

Playing History At Alden

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Allison Plourdes plays Octavia in "Thousands of Years — Rome" an original, romantic drama presented by the McLean Drama Company that follows her love through time from ancient Rome to the present.

Shaping
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inside





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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 al-



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Clark Tyler

most 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 County in 1962, now is home to some 1,

SEE TYSONS, PAGE 7

HOT Lanes Concerns Discussed

Area officials report progress.

Officials of the Virginia Department of Transportation and the design contractor for the Beltway Hot Lanes Project have agreed to measures that address community concerns about a construction staging area being built near the intersection of the Beltway and Route 193 (Georgetown Pike).

At a meeting at the office of Dranesville Supervisor John Foust on June 5, Del. Margaret Vanderhye, state Sen. Janet Howell, and Foust negotiated with officials from VDOT and HOT Lanes contractor Fluor/Transurban over how to improve the appearance of the site and protect the neighborhood and nearby Cooper Middle School from disruption due to activity associated with the staging area. The contractors and VDOT agreed to several concessions requested by Howell, Vanderhye and Foust — according to the press release issued by Vanderhye's office.

"The purpose of the site will primarily be as a command and control center," said Vanderhye. "VDOT vehicles will enter and leave the area via the Beltway exit ramp, not through Balls Hill Road."

The Balls Hill entrance to the site will only

SEE CITIZENS, PAGE 5

Serving Community

Woman's Club of McLean celebrates 50th anniversary.

The Woman's Club of McLean was the brain child of 39 women who lived in McLean in 1958. They wanted to be involved in community activities and to improve their community, so they formed the club and joined the national General Federation of Women's Clubs. Two of the original members are still active today, Nancy Weekley and Kathryn Nagy. To mention a few examples of the club's history of charitable giving and civic involvement: The club was instrumental in securing the land to build the McLean Community Center; promoting a summer reading program at Lemon Road School; supporting SHARE, Alternative House & Hospice; presenting awards for local schools safety patrols and outstanding music students; college scholarships; conservation projects;

Holiday Homes Tours each year to support the club's charitable giving. The club also enjoys an active social life.

The Woman's Club of McLean scheduled various activities to celebrate their Bi-centennial: First, a garden/tea party where hats and white gloves were the dress; next, a celebration at the club's last meeting prior to summer vacation; and lastly, a luncheon cruise on the Potomac River.

The June meeting was a celebration for members and guests. Following a luncheon prepared by club members, President Nancy Lang conducted a short business meeting. She introduced the incoming officers and chairmen who spoke briefly about projects for the coming year. Two new members, Susan Cooper and Marie Ragan, were inducted into the club by Membership Chairman Joan Morton. The Chorale, a musical group conducted by director Iris Reimann, sang a variety of melodies. A surprise soloist was Juanita Jackson, a former president of the club and a professional soprano. A standing ovation for the Chorale performance was acknowl-



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Celebrating 50th anniversary, the Woman's Club of McLean inducted two new members at its June meeting. Pictured in the first row, from left, Mary Doyle, new members Marie Ragan and Susan Cooper; back row, Sally Margolis, President Nancy Lang, Membership Chairman Joan Morton.

edged as Reimann received a bouquet of flowers.

Starting in September the Woman's Club of McLean meets the first Tuesday of each

month. The meetings are held at the McLean Trinity Methodist Church. Guests are welcome. For reservations call Joan Morton, membership chairman, at 703-356-0089.

Playing History at Alden

McLean Drama Company presents 'Thousands of Years — Rome.'

BY MATTHEW SWIFT
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Drama Company is celebrating its fifth anniversary this weekend by performing its new play entitled "Thousands of Years — Rome" at the Alden Theatre at the McLean Community Center. The performance will be a multi-act play focusing on a young man and young woman who are continuously torn apart by war and conflict spanning thousands of years.

THE PLAY begins in the first century and ends in current times and will touch on conflicts such as the Iraq War, Nazi occupation, and the unification of Italy. Rachael Bail, founder of the drama company and writer of the play, found inspiration while on a trip to Rome in 2000. "I wanted to go to the Forum and I got there and it was too late," said Bail. "I walked up this big flight of steps ... I looked down over the Forum and this play sort of came to me." While she got the idea in 2000, Bail's play did not come to fruition until this year when she completed it and presented it to the National Press Club of which she is a member. The play initially began as a one-act work, but soon more acts were added that would have the two main characters playing the same roles during thousands of years.

