for the Tom Principato Band rhythm-and-blues concert on the Great Falls Town Green.

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Third-Graders Learn To 'Give Back'

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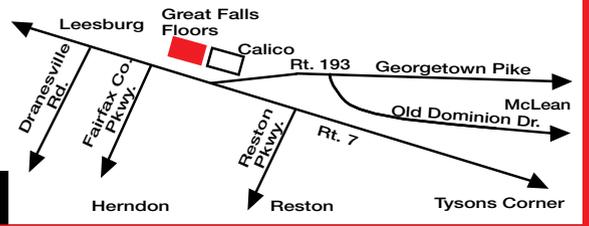
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PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

The threat of thunderstorms did not scare off the Jarratt family of the Great Falls/McLean area. Bailey Hutchison, Mary Jarratt, Ben Jarratt, Colin Jarratt, and Houston Hutchison enjoyed al fresco dining and family-time even though the evening's concert was cancelled.



Carolyn Greenfield, Steve Lawrence, Lyn Myers, Larry Greenfield, and Nancy Greenfield enjoyed refreshments and kinship on the Great Falls Village Centre, undeterred by storm warnings and concert's cancellation.

Community's Day Out

Cancelled Concert on the Green does not dampen spirits.

Approximately 100 people lingered around, chatting and dining on picnic food, even after the Sunday's Tom Principato concert on the Great Falls Village Centre was cancelled.

For many families, it mattered little that the June 22 concert was called off because of impending thunderstorms. While some turned away, others spread their blankets and lawn chairs, and set out picnic dinners. Children still frolicked about, running, playing games and blowing bubbles, and their parents relaxed with friends and family.

Concerts Continue Throughout July

The Great Falls Village Centre's 2008 Summer Concerts on the Green, 6-8 p.m. Sundays, continue throughout July with rain dates set for Aug. 3 and 10. More information: gfvcca@aol.com

Amusing many — but not so much local favorite Tom Principato — was the recognition that, last year, Principato's concert had been rained-out, as well. The storm did hold off until well-into the evening, but by then, there was no concert, just a "nice evening with friends and family." The Tom Principato Band concert will be re-scheduled.

— DONNA MANZ

VIEWPOINTS

Theresa Coetzee

"We usually don't make it here, but we came today for Mom's birthday. We've been meaning to come more often. It's a great relaxing evening for families and kids ... there are lots of kids here."



Ben Jarratt, Great Falls

"Our family picnic is still going on with or without music, although the music would have been nice. We've been to several of these concerts over the past few years. It's a good opportunity for family, friends, and the community. It's great

that the business community puts these concerts on."

Larry Greenfield, Great Falls

"We all try to get to these concerts as often as possible. It doesn't matter who's playing. It's a nice evening with neighbors and family."



Nancy Greenfield, Great Falls

"This is just a fun-time, just hanging out with neighbors and friends. It's a community thing, for young and old alike, listening to music."

Third Graders Learn to 'Give Back'

BY JULIA WINKLER
THE CONNECTION

Over the last few weeks of school, third graders at Forestville Elementary School participated in a charity project titled the "Big Give Back." Through the support of an anonymous donor and the work of the students, more than \$2,500 was donated to both local and national organizations. Taken on by teacher Jacquelyn Ade, the project aimed to teach the students the importance of both giving back to the community and appreciating their own lives. Culminating on June 5 with a celebration in which each student presented their chosen cause, the project was made possible by an anonymous donor who provided \$100 to each child to do whatever he or she saw fit.

"My goal for the experience was to assist the local community in some way. I had

hoped that my students would learn how they can help others and make an impact, no matter what age they are," said Ade. Charities chosen by the students after individual research included the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Wildlife Rescue League, Great Falls Fire Department, and American Red Cross.

"I chose the Navy-Marine Corps Relief because it helps soldiers feel better if they have financial problems," said Laura Zimmerman at the June 5 presentation. "I hope this money will help them stay happy for a long time." Others chose smaller-scale charities, recognizing the importance of community.

"I chose [local charity] Kidz Clubhouse because the woman who started it lives in Great Falls and her children go to Forestville," said Lachlan Pitts. Despite the variety of charity choices, students and families could all agree on the value of the



PHOTO BY JULIA WINKLER/THE CONNECTION

Teacher and project organizer Jacquelyn Ade stands by as third grader Matthew Poyner presents his charity idea to families and friends at the culmination of the "Big Give Back" project. Poyner chose to give his money to the Walter Reed Medical Center.

experience.

"For being third graders, they certainly thought 'big,'" said Ade. "I feel that it is

teaching more than what a student can gain from a textbook. How can you define teaching compassion?"

Colvin Run Welcomes New Principal

Steve Hockett succeeds Sandra Furick at Colvin Run Elementary.

When Colvin Run Elementary School students say goodbye to principal Sandra Furick, they will say goodbye to the only principal the school has ever known.

Soon, the Steve Hockett era begins, as Colvin Run embraces its new principal.

“We’re moving from an industrial-age model of schools to one of the information age.”

— Steve Hockett

appreciation luncheon.

“It’s very bittersweet leaving Colvin Run,” said Furick. I’ll miss the relationships I have with the children and adults.

“I feel so comfortable, though, turning the reins over to Steve Hockett. I worked on professional committees with him before, and I’ve been working very closely with him the past couple of months.”

“This is such a great school, and the parents have been so welcoming,” says Hockett.

Hockett is no longer a stranger at Colvin Run. He has met parents at a welcome coffee, and acknowledged school volunteers at the late spring volunteer



Steve Hockett, award-winning principal, takes over helm at Colvin Run Elementary School as Sandy Furick retires.

Hockett has been working, for the past two years, as Principal in Residence within the U.S. Department of Education in the office of Educational Technology. There, he worked on national technology resource programs.

“We’re moving from an industrial-age model of schools to one of the information age,” said Hockett. “The experiences of children now are preparation for the global community they’re a part of.”

An educator for 20 years, Hockett served as a principal and as an administrator for Fairfax County schools for 12 of those years. In his Fairfax County career, Hockett has served as chairman, Principals’ Technology Committee, and as a member of the Fairfax County Strategic Technology Planning Committee.

“One of the many things I like about working in schools is continuing to create an innovative place for learning, so that kids can be successful in the 21st century.”

Starting out at McNair Elementary School in Herndon, Hockett moved to Hunters Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences, first as an assistant principal there, then as principal.

In 2005, Hockett was a recipient of the Washington Post Educational Leadership Award, and the following year, was named Fairfax County Public Schools’ Principal of the Year.

Hockett received his bachelor of arts degree from California State University Stanislaus, and his master’s degree in educational leadership from George Mason University.

“It makes it a lot easier to leave knowing Steve will be here,” said Furick.

— DONNA MANZ

July 4th Picnic, 5K Walk/Run

Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls is hosting a 7:30 p.m. picnic on July 4. Hotdogs and beverages will be provided. Bring a dish to share, and a lawn chair. Enjoy the fireworks from the front lawn of the church at 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Everyone is welcome.

Great Falls Ecumenical Churches are hosting a 5K Walk/Run July 4th at 7:30 a.m. Meet at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial next to the Great Falls Library. This is a fun, no cost event, for the whole family. For more information contact Pastor Paul Gysan at 703-759-6068.

Firefighters Host Blood Drive

The Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, located at 9916 Georgetown Pike, is hosting a blood drive on July 4, and anyone who signs up and attempts to give blood will receive a \$10 gasoline gift card. The INOVA Blood Donor Service Bloodmobile will be parked at the station from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Appointments are every 15 minutes. Up to five people can sign up for a particular time. The minimum age for donors is 17 years, and there is no maximum. Before signing up, read the eligibility requirements at <http://www.greatfallsvfd.org/donor.pdf>

Only eligible donors qualify for the gift card. To make an appointment, send your name, telephone number and desired appointment time to: donateblood@greatfallsvfd.org.

Starshine Theater Looks for Assistants

Starshine Theater of Great Falls is continuing its “Teen Actor-Mentor” rehearsal assistant program for its new Summer Camp production,

“The Dragons of Darkmoor — How Magic Came into the World,” which is currently enrolling a new cast of student actors, ages 7 through 18 years.

Boys and girls, ages 15 through college, may serve as assistants throughout the two weeks of rehearsals, while also enjoying dramatic character roles in the play’s performance. Lead singing and dancing roles are also available to those interested.

Rehearsals take place in the Great Falls Village Center at “The School of Theatrical Dance” and at “Andy’s Parties;” the show will be performed onstage July 19 at The Waddell Theater, NoVa College, Sterling.

Contact Patricia Budwig, play director, at StarshineTheater@aol.com

Retiring Flags, With Respect

On June 13, members of the Col. William Grayson Society Children of the American Revolution (CAR) presented a flag retirement ceremony for the Great Falls community. Several of the flags had memorial significance: marking the graves of Revolutionary War Veterans. Nearly 25 other flags had been displayed by citizens of Great Falls and deposited at the library throughout the year.

CAR promotes patriotism and American heritage among young people. Worn flags may be left at the Great Falls Library throughout the year for this annual event.



Senior Society President Dana McLaughlin (holding daughter Caroline), President of the Virginia CAR Society Martina Caputi and firefighter Lee Martin dispose of some of the flags.

A Quest for Freedom In Italy and America

BY MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

Anna Savini of Great Falls was 14 when Allied forces liberated her homeland from Nazi Germany, but her struggle for freedom lasted well into her 50s. That quest for independence, as well as her childhood recollections of World War II in Italy and personal reflections on American politics, are chronicled in her memoir, "My Wars and Peace: Rediscovering America 460 Years Later," which she self-published in May. The title refers to the discovery of the Americas in 1492 by Christopher Columbus, another Italian. Savini came to America in 1952.

