

# Saying Goodbye to Guardian

PEOPLE, PAGE 6

Robin Rentsch poses in the certified wildlife habitat that is her backyard with her husband, Sam, and their two dogs, Honey and Jesse. Rentsch is renowned locally for her decades of work on trails and environmental issues. The couple will soon move into retirement in the Northern Neck.

## Reflection, Appreciation on 9-11 Anniversary

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## Langley Renovation Accelerates

NEWS, PAGE 4

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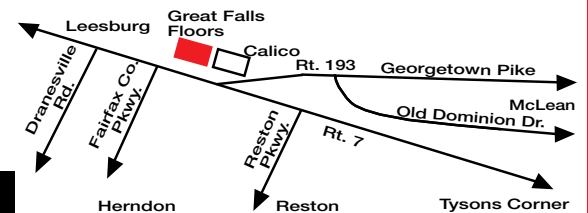
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The crowd lights candles at the Freedom Memorial ceremony.



PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

From left: Del. Margi Vanderhye (D-34), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Sgt. Jesse Llamas, Judi Hershman, Sgt. Ryan Pitts, Paul Norman, Spc. Joseph Deloria and Jeff Lubore pose at the Tavern at Great Falls.

## Reflection, Appreciation on 9-11 Anniversary

On seventh anniversary of attacks, solemn contemplation and boisterous support for troops.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

In Great Falls, somber remembrance was followed by festivity on the evening of the seventh anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. After the sixth annual ceremony at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, many who had gathered there headed across the street to a memorial fund-raiser already underway at the Tavern at Great Falls.

As dusk fell, Great Falls Freedom Memorial President Bob Pattavina started the ceremony at the memorial behind the Great Falls Library by telling a story he had told many times, about him and a friend getting carried away on a trampoline in the gym at the Pentagon and leaping through a makeshift wall when they were teenagers. "After 9-11, that event of mine isn't the same," he said, noting that he recites the story less frequently and with less mirth. Now, he said, he can't tell the tale without thinking of the airliner exploding through the real walls of the Pentagon and "the many lives lost for no other reason than the hate of terrorism."

Six Great Falls residents were killed in the attacks, and their names were read as candles were lit at the end of the ceremony.

**ON THE DAY** of the attacks, the Rev. Paul Liepelt had gone to class in seminary school in spite of the unfolding events, he said. Liepelt remembered the teacher making his students clear aside the desks, kneel and pray for a spirit of forgiveness, which he said had been "really, really hard." In his invocation Thursday, he prayed that everyone present be joined in spirit with all those who lost loved ones on 9-11 and all those still serving in the ensuing conflicts over-

### The Names

The six Great Falls residents killed on Sept. 11, 2001 were 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Richard Gabriel, Ret. USMC, Ann Judge, Barbara Olson, Lisa Raines, Diane Simmons and George Simmons.

seas.

Keynote speaker Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) noted the appropriateness of a freedom memorial in a country founded on the desire to be free. In his inaugural speech, President Thomas Jefferson had said the freedoms of religion, the press and expression were "based on confronting hatred and intolerance," Foust said, urging those gathered for the ceremony to confront those attitudes everywhere, including in themselves. "If we fight hatred with hatred, we only create more of the same," he said. Instead, Foust encouraged love and hope. "These are the values that helped build this memorial," he said.

"We must choose love over hatred, understanding over ignorance, hope over despair," Foust said, and before he read the names of the 9-11 victims from Great Falls, he implored crowd members to "honor their memory by making our lives monuments to these positive values."

**ACROSS GEORGETOWN PIKE**, the Tavern at Great Falls was packed as residents from Great Falls and the surrounding area mingled with about 14 soldiers from the Army's 173<sup>rd</sup>, 2/503 Infantry Airborne Brigade. The event was spearheaded by Vienna resident Jeff Lubore, who wanted to give the public a chance to personally show their appreciation for members of the unit, which has seen a remarkable amount of fighting



Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust gives the keynote address at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial ceremony.



Beverly Luce lights the candles at the Freedom Memorial, one for each of the six Great Falls residents killed in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

in its three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to raise money to get members of the unit to a memorial ceremony and "homecoming" party at their base in Vicenza, Italy. The 173<sup>rd</sup> Brigade is one of a handful of U.S. military units that do not have a base on American soil.

The soldiers at the Tavern were primarily wounded members of the unit staying at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"They've gone over to defend the freedom you and I enjoy every day and that we take for granted," Lubore told the crowd Thursday night between performances by the Western Electric Band.

Michael Montie, who fought in the 173<sup>rd</sup> Brigade in Vietnam, had come from Mary-

land to be at the event, and he told the crowd a little about the group's history. The brigade was started in Okinawa during World War II and had never spent any time in the United States, he said. Disbanded after the Second World War, it was reinstated in Italy in 2000. He said the 173<sup>rd</sup> Brigade's nickname, "The Herd," originated with the 2/503<sup>rd</sup> Battalion in Okinawa, where the battalion commander roused his men each morning by blaring the theme from "Rawhide," to which the proper response was for the soldiers to stampede out to their training.

In all, about 250 civilians showed up for the event. About \$22,000 was raised by the event organizers, who expect to break \$30,000 with pledges still coming in.



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Consultants said Langley High School should be moved to the top of Fairfax County Public Schools facility renovation list.

# Langley Renovation Accelerates

## Langley High moved to the top of the new renovation list.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Consultants listed Langley High School among those public school facilities most in need of a renovation during a presentation to the Fairfax County School Board Sept. 8.

According to Samaha Associates PC., Langley should be the highest priority for new high school or secondary school renovation projects and the third neediest overall in terms of Fairfax County public school facilities.

"The building for a long time has needed repairs. People at Langley certainly know that. ... People go on tours all the time and leave shocked at the state of the building," said Michelle Shaw, head of Langley's Parent Teacher Student Association.

**THE SAMAHA FIRM** did not include those schools — like Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology — which have already received renovation funding in its analysis. School system staff said those projects for which the public has already approved bonds would be held "sacrosanct."

Even if the school board adopted Samaha's list, those schools listed at the top of the new queue, like Langley, could not receive funding until 2012, said staff.

Due to limited capital money, the school system may also move forward with a "rolling renovation" schedule for high schools

and secondary schools. With a rolling renovation approach, schools like Langley and West Springfield High School — which is also near the top of new construction list — would receive their renovations in phases over years, instead of all at once.

"It is hard to know what this means for us. But if it means we are getting renovated sooner, then that is great," said Shaw.

**LANGLEY FARED** well in the renovation queue but Samaha's analysis put other local schools farther back in the line. Cooper Middle School — which is near the top of the current renovation queue — ranks 60<sup>th</sup> overall on the consultant's list.

Staff attributes changes in the school renovation queue to new criteria used by Samaha.