The main characters of Marius — later Mario — and Octavia will be played by the cast members Alexander Bastani and Allison Plourdes who were intrigued to have roles that began 2,000 years ago and ended in the present. "I actually play seven different characters, but it's all the same character over time," said Bastani. "I'm just fascinated by the character and how he develops. It starts with the character being very much in a warrior-mode and by the time we get to modern times he's very much a peacenik."

"I like to call it a memory play because it goes through all these different memories," said Plourdes about why she was attracted to the role. "I hope the audience will be able to take away ... never give up, love is out there."

ALTHOUGH the two main characters' love is consistently derailed through tragic circumstances, those involved feel there is hope in the play and that it is a love story. "It is a love story through the ages and it is also a reincarnation of two people from the very beginning to present time," said director Maureen Kerrigan. "I hope [the audience] takes away a lot of hope that it can work out. It's really a story about a woman saying goodbye to her man ... it's about the waiting and how they deal with it."



Alex Bastani plays Marius, a Roman soldier, in "Thousands of Years — Rome", written by Rachael Bail and produced by the McLean Drama Company, celebrating its 5th Anniversary.



Rachael Bail is celebrating the fifth anniversary of the McLean Drama Company with her new play "Thousands of Years — Rome" being performed at the Alden Theatre.



Allison Plourdes is in one of the many outfits she will be wearing in the play. Her character is first introduced in ancient Rome and concludes during the Iraq War.

'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.

Kim Curtis and Maureen Kerrigan are directing the play.

Cast members are Allison Plourdes, Alexander Bastani, Jennifer Mayberry,

This will be Bail's fifth play at the Alden Theatre as here drama company produces one play each year. A shorter play, "Open Communication" by Katie and Alex Lewis, will be performed along with Bail's play.

Daveeda Shaheen, Barbara Baron, Joseph Branscomb, Sam Simon and Aaron Mahoney.

The performances are Friday and Saturday 8 p.m. and 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.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and students, and \$10 for groups.

"Open Communication" won the 10-Minute Play Contest held by the McLean Drama Company earlier this year. Performance times are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Highlanders' Theatre Returns to Scotland

The McLean High School Theatre Department, under the direction of Denise Perrino, has been selected to perform in the world's largest and most prestigious arts festival in the world as part of the American High School Theatre Festival. The whole city of Edinburgh, Scotland becomes a stage and visitors view performances everywhere from playgrounds to conference rooms to city parks to churches, including over 1,800 different performances during its three-week run.

McLean High School will be attending the festival and performing in August of 2009. It was selected to represent the United States by the AHSTF Board of Advisors based on their most recent bodies of work, awards, community involvement, philosophies, and recommendations.

McLean High School drama students, parents, and teachers are involved in fundraising to finance their trip to Scotland, and special performances and activities will be available throughout the year to assist in this goal. Contributions and donations are welcome and more information is available from Perrino at denise.perrino@fcps.edu.

McLean Businesses Receive Awards

More than 500 business professionals gathered at the Hilton Washington Dulles for the 2008 Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce's Annual Chairman's Luncheon to honor area leaders and businesses for their commitment to corporate citizenship. Two of the four annual business awards presented during the luncheon went to members of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce: Wheat's Landscape, and Jim Wordsworth, J.R. Stockyard's Inn.

Mike Wheat founded Wheat's Landscape, with his wife Mary in 1978. Having grown up in the area that now supports their business, Wheat's is committed to improving and giving back to the community through a number of different volunteer projects including its Care to Help Program.

Jim Wordsworth and his wife Karen are the owners of J.R.'s Stockyard's Inn in Tysons Corner. Wordsworth has been in the fine dining business for 34 years, and owns and operates several other recreational and hospitality related companies in Northern Virginia including The Pavilions at Turkey Run and J.R.'s Custom Catering, based in McLean.

Citizens' Concerns Addressed

FROM PAGE 3

be used by a dozen or so managers and clerical staff who will work in trailers on the site, according to Steve Titunik of VDOT.

Foust added, "It is important that the site not be used for storage of large equipment or construction materials. We continue to seek a commitment that the area will not become a default site for major construction activity."

THE LOCAL OFFICIALS are also requesting that lighting and evening activities be designed and controlled so that they do not adversely affect the quality of life of the residents in the neighboring homes.

Fluor/Transurban also agreed to construct an eight foot high wooden privacy fence set back at least 80 feet from Georgetown Pike and 60 feet from Balls Hill Road. The original design called for the site to be surrounded by a shorter chain link fence.

"Once the fence has been erected, VDOT will begin reforestation around the perimeter," said

Vanderhye, who inspected the site with VDOT officials after the June 5 meeting. "This will immediately improve the visual character of the site and be a down-payment on returning the area to its natural state once construction is completed."