She published the book under the pen name Lena de Sabini, she said, to protect her children's privacy.

Savini was born in Rome in 1931 at the height of the Fascist regime. As an 8-year-old, she was a member of the Italian Fascist Youth. "Everybody had to have a party card, otherwise you couldn't survive," she said. At the time, she said, the order that Benito Mussolini had imposed was needed in a country that was in economic chaos. "In the beginning, he did a lot of good things," she said of the Fascist leader, noting that he had brought about the construction of decent roads and schools. "Then, unfortunately, he sided with Germany, and that was his mistake."

Once that happened, Mussolini and Italy became puppets to Hitler, she said. "I didn't know what was going on, and my father was afraid to talk." She said she remembered a sudden proliferation of signs including the word "verboten." Also, she said, the Italian people had no interest in persecuting Jews. "The point is to say how deleterious it is to grow up under a totalitarian regime," said Savini.

In 1943, the Italians made a separate peace with the Allied forces. The Italian Army was disbanded, and the Germans took over. Her family was in the countryside in Abruzzo at the time, after living in Milan since the war started. "I saw the Germans come down with a truck and take over after the Armistice," she said. "I



PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION

Great Falls resident Anna Savini recently self-published her memoir, "My Wars and Peace: Rediscovering America 460 Years Later."

was lucky I wasn't killed." U.S. aircraft flew overhead, strafing the German forces. "They didn't know there was this little girl running around down there."

Her family moved back to Milan where, with German assistance, Mussolini established the Italian Social Republic, known informally as the Republic of Salò. Italy was a country divided, with some citizens siding with the Germans, while others collaborated with the Allied forces. "Like the Civil War here," said Savini. "That's the only thing I can compare it to, where you had brother killing brother."

— Anna Savini

She had friends and neighbors who had sided with Mussolini and the Nazis, and she remembered the Italian Communists coming into her building in Milan, rounding up Fascists and lining them up to be shot against the wall of the arena across the street. "I used to go shopping and walk past dead bodies," she said.

When the Allies took over Milan, the Italian Communists captured and killed Mussolini and his mistress as they were fleeing with the Germans. They brought the bodies to Milan and hung them at a gas station. "And there was little Anna walking miles to see the body of the Leader," said Savini. She said it was as though the gods had fallen from Mount Olympus.

Years after the war, Savini's mother died, and her father left for America. She followed soon after. "And I started my American adventure. I had to learn the language, find a job." Trained as a piano instructor, she ended up instead finding a job in data processing.

Get a Copy

To obtain a copy of "My Wars and Peace," call the Xlibris Corporation at 1-888-795-4274, visit www.xlibris.com, or e-mail orders@xlibris.com.

"After that, unfortunately, I met my husband," she said. It was an arranged marriage to an Italian visiting the U.S., with whom she was "totally incompatible." He was an alcoholic, she said, and it was not a happy life. Having grown up without freedom of speech, she now found she had lost her emotional freedom, said Savini. "There can be many kinds of freedom."

Three children and 30 years later, she finally got on a plane for Texas to meet her son, leaving home and husband behind. "I was 56 years old, I think, when I finally found my freedom," she said. She recalled her son, who knew what she had gone through, meeting her at the airport saying, "Welcome to America, Mom." Having dabbled in writing since she was a teenager, she began writing columns for the newspaper where her son worked. After moving to Virginia in the '90s to live with her daughter during a six-year battle with cancer, she entered a piece in a Los Angeles newspaper's essay contest and won first place. She had written the essay, titled "The Price of Freedom," in the '50s, and it can be found in "My Wars and Peace." She began entering poetry contests and having pieces published, and she has been working on her memoir for seven years.

"Right now, I'm blessed, and I'm living the best years of my life," she said. "In Virginia, I realized my dream. Here, I am accepted as an author."

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PEOPLE

Shaping New City

Clark Tyler presides over the Tysons Task Force facing diversity and division.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

Clark Tyler, the man who now heads the Tysons Land Use Task Force, likes to tell the story of the time he went to visit former Virginia Gov. Mills Godwin as a member of the Appalachian Regional Commission. In those days he listed his name on his business cards as M.L. Clark Tyler.

"The governor asked me 'what does the M.L. stand for?' I said Meriwether Lewis. I'm a distant relation of William Clark and my family decided to give me both names," referring to the famous pair that explored the west for President Jefferson.

"Please don't run for office in Virginia," Godwin implored, "'with those two names you'd win in a landslide.' I have kept that promise," Clark soberly assures a listener.

At the Tysons Task Force meetings, he appears as simply Clark Tyler.

It is too early to tell whether this will be a successful chapter of his life or a humiliating failure. The previous task force that proposed a redesign of Tysons Corner was defeated and the plan disappeared.

This task force has been working for almost four years. It has spent some \$1 million engaging professional planners and, of course, it has had the impetus of the Dulles Corridor Rail project about which to shape its plan.

From the opening of the Dulles International Airport in 1962, there was a plan to connect it by rail to Washington, D.C. 26 miles away.

NOW, 46 YEARS LATER, Dulles handles some 24 million passengers a year and it is expected to become one of the world's largest airports. There is a Metro rail from Washington as far as Falls Church and there is Tysons Corner, the edge city that almost "accidentally" became the biggest economic engine in Fairfax County.

The rural landscape that was Fairfax



Clark Tyler

County in 1962, now is home to some 1,300,000 people, the largest political entity in the Commonwealth of Virginia and Tysons is the region's economic center.

This is not to say that everyone wants a redesigned Tysons Corner or a rail system, or a rail system above ground. Clark Tyler is surrounded by diversity and division in his task force. Indeed, Hedrick Smith, a Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times bureau chief and now the head of a television production company is filming task force meetings to see how diverse views are handled as he prepares a public broadcasting documentary on Puget Sound and the Chesapeake Bay.

Clark is the second chairman of the task force and has the backing of Gerald Connolly, chairman of Fairfax's Board of Supervisors and tough leader of the county's Democrats. (Connolly won the Democrats' nomination for Congress earlier this month.)

Connolly's vision of Tysons is to make it a city, not an edge city, but a regular city with perhaps 100,000 residents, a work force of 200,000, theaters, museums, concert halls, parks and schools. Connolly often points out that Tysons' 1,800 acres is the same size as the downtown of his native Boston.

This is also the vision of most of the major landowners in Tysons and many citizens as well.

But Tysons Corner is surrounded by some of America's most famous suburban communities — McLean, Vienna, Falls Church, Reston — built on the single family homes with a driveway, a garage and several cars. The political leaders of these areas are anxious that the Task Force will put the cart before the horse by increasing zoning densities and encouraging giant high rise offices and apartments before building the rail system.

It has not helped matters that the rail project has been such an on-again, off-again proposition.

THROUGH ALL OF THIS controversy, Clark Tyler, like his ancestor heading west, has soldiered on, keeping meetings orderly and civil and quietly helping bring this massive subject down to a size that by fall may produce coherent recommendation to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

From the time he left Harvard University, he has been in government, but more importantly he has served on things like the Appalachian Commission which were trying to persuade local governments to take action. He has served on White House boards and with AMTRAK as well as years in the private sector as an expert on mass transit, which to anyone who knows Tysons is a key skill in changing an area that is choked by traffic from dawn to dusk.

The other quite vital skill in Washington for a man like Clark Tyler is a gentleness of nature. He began his career as a "lyric writer for American Broadcasting Company" and still delights in writing "musical plays for my Sunday school class," and still teaches Sunday school long after his own children have grown.

This courtesy and gentleness of spirit has served him well. When President Nixon was elected and thus he was to be pitched off the Appalachian Commission, Tennessee's Sen. Howard Baker suggested he stay on until the transition was completed.

He worked in the federal transportation department and went on to AMTRAK, all the while learning some of things the Task Force has now learned about the vital connection between good transportation and economic growth.

As the Dulles Rail controversy broke around him and the battles over high rises and land density have sharpened, Clark Tyler has hone to one clear belief: with or without rail, with or without the task force, Tysons Corner will grow just as it has in the past 40 years and the growth would be better planned than "hodge-podge."

Lady Hodges Named Director of the Year

ANNE WINTERS

The National League of Junior Cotillions has named Lady Hodges of Great Falls its 2007 Director of the Year. At the recent Parents

Meeting of the Great Falls Chapter of the League, attended by about 60 parents, Lady Hodges' assistants, Leigha McReynolds and Eric Wellington, read a letter from the National League, announcing the honor. A

native of South Carolina, Lady Hodges received her degree in French and history from The University of South Carolina. Her career experiences include work in public relations, advertising and

freelance writing. She has also worked with special education students, taught preschool music, sat on the Board of Directors for a South Carolina hospital and served as legislative and press assistant for Congressman Dan Daniel.

Lady Hodges became the director of the National League of Junior Cotillions Fairfax Chapter in 1995. In 13 years she has taught self-confidence and character to thousands of students in Fairfax County.

"Lady is an outstanding director," said Anne Winters, executive director. "We can not express how much we value her contribution to our organization."

She is absolutely top-notch."

"We can not express how much we value her contribution to our organization. She is absolutely top-notch."



At a recent meeting in Great Falls are, from left, Annie Kemmerer, Leigha McReynolds, Eric Wellington, Lady Hodges and Will Kemmerer.

COMMUNITY



Visitors Kim McKillips and Lauren Amborsisi view work by local painters at Great Falls Foundation for the Arts' new facility in a loft in the Colvin Run area of Great Falls. The just-opened center houses a small gallery, classroom and studio space for 14 working artists.