**"It is hard to know what this means for us. But if it means we are getting renovated sooner, then that is great."**

— Michelle Shaw,  
Langley PTA president

In the past, Fairfax County Public Schools looked almost exclusively at building condition and age when assessing where on the priority list a school should fall. But the Samaha formula also took factors like enrollment, overcrowding and ability to deliver adequate instructional services into account.

For example, schools whose science laboratories were not big enough or those

buildings that did not have enough music classrooms to meet its needs were given extra weight in the ranking process. Those types of factors were not considered when putting together previous renovation cues.

**THE SCHOOL SYSTEM** staff said they were a little taken aback at the impact some new factors had on the renovation priority list.

"We were a little surprised at the ranking and the effect overcrowding had on the queue," said Dean Tistadt, the school system's chief operations officer.

Some school board members also expressed concern at the influence overcrowding or school enrollment had when using the new formula.

"It is almost like capacity is bigger driver than condition of the building," said Sully District school board member Kathy Smith.

The Samaha firm has agreed to come up with an alternative queue, which discounts school enrollment. The school board plans to review the new list and compare it to the original presented by Samaha in the coming months.

At least one school board member warned against the board requesting too many iterations of the renovation queue. School board member Tessie Wilson (Braddock) said she did not want a situation to arise where school board members favored the inclusion of some criteria — like enrollment — over others because it moved their schools to the top of the list.

Wilson said she was hearing from some school board members that the "most important criteria is the one that moves your school to the top of the list. ... For some of us capacity is biggest issue. For others it is the condition of the building ...."

## WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

### Elite Fitness Concepts 5K Run/Walk

Elite Fitness Concepts will hold its Second Annual 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, Sept. 20 at 8 a.m. at Great Falls Village Center at Wachovia Bank, 750 Walker Road in memory of the Great Falls resident Peter Choo. The proceeds from the event will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic in Choo's memory.

Choo was diagnosed with stage IV Neuroblastoma on July 31, 1997. In 1998, his dream was fulfilled by the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Originally, Peter wished to meet God; however, soon he found out that that wish would be impossible to grant. His mother, however, suggested that he meet the Pope, whom Peter was told was a very good friend of God. This wish was granted and Peter, along with the rest of the family, was blessed by Pope John Paul II in Vatican City. The Pope even blessed a cross that Peter had, which Peter held, even to the grave. Peter died from cancer on Sept. 11, 2007.

To register visit <http://www.elitefitnessconcepts.com/>

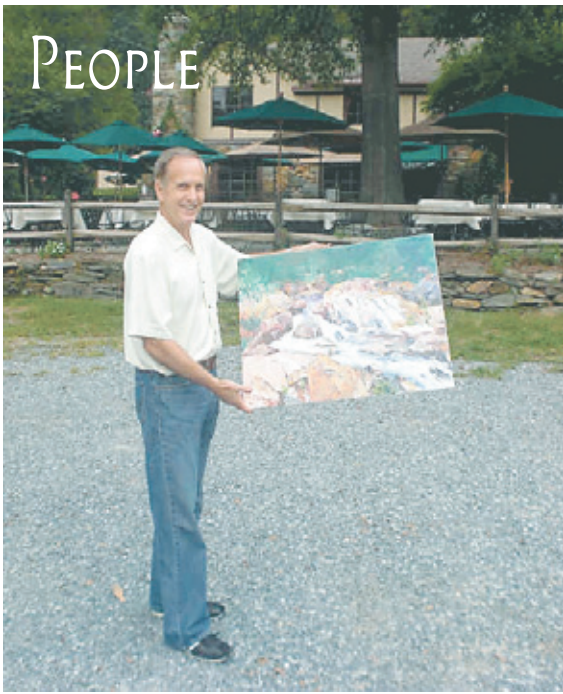
### Scouting Night At Christ the King

Great Falls Cub Scout Pack 673 is hosting a new scout open house and sign up for boys at Christ the King Lutheran Church 10550 Georgetown Pike on Thursday, Sept. 25, 7-8 p.m. Stop by and learn about the fun of camping, pinewood derby races, Cub Scout Olympics and other fun activities enjoyed by the scouts.

### Party Kicks Off Studio Tour

A "Hats off to the Artists of Great Falls Studios" Party will be held on Oct. 17, from 7-9 p.m. to celebrate the 5th annual Great Falls Studios Artists Studio Tour. The party is hosted by the Great Falls Foundation for the Arts (GFFFTA) and will be held at GFFFTA's facility at 1144 Walker Road, Suite G. The party is free to the public and an optional creative hat contest will ensure a festive atmosphere. The annual studio tour on Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 18 and 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. is free to the public. Email [molliev@verizon.net](mailto:molliev@verizon.net) for more information on the party and [jon@fishermarcom.com](mailto:jon@fishermarcom.com) for info on the tour.

PEOPLE



Bob Gilbert shows his latest painting of the Great Falls.



Bob Gilbert's paintings capture the familiar sights of the area.

PHOTOS BY ANDREW JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

# Global Inspiration

The mountains of Aspen, Colo. A crowded street in Hong Kong. NBA All-Star Jerry Stackhouse going after a loose ball. These are the subjects of Great Falls artist Bob Gilbert's paintings.

Immediately after pulling into The Old Angler's Inn, where Gilbert is the resident artist, he shows one of his latest works carried in

the trunk of his car: an oil painting of the Great Falls, that is still yet to dry. Although displaying just a small portion of the falls, it manages to invoke a tranquil mood that fits with Gilbert's demeanor.

This is evident through the 40 paintings that he has on display at The Old Angler's Inn, located in Potomac, Md. Ranging from watercolor, oil, and sometimes a

combination of the two, Gilbert explains that although he prefers to paint with oils he has also come to enjoy experimenting with the different mediums.

**FOR GILBERT**, the subject of his work isn't meant to wow the viewer by its precision but more so by creating an emotion within  
SEE ARTIST, PAGE 11

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Vital Hiek - Proprietor, Maison du Vin

PEOPLE

# Saying Goodbye to Guardian

Great Falls says goodbye to longtime resident and environmental activist Robin Rentsch.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**S**tella Koch choked up and couldn't finish reading the letter, so she had to hand it off. For years, Koch and Robin Rentsch had been co-chairs of the Environment, Parks and Trails Committee of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA), and now Rentsch was preparing to leave the area.

Following some talk about priorities for the coming year, the GFCA took some time at its business meeting Tuesday, Sept. 9 to honor Rentsch and her long history of service in Great Falls and throughout Fairfax County.

The tear-producing letter was from county Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly (D-at large), who wrote that it had been an honor to work with Rentsch on environmental and trail issues over the years. He particularly highlighted her decades of work for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. "P.S. I will miss you terribly," Connolly concluded.