The reforestation will consist of a landscaped green buffer of foundation plantings and small trees along the fence line. A four season green space will be created that is in keeping with the landscaping near Cooper Middle School and the surrounding community.

Efforts to find an alternative location for the staging area were unsuccessful. Titunik explained that VDOT's policy is to use property it owns within existing rights-of-way. There will be 19 staging areas within the HOT lanes project corridor, which will extend from Springfield to just beyond the Dulles Toll Road.

"We have directed VDOT to provide more consistent prior communication about developments at the site and along the HOT lanes corridor generally," said

Vanderhye. "We cannot allow the benefits of the project, such as promotion of high speed bus transit and the replacement of aging bridges and other infrastructure, to be overshadowed by poor planning and inadequate consideration of the concerns of the people who will have to live through years of project construction."

SUPERVISOR Foust's office has scheduled a meeting for representatives of the school, affected neighborhoods, and the McLean Citizens Association to meet with VDOT and Fluor/Transurban to discuss development and use of the site. The meeting will take place on June 20 at 9 a.m. at the Dranesville Governmental Center Community Room.

"Senator Howell, Delegate Vanderhye and I will continue working with the HOT lanes partners to mitigate the impact of this location as a staging area for the HOT lanes project," said Foust. "We welcome the concerns, suggestions and participation of the affected residents."

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PEOPLE



The Potomac School graduates take stage during the graduation ceremony on Wednesday, July 11. The McLean school promoted 91 graduates in the Class of 2008.



George Alexander Zaras delivered the Class of 2008 Senior Address.

The Potomac School Graduates 91 in Class 2008



Jonathan Darman of the class of '99 — a Harvard graduate and senior writer and political correspondent for Newsweek — delivered Graduation Address at the Potomac School graduation.



Dorothy McAuliffe, chair of the Board of Trustees, congratulates graduating Class of 2008.



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Women's Club Welcomes New Members

New Dominion Women's Club of McLean welcomed a record 11 new members at a dinner on Monday, June 9. Back row: Yuko Higa, Leslie Vorndran, Diana Sparrgrove, Stephanie Arthur, Amy Swaak, Barbara Kenniston. Front row: Carol Brunner, Tara Bennett, Junko Holbrook, Stacie Steinke. Not pictured: Pam Elder. The club supports such local organizations as McLean Project for the Arts, Reading is Fundamental, Langley Residential, Claude Moore Colonial Farm, and others through in-kind and monetary donations.

Bells Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Charles R. Bell and Shirley Ann Underwood, both from Arlington, were married on June 25, 1948 at the Clarendon Methodist Church. In 1952 they built their home in McLean, where they still reside today. Their three sons, Steve, Gary, and Joel and their families all wish them well on their diamond anniversary.



NEWS



West*Group's President and CEO Gerald T. Halpin presented Juanita Harris, Westgate ES Principal, with the matching donation — a check for \$25,000.

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West*Group Helps Upgrade Westgate's Technology

In November of 2007, West*Group, a real estate development company headquartered in McLean, launched a fund-raising campaign to provide Westgate Elementary School and its students with a technology upgrade. West*Group challenged the community to help raise \$25,000 and promised to match that amount dollar for dollar to reach their goal of \$50,000. The community rose to the challenge. Thanks to the generosity of West*Group tenants and employees, Westgate students and their parents, the local business community, and local elected officials, Westgate Elementary will be able to purchase 30 new desktop computers and a 16-station wireless laptop cart. Aside from West*Group's \$25,000 donation, Exxon Mobil was the largest corporate donor with a donation of \$10,000.

In front of an audience that included Westgate staff, students, parents, West*Group employees, FCPS's Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale, FCPS Cluster II Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Pajardo, and FCPS Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Technology Maribeth Luftglass, Gerald T. Halpin, West*Group's president and CEO, presented Juanita Harris, Westgate Elementary School principal, with the matching donation — a check for \$25,000. Westgate Elementary School and West*Group are currently celebrating the 10th year of their partnership. West*Group was named Fairfax County Public Schools Partner of the Year for 2006-2007, and was honored for its numerous programs that exist between the company and Westgate Elementary School as part of their Business / School Partnership.

Tyson's Blueprint Emerges

FROM PAGE 3

300,000 people, the largest political entity in the Commonwealth of Virginia and Tyson's is the region's economic center.

This is not to say that everyone wants a redesigned Tyson's 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 Tyson's 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 Tyson's 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 Tyson's and many citizens as well.