PHOTO BY AL REITAN

Great Falls Becomes 'More Artful' Place

Arts Foundation established.

The fast-growing movement to make Great Falls into a leading center for the visual arts in Northern Virginia took another step forward today with the formation of a new charitable foundation to promote the arts. The new non-profit group, called Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, Inc. (GFFFTA), also unveiled the opening of a new arts facility that includes a gallery, classroom and workspace for 14 local artists.

GFFFTA (pronounced "gift-a") was founded by the members of Great Falls Studios, a network of more than 75 Great Falls artists who sponsor art events and promote the interest of local artists. "For both Great Falls Studios and the new non-profit foundation, GFFFTA, the goal is to improve the quality of life in our Village by bringing art into the lives of everyone who lives here," said potter Laura Nichols, president and founder of Great Falls Studios. "We're proud that our artists have played such an important part in making this happen, and we're very excited about the new non-profit foundation as a way to involve non-artists in the Great Falls arts movement."

GREAT FALLS Foundation For The Arts, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to provide quality art education for children and adults, exhibition venues for local and regional artists, and rental studio space to artists. The goal is to establish a center for the arts in Great Falls and to have art as a thriving, accessible element of the community. The

new non-profit organization has a board of directors and operates independently from Great Falls Studios, though the groups have complementary missions and coordinate their efforts to achieve the same goal of transforming the village to a "more artful" place.

GFFFTA officially moved into new quarters at 1144, Suite G, Walker Road near Dante Restaurant in the Colvin Run commercial area of Great Falls on May 1. The new art center is located in a 2,000-square-foot, third-floor loft with high ceilings, skylights and abundant natural light in an airy and comfortable atmosphere. The space features the GFFFTA Art Gallery and The Artists' Atelier working studios for artists, previously located in the Village Green. Limited classes will also be held at this facility this summer. A teaching facility and additional studio spaces will follow at a second location when funding be-

comes available. An official grand opening is planned for the fall.

"This is a dream come true," said Mollie Vardell, president of GFFFTA. "Our objective was to provide a facility or facilities in Great Falls that would serve three purposes — provide permanent exhibition space to display local and regional art, give painters and other artists a reasonably priced place to work with other artists, and set up a top quality art school for kids and adults. We're two-thirds of the way there, and the end is in sight."

MANY ARTISTS in Great Falls currently teach art in their home studios and will continue to do so, but having a centrally located, well-supplied classroom where gifted teachers can convene to provide art instruction to residents is a dream to many in the local art

SEE ARTS, PAGE 9



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Media for Hire?

Political campaigns put bloggers on the payroll.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

When Virginia's delegation takes its seat on the floor of the Democratic National Convention in late August, Lowell Feld will be right next to them.

The Democratic National Committee (DNC) selected Feld, an Arlington resident who runs the left-leaning www.raisingkaine.com, to be Virginia's "embedded" blogger at the event in Denver, Colo. After receiving approximately 400 applications, the committee picked a handful of bloggers — people who voice their opinions through online diaries — to cover their state delegations and provide a "local angle" on the convention's proceedings, according to letter posted on the Web site.

Launched in 2005, Feld's blog, which he calls RK, focuses on state and national politics from a Democratic perspective. The Web site features about 12 regular contributors and is popular with political activists, journalists and elected officials around Virginia.

The DNC's decision to hand out convention credentials to more bloggers like Feld, an unapologetic partisan, speaks to the growing influence of this type of media.

According to Microsoft's www.sitecounter.com, RK averages 2,751 visitors every day. Some Democratic activists say they turn to local blogs before newspapers, radio or television for the most up-to-date information on local politics.

"I find [bloggers] to be a very thoughtful and fair group. They are good about getting information out," said Mame Reilly, an Alexandria resident who is a Democratic Super Delegate and Gov. Mark Warner's former political director.

YET FELD and others are not bound by the same rules as traditional journalists. He and a few other local Virginia bloggers have been paid by candidates to do "netroots outreach" and other political consulting.

A mainstream news organization would not employ a journalist who took money from a political campaign, but, for bloggers, the practice often coincides with their reasons for starting a Web site.

"[Blogs] are a hybrid. They are sort of journalism, sort of citizen activism. We are like political operatives in a way," said Feld.

Feld founded RK to help get progressive Democrats elected in Virginia and his paid work on political campaigns can comple-



Lowell Feld, who runs www.raisingkaine.com, will be Virginia's "embedded" blogger at the Democratic National Convention in August.

ment the mission of the blog, he said.

The Democratic activist worked on U.S. Sen. Jim Webb's campaign and is currently consulting for Democratic congressional candidate Judy Feder, a Democrat who will face U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R) in November.

Feld also received at least \$500 from former congressional candidate Leslie Byrne, according to Byrne's campaign manager, Joe Fox.

Feld and other local Democratic bloggers only work for candidates who share their values, candidates they would support regardless of whether they were paid.

"I think Judy Feder is great. I did two years ago when she was running in 2006 and I didn't receive a penny from her then," he said. Feld uses political consulting to make ends meet. He quit his day job with the U.S. Department of Energy a few years ago, in part because he was prohibited from raising money for political candidates.

"I could make more money in a lot more stable job working for the government. I choose to do this," he said.

THERE IS some question about whether bloggers who work for political campaigns should be thought of as journalists at all.

"This is an example of the difference between a journalist who blogs and a non-journalist who blogs. The blogosphere is filled with people who are not journalists. They wear multiple hats," said Bob Steel, who studies and teaches journalism values for the Poynter Institute.

Steel went on to say: "Bloggers are not necessarily journalists. A blogger might own a hardware store and write about a product he sells in the hardware store. There is nothing wrong with that but [he is] not being a journalist."

It is important to always bring a dose of skepticism when reading a blog, according to Steel. For bloggers who also work as political consultants, he suggests transparency.

"I think if something is written by a political consultant, the reader deserves to know that it is written by political consultant," said Steel.

SOME LOCAL BLOGGERS handle the overlap of their paid political work and Web site content in the way that Steel suggests. If Feld writes about a candidate that pays

him, he discloses his relationship to the campaign at the bottom of the post, he said.

"I am very clear about what I am doing," said Feld.

Kenton Ngo also revealed that he would be managing Ramona Morrow's campaign for school board in 2007 and then shut down his blog www.kentonngo.com/750volts, until after the election.

"One of first things I did was to put the blog in mothballs. ... You can say you are going to talk about things other than the campaign but eventually you are going to say something that shouldn't be associated with the candidate," said Ngo.

Blogger Ben Tribbett did not disclose he was being paid by state Sen. Chap Petersen every time he posted about the politician's campaign on his Web site, notlarrysabato.typepad.com, last fall. But Tribbett, who is from the Burke area, has also restricted his paid work to candidates who had already employed him during previous campaigns. "I have avoided taking on new people even though I have been asked to work on a number of campaigns," said Tribbett, whose political blog is among the most popular in Virginia.

For Petersen, Tribbett worked on campaign strategy, a topic he would not be posting about on his blog. He also made it clear that "Not Larry Sabato" would not be a "mouthpiece" for the campaign, he said.

"I was not putting anything up on behalf of the campaign. That was the one of the agreements we came to," he said.

Tribbett did promote Petersen and disparage his opponent, Jeanne Marie Devolites Davis, frequently on his blog in the weeks preceding the election. The Democratic activist said he would have championed Petersen, whether the candidate had paid him or not.

STILL, THE PRACTICE of paying bloggers has unsettled some local Democrats, especially those who have been suffered under their attacks. "I, myself, don't believe in putting bloggers on the payroll. I think it is akin to putting journalists on the payroll," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Gerry Connolly, who is the Democratic nominee for Virginia's 11th district congressional seat.

Blog Excerpts

Commentary on political blogs ranges from the thoughtful to the ridiculous. Here are some excerpts related to the Democratic primary for Virginia's 11th congressional district earlier this month. Fairfax chairman Gerry Connolly won the election by a wide margin, though many Democratic bloggers favored candidate Leslie Byrne over Connolly.

"It is important to note that Gerry Connolly did not win this by running on his record as a proud pro developer centrist moderate. He won by running more to the left than he has in a long time."

✦ wrote Karen Duncan on <http://anonymouisawoman.blogspot.com>, Duncan supported Byrne but has endorsed Connolly since he won the Democratic primary.

"There is plenty of ammo on Connolly; unfortunately none of it has proven effective yet. However, with the bevy of material, there is bound to be some good hits in there somewhere."

✦ Posted on <http://tooconservative.com> by a blogger who supports Connolly's Republican opponent, Keith Fimian.

In spite of being a Democrat, Connolly has been one of the left-leaning blogging community's top targets for criticism. Several local bloggers backed Connolly's opponent, Leslie Byrne, in the Democratic primary June 10. Connolly won the primary by a wide margin. In the days leading up to the primary election, many bloggers posted disparaging remarks about Connolly on their Web sites. Tribbett ran a bracket, much like those put together for a college basketball tournament, of Connolly's "worst moments" as an elected official.

Last week, the Virginia Democrats' 11th congressional district committee chair, George Burke, announced he would circulate a petition among Virginia's Democratic delegates asking them to remove Feld's "embedding" privileges at the national convention. Among Burke's concerns is the fact that Feld and Tribbett do work as political consultants.

"I think it is just inappropriate for people who promote themselves as journalists to be paid hacks for candidates. They present themselves as journalists but they are actually public relations practitioners," said Burke.

But candidates who have hired bloggers for political consulting said they are paying for a person's expertise at networking over the internet, not positive

coverage on the blogger's Web site. "I have known Ben for a long time but I don't attempt to have any editorial control over anything he does on his blog. I have pretty much no input on that," said Petersen.