**FROM HER OWN BACKYARD** to the county at large and into Loudoun County, Rentsch has worked since the late 1970s to construct trails and promote other environmental interests. In 1979, she pushed the state legislature for permission to create Virginia's first countywide trails plan and then drew the trails plan for the Dranesville District. She has served on about eight different trail-oriented boards and committees and co-founded Conserve Fairfax, an environmental citizens advisory group to the county.

"Robin was one of the first people I met when I moved to Great Falls, and I thought, 'There are a lot of cool people here. I've got to get involved,'" said Wes Callender, chief of staff to Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "Look what happened."

Since Foust was out of town, Callendar read a letter the supervisor had written to Rentsch. "You will be missed, but your contributions will continue to enrich our lives and those of our children and grandchildren," he read. Foust praised Rentsch as a



Robin Rentsch, center, in yellow, poses with a few of her friends at the Sept. 9 meeting of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

tireless worker and community organizer who always set an example for others to follow. "You may be moving on to other adventures, but you will always be part of our community," he ended.

While Rentsch has worked on projects throughout the area, GFCA President Jim Luce said he wanted to highlight some of her contributions to Great Falls. These included the garden at Great Falls Library, the protection of 47 historic oak trees at the Grange, cleaner streams as a result of her leadership of the annual stream cleanup, the riparian buffer at Turner Farm, Great Falls' recent certification as a community wildlife habitat and others. Luce also noted that many local residents had, as children, learned horseback riding from Rentsch.

Recovered, Koch told her favorite Robin Rentsch story, one that involved Rentsch borrowing some horse legs "left over from a horse" from Morven Farms in order to test surfaces on the W&OD.

**LEST ANYONE BE SHOCKED** by the tale, Rentsch explained that she had been told she had one chance to get it right, but it was too snowy to ride a horse.

**"I've loved every minute of it."**

— Robin Rentsch

Rich Bliss pointed out that Rentsch was one of the first of about 110 Fairfax County residents to put a conservation easement on her yard. "You were a pioneer in that and you practiced what you preached," he said.

Kathleen Murphy said her fondest memory of Rentsch was when she gave Murphy a guided tour of her own backyard. "I really didn't know about the nature around my home," she said, noting that Rentsch had told her which plants were in-



Rentsch stands among some of the many native species that populate her backyard, which is a certified wildlife habitat and is under a conservation easement.

vasive, which were valuable and what she might want to add. "It transformed my experience of my backyard," Murphy said.

Eleanor Anderson said she had most valued Rentsch as a friend. She recalled the occasion when her husky had escaped from her yard and run amok in a neighbor's pheasant coop while she was out of town. Anderson had called Rentsch to accompany her son as he went to make peace with the neighbor, and the episode ended without hard feelings. "It's that kind of friendship Robin has offered," she said.

"What I want to find out is who I'm going

to call," said Marta Roy, as others in the crowd nodded in agreement. Roy remembered when she found three stray horses in her yard. "Guess who I called," she said, noting that she and Rentsch had managed to get the horses "to a safe place."

**DURING ELECTION SEASONS**, "flip-flopping" is generally looked down on, but Joan Barnes argued that this shouldn't always be the case. About 10 years ago, she, Anderson and Eleanor Weck had been considering trails as part of a visioning process when they started hearing rumors about a woman who had lived in Great Falls and was a trails expert, she said. The hearsay was that this woman had left the area but may have returned, although her last name may have changed.

When they finally found Rentsch, she reluctantly agreed to give them some advice but added emphatically that she was not getting involved. "I think Great Falls can be glad she's a flip-flopper," Barnes said.

"I've loved every minute of it," Rentsch told the crowd. "I feel like I'm leaving most of myself here." She said she was sad to leave but that it was a problem of her and her husband's age.

They would bring their two dogs, two horses and two kayaks to keep life from being dull at their new home in the southern portion of the Northern Neck, she said, but added, "I can't duplicate the long-term relationships I've had in this community. I'm going to be on a long sabbatical in Northern Neck, but this is where I really live."

Rentsch's friends can take comfort in the fact that she and her husband are having some difficulty selling their house, so they won't be leaving immediately, she assured.

PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

**School Board Regular Meeting.** 8 p.m. Work Session/Forum Immediately following. Jacskon Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. 703-204-8100.

### The 9th Annual Virginia Statewide Neighborhood Conference.


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### MONDAY/SEPT. 22

#### National Family Day: A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Child.

The Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services Teen Services Division is looking for participants in the National Family Day, from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Teen Services, the Safe Drug Free Youth Section, and Prevention Services will provide dinner for the family of registered members of participating teen centers. 703-912-4687 or [Torrey.Piper@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Torrey.Piper@fairfaxcounty.gov).

- ❖ The Hideaway Teen Center at South County Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Suite 309, Alexandria.
- ❖ The Chill Spot Teen Center at James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church.
- ❖ The Reston Teen Center, 12196 Sunset Hill Road, Reston.
- ❖ The Net Teen Center at Irving Middle School, 8100 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.




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# OPINION

## Candidate Appearances Are Educational

Also, in support of changing the grading system, and delaying a decision on purchase of second headquarters building.

As it turned out, a local Fairfax park was probably the best venue for last week's rally for John McCain and Sarah Palin, given the size of the crowd that turned out to see them (<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=319474&paper=73&cat=104>).

But we disagree with members of the school board and others who claimed it was inappropriate for Superintendent Jack Dale to allow the rally to take place at Fairfax High School.

One of the school board's goals for students includes to "Know and practice the duties, responsibilities, and rights of citizenship in a democratic society, be respectful and contributing participants in their school, community, country, and world," and "understand the purpose, role, and means of interaction with the different levels of government."

What could be more educational for students that watching the logistics and politics of a presidential campaign? We'd like to see the policy amended to allow political events on school property as long as students are able to interact and learn from the process.

Both major party candidates are delivering a critical message in Virginia right now: Every vote counts.

**ON TWO OTHER ISSUES**, we agree with recent recommendations from the executive board of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

\* The council wants the Fairfax County School Board to delay action on the purchase of a second headquarters building until after public hearings, although at this point, no public hearings have been discussed or scheduled. The FCCPTA leadership correctly said that the school system briefings on the topic "haven't reached enough people or offered clear, well-

LETTERS FOR THE EDITOR

## Area Parks Need Community Support

To the Editor:

The 2008-2009 fiscal crises facing our county government has led to a proposed 15 percent reduction in Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) operating program funding, including a 40 percent reduction in the educational programs of the Nature and Historic sites. See:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/archives/08-20-08-agn.pdf>

These educational programs are the basis of the Nature and Historic Sites' contribution to the public. A 40 percent cut will be catastrophic. Only a public voice of protest can reduce these cuts to fair and justifiable levels. A joint effort among all the friends of our parks can lead to a voice of protest that will be heard by our county leaders. In the coming months the FOCRMs will reach out to all the friends of our Park cultural centers to join in one coordinated protest. There will be County Budget

publicized opportunities for comment."