But Tyson's 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 Tyson's 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, Tyson's Corner will grow just as it has in the past 40 years and the growth would be better planned than "hodge-podge."

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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.

EDITORIALS 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 con-

nections 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?

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. Disk jockeys based out of Bagram Airfield keep service members informed of issues at their location as well as the latest Morale, Welfare and Recreation events and services. 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](http://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. The AFRTS mission is to communicate Department of Defense policies,

priorities, programs, goals and initiatives. AFRTS provides stateside radio and television programming, “a touch of home,” to U.S. service men and women, DoD civilians, and their families serving outside the continental United States.

MY DAD AND ME



Tom and Laura Meloy with their children. 11 1/2-year-old Jessica, and 10-year-old twins Kelsey and Thomas pictured last summer at Nags Head, N.C.

THE CONNECTION

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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

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 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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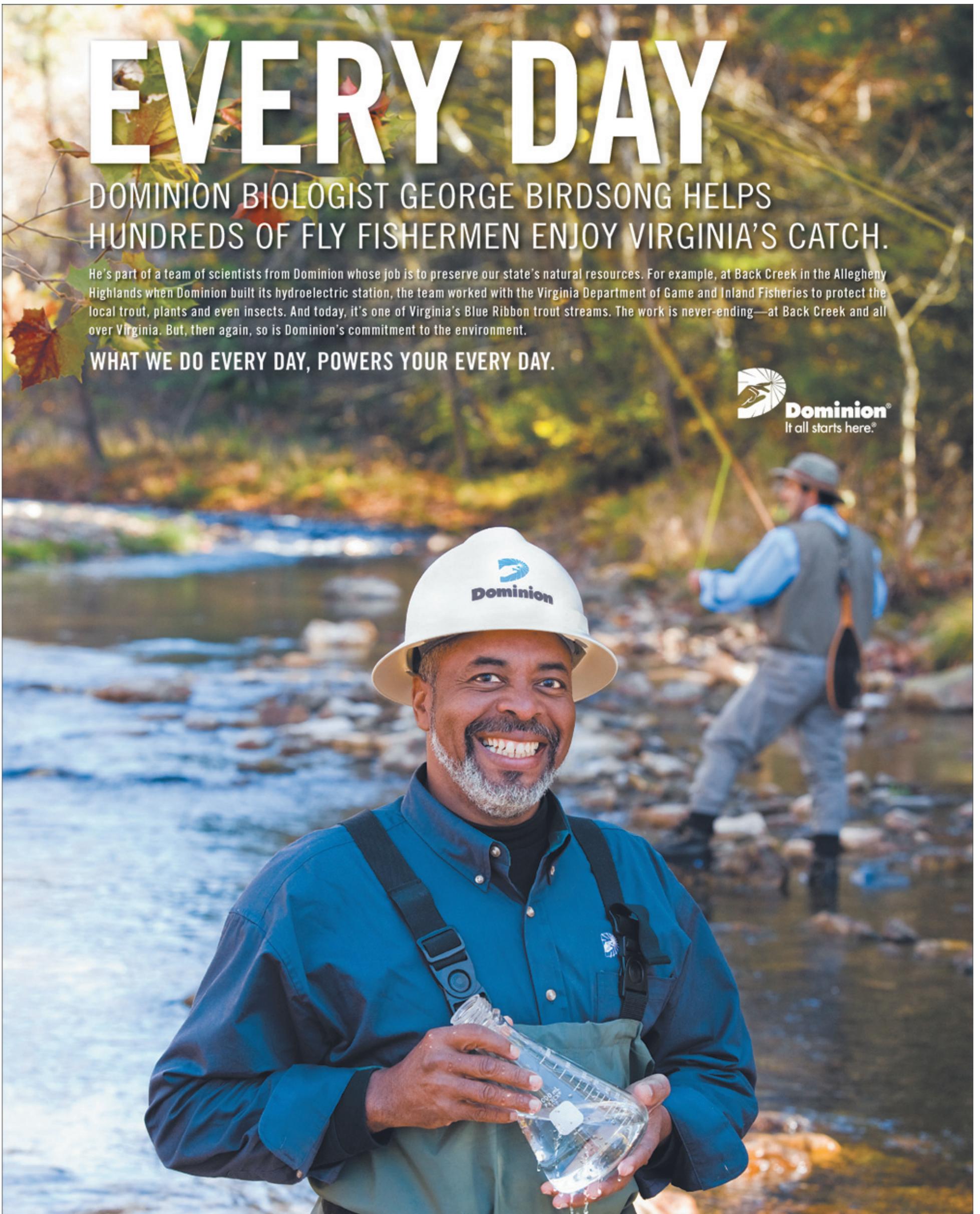
DOMINION BIOLOGIST GEORGE BIRDSONG HELPS HUNDREDS OF FLY FISHERMEN ENJOY VIRGINIA'S CATCH.