Feder's campaign manager, Luke McFarland, said Feld has mainly been involved in developing a Web site, www.farewellfrank.com, on the Democrat's opponent, Republican Rep. Frank Wolf.

McFarland and others said it is common for campaigns to hire bloggers.

"I think it is just inappropriate for people who promote themselves as journalists to be paid hacks for candidates."

— George Burke, Democrats' 11th congressional district committee chair

COMMUNITY

Arts Flourish in Great Falls

FROM PAGE 7

establishment. The new Great Falls School of Art is designed to meet that need. It already has a roster of art teachers and a curriculum of art courses and is set to offer four 6-week courses beginning in mid-July.

"The 19 teachers on our roster to date are all professional artists and will allow both adults and children the opportunity to learn and grow in an outstanding environment. Plus we envision many opportunities for student shows to be featured in the GFFFTA Gallery," said Jennifer Brothers, a GFFFTA board member.

In contrast to the gallery and studio facility, which are self-supporting, the school needs additional funding to enable it to rent classroom space. GFFFTA has already received an anonymous funding pledge but will be actively soliciting other donations and grants to move forward. A fundraising gala is also in the planning stages for November.

THE GFFFTA GALLERY will display multi-disciplined work of high-quality professional and emerging local and regional artists on a rotating basis. The Gallery currently showcases an invitational show of Great Falls Studios artists Cindy Grisdela, Ronni Jolles and Claudia Samper.

"Through the efforts of Great Falls Studios, our local artist member organization, we have assembled an amazing array of talent in Great Falls — from sculptors to quilters, photographers to painters," said GFFFTA and GFS board member Robin Kent, himself a photographer. "The challenge is always finding new ways to show it off so that new audiences can see it in ideal conditions. Our new gallery will make that possible."

Great Falls Studios coordinates many local hanging venues for its members including Katie's Coffee, RE/MAX Gateway, the Studio Salon, Great Falls Library, and the Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort and Spa, but what the artists have always wanted in addition is a permanent, well-lighted exhibition space specifically designed to showcase art. The new GFFFTA Gallery will be the first such facility in Great Falls.

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OPINION

Hoping for Something Special

Special session in search of transportation solutions begins this week in Richmond.

Snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, the Virginia Supreme Court overturned an unlikely and hopeful transportation funding plan passed by the Virginia General Assembly earlier this year.

At the same time, funding for rail to Dulles has hit several bumps that could derail the project.

But at the beginning of this week, members of the General Assembly were back in Richmond, supposedly to produce a plan that would replace the \$300 million or more that the now defunct plan would have raised.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine has made some sensible proposals, but the forces of “no, never, no taxes” say they will scuttle many if not all of the possible sources of new revenue to pay for transit, roads and other transportation improvements.

Kaine points out that Dulles Airport and the Port of Virginia are responsible for an estimated 375,000 jobs and \$895 million in state revenue. “These are our two most valuable connections with the global economy, but they

depend upon a network that will allow easy movement of people and goods to and from these critical transportation hubs,” Kaine said at the opening of the special session Monday. Here’s what he proposes:

❖ Raising the annual vehicle registration fee by \$10 and increasing the sales tax on automobiles from 3 to 4 percent. Virginia’s auto title tax would still be significantly below the national average.

❖ Fix the regional packages by imposing a 1 percent regional sales tax on goods other than food, medicine or automobiles.

❖ A grantors’ tax on property sale proceeds — 25 cents for each \$100 in value to create a Transportation Change Fund, with 75 percent of the revenue going for new transit strategies and 25 percent dedicated to projects for economic development. This would support public transit, carpooling, teleworking, etc.

These add up to a sensible proposal, and would provide money needed for maintenance as well as dedicated funding for Metro.

Meanwhile, if you’re sitting in traffic, higher

gas prices might be the future source of some relief. Finally, with a clear economic motivation, perhaps some real alternatives will arise, some plan that calls for something other than millions people with jobs getting into cars one person at a time and heading to and from work at about the same time every weekday.

We can only hope that new technologies and new approaches developed over the next decade or two will provide less need to clog the roadways.

Without Basics

Electrical storms have left many people without electricity in Fairfax, Loudoun, Arlington and Alexandria in the past few weeks, most of us for brief periods, but some for a couple of days at a time.

Across the river in Montgomery County, hundreds of thousands of people lived without drinkable water for a couple of days.

Being without either or both serves as a reminder that ordinary events (rather than terrorism) also require a little preparedness.

Recommended: Three days worth of non-perishable food and water for everyone in your household, plus flashlights, a battery powered radio and extra batteries. What’s in your storage cupboard?

EDITORIALS

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Free Dedications to Troops in Afghanistan

Friends and family of military members may now dedicate a song to their deployed service member via email. The song will air on AFN (American Forces Network)-Afghanistan’s Freedom Radio.

Though AFN-Afghanistan doesn’t have every song ever recorded, the Freedom Radio music vault contains over 50,000 titles, representing top-40, country, R&B and classic rock. When possible, the radio jocks will pull dedications from the mail box, read a short message and play the dedication.

Freedom Radio plays “Hits from the Home Front” throughout the country of Afghanistan and at

Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. To make a music request or dedication, e-mail the disk jockey’s in the Freedom Radio studio at freedomradio@swa.army.mil. In addition to the ability to dedicate a song, www.defenselink.mil/afn-afghanistan is the one-stop location for issues of Freedom Watch Magazine and Freedom Watch Afghanistan television news. Get the current news about troops serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

AFN-Afghanistan is an affiliate of the world-wide American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS). AFRTS is part of the Department of Defense, and is headquartered in Alexandria, Va.

MY DAD AND ME



Keith Nalepka, of Great Falls^o and his 2-year-old son Nolan Ray fishing near their home in Great Falls



Tim and Timmy Steigleman of Great Falls pictured on the farm where they live. Timmy says he enjoys farm rides with his dad.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Cas Haley and Woodbelly. Jah Roots. Reggae. Show 8 p.m., tickets \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Ricky Scaggs and Bruce Hornsby. 8 p.m. at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets are \$40/in-house, \$22/lawn.

Beauty & Wellness. Flock Network Night at the River Bend Golf and Country Club in Great Falls with 150 of the most affluent consumers and country club members from the D.C. metro area, as well as top industry experts such as plastic surgeons, dermatologists, aesthetic dentists and the most exclusive cosmetic and skincare lines, salon and spas. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$45 pre-registered; \$50 at door. Call 703.268.5626 or Email info@FLOCKevents.com to register as the number of the event attendees is limited to 150.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

The Temptations and The Four Tops 8 p.m. at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets are \$38/in-house, \$52/lawn.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

'Thousands of Years - Rome.' The McLean Drama Company's production of "Thousands of Years - Rome" by Rachael Bail, which takes a young Roman couple through various vicissitudes from the 1st Century AD to the 21st Century, premieres at the Alden Theatre. June 27-29, Friday and Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. Following Sunday's matinee, there will be a performance of "Open Communication," the comedy by Katie and Alex Lewis, of McLean, which won first prize in the McLean Drama Company's 10-minute play contest. \$15/\$12 students and seniors. Tickets are on sale now! To purchase tickets, stop by the Alden Theatre Box Office, or charge by phone (703-573-SEAT) or online through Ticketmaster. For more information, call the Box Office at 703-790-9223, TTY: 711.

Movie in the Park. Enjoy a favorite family movie outdoors at Vienna's Glyndon Park at sundown (about 8:45 p.m.) Friday, June 27. Admission is free. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. For information on which G-rated film will be shown, call 703-255-7842 after noon on June 25 and for weather information on the day of the show.

Splinters, roots rock and alternative country. 6:30 p.m., Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., 703-255-6360

First Dance of the Summer at Our Lady of Good Council Church, 8601 Wolf Trap Road, Vienna. Free dance lesson from 8 to 8:30 p.m., dance from 8:30 p.m.-12 a.m. Cost \$15 includes lesson; snack and soft drinks provided. Admission only \$10 with this article. For more information contact Colleen Burnett 703-437-1190.

Rent Through Sunday, 29 June, at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets \$25 to \$80.

Pierce Pettis. Acoustic. Show 7:30 p.m., tickets \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

bob, Jackmove. Rock. Show 10 p.m., tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

RENT. Tony Award-winning rock musical returns to the Wolf Trap stage starring "Idol" contestants Anwar Robinson and Heinz Winckler. Friday, June 27 - Sunday, June 29 at 8 p.m. with matinee 2 p.m. performances on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets range from \$80 to \$25. 877-WOLFTRAP.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Marshall Maley Quartet. 6-8 p.m. Free. Local musicians will perform pop, rock, and jazz standards. Outdoors at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. 703-288-9505.

Serguei Popov and Family. McLean Bible Church, Community Room C, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, will host Serguei Popov and Family in a colorful program of Hebrew folk, classical and praise music with dancing and drama. 7:30-9 p.m. No admission fee; no registration. Call Vanessa Tillett at 703/639-2000 X3310 or vanessa.tillett@mcleanbible.org.

Local Band Wins Fox Rocks Contest

WD Miller Band beat out 105 other bands for the chance to perform live on Fox Morning News.

BY REBECCA BAIRD-REMBA
THE CONNECTION

WD Miller Band, with its blend of retro pop, Southern rock, and multi-part harmonies, recently won the Fox Rocks contest, hosted by Fox 5 Morning News. WD Miller Band beat out 105 other bands for the chance to perform live on Fox Morning News on June 6. They also performed at Jammin' Java on Wednesday, June 11.