\* It seems like a no-brainer that the grading system in Fairfax County should not penalize students, who work as hard as students elsewhere. The current system requires a 94 percent, rather than 90 percent, to qualify for an A, and fails to give the same extra weight for advanced coursework. This leaves Fairfax students at a disadvantage compared to students from other school systems, whose weighted grade point averages can often top 4.0.

EDITORIALS

## Tune in Debates

Voters will have several opportunities to see candidates for U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in action in the next few weeks. The choices are important for Northern Virginia, with the retirement of longtime U.S. Sen. John Warner and U.S. Rep. Tom Davis, both powerful advocates for Northern Virginia's interests and needs.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area and the Fairfax Community Access Channel (FCAC) are co-sponsoring televised debates for two of the congressional races, which will be broadcast live on Fairfax channel 10. They will also be available live on the Internet at: <http://easylink.playstream.com/winlive/insidescoop.wvx>

U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D) and 8th district challengers Mark Ellmore (R) and Independent Green candidate J. Ron Fisher will face off next Monday, Sept. 22, from 7 to 8 p.m.

The debate between Gerald Connolly (D), Keith Fimian (R) and Independent Green Joseph Oddo, candidates for the 11th district, will be held at the same time on Monday, Oct. 6.

Hearings in Reston on Sept. 20 and in McLean on Oct. 29; FOCRMs will attend.

The good news, in this period of fiscal crisis, is that the new Master Plan for the Colvin Run Mill Historic has been completed. It will come before the Park Authority Board for approval this month. The new Master Plan provides a basis for a process of capital investment in the Colvin Run Mill Historic Site (CRM). These capital investments can lead to a modern historic site enabling more effective educational programs for our children and visitors. The new Master Plan was presented to the public on June 24 at the CRM.

Significant features of the Master Plan include:

- Addition of visitor center in order to improve visitor orientation and site interpretation.
- Upgrade of parking lot lighting
- Incorporation of 29 additional acres (Currently south of route 7).
- Creation of pedestrian connections to the

While college admissions offices say this probably does not affect admissions, it almost certainly does put county students at a disadvantage for merit scholarships.

There is no advantage or educational benefit to the current grading scale, and it should be changed.

**FAIRFAX SCHOOLS** are making progress towards a workable and affordable way to move high school start times later, a move that is long overdue. We urge the board to continue this progress, and press ahead to have the change in place by September 2009.

See <http://www.sleepinfairfax.org/> for more.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Viewers can call in or e-mail questions until the mid-point of the broadcast to 571-749-1166 or [debate@FCAC.org](mailto:debate@FCAC.org).

Incumbent Frank Wolf decline to participate in a Fairfax League debate; but Wolf and his opponent, Democrat Judy Feder, will appear together at the Prince William Committee of 100 forum on Thursday, Oct. 16 at 7:45 at the Four Points by Sheraton in Manassas.

Prince William Committee of 100 forum will also host the 11th Congressional Candidates, Gerry Connolly and Keith Fimian, this Thursday, Sept. 18 at the Montclair Country Club. E-mail [secretarycommitteeof100@yahoo.com](mailto:secretarycommitteeof100@yahoo.com) or call 703-577-3123.

The candidates for U.S. Senate, Mark Warner (D) and Jim Gilmore (R) will debate this Thursday, Sept. 18 at a sold out Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce event. The debate will be broadcast live on Channel 8 at 10 a.m., and will be rebroadcast before the election.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Cross County Trail.

To move forward on these improvements, and to diminish the impact of operating budget cuts, requires community support. That's where our members and all friends of our parks can weigh in. We need you to become informed. We need you to talk to your neighbors. We need you to talk to members of the Park Authority Board. We need you to support the 2008 Park Authority Bond that will be on our November election ballot.

To be effective we must join forces with all the park cultural sites in our district and across the county. To this end we need to coordinate with the Friends of Riverbend Park and the Turner Farms Park as well as Sully and the several Nature Centers of the FCPA.

The Great Falls Citizens Association can provide a focal point for such coordination.

**Robert Lundegard**

President, Friends of Colvin Run Mill (FOCRM).

## THE CONNECTION

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# OBITUARY

## Sue Huckaby Dies

Suzanna Woodard (Sue) Huckaby was born in Ringgold, La. on Oct. 12, 1943. She attended Ringgold public schools and then Stephens College in Missouri, Louisiana State University, and Louisiana Tech University, where she earned a bachelor's of arts degree in human ecology.



CONTRIBUTED

**Sue Huckaby**

She married Jerry Huckaby in December 1962. He worked for Western Electric Company for the next 10 years. During that time, they lived in Atlanta, Ga., Jasper, Ala., and Chicago, Ill. Their daughter, Michelle, was born in Atlanta, Ga.

In 1973, the Huckabys moved to her hometown, Ringgold, La., where they bought a dairy farm, and she taught first grade in Ringgold Elementary school. Their son, Clay, was born while they were living in Ringgold.

In 1976, Jerry Huckaby was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and they moved to the Washington, D.C. area. Sue Huckaby began a career as a Realtor in McLean in 1977. She became one of the most successful Realtors in America. Nationally, she was ranked as the number 10 Realtor out of over two million Realtors in the country. For many years, she was the number one Realtor in Northern Virginia. Over

the course of her 30-year career, she sold more than one thousand homes, valued in excess of one billion dollars. Sue Huckaby was a "people" person. She loved her work, and everyone enjoyed working with her.

Once she had reached the top of her field, she was committed to "giving something back" and making a lasting contribution to society. To accomplish this goal,

she endowed a professorship at her alma mater, Louisiana Tech, The Sue Woodard Huckaby Endowed Professorship.

Sue Huckaby fought colon cancer for over four years. She lost her battle on Sept. 9, 2008. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Jerry Huckaby, her daughter, Dr. Michelle Lewis, of Hummelstown, Pa., her son-in-law, Dr. Todd Lewis, and their two sons, Carter, age five years, and Spencer, age two years. She is also survived by her father, Scotty Woodard, of Ringgold, La., her brother, Scott Woodard, her sister, Stephanie Woodard, and numerous nieces and nephews. Sue Huckaby and her husband were active members of Trinity United Methodist Church in McLean for over 30 years.

Funeral services were held on Thursday, Sept. 11, at Trinity United Methodist Church in McLean. Interment was held in Ringgold, La.

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# PEOPLE

## Artist Pursues Ultimate Dream

FROM PAGE 5

the viewer. He states that "Good art is not a replication, it is an interpretation," serves as a personal mantra for his works.

When asked how he selects the subjects for his paintings, Gilbert uses expressions such as "tells a story," "gets his juices going," and "really packs a punch." Whether it's a skier going downhill at intense speeds or a desolate Irish road with a solitary figure, he manages to capture such depth. Even while looking at his paintings in the local area such as Colvin Run Mill, a boathouse on the Potomac River, or Old Town, the intimacy that his work conveys gently grasps attention.