He's part of a team of scientists from Dominion whose job is to preserve our state's natural resources. For example, at Back Creek in the Allegheny Highlands when Dominion built its hydroelectric station, the team worked with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to protect the local trout, plants and even insects. And today, it's one of Virginia's Blue Ribbon trout streams. The work is never-ending—at Back Creek and all over Virginia. But, then again, so is Dominion's commitment to the environment.

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CONTRIBUTED

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich congratulates Peter Nicholas Kalis II.

Eagle Scout Receives Honors

Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich delivered the keynote address at an Eagle Court of Honor honoring Peter Nicholas Kalis II. Kalis, 18, attends Langley High School and in the fall will be studying information systems as a full-time student at Drexel University. The former Speaker outlined the values embodied in the Scouting program. Gingrich spoke of how Lord Baden Powell, Scouting's founder, would have approved of Peter's use of Facebook to solicit volunteers to assist him in the service project required of all Eagle Scouts. Scoutmaster Nolan Mackness opened the Court of Honor at Chesterbrook United Methodist Church — Troop 667's chartering organization — on Kirby Road, McLean. Both the invocation and the benediction were delivered by the Rev. Doctor James Siddons, Pastor, Chesterbrook UMC. Peter's younger sister, Libby Kalis, read Letters of Congratulations received from President Bush, Vice President Cheney and other dignitaries. Nearly 60 attendees capped the event with a reception at the church hall.

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.

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8:00 am 5k road race
8:05 am 1 mile walk

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LEADERSHIP for LIFE

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, \$522/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.

Reit 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

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

Vanessa Tillett at 703/639-2000 X3310 or vanessa.tillett@mcleanbible.org.

Falls walk. 12:30 - 1:15 p.m. & 3 - 3:45 p.m. (Monday - Friday, 2- 2:45 p.m.). Join a ranger to explore the natural and cultural aspects of Great Falls Park on this walk. Meet the ranger in the Visitor Center.

Creepy crawly critters. What's your favorite bug? Bugs are everywhere around us, but how much do you really know about them? 1- 2 p.m. Kids, 10 years old and younger, should meet the ranger in the Visitor Center at the Great Falls Park.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

Bird watching. Grab your binoculars and join this informal group to catch a glimpse of resident and migratory birds in Great Falls Park. 8 - 10 a.m. Meet in the Visitor Center courtyard. Rain or shine.

Alien invaders. They creep! They climb! They slowly take over and strangle the life out of native species! What are they? Where do they come from? 1- 2 p.m. Meet a ranger in the Visitor Center for a walk to unravel the answers. Free. For reservations call 703-285-2965.

Young green thumbs. How does your garden grow? Meet with a ranger to learn a bunch of neat, cool facts about plants and gardening. You'll even receive your very own plant to take care of at home! 2- 3 p.m. Meet the ranger at Overlook #2 at the Great Falls Park. Free. For reservations call 703-285-2965.

Folk Jimmy and Moondi, folk duo, 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, corner of Maple Avenue and Mill Street. Free. For more information, call 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

The Grandsons, WAMMIE award-winners, bring their "American music in a blender with the lid off." 4 p.m.-5 p.m. McLean Central Park Gazebo, located at the intersection of Dolley Madison Blvd. (Route 123) and Old Dominion Drive. Parking is available at the McLean Community Center.



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.

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

"O Brother Brunch" featuring Dead Men's Hollow. Roots. Show 2 p.m., tickets \$8. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Summer Concerts on The Green. Daryl Davis - Hits of the 1950s. Great Falls Village Centre, 6-8 p.m. Free.

Luke Brindley, Anthony Fiocco, Shane Hines, Todd Wright. Acoustic. Show 7 p.m., tickets \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Free Brass Concert of Patriotic Music at McLean Presbyterian Church, 1020 Balls Hill Road in McLean. 5 p.m. 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. Visit mcleanpres.org or call 703.821-0800 for more information.

MONDAY, JUNE 30

Paul Thorn. Rock/blues/country. Show 8 p.m., tickets \$20. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Sergio Mendes w/ Zap Mama. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap. Tickets \$40 in-house; \$22 lawn. Tickets can be purchased by calling 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at www.wolftrap.org. For more information, call Wolf Trap at (703) 255-1868.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2

Lyle Lovett and his Large Band in Concert. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap. Tickets \$42 in-house; \$25 lawn. Tickets can be purchased by calling 1 (877) WOLFTRAP; or online at www.wolftrap.org. For more information, call

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

Wolf Trap at (703) 255-1868.