WD Miller sings and plays rhythm guitar, and since he started writing songs over 20 years ago, he has composed over 250 songs. He has released two CDs, Sugarland Run (2000) and Whirly Town (2006). In 2006, Miller formed a band to play at the Whirly Town CD release party, and the band has played at clubs around the Northern Virginia area, including Bangkok Blues in Falls Church, Jammin' Java in Vienna, and Iota in Arlington.

THE BAND includes bass guitarist Peter Locke, drummer Reid Saunders, lead guitarist Blayne Beeler, and singer Patty Williams. In addition, Gene Miller, WD's older brother, has played bass or sung harmonies on both of WD's solo CDs. Both Locke and Saunders have extensive experience: Locke has been playing guitar for over 30 years and has played in local bands such as Exotic Vibrations and the Idylwood Band, and Saunders has been playing the drums on and off for 30 years, with local bands such as The Cravin' Dogs. Although the newest member of the band, Beeler has played with many cover and show bands over the past 20 years, such as The Marcells, of 1950s "Blue Moon" fame.

A child of the Baby Boom generation, WD Miller — who grew up in McLean and now lives in Vienna — said that he was heavily influenced by the music of his childhood and teen years. "I was weaned on Beatles and the Beach Boys," said Miller, "and in high school I discovered the Eagles, Bread, Crosby Stills Nash and Young, and America." Miller has recorded with a variety of local artists, including Mike Melchione (Buckwheat Zydeco), Scott Shuman (Jackson St. Band, Henry Townsend Band), Kai Kapitano (Lost Highway Band), Bill Kotopish (Code Blue), and Jim Opeka. At this year's Grammy Awards in February, Scott Shuman won the Grammy for Best Traditional Blues Album for "Last of the Great Mississippi Delta



WD Miller and his band pose at the Fox 5 Morning News Studio, where they played on June 6 after winning the Fox Rocks Contest.

Bluesmen: Live in Dallas," which he helped produce and record.

IN TERMS of the band's sound, Miller said, "We have sort of an eclectic sound. I have some Southern rock, some Irish music in 3/4ths time, and some sunny pop with lots of harmonies and jangly guitars."



WD Miller, who grew up in McLean and now lives in Vienna, plays his guitar for a gig at a local venue.

Miller has lived in Northern Virginia his entire life. He has a wife (Kayne) and four sons, David, Ben, Boon, and Blue. He earned a BA in English and a master's degree in secondary education from George

Mason University. Currently, he teaches 11th grade English at Pimmit Hills High School in Falls Church, teaching the work of authors such as Steinbeck, Hemingway, and Spinelli.

Visit WD Miller Band on the Web at www.wdmillerband.com or at their Myspace page. Its music is also available for purchase through iTunes.

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Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park



All concerts will be held in the gazebo at McLean Central Park. The park is located at the intersection of Dolley Madison Blvd. (Route 123) and Old Dominion Drive. Parking is available at the Center. These hour-long concerts will be held on Sundays at 4 p.m.

All concerts will begin at 4 p.m. and are FREE and open to the public.



The Grandsons • June 29
WAMMIE award winners whose music is described as "American music in a blender with the lid off."



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REAL ESTATE

The Essentials

Most of us run out of money before we run out of dreams.

Last time, we built a Wish List. It's time to pare that list down to its essentials. Go through your wish list once more. Setting up two columns is helpful. On the left hand side write down the things you cannot live without. This new list will describe your essential house. Take your time and describe each item in detail. It is best to use complete sentences to force yourself to explain why each item is important. It's OK if you and your spouse start with different lists. What is important is that you both eventually agree on what belongs in the left column.

For everything on your essential list, you want to know:

- ❖ Who will use it?
- ❖ What will it be used for?
- ❖ When will it be used?

- ❖ Where should it be?
- ❖ Why do you need it?
- ❖ How often will it be used?

Make sure you haven't forgotten some ordinary, but essential, items like a coat closet near the entrance, a dog door, and the laundry. This new list describes your family's basic house.

GOOD HOUSE



WILL DENNEHY

IN THE RIGHT COLUMN list the things that would be nice to have, but you could live without and then those few things that might go under the red Ferrari category. Give each of these items a number

that reflects how important it is. It is not necessary to make a list from one to 20. Ending up with five number 1's and three number 2's is fine. A workshop and a big shower can be equally important. With this final list, you can sit

down with an architect and builder and discover where your dreams and budget part company.

Most architects, design-build firms and builders are happy to meet with you, without charge, to review your project and budget. However, their meters will start running soon thereafter. Although it's true that nothing focuses the mind like \$200/ hour, it would be a shame to waste all that free advice. This is why we've spent so much time getting to this Essential List. Most of us run out of money before we run out of dreams. With your list in hand, you can focus on what is important, what you might be willing to stretch for, and what you can give up and still have a house that expresses who you are. The reward for all your hard work is an estimate you can rely on — one based on facts, not guesses.

YOU MAY ALSO find out something about yourself or your spouse you didn't expect. I have good friends who live in a small house in a great neighborhood. They don't want to move, but des-



CONTRIBUTED

With your list in hand, you can focus on what is important, what you might be willing to stretch for, and what you can give up and still have a house that expresses who you are.

perately need more room. She has wanted to renovate her house for years, but has been afraid to. Afraid of making a mistake, afraid of spending too much and ending up with something they don't like. She was convinced she couldn't envision what she wanted in her house, so she lived without. She also thought her husband would rather buy a sailboat than invest in their home. So, she never asked him to help her think about remodeling.

When she mentioned this a few weeks ago, I suggested she start making lists. The same ones I've been writing about: Twenty questions about where you live, The Wish List and the Essential List.

After a tentative start, her husband joined in. He wants a garage, and a closet of his own. She wants to look out at her Koi pond year round and have a place to show off her cooking skills to more than four people at a time. By taking small steps — starting with making lists for what they wanted, and more importantly, talking about what they wanted — they were able to overcome their initial fears. They are on their way to making a Good House. You can do it too!

Next Column: Patterns for Living
Download The Essentials Worksheet at www.TheGoodHouseOnline.com
Column Five
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The Good House by Will Dennehy

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July 6: Judo Chop – Rock of the 80's & 90's

Sponsored By: Doris Leadbetter-Re/Max Gateway,
James Gaudiosi-First Savings Mortgage Corporation &
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July 13: Wil Gravatt – Country and Classic Rock