Growing up in Seattle, he says the dreary and faded yet still scenically beautiful colors have had a strong influence on his work. His talent to appeal to any viewer can be credited to having moved 34 different times throughout the continents during which he performed a series of various jobs, leading to an understanding of various cultures and witnessing countless vistas and sights worldwide. Finding painting to be a means of great satisfaction,

**"Good art is not a replication, it is an interpretation."**

— Bob Gilbert

Gilbert's favorite aspect of his talents is, as he puts it, "You now have something that didn't exist before."

**RECENTLY, GILBERT** ran into a longtime friend and fellow artist, Bob Heier, at an art show. The two chatted for a while before Gilbert gave him the address to his Web site. Heier, a photographer, visited his Web site and, in an email, said the following to Gilbert, "I hope you take this the right way, your Web site stunned me. I just never understood that you are a painter — as opposed to a person who paints." This statement summarizes Gilbert's journey from a man who painted recreationally as he explored the world to an artist of talent who came to sharpen his skills as he pursued his ultimate dream.

Visit Gilbert's Web site to see his works: <http://www.robertgilbertsart.com>

### Fairfax Honors The Heroes of Tomorrow

To honor National Preparedness Month, the Fairfax County Health Department calls on its neighbors to **join the Medical Reserve Corps.** 10 hours of training is all that is needed for you to make a difference.



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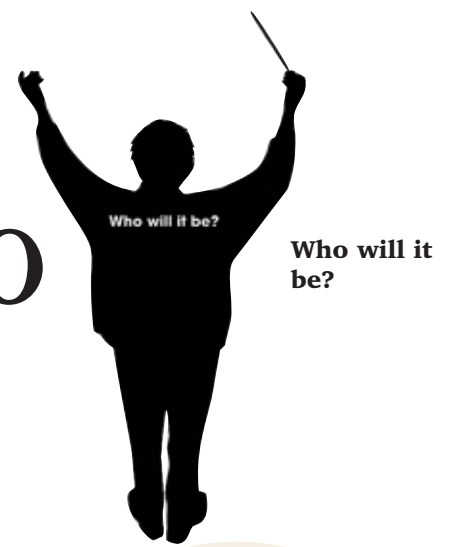
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# Choose the New Maestro



## Get Involved

The Fairfax Symphony is in search of its first new music director in 37 years. Six finalists, selected from a pool of 249 applicants, will audition as guest conductors this season.

After each performance during the 2008-2009 season, audience members will have the opportunity to offer feedback on each of the six music director finalists auditioning as guest conductors. Performances at 8 p.m., pre-concert lecture, 7 p.m.

**VISIT** [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).  
**TICKETS** \$25 and up, available online at [Tickets.com](http://Tickets.com), by phone at 888-945-2468, or in person at the George Mason University box office, Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6 p.m.  
**PERFORMANCES** are at George Mason University, Concert Hall of Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax.

PHOTO BY BARRY WHEELER FOR FAIRFAX SYMPHONY



The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra will take a sort of "American Idol" approach to selecting its next music director, by auditioning six finalists as guest conductors this season, with audience feedback a key part of the process.

**Leitmotif: search for Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's new maestro will shape the entire season.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Visualize the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra as it begins its 52nd season in the county, and all 95 of its musicians, as one distinct instrument.

"The orchestra is in a sense an instrument to be played," said Concertmaster David Salness, 47 of McLean, who has performed with "The Pride of Fairfax County" for 10 years.

"I'm curious how each of the conductors will play this instrument differently," he said.

For the first time in 37 years, The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra begins its season Saturday, Sept. 20, at George Mason University with a new conductor.

With six conductors, actually. Fortissimo.

**"You don't need to cross the river to have a high quality orchestral listening experience."**

— David Salness, concertmaster

More than 245 applicants from all over the world, literally, applied for the music director position, and six finalists were chosen to replace William Hudson, who retired at the end of last season.

Each of the six finalists will perform — audition — as a guest conductor for one of the six Masterworks concerts of the 2008-2009 season.

After each finalist has conducted, musicians, search committee members and audience members will all have the opportunity to react.

"It should be fascinating from both the players' point of view and the public's. The orchestra is in a very good place, with good musicians ... and each of the conductors undoubtedly will make the orchestra sound different," said Salness.

The search for Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's new maestro is the leitmotif that will shape the entire sea-

SEE CHOOSE, PAGE 27

## Paul Haas

**Saturday, Sept. 20, 2008**  
**Alexander Ghindin, piano**  
**Penman: Songs the Plants Taught Us**  
**Rachmaninoff: Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini**

**Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 4 in F Minor**  
 Haas, 37, was educated at Julliard, Yale and the Hochschule fur Musik in Dresden, Germany. Music director of the New York Youth Symphony and assistant conductor of the Brooklyn Philharmonic. Recently guest conducted the San Antonio Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic and Fort Worth Symphony. With New York Youth Symphony, received American Symphony Orchestra League's Leonard Bernstein Award for innovations in educational programming.

## Marcelo Lehninger

**Saturday, Oct. 25, 2008**  
**Angela Cheng, piano**  
**Villa-Lobos: The Little Train of the Brazilian Countryman**  
**Manuel de Falla: Nights in the Gardens of Spain**  
**Rimsky-Korsakov: Scheherazade**

Lehninger, 29, was born in Rio de Janeiro and educated at the Brazilian Conservatory of Music and The Conductors Institute at Bard College. Music advisor of the Youth Orchestra of the Americas. Guest conducted numerous orchestras in South America as well as the National Symphony Orchestra and Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra. Selected by Kurt Masur for first Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy Scholarship and traveled in Europe and United States as Masur's assistant.

## Laura Jackson

**Saturday, Nov. 22, 2008**  
**Rachel Lee, violin**  
**Theofanidis: Rainbow Body**  
**Prokofiev: Violin Concerto No. 2 in G Minor**  
**Beethoven: Symphony No. 7 in A Major**

Jackson, 40, a Virginia native, studied conducting at University of Michigan and was the Seiji Ozawa Conducting Fellow at Tanglewood Music



Guest conductor Paul Haas will kick off the special season for the Fairfax Symphony on Saturday.

Center in 2003. Recently completed appointment as assistant conductor and American Conducting Fellow of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Has appeared with symphonies of Baltimore, Detroit, Berkeley, Sacramento, Toronto, San Antonio, Winnipeg, Toledo, Alabama, Wyoming as well as the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra and New World Symphony. Performed with Colorado Symphony as winner of the Taki Concordia Fellowship.