Whistle while you walk. Children, ages four to nine, tour the miller's house and try their hand at chores of yesteryear, and then make a treat. 1-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill. Reservation required for groups of 10 or more children. \$4 per child, adults admitted free. Call 703-759-2771 for more information.

THURSDAY, JULY 3

"Latin Pop" paintings. Stacy's Coffee Parlor in Falls Church presents paintings by Puerto Rican-born artist John Gascoit from July 3 - 31. An Artist Reception will be held on Sunday, July 13, 3 - 5 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Stacy's Coffee Parlor, 709 West Broad Street, Falls Church. (703) 538-6266. Artist Website: www.gascoit.com

FRIDAY/JULY 4

Vienna July 4th Celebration
MAIN EVENTS:
11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Arts and Crafts, Food and Rides
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Antique and Classic Car Show
2:30 p.m. - Family Games
8 - 9 p.m. - Vienna Community Band
9:15 p.m. - Laser Light Show
MAIN STAGE:
12 noon - 4 p.m. B2B, The Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. - NIGHTWORK - Rock
CHILDREN'S STAGE:
12noon - Vaudeville Show Entertainer
1 p.m. - The Traveling Medicine Show
2 p.m. - Magic Comedy Show
3 p.m. - Mayhem's Magical Rideo
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Strolling Clown
Laser Light Show begins at 9:15 p.m. sharp; must be on grounds of Waters Field, facing front screen to view the projected show.
Raindate July 5 - Laser Light Show only



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

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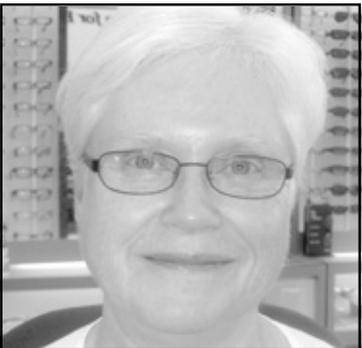
BB&T recently promoted **Mike Carpenter** to manage its residential real estate lending team for the metro Washington, D.C., area. The 12-member team, located in Woodbridge, Va., also will include BB&T residential construction specialists Mike Williams, Jason Paxton, Keri Jackson and Rob Lane.

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 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.

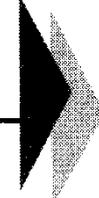
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All concerts will begin at **4 p.m.** and are **FREE** and open to the public.



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SCHOOLS

School Notes are for awards and achievements, as well as special events. Send information to schools@connectionnewspapers.com, or call 703-917-6434. Deadline is Friday.

Alexey Eugene Schegolev won a Pamplin Leadership Scholarship to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg. He just graduated from James Madison High School.

Jonathan Reza Miri of McLean has graduated from Wake Forest University's Babcock Graduate School of Management with a Master of Business Administration.

Junkyard Pirates, a New Eco-Education Performance by Dinorock, will be held June 24-28 at 10 a.m. at Wolf Trap's Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods. The program teaches children to reduce, reuse, recycle and battle the dreaded landfill. The venue is located at 1551 Trap Rd., Vienna. Tickets can be purchased by calling Tickets.com at 1(877) WOLFTRAP, online at www.wolftrap.org, or at the Filene Center Box Office at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

Rising 10th grader Madhavi (Madhu) Ramankutty of The Potomac School in McLean has been selected as a National Student Argonaut and will participate in a two-year internship with The JASON Project, a nonprofit subsidiary of National Geographic Society. To prepare for the fieldwork, Ramankutty is attending "boot camp" June 22-28 in Washington, D.C., where he is learning the basics of research procedures, including how scientists work in the field, the tools and instruments used to gather information and proper collection and analysis of data samples.

McLean native Brigida Benitez (Class of 1993) was named to the Boston College Law School's Alumni Board. She will work on the Admissions Committee.

Hannah Elizabeth Engle, a recent graduate of Langley High School, has received a Merit Scholarship from the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech. Engle, who will begin business studies at Virginia Tech in the fall, is the daughter of Rob and Joanie Engle of McLean.

Edward T. Flaherty of McLean has been awarded a bachelor of arts degree in applied science from Peru State College, Peru, Neb.

Madeline Kelty of McLean has graduated from Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass. Kelty received a bachelor of arts degree, majoring in English and German, at the May 19 commencement.