Sponsored By: Great Falls Construction & The Conscious Bean

July 20: Jenny Boyle – Pop/Rock

Sponsored By: Grandmother's Back Room & Diane
McConnell-Re/Max Distinctive

July 27: Starshine Theatre Presents: A Celebration of Children

Sponsored By: Bob Nelson: Weichert Realtors

Raindates: August 3 and August 10

gfvcca@aol.com FOR MORE INFORMATION

HOME SALES

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Date Sold
814 OLDE GEORGETOWN CT	5	4	2		GREAT FALLS	\$2,200,000	Detached	1.75	05/01/08
10803 LOCKMEADE CT	5	5	0		GREAT FALLS	\$1,130,000	Detached	0.98	05/01/08
745 KENTLAND DR	5	4	0		GREAT FALLS	\$1,020,000	Detached	1.84	05/01/08
6215 NETHERCOMBE CT	4	3	1		MCLEAN	\$900,000	Detached	0.32	05/01/08
1527 BROOKHAVEN DR	3	2	1		MCLEAN	\$750,000	Detached	0.46	05/01/08
1428 IRONWOOD DR	3	3	0		MCLEAN	\$769,000	Detached	0.38	05/01/08
1625 INTERNATIONAL DR#TH-6	2	2	1		MCLEAN	\$456,252	Townhouse	0	05/01/08
1451 WOODHURST BLVD	5	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,850,000	Detached	1.00	05/01/08
2127 GREENWICH ST	4	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$460,000	Detached	0.32	05/02/08
1095 MCCUE CT	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$925,000	Detached	1.04	05/02/08
1345 PINE TREE RD	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$855,000	Detached	0.53	05/02/08
8340 GREENSBORO DR #724	2	1	1		MCLEAN	\$345,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	0	05/02/08
1706 OLNEY RD	2	3	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$525,000	Detached	0.46	05/05/08
2002 HILEMAN RD	5	4	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$935,000	Detached	0.23	05/06/08
1819 WESTMORELAND ST	3	3	0		MCLEAN	\$522,000	Detached	0.24	05/06/08
7447 OLD MAPLE SQ	5	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,820,000	Detached	0.28	05/06/08
616 LIVE OAK DR	5	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.76	05/07/08
1104 DEAD RUN DR	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$632,000	Detached	0.28	05/07/08
1504 LINCOLN WAY #318	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$320,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0	05/07/08
2112 HUTCHISON GROVE CT	3	2	2		FALLS CHURCH	\$509,000	Townhouse	0.04	05/09/08
1224 COLVIN MEADOWS LN	6	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,265,000	Detached	0.00	05/09/08
1168 WIMBLEDON DR	4	3	1		MCLEAN	\$654,900	Townhouse	0.04	05/09/08
3905 44TH ST N	5	7	2		MCLEAN	\$4,995,000	Detached	0.72	05/12/08
1580 SPRING GATE DR #4303	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$320,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0	05/12/08
1800 OLD MEADOW RD #321	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$375,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	0	05/12/08
9081 EATON PARK RD	5	7	3		GREAT FALLS	\$1,999,999	Detached	1.72	05/13/08
809 SHERLIN LN	5	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,070,000	Detached	1.04	05/13/08
1468 WAGGAMAN CIR	3	3	0		MCLEAN	\$802,000	Detached	0.35	05/13/08
6412 FURLONG RD	5	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,870,000	Detached	0.60	05/14/08
2292 CARTBRIDGE RD	3	3	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$575,000	Townhouse	0.03	05/15/08
6925 POPPY DR	3	2	1		MCLEAN	\$679,000	Detached	0.26	05/15/08
6512 CHESTERFIELD AVE	5	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,599,000	Detached	0.23	05/15/08
7700 TREMAYNE PL #207	2	1	0		MCLEAN	\$242,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0	05/15/08
6177 HARDY DR	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$638,000	Detached	0.32	05/16/08
1532 SINCLAIR DR	4	3	1		MCLEAN	\$665,000	Detached	0.24	05/16/08
1429 COLLEEN LN	5	3	0		MCLEAN	\$712,000	Detached	0.31	05/16/08
6441 GEORGETOWN PIKE	5	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,537,500	Detached	0.50	05/16/08
833 MACKALL AVE	5	5	2		MCLEAN	\$3,750,000	Detached	1.35	05/16/08
7604 VIRGINIA AVE	6	5	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.50	05/19/08
713 WALKER RD	5	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,999,900	Detached	1.58	05/19/08
6155 LOCH RAVEN DR	5	3	0		MCLEAN	\$685,000	Detached	0.25	05/19/08
1911 GILSON ST	5	4	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$800,000	Detached	0.34	05/20/08
1804 DUMBARTON ST	3	2	1		MCLEAN	\$675,000	Detached	0.37	05/20/08
1616 EAST AVE	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$705,000	Detached	0.35	05/20/08
2767 BLOCKER PL	3	2	2		FALLS CHURCH	\$370,000	Townhouse	0.03	05/21/08
10025 COLVIN MANOR CT	5	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,895,000	Detached	0.88	05/22/08
10897 WOODLEAF LN	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,050,000	Detached	2.06	05/22/08
1310 CALDER RD	3	2	0		MCLEAN	\$715,000	Detached	0.48	05/22/08
8119 SPRING HILL FARM DR	5	5	2		MCLEAN	\$4,247,204	Detached	1.00	05/22/08
30127 MERCHANT CT	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$525,000	Detached	0.24	05/23/08
9622 LOCUST HILL DR	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$700,000	Detached	0.46	05/23/08
6293 COLUMBUS HALL CT	7	5	1		MCLEAN	\$1,520,100	Detached	0.30	05/23/08
1929 WILSON LN #T1	1	1	0		MCLEAN	\$200,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0	05/23/08
1570 SPRING GATE DR #7314	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$365,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0	05/27/08
2120 GLENN SPRING CT	3	2	2		FALLS CHURCH	\$455,250	Townhouse	0.03	05/28/08
9508 WOODY LN	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$875,000	Detached	0.68	05/28/08
10805 PINEY POND DR	5	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$900,000	Detached	0.83	05/28/08
1404 HARVEST CROSSING DR	5	4	1		MCLEAN	\$1,180,000	Townhouse	0.05	05/28/08
913 GEORGETOWN RIDGE CT	5	7	2		MCLEAN	\$2,815,000	Detached	1.07	05/28/08
1808 OLD MEADOW RD #505	2	2	0		MCLEAN	\$345,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	0	05/28/08
1963 KENNEDY DR #1963	2	2	1		MCLEAN	\$320,300	Townhouse	0	05/28/08
2311 PIMMIT DR #313	1	1	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$190,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	0	05/29/08
2032 PIMMIT DR	3	1	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$362,500	Detached	0.28	05/29/08
2627 PIONEER LN	3	2	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$450,000	Detached	0.34	05/29/08
7207 EVANS MILL RD	4	3	1		MCLEAN	\$935,000	Townhouse	0.07	05/29/08
1314 BAKER CREST CT	3	3	2		MCLEAN	\$875,000	Townhouse	0.03	05/29/08
1371 LANCIA DR	6	6	1		MCLEAN	\$2,275,000	Detached	0.87	05/29/08
7704 BRIDLE PATH LN	4	2	1		MCLEAN	\$830,000	Detached	0.00	05/29/08
7847 ENOLA ST #7847	3	2	0		MCLEAN	\$350,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0	05/29/08
7638 WOOD MIST LN	3	2	1		FALLS CHURCH	\$324,900	Townhouse	0.05	05/30/08
7011 FALLS REACH DR #105	2	2	0		FALLS CHURCH	\$379,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0	05/30/08
2130 DOMINION HEIGHTS CT	3	2	2		FALLS CHURCH	\$470,000	Townhouse	0.04	05/30/08
2086 GILLEN LN	3	2	2		FALLS CHURCH	\$638,500	Townhouse	0.05	05/30/08
9696 MILL RIDGE LN	4	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$3,000,000	Detached	1.72	05/30/08
757 APPLEWOOD LN	3	2	0		GREAT FALLS	\$1,035,000	Detached	1.13	05/30/08
11933 THOMAS AVE	5	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,715,000	Detached	2.00	05/30/08

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BUSINESS NOTES

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BB&T recently promoted **Mike Carpenter** to manage its residential real estate lending team for the metro Washington, D.C., area. The 12-member team, located in Woodbridge, Va., also will include BB&T residential construction specialists Mike Williams, Jason Paxton, Keri Jackson and Rob Lane.

A senior vice president, Carpenter has more than eight years of commercial banking and real estate lending experience, most recently as a regional executive with BB&T in Tysons Corner. Williams, assistant vice president, has more than eight years of real estate fi-

nance experience, most recently with BB&T's commercial real estate finance team in Tysons Corner.

Coldwater Creek in McLean recently helped raise \$927 to benefit the Komen[®]National RFTC of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and their vision of a world[®]without breast cancer. The fundraiser took place through Coldwater Creek's[®]Try It On for the Cure event that took place on April 20.

Coldwater Creek's fundraising program, Try It On for the Cure, donated \$1[®]to the Komen National RFTC of Komen for the Cure for every shopper who[®]tried on clothes in the dressing room at Coldwater Creek's Tysons[®]Corner Center store. In addition, for individuals who did make a pur-

chase, the[®]company donated 10 percent of the entire day's sales to Komen. The company[®]as a whole raised over \$100,000 for the cause and plans to repeat the[®]event again this year on Sept. 21.

Weekly lunch and lead **Tip Group meetings** with the **Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce** to network, share leads and mingle, **Tuesday and Thursday, 12:15-1:30 p.m.** at Morton's, The Steakhouse, 8075 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, 703-883-0800. For information, call Harvey Silverman at 703-319-8806. To RSVP for the Tuesday group, call Harvey Silverman at 703-319-8806; to RSVP for the Thursday group call Christa Walker at 703-766-2300.

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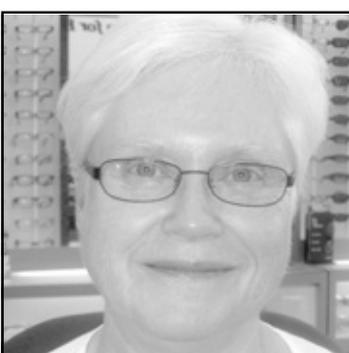
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SCHOOLS

Osher Lifelong Learning: The New Retirement

BY KERRY O'CONNOR
THE CONNECTION

The new face of retirement has senior citizens staying in their communities and opting for a life where they might become a volunteer, get involved in the community, or even choose to go back to school.

"The growing number of older adults means the growth of a significant pool of talent in our community — as employees, entrepreneurs, volunteers, and community activists," reads the Fairfax County Committee on Aging's 50+ Action Plan.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), which is affiliated with George Mason University, a non-profit Institute that offers retirees and senior citizens the option of going back to school and taking university-level courses with peers. Formerly a historic home, the Tall Woods building located off Roberts Road just off the GMU campus, is now a second home to senior citizens who want to keep an active mind through classes, clubs, and special events.

"It would be a reassuring thing to know that there are fun things out there you can get involved with and not just sitting at home knitting or whatever the stereotype might be," said Thom Clement, OLLI executive director and former principal at Bull Run Elementary.

WHEN THE INSTITUTE was established in 1991, then known as the Lifelong Learning Institute, it had only 15 members. In 2004 the Institute received a Bernard Osher Grant and now has two other locations — at George Mason Loudoun and Lake Anne in Reston — with about 850 members.



To Register

Information is available on the web: www.lli.gmu.edu.
Call 703-503-3384 or e-mail olli@gmu.edu.

PHOTO BY GORDON CANYOCK/THE CONNECTION

Michael Barone, a columnist for U.S. News and World Report, speaks on April 7 to America & the World class at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Retirees come not for a degree, a career opportunity, or a resume, but for what Clement describes as the joy of learning.

"Sit down before class, and the seat mate on your left will be a former infantry officer, talking about the poetry seminar he's teaching next semester," said Paul Howard, member of the OLLI board and chairperson of the Technology Committee. "The woman on your right will be chatting about a strategy discussed in yesterday's Investment Forum."

OLLI members can choose from practical courses such as economics and finance or based in interest such as conversational French and "Lifewriting your Monologue." Though history classes tend to be very popular, the interest in current event classes is so large they have to rent out space from a local church to accommodate.

"You can't have a successful

community if one segment of the population is not engaged and having good reasons to be there; people will move away," Clement said. "The folks that are here could have easily chosen to stay here because they like the community and they like things like OLLI that you couldn't have in a non-college town where they wouldn't have the academic support."

In addition to transportation, health care, housing, and services, the 50+ Action Plan that strives to incorporate senior citizens into the Fairfax County community talks about integrating retirees into a social community.

"The benefits [of OLLI] start with the mental stimulation and expand to the social integrations," said Pat Carroll, OLLI's president of the Board of Directors. "I have expanded the number of friends and acquaintances."