## Daniel Meyer

**Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009**  
**Jennifer Frautschi, violin**  
**Bernstein: Three Dance Episodes from On the Town**  
**Bruch: Violin Concerto**  
**Brahms: Symphony No. 1 in C Minor**

Meyer, 36, graduated from Denison University, University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, and the Hochschule fur Musik in Vienna. Received the Orchestral Conducting Honors Award as doctoral student at Boston University. Resident conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

and music director of Pittsburgh Youth Symphony and the Erie Philharmonic. Recently appointed music director of the Asheville Symphony in North Carolina. Has conducted Cleveland Orchestra and symphonies of Utah, San Antonio and Syracuse. Awarded Bank of America Award for Excellence in Orchestra Education with Pittsburgh Symphony.

## Gregory Vajda

**Saturday, March 14, 2009**  
**Andrew Armstrong, piano**  
**Liszt: Les Preludes**  
**Bartok: Piano Concerto No. 3**  
**Schumann: Symphony No. 2 in C Major**

Vajda, 35, born in Budapest, Hungary, studied clarinet and composition at Bela Bartok secondary school and pursued conducting at Franz Liszt Academy of Music. Resident conductor of the Oregon Symphony Orchestra. Served as assistant conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, permanent guest conductor of Hungarian State Opera and principal conductor of the Dohnanyi Symphony Orchestra in Budapest. Has conducted own compositions, including score for the silent film *The Crowd*, which premiered in the auditorium of the Louvre. Has appeared with Philadelphia Orchestra, Montreal Symphony, Milwaukee Symphony, Honolulu Symphony and Atlanta Opera.

## Christopher Zimmerman

**Saturday, May 2, 2009**  
**Chee-Yun, violin**  
**Haydn: Symphony No. 39 in G Minor**  
**Bodorova: Concerto dei Fiori**  
**Shostakovich: Symphony No. 10**

Zimmerman, 50, was educated at Yale and University of Michigan. Also studied with Seiji Ozawa and Gunther Schuller at Tanglewood, and at Pierre Monteux School in Maine. Currently music director at Hartt Symphony in Connecticut (since 1999) and Symphony of Southeast Texas. Made professional debut in 1985 with Royal Philharmonic, followed by engagements with the London Symphony and Royal Liverpool Philharmonic. Co-founded City of London Chamber Orchestra in 1989. Won National Opera Association Award's first prize for conducting operas.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## OPINION

# Nominations Sought For Neighbors' Award

BY SHARON RAINEY  
NEIGHBORS INTERNATIONAL, LLC

No matter the time of year, we always have something going on, whether with our families, our local communities, or the global community. There is always something to take our attention and our focus. Often, as we get mired in the minutiae, we can lose sight of the "important" things in life like family, friends, our spiritual condition, etc. It usually takes an event or revelation to remind us of where our focus needs to be. And then, we promise ourselves that we won't get lost in the details; that we will stay connected with others, and we won't tell the children, "In a minute, honey, I'm busy right now."

Today, in the busy-ness of our routines, it is important to pause and reflect on some of the little things that we might see throughout the day, but not necessarily respond to. It is important to recognize the kindnesses that our neighbors give to one another, big and not so big. Acknowledging those small acts of kindness often leads to remembering the significant acts of love and generosity and therefore helping us to remember the connections between each of us.

Since founding Neighbors, I have always wanted to create a "Neighbor of the Year" award. I wanted to provide an avenue to recognize those kindnesses that might otherwise go unnoticed. There are so many people in our community whose contributions are never publicly rewarded.

Now is the time to change that. Whom would you nominate for "Neighbor of the Year" and why?

Please send me your suggestions — details can be found at the end of this piece. The contributions don't have to be big ones. Sometimes the smallest act of kindness exemplifies the character of a person. Other times, it is a person's vast body of deeds that offer each of us inspiration.

In hope of gathering a spectrum of individuals, we will have two "Neighbor of the Year" categories, one for individuals age 22 and under, the other, adults age 23 and over. The award is not just for service work.

While volunteerism is important, there are many awards out there spotlighting this trait. We want our "Neighbor of the Year" awards to be a bit more comprehensive. We want people to be recognized for their kindnesses bestowed on others, their ability to help those around them, and/or their actions that aide their local community.

As I write, a few names pop into my head: Natalie Gilbert — Natalie spearheaded coordination of the Girl Scout cookie box donation to Neighbors International Foundation. This was her second year to do so. Each time, she set goals for herself and for NIF and was clear in her planning and follow through.

Paulette Peltz's son, Alex, who has personally solicited amazing amounts of donations to our military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has written and distributed letters to the community, collected the donations, and then helped pack and ship them with personal notes of his own. He has done this several times over the past year.

As many of you know, we have chosen to name the Adult category The Michael J. Kearney Neighbor of the Year Award. Mike's rescue of the Farmer's Market this summer is just another reason why we keep it named as such.


So, whom would you like to nominate as Neighbor of the Year? Please send your nominations to me (Sharon@myneighborsnetwork.com) with Nomination in the Subject line. All entries are due no later than Sept. 30. Winners will be announced Nov. 1. Award recipients will be spotlighted in future issues of the Connection newspaper.

Nominations must include: Name, age category, and contact information of the person nominated as well as name and contact information of the person making the nomination. Please keep nominations less than 500 words.

Congratulations to last year's winners: Janet Jameson, Barbara Morehouse, and RJ Parker.

Sharon Rainey is president and founder of Neighbors International, LLC, based in Great Falls.

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### Butterfly Tours at Meadowlark Gardens

Tours conducted by Mona Miller take place — weather permitting — on Sundays at 3 p.m. through the end of September and resume again in the spring. For more information, call 703-255-3631.

# Butterflies Come Home

## Meadowlark Gardens is butterfly habitat for native species.

By SUSANNA TISA  
THE CONNECTION

Urban sprawl in Northern Virginia has driven away nature's most fragile and beautiful creature, the butterfly. In the 1990s, only about 20 species were recorded in the area and populations were dwindling rapidly. Since then, at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna, Keith Tomlinson's vision for an ecologically diverse habitat has attracted over 30 additional species of native butterflies that were feared gone for good.

Tomlinson joined Meadowlark 10 years ago, with a background as an interpretive naturalist, and he manages the park's collections. "My focus was to make an important transition in the nature collection to become more sophisticated and diverse," said Tomlinson. "This plant diversity promotes ecological stability, and the return of the butterflies has demonstrated this fact in an unexpected way."

Local geography and biology plays an important part in the garden's layout. The Potomac River Valley garden is highly localized, which means that butterflies can find familiar host and nectar plants clustered together. "There is a long term evolutionary relationship between the butterflies and



Mona Miller leads visitors through Meadowlark's butterfly gardens.



Bill Folsom and Keith Tomlinson discuss release of "The Butterflies of Meadowlark."

these plants," Tomlinson said. "Once they find these plants again, and there is relative safety from ravaging deer and predators, the butterflies will stay and multiply." Nectaring plants provide food and host plants are where butterflies lay their eggs.