Julia Vans of McLean has been named to the Highly Distinguished Honors list at the College of Charleston.

Adam Rich of McLean has graduated cum laude on the dean's list from Colby College, Waterville, Maine, on May 25 with a bachelor of arts degree. Rich is the son of Randall and Debra Rich, and a graduate of the New School of Northern Virginia.

Fun, creative week-long sessions for children ages 6 - 8 and 8 - 11 will be held in MPA's DuVal Studio at the McLean Community Center starting June 23 and running weekly through Aug. 15. Tuition is \$135 per week (\$150 for non-McLean residents). All materials are provided. Register at www.mcleancenter.org or call 703-790-0123.

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FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna/mclean/greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6428. Deadline is Friday.

Summer Extravaganza. Start the summer with the 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. 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 Meth-

odist 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.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy **Mondays** 7-8:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax at 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, \$10 per class. Call 202-331-2122 or visit www.meditation-dc.org.

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

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.

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, WTOF 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.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

VTRCC Annual Awards Luncheon. Speaker: Del. Steve Shannon (D-35), 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Location: Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, 1960A Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22102. Sponsor: United Bank

ONGOING

CTS Partners in Health offers free classes on Friday evenings from 6:30-7:30pm at 443 Carlisle Drive in Herndon. Call 703-568-9224 for more information.

CORINTHIANS 13

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a childish. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me. Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

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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.

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St Ann Catholic Church... 703-528-6276
St. Charles Catholic Church... 703-527-5500
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Church of Christ

Arlington Church of Christ... 703-528-0535

Church of God- Anderson, Indiana

Church of God... 703-671-6726

Churches-Episcopal

St Andrew Episcopal Church... 703-522-1600
St George Episcopal Church... 703-525-8286
St Johns Episcopal Church... 703-671-6834
St Mary Episcopal Church... 703-527-6800
St Michael S Episcopal Church... 703-241-2474
St Paul Episcopal Church... 703-820-2625
St Peter's Episcopal Church... 703-536-6606
Trinity Episcopal Church... 703-920-7077

Churches Lutheran(ELCA)

Advent Lutheran Church... 703-521-7010
Faith Lutheran Church... 703-525-9283
German Lutheran Church... 703-276-8952
Resurrection Lutheran Church... 703-532-5991

Churches Lutheran(Missouri, Synod)

Our Savior Lutheran Church... 703-892-4846

Churches-Nazarene

Arlington First Church of the Nazarene... 703-525-2516

Church- Brethren

Church of The Brethren... 703-524-4100

Churches-Baptist

Arlington Baptist Church... 703-979-7344
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Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church... 703-527-7040

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Arlington Presbyterian Church... 703-920-5660
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Churches-United Methodist

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Cherrydale United Methodist... 703-527-2621
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Clarendon United Methodist... 703-527-8574
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Mt. Olivet United Methodist... 703-527-3934
Trinity United Methodist... 703-356-3312
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Churches- United Church of Christ

Bethel United Church of Christ... 703-528-0937
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THE COUNTY LINE

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

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.

—PAUL FROMMELT, ERIC J. GILMORE, RICH SANDERS

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PHOTO COURTESY/SULSER FAMILY

Samantha Sulser (right) did not become a full time starting player for the Statesmen until her senior year. She was an example of working hard and getting the most out of her talent on the ball diamond.

The Lone Senior Statesmen

Marshall's Sulser went from role player to All-District selection.

BY RICH SANDERS
 THE CONNECTION

Being the lone senior on her team this past season, Marshall High girls' softball player Samantha 'Sissy' Sulser stepped up to the plate in more ways than one.

"She has really great leadership qualities," said Marshall coach Laura Campbell, who recognized those characteristics right away as the Statesmen's first year head coach this past spring season. "She really stepped up as a leader on the team. She helped the other kids during their ups and downs."

The left-handed hitting Sulser, a designated hitter/first baseman, usually batted fifth or sixth in the line-up for Marshall and could be counted on to get big hits in key spots. Although the young Statesmen finished just sixth in a tough Liberty District, Sulser, the fourth year varsity player, could be counted on to give her team quality play both at the plate and in the field. Defensively, she committed just one error all season long.

"She got a lot of big hits for us and she played good defense," said Campbell.

Late in the season, Sulser was honored at Marshall's annual Senior Night home game versus Jefferson. It was a strange feeling for Sulser as the lone Statesmen recognized that evening.

Prior to the game, Sulser was recognized for her contributions to the program. Typically, teams honor several 12th graders during Senior Night tributes. But because Sulser was her team's lone senior, she got all the attention.