Being part of this community means giving back, and OLLI keeps its end of the bargain by offering \$2,000 scholarships to GMU students and having members serve on a variety of university boards. Clement explains this sense of reciprocity is important because OLLI is a non-profit institution that relies on volunteers from the GMU faculty and the Fairfax County community to come and teach classes.

OLLI members pay an annual fee of \$350 that gives them access to over 250 courses offered in four terms over the course of the year. Summer classes are often taught in one sitting to accommodate vacation schedules. Registration for summer term is still open and registration for fall term will be in late August.



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FAITH

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

Summer Extravaganza. Start the summer with our first dance of the summer at Our Lady of Good Council, 8601 Wolf Trap Rd., Vienna, VA 22182. Friday, June 27. Free dance lesson 8-8:30; dance 8:30-12:00 p.m. Cost: \$15 - includes lesson, snack and soft drinks. Sponsored by PWP a non profit organization.

Serguei Popov and Family in a colorful program of Hebrew folk, classical and praise music with dancing and drama. June 28, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., McLean Bible Church, Community Room C, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. No admission fee; no registration. Call Vanessa Tillett at 703/639-2000 X3310 or vanessa.tillett@mcleanbible.org.

Patriotic music. On June 29 at 5 p.m., McLean Presbyterian Church will host The Dominion Brass in a performance of patriotic music, at 1020 Balls Hill Rd. in McLean. This ensemble

of professional musicians, many of whom are music educators from the D.C. area, comes together to bring praise to God through music in concerts, worship and other events. Since it's founding in 2002, the group has raised over \$20,000 for various ministries. Admission is free and a freewill offering will be received to further the ministry of Dominion Brass.

Musical selections will include works by Copeland, Ives and Sousa with the McLean Presbyterian Choir joining the band to close the concert with America, the Beautiful and Battle Hymn. Contact mcleanpres.org 703.821-0800 for more information.

5 K Walk/Run. Great Falls Ecumenical Churches are hosting a 5 K Walk/Run July 4th at 7:30 am. Meet at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial next to the Great Falls Library. This is a fun, no cost event, for the whole family. For more information, contact Pastor Gysan at 703-759-6068.

July 4th Picnic. Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls is hosting a 7:30 p.m. picnic on July 4th. Hotdogs and beverages will be provided. Bring a dish to share, and a lawn chair. Enjoy the fireworks from the front lawn of the church. Everyone welcome. 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066. CONTACT :Pastor Paul Gysan at paul.gysan@verizon.net.

Yard Sale. Great Falls United Methodist Church holds yard sale. Come shop or sell, Saturday, July 12, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Va. 22066 .To rent a space (\$20) or for information contact Carol Wesley Wright at carolwright@starpower.net or (703) 582-1640.

Vacation Bible School. The Church of the Holy Cross invites children, ages 4-12, to Vacation Bible School from July 20 to 24 (Sunday through Thursday), 1-4 p.m. Church is located at 2455 Gallows Road in Dunn Loring. Call the Church Office at 703-698-6991 for more information and to sign-up. All are welcome!

Churches Connected for Community Care will be hosting the first annual **Family Wellness and Spiritual Revival Forum** on **Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.** The forum will address such issues as Spiritual Wellness, Physical Wellness, Economic Wellness, Wholeness of Life Family Ministry, Spiritual Revival for the Soul, and Pillars of Christian Life. Vendors will be present to discuss and distribute literature. www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ture on the topics. **Oakton High School auditorium**, 2900 Sutton Rd.

Vienna Assembly of God has ministry to children on **Wednesdays**, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on **Sundays** is also available. 703-938-7736 or visit www.ViennaAG.com.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms: a place to receive healing. **Every Saturday**, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane, a team of Christians is available to pray for anyone requesting prayer. The rooms are open to the public without charge. For more information call 703-698-9779 or visit www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

The Baha'i community of McLean holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, beginning at 8 p.m. **every Friday.** The fireside is an opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith and why Baha'is find hope in a seemingly hopeless world. Call 703-556-3400.

English classes. McLean Baptist Church is offering free conversational English classes on **Mondays.**

Classes include beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. There is no cost for the class or registration, however students must buy their own books.

Classes begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at noon. New student registration begins at 9 a.m., until Oct. 30. McLean Baptist Church is located at 1367 Chain Bridge Road. Call 703-356-8080 or visit www.mcleanbaptist.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienna/mclean/greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6428. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

Annual Awards Banquet. The Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Public Administration is hosting their annual Awards Banquet at the Marco Polo restaurant (245 Maple Avenue, Vienna.) The cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner, speaker— Fairfax County Manager, Tony Griffin - and presentation of awards. 2008 awardees include:

PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS: Brian J. Moran, Delegate and Chairman, House Democratic Caucus (D-46);

John J. Brown, Jr., Deputy Director, Arlington County Office of Emergency Management; and Chuck Wexler, Executive Director, Police Executive Research Forum.

HODDING CARTER JOURNALISM AWARDS:

Deborah Simmons, Editorial Page Editor, The Washington Times; Gabriella Boston, Features Writer, The Washington Times; and Chris Core, Commentator, WTOP radio; Talk Show Host XM Radio.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Legal aspects of child support, custody & visitation. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. David Levy, Esquire, Surovell, Markle, Isaacs & Levy, PLC. \$55 Registration Fee / \$45 Center

Circle Donors (Members). Learn from an attorney how Virginia courts determine the "best interests" of the child and what to expect during the custody proceedings. To register go to www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Mothers First - Great Falls is a nonprofit support organization dedicated to helping women who have chosen to alter their careers to raise their children at home. Meetings are first Tuesdays of the month at 10 a.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Contact 703-827-5922 or www.mothersfirst.org.

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To have business notes listed, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com or 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. Deadline is Friday.

BB&T recently promoted **Mike Carpenter** to manage its residential real estate lending team for the metro Washington, D.C., area. The 12-member team, located in Woodbridge, Va., also will include BB&T residential construction specialists Mike Williams, Jason Paxton, Keri Jackson and Rob Lane.

A senior vice president, Carpenter has more than eight years of commercial banking and real estate lending experience, most recently as a regional executive with BB&T in Tysons Corner. Williams, assistant vice president, has more than eight

years of real estate finance experience, most recently with BB&T's commercial real estate finance team in Tysons Corner.

Coldwater Creek in McLean recently helped raise \$927 to benefit the Komen®National RFTC of Susan G. Komen for the Cure and their vision of a world without breast cancer. The fundraiser took place through Coldwater Creek's®Try It On for the Cure event that took place on April 20.

Coldwater Creek's fundraising program, Try It On for the Cure, donated \$1 to the Komen National RFTC of Komen for the Cure for every shopper who tried on clothes in the dressing room at Coldwater Creek's Tysons®Corner Center store. In addition, for individuals who did make a purchase, the company donated 10 percent

of the entire day's sales to Komen. The company as a whole raised over \$100,000 for the cause and plans to repeat the event again this year on Sept. 21.

Weekly lunch and lead **Tip Group meetings** with the **Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce** to network, share leads and mingle, **Tuesday and Thursday**, 12:15-1:30 p.m. at Morton's, The Steakhouse, 8075 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, 703-883-0800. For information, call Harvey Silverman at 703-319-8806.

To RSVP for the Tuesday group, call Harvey Silverman at 703-319-8806; to RSVP for the Thursday group call Christa Walker at 703-766-2300.

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SPORTS



2008 Senior Send-Off

As this year's class of graduating seniors prepare for the next phase of their lives, the Connection Newspapers would like to take one more look at the student-athletes that made a difference, on and off the field, during their four years of high school. Honorees were chosen for a variety of reasons – whether to highlight the top athletes in our area one last time, to shine light on an athlete who may have been overlooked during their time in school, to praise those whose success on the field was matched by their success in the classroom, or just to tell a story that needs to be told.

Special thanks to Robbie Hammer, Craig Sterbutzel, John C. Marcario, Nicolas A. LaMont, Michael Garcia, Andrew Dodson, Greg Rosenstein, John Smith and the entire production staff at the Connection Newspapers.

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PHOTO COURTESY/MEADOWS' FAMILY

Alex Meadows (right) injured a knee late in the regular season and missed the remainder of the season for the Saxons. She earned her team's Most Inspirational Award for the spring season.

Staying in the Game

Following injury, Langley's Meadows Gave Saxons Her All From the Bench.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Langley High girls' soccer player Alex Meadows never envisioned her high school playing career ending in such a difficult and heart-breaking manner.

Meadows, a senior starting sweeper for the Saxons this past spring, was looking forward to the season's downs-stretch and upcoming postseason when an injury cut her 12th grade season short. During a late-season game against Liberty District foe Stone Bridge, Meadows suffered a serious knee injury during overtime against the Bulldogs.

"It couldn't have come at a worse time," said Meadows, recently. "It was right before 'Senior Night,' right before districts."

But Meadows, while bummed out that her season had ended as a player, took it upon herself to become the Saxons' best cheerleader and team supporter for the rest of the season. Still, it wasn't easy being a spectator.

"It's hard to stay on the bench and watch,"



Langley High graduate Alex Meadows

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

she said.

But she heartily encouraged and spurred on her teammates.

"She was almost like an assistant coach," said Langley coach Gretchen Hamm, the Saxons' first year head coach last spring. "She was a real quiet leader when playing. But [following the injury] she really stepped up [emotionally]. She was at every practice and at every game. She was more vocal on the bench than she had ever been on the field. She would be up walking and pacing during games, and talking to the

players."

Meadows said she almost had the mindset of being a part of the coaching staff, although, of course, she wasn't.