**RESIDENT PHOTOGRAPHER** William Folsom has been taking pictures of butterflies at Meadowlark Gardens for as long as he can remember. Folsom authored a book on butterfly photography for shutterbugs and is currently working on "Butterflies of Meadowlark," a hardcover book that features photographs of the existing and reintroduced species of butterflies observed in the park. "I have been involved with this project since Keith joined and I enjoy going out to record and count butterflies. When the Potomac River Valley garden was being created, I observed a Dusky Wing female eagerly laying eggs in the flats that were waiting to be planted. The call of these native plants to the butterflies was unmistakable," Folsom said.

The Experimental Meadow was another ambitious project, where it took vision to leave a large area fallow and plant "weeds" that are butterfly host plants like Turtlehead for the rare Baltimore Checkerspot and Milk-

weed for the Monarch. Folsom pointed out that while these plants are not ornamental, they are real-time observatories for the sequence of life. "When the monarchs migrate here from Mexico, they lay their eggs on the milkweed plants. The leaves become lacy and curled up. When the milkweed is stripped bare, you know the caterpillars have survived and created another generation of beautiful butterflies," he said.

**BREEDING BUTTERFLIES** for release into the park is also a part of the Meadowlark program, supported by Herndon resident Mona Miller. "I got interested in butterflies about 16 years ago when my son's teacher asked me to bring some butterflies out of my yard to his school. My extensive breeding program has allowed us to reintroduce and sustain populations in the park that would otherwise have difficulty taking hold," said Miller.

Since 2002, Miller has conducted a butterfly garden tour each summer Sunday from spring through fall. She starts the tour by showing visitors a butterfly chrysalis and a large caterpillar, along with eggs attached to the back of a leaf and tiny monarch cater-

SEE MEADOWLARK. PAGE 16

## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

**Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc.**, invites all veterans, friends, and the general public to attend the Sept. 18 chapter meeting at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna, at 7:30 p.m. Martin J. Schram, author and syndicated journalist, will discuss his new book, *Vets Under Siege: How America Deceives and Dishonors Those Who Fight Our Battles*. Also, the membership will celebrate its 23rd anniversary of serving veterans, military personnel, and the community. Admission is free. Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

**Pete Francis and Josh Dion**, Rock/acoustic/jam. 7:30 p.m. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Call 703-255-1566 or visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Local Author Bill Farrell** presents *Turning Your Life into a Story*, a discussion for adults who want write their life stories. 10 a.m. at the Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna.

**The Home and Community Club of Great Falls** will host a presentation by Sharon Lynn, Assistant Director Fairfax Area Agency on Aging at The Great Falls Library. 1-2 p.m. 703-759-5967  
**Tiny Tot Tales**, 10:30 a.m. Stories and activities. Age 13-23 months with adult. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

### FRIDAY/SEPTEMBER 19

**AAUW 39th Used Book Sale**, to benefit McLean Branch American Association of University Women's Scholarships. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Free admission. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Call 703-448-9195 or [www.mcleanaauw.org](http://www.mcleanaauw.org).

**Caroline Herring**, Country/roots. 7:30 p.m. \$12. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Ron Sexsmith**, Folk/rock. 10 p.m. \$18. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**The Art of Murder**, Weekends, Sept. 19-Oct. 4. Fri. and Sat. 8 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m. \$15 adults, \$13 district residents, seniors and students; group rates available. Join McLean Community Players as they present this 2000 Edgar Award-winning play by Joe DiPietro. McLean Community Center.

### SATURDAY/SEPTEMBER 20

**Martinez and Guthrie**, Local musicians play original acoustic songs. 6-8 p.m. at Palladium Civic Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Call 703-288-9505.

**AAUW 39th Used Book Sale**, to benefit McLean Branch American Association of University Women's Scholarships. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free admission. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Call 703-448-9195 or [www.mcleanaauw.org](http://www.mcleanaauw.org).

**Propagating and Growing Salvias**. 10 a.m. Tour the extensive Salvia Collection with horticulturist Tammy Burke and learn how to propagate and grow salvias in the garden and indoors over the winter. Reservations required; free. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Call 703-255-3631.

**Wildflower Stroll**. 9:30-11 a.m. Search for fall wildflowers, and learn the folklore associated with them. \$5 per person. Reservations required. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hill St., Great Falls. 703-759-9018.

**Matisse & The Masters**: meet artist Pierre H. Matisse. 5-8 p.m. A rare collection of original etchings and lithographs by Picasso, Chagall, Matisse and Miro at Tysons Galleria, 1731 M International Dr., McLean. 703-883-0111.

**Art in the Pages Fall Cocktail Reception & Silent Auction**. 4-7 p.m. at Gannett Headquarters. View individually decorated mini library book statuettes, with an opportunity to bid at silent auction. Proceeds benefit the programs and services of Fairfax County Public Library. Hosted bar and light cocktail fare. Gannett Headquarters, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. 703-324-8300.

**Macy's Tyson's Corner fashion show**, with Marshall High School marketing students. 1:30 p.m. Students will model homecoming and casual



Stormin' Bob Swanson, the Singing Weatherman, will bring his blend of music and meteorology to the Dolley Madison Library on Monday, Sept. 22.

fashions. Shop for a cause, to support local non-profit organizations.

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

**AAUW 39th Used Book Sale**, to benefit McLean Branch American Association of University Women's Scholarships. 12-4 p.m. Books \$7 per bag. Free admission. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Call 703-448-9195 or [www.mcleanaauw.org](http://www.mcleanaauw.org).

**Pianist Eric Himy**, performing on the exclusive Steingraeber piano, offers works by Debussy and Liszt. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Adults \$15; students and seniors \$10. 703-356-0670 or [www.musicmclean.org](http://www.musicmclean.org).

**Matisse & The Masters**: meet the artist Henry Matisse. 1-4 p.m. A rare collection of original etchings and lithographs by Picasso, Chagall, Matisse and Miro at Tysons Galleria, 1731 M International Dr., McLean. 703-883-0111.

### MONDAY/SEPT. 22

**The Singing Weatherman**. 4 p.m. Music and Meteorology with Stormin' Bob Swanson. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Dolley Madison Library. Age 6-12. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

**Cryptology 101**. 2 p.m. Do you have what it takes to be a secret agent? Learn to encode and decode cryptic ciphers. Age 8-12. Great Falls Library,

9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 23

**Stephen Baker will discuss and sign "The Numerati"** at 7:30 p.m. at Borders Tyson's Corner. Call 703-556-7766. Every day we produce loads of data about ourselves simply by living in the modern world: we click web pages, flip channels, drive through automatic toll booths, shop with credit cards, and make cell phone calls.