Teammates had spelled out with plastic cups, 'We love you, Sissy,' on the fence along side the field. And around the on-deck circle, a large blue 'M' for Marshall with 'Sissy' was painted on the grass.

"They went through all that trouble for me," said Sulser, who was touched by the Senior Night tribute. "I just tried to roll with it. I was a little nervous."

AS A YOUNGSTER, Sulser played youth baseball for nine seasons (summer and fall) within the Falls Church Kiwanis Little League. One time, she was even teammates with her brother, Garlin, who is one year older than Samantha. Both were members of the Marlins' team.

"It was fun," said Sulser, of playing baseball with boys as a kid.

She went on to make a smooth transition to playing girls' softball. At Marshall, Sulser was not a full-time varsity starter until her senior season. Her freshmen year, she played on the JV squad and was a team captain. The following year, as a sophomore, she played JV again, but also got play-

ing time on the varsity as well. And as a junior, she was a backup first baseman on the varsity.

Sulser did not become a full-time varsity starter until her senior year, giving her an appreciation of the hard work it took to get to that position. She had, indeed, worked hard throughout her high school softball career to get better and better. The hard work paid off as she earned that starting role as a 12th grader.

"It was tough [in prior years] not being out there [as a starter]," she said. "But I learned you don't have to be out there [on the field] to be part of the team. I could cheer from the bench and still be part of the team."

A pre-season injury — a fractured finger that occurred in the weight room— stymied Sulser a bit early in her senior season. As a result, she was limited to DH duties early on in the spring. But soon after, she was healthy enough to play in the field as well and went on to have an all-district caliber season.

"I thought I was going to [struggle] because of my finger," she said. "I just tried to fight through it. I dealt with the injury and did the best I could for the team."

FOR SULSER, the team has always come
 SEE SULSER, PAGE 19

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SPORTS

Sulser — Marshall Softball's Team-First Leader

FROM PAGE 18

first. So it was natural for her to evolve into a leader to her younger teammates.

"She really helped to lead the team. She definitely worked very hard this year," said Campbell. "In the past, I don't think she started."

For her senior season, Sulser batted .320 with eight RBIs (second on the team) and five doubles (first on the team). She earned Honorable Mention All-District accolades for her fine and steady play. She was a team co-captain, along with teammate Elizabeth Stonehill, a junior.

"She was just real consistent," said Campbell, of Sulser's game. "[Both captains] were outstanding leaders. They were up [emotionally] when we needed them to be."

Sulser, who graduated with her senior classmates on June 13, will attend Old Dominion University next school year where she is leaning to study business. At Marshall, where she carried a 3.2 GPA over her four

"But I learned you don't have to be out there [on the field] to be part of the team. I could cheer from the bench and still be part of the team."

—Marshall High Softball Player
Samantha Sulser

years, Sulser was part of the Future Business Leaders Association during her senior year.

She loved her time in high school.

"I've liked hanging out with all my friends at school," she said.

Sulser was spending this week on a weeklong mission trip to the Myrtle Beach area through her church, Andrew Chapel United Methodist.



PHOTOS COURTESY/SULSER FAMILY

Sulser digs out some dirt at the first base bag during a regular season game. She earned Honorable Mention All-District honors as a senior.



Sulser (right) was slowed down early in the season by a finger injury, but came back strong to have a strong spring.



Sporting the shades, Sulser loved playing and having fun with her Statesmen teammates.

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SPORTS ROUNDUP

Registration is now open for **McLean Youth Soccer's** Premier Soccer Academy Summer Camp for ages 5 to 16. Players from MYS and other clubs are invited to register for weekly sessions offered through Aug. 15 at Lewinsville Park in McLean. Access the brochure and register on MYS' website: www.mcleansoccer.org For more information, email admin@mcleansoccer.org, or call the MYS office at 703-506-8068.

McLean MPS 90, a rising U18 Boys team currently ranked No. 1 in Virginia, is interested in highly motivated and talented players.

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The Potomac Softball Camp will be holding the second session of its week-long camps for girls ages 7 to 13 from Aug. 4-8.

The camp will be on the campus of Potomac School in McLean. Sessions will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and Friday from 9 to noon. Cost is \$240. For more information contact Wayne Loving at jwloving@verizon.net.

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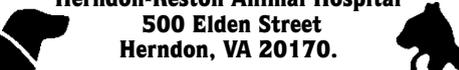
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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Prescription For Pain Relief



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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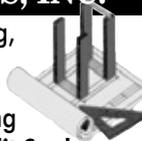
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