"I almost felt like an assistant coach," said Meadows, with a giggle.

It was only fitting that after the season Meadows, a First Team All-District selection, was given the team's Most Inspirational Award.

ONE OF THE biggest contributions Meadows made following her injury was tutoring sophomore sweeper Brooke Gallagher, who was the player asked to fill in for the injured Meadows.

"She took Brooke under her wing and guided her," said Hamm.

Meadows, along with senior teammates Ivana Goal Lauren Hakim, had given the Saxons a stellar defense throughout the season.

"She was like the anchor of the defense," said Hamm, of Meadows. "She had great speed and the ability to step up and make tackles if the defense got beat."

When Meadows went down with her injury, she did all she could to work with Gallagher the remainder of the season. During pre-game warm-ups prior to matches, Meadows and Gallagher would spend a few moments talking about the game ahead. Meadows would give the younger player tips or information regard

SEE MEADOWS, PAGE 19

Roffman Kept Highlanders' Spirits Up

Baseball catcher excelled in first season as starting backstop.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

If there were times this past spring season when the McLean High baseball team was not emotionally charged up in the dugout during games, senior catcher David Roffman made sure such flat line moments did not last long.

The animated Roffman, along with being a solid player on the field for the Highlanders, was also an emotional leader for coach John Thomas' team.

He was the guy in the dugout who kept things lively by encouraging teammates on and keeping spirits up even if McLean was struggling.

"I've been doing that since Little League," said Roffman, who grew up in the McLean area and played his youth baseball within the Falls Church Little League.

The Highlanders did not struggle often this past spring as they put together 15 total wins on the season and finished with a stellar 11-5 record in the Liberty District during the regular season. In the postseason, McLean defeated Woodson in a quarterfinals round playoff game of the district tournament before falling to eventual district champion Stone Bridge in the

semifinals. At regionals, McLean saw its season end with a first round loss to Lake Braddock.

But overall, it was a winning, successful season for McLean, and Roffman provided the team with lots of hard work behind the plate and heart as well.

"He did a great job for us and is a great kid," said McLean coach John Thomas. "He was our emotional leader on the field all year.

"David is like another coach," said Thomas. "He was always making sure our dugout was lively. Your dugout needs to be rocking. David does a good job of that and the kids enjoy his enthusiasm. He got guys fired up all the time."

ROFFMAN earned Honorable Mention All-District accolades as a catcher in his senior season. His 12th grade campaign marked his first as the Highlanders' full time starting backstop. As a sophomore two years earlier, Roffman had been a backup player on the varsity roster. The following year as a junior, he shared the starting catching duties on a McLean outfit that finished 12-11 overall. But he won the full time starting role in his senior season.

"He really earned that," said Thomas, of Roffman becoming the teams full-time starting catcher. "We really opened the competition up [during the pre-season]."

Roffman's strengths throughout the season were his defensive prowess at catcher and his ability to work with his pitchers.

"He did a great job defensively behind the plate," said Thomas. "He was a rock behind the plate. I felt there wasn't a better defensive [catcher] in the district. He blocks balls as well as any catcher around here. And I felt he did a great job handling some of our younger pitchers."

Roffman, who threw out nine runners in attempted steal situations during the season, did an excellent job working with sophomore starting pitchers Denis Buckley, who went 5-1 on the season, and Sean Fitzgerald, who was 5-3. Both pitchers earned All-District and All-Region honors.

"I felt he did a great job working with some of our younger pitchers. He worked real good with Denis, [helping him] get a lot of border line strikes," said Thomas, of Roffman's ability to frame pitches in the strike zone. "He received the ball real well and was a huge part of our pitching staff's [success] and our defense."

At the plate, Roffman, from the No. 7 spot in the McLean batting order, hit .235 but showed good improvement in the batters' box as the season moved on. He knocked in 12 runs and hit a home run.

"He really improved a lot as a hitter and worked real hard on his swing," said Thomas. "He really handled the bat well. He moved runners by hitting behind them and he bunted well."

Thomas said McLean would not have fared so well this past season without Roffman, who was a Highlander team co-captain.

"There is no way we win 15 games with-



McLean High graduate David Roffman

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

out David behind the plate," said the coach.

Roffman said McLean was a cohesive club.

"We bonded real fast," he said. "One of the strengths as a team is we had good chemistry. The seniors really embraced the [underclassmen]. It didn't matter what year we were, we were all teammates."

Roffman, who is headed to Old Dominion University this upcoming school year, loved his high school baseball experience.

"I played with a great group of guys and was friends with all of them," said Roffman, who said he will try to make the ODU team as a walk-on. "Playing with them was a lot of fun."

Meadows Determined To Get Back on the Field

FROM PAGE 18

ing that night's opponent. Gallagher did a superb job filling in for Meadows.

MEADOWS, who was an alternate team captain for Langley her senior season, is scheduled to undergo surgery on her knee on July 19 at Georgetown University Hospital. She has been going through therapy on her knee three times a week since the injury. Prior to the injury, Meadows had already committed to play soccer collegiately at Flagler College (Div. 2) in St. Augustine, Fla. That has not changed. She plans on working hard following her surgery and preparing for college soccer.

This is not the first time Meadows has dealt with serious injury problems. As a 10-year old she was injured during a youth soccer game and had to have bilateral tendon surgery done on both ankles.

Meadows first began playing soccer as a four year old within the McLean house league, and was a member of the Old Dominion Soccer League at age seven. Eventually, she was playing in the competitive Washington Area Girls Soccer (WAGS) league by age 10.



This fall, Meadows will be attending Flagler College, a Div. 2 school in St. Augustine, Fla.



Meadows (left) was named First Team All-Liberty District following her senior season.

PHOTOS COURTESY/MEADOWS FAMILY

She overcame her early ankle injuries and continued to play the sport. She has played club soccer for McLean United the past two years. And the eight years prior to that, she was a member of the Bethesda Pride.

At Langley, she played on the Saxons' JV squad both her freshmen and sophomore years and was a team captain both years.

She moved up to varsity as a junior and earned a Student Athlete Award (3.5 grade point average or better).

This past season, as a senior, she was playing at a high level for Langley.

"I was pretty excited. I don't think I ever

played as well as I had before I got hurt," she said.

Meadows has grown up playing the sport and wants to continue to do so in college.

"Getting on the field and playing games is the best way to relieve stress," said Meadows. "I get everything out of it and enjoy playing. If it was my choice, I'd be playing tomorrow."

Following her surgery, Meadows hopes to begin jogging in August. She said the earliest she can expect to begin playing soccer again will be next January. With her grit and determination, look for Meadows to be playing the sport she loves again at Flagler in 2009.

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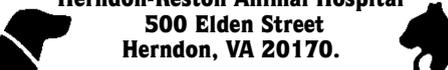
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Prescription For Pain Re-lief



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I've often wondered, as I get older and wider, and have to take more prescription medications as a direct result, if there is some kind of practical, safe and sensible recyclable-type option concerning all the various and unused prescription medications still bottled up in my (and in so many other's, too, I'm sure) medicine cabinet. It just seems like such a waste of good and effective medicine — not to mention money — to allow these medications to sit idly by, ignored mostly, and not doing what the pharmaceutical companies intended them to do.

Obviously I'm aware that prescription medications, new or used (or rather unused) are prescribed for a specific medical reason/patient and as such are hardly as donatable/usable as an unopened jar of mayonnaise or a canned good, as an example of some of the items collected for good will. But if condiment makers can create a blend of mustard and mayonnaise (dijonaise), certainly the pharmaceutical companies or the creative minds at the F.D.A. (Food and Drug Administration) can devise a system, a secondary-type market, where prescription medications bought and paid for by person "x" can somehow be recertified/requalified as a 100 percent reusable option for those less able to pay. I mean, we recycle trash, can't we find a way to recycle health and welfare products, too?

Granted, this task is fraught with danger and regulatory reflux but what greater good is there than to provide aid and comfort to your own citizens — and fellow countryman — at a time when more and more of them, it seems, need it (the aging of the population) and an increasing percentage of them can't afford it; medications that is, to ease their troubled minds and insufficient incomes? If, as a country/planet, we are becoming an ever-greening/carbon footprint-type populace, and we're motivated to "save the trees," as but one example of the hundreds of selfless acts of compassion witnessed on a daily basis, can't we at least attempt to save/conservate the beneficiaries of all these other "conservation" efforts, too, the actual people themselves? I mean, it's only human, to save the humans, even if corporate America is involved, right? Despite the fact that corporations are entities (things, not individuals), they are in fact made up of human beings who know full well the trials and tribulations of their fellow man. It's getting them to take care of it that's the problem. If we could somehow devise a system that would enable corporate America to turn the problem into a solution, and a profitable one at that, thousands, if not millions of their fellow citizens (perhaps even some of their fellow shareholders) could benefit. And what better story to market than one that advances the causes and minimizes the concerns of an entire generation (the Baby Boomers), a generation that will dominate, demographically speaking, for decades yet to come?

Who among us doesn't have bottles of prescription medications, some unopened even, accumulating dust, and serving no particular — and current — purpose other than taking up space? Certainly there has to be a better and more useful end for these potentially life saving, and at the very least, life changing medications, than a flush. Our best and brightest have researched and tested, and mass-produced solutions to hundreds if not thousands of conditions/problems, everything from angina to xenophobia, problems that are symptomatic of the times in which we all live. Let's not allow their good work and good deeds to go undone. Why not find a way to "treat" every American with the respect and dignity he — or she — deserves? America is a wealthy country. Unfortunately, many of its citizens are not. So let's find a way to share that wealth, medically speaking. Now that would be a prescription worth paying for.

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

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