**1,2,3, Count with Me**. 10:30 a.m. Short stories, songs and a craft about counting numbers. Age 3-5. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

**McLean Project for the Arts, Evening at the Gallery**. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the MPA Gallery in the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The event features information about MPA's current exhibit and programs, cocktails, appetizers and raffles. Call 703-356-5424 or email [kryan@mcleanchamber.org](mailto:kryan@mcleanchamber.org).

**The Teddy Bear Band**. 12:30 p.m. Free Jammin' Juniors Fall Concert Series. Alden Theatre at the McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., at the intersection of Route 123 and Old Dominion Drive. 703-790-0123 or [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Puppet Show: Autumn is Falling**. 10:30 a.m. Meet Sammy Squirrel

and other animal friends in a fall puppet play. Go on a short walk and explore how animals get ready for fall. Cosponsored by Riverbend Park and the Friends of the Dolley Madison Library. Age 2-5 with adult. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 25

**Jeffrey D. Wert will discuss and sign "Cavalryman of the Lost Cause"** at 7:30 p.m. at Borders Tyson's Corner. Call 703-556-7766. "Cavalryman of the Lost Cause" is the first major biography in decades of Confederate general J. E. B. Stuart, and is based on research in manuscript collections, personal memoirs and reminiscences, and regimental histories.

**Titans Breakfast Series**. Registration 7 a.m., Program 8-9:15 a.m. Learn what cutting edge technologies will be in demand and what to know that will affect and benefit business. Hilton McLean, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. NVTC members \$65, non-members \$85. <http://www.nvtc.org/events/geteventinfo>.

**Family Fishing by Boat**. 6-7:30 p.m. Follow the naturalist to hidden fishing spots for bass, sunfish and the occasional catfish. \$20 per boat; maximum three people per boat. Prepaid reservations required. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. 703-759-9018.

## HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

### Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. Send listings to: Calendar, Connection Publishing, Inc., 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. Or Fax to 703-917-0991. For more information, call 703-917-6444.



www.connectionnewspapers.com



## McLean Community Center Public Hearing on Proposed FY2010 Budget

(July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010)

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.  
at the Center

The current fiscal year has a tax rate of 2.6 cents per \$100 of real estate assessment. The Governing Board is considering lowering the tax rate to 2.5 cents.

Residents who wish to speak are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Details of the proposed budget will be available at the Center and on the Center's Web site beginning Sept. 23, 2008.



The McLean Community Center  
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711

Sign up for E-mail Updates at: [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

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**September 13-14 & 20-21**

**Seneca Creek State Park**  
19950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg, MD  
Open daily 10am-6pm (We will close at 5:30 the last day)  
Admission: Adults \$7.00; Children Under 10 FREE

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## The Impact of Alzheimer's Disease— Safety Features Inside and Outside the Home

Free Dementia Caregiving Seminar

Featuring Guest Speaker **Nancy Dezan**

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Nancy Dezan is the Executive Director at the Alzheimer's Family Adult Day Center and also a social worker with more than 25 years experience working directly with families and individuals living with Alzheimer's disease. She has created a nationally recognized social program for those in the early stages of the disease and works as a consultant and educator in dementia care. During this seminar, Nancy will offer simple safety precautions your can implement inside and outside your home to provide your loved one with the safest living environment possible.

Thursday, September 25, 2008 • 11:30 am to 1:00 pm

### Safety Features Inside and Outside the Home

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## NATURE



PHOTO BY SUSANNA TISA/THE CONNECTION

**Mona Miller places a butterfly onto Chloe Arana's hand.**

## Meadowlark Preserves Native Species

FROM PAGE 14

pillars that had just emerged. Visitors can stroke the soft green caterpillar, which rears up for a closer look and leaves a small brown present on Miller's palm.

Children are invited to participate in the release of butterflies into the park. Chloe Arana and her mother Heather came from Loudoun County to participate in the tour on a sunny and warm afternoon, the kind butterflies favor. Arana was fascinated by the colorful creature Miller placed in the palm of her hand. "It tickles," she giggled, while the butterfly paused briefly before taking flight into the sky.

Wending her way through the park, Miller stooped down to point out the even smallest specimens fluttering over the grass. The gar-

den maintenance staff is acutely aware of how butterflies are affected by human activities. "By raising lawnmower blades and cutting the grass at least three inches high," said Miller, "we have preserved clover, which is the favorite nectaring plant for the Eastern Tail Blue."

Butterfly watching is definitely a sport to be done with children — they are much closer to the ground and more observant than most adults. Arana spotted monarch caterpillars on a milkweed plant in the Children's Garden and a rare red Admiral on the hackberry tree by the pond. Miller caught a butterfly in her large net and put it in a jar for closer inspection. After several moments of captivity and rapt attention, the butterfly fluttered unharmed into the fragrant flowers of the garden.

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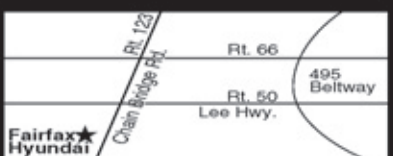
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## Area Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

One hundred ninety-four Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have been named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) for 2009. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), which also serves as the Governor's Regional School for Northern Virginia, has 143 of the semifinalists.

The semifinalists are eligible to compete for 8,200 National Merit Scholarship awards worth \$35 million, to be awarded in spring 2009.

Approximately 16,000 high school seniors were named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists for 2009. More than 1.5 million juniors entered the 2009 National Merit program by taking the 2007 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Three types of Merit Scholarship awards will be offered in 2009: National Merit \$2,500 scholarships, corporate-sponsored scholarships, and college-sponsored scholarships.

Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in spring 2009.

FCPS National Merit semifinalists include:

**Langley High School:** William Brumas and Jennifer Suh.

**Madison High School:** Jacob Beckhard, Brigid Byrne, Audrey Heaton, Frank Sponn, and James Whitfield.

**Marshall High School:** Carlyle Blomme, Brittany Harris, and Jessica Levine.

**McLean High School:** Paul Capp, Anthony Charles, Zachary Charles, Adam Scott, Athreya Tata, and Miles Zinni.

**Oakton High School:** Matthew Ellis, Adarsh Kallakury, Daniel Metcalf, Mike Raust, and Adarsh Solanki.

Thomas Jefferson High School semifinalists from the area include:

**Great Falls:** Nam Jong Ho, Choo Jonathan, Bansal Varun, Ghosh Rahee, Pelham-Webb Barbara, Saha Debjani, Wang Justin and Malik Sumit.

**McLean:** Aman Zachary, Bomgardner Eric, Lee Kee Young, Lagerfeld Elizabeth, Kim David, Minshew William, Mowery Monica, Kye Peter, Howard Michael, Au Alex, Xu Joseph, Metge Jed, Noone Francis, Prestwood Jackson, Sharma Hirsh, Ryan Kathleen.

**Oakton:** Kramer Jordan, Mills Curtis and Tener Andrew.

**Vienna:** Dreo Maximilian, Eng Michael, Kim Noah, Zettler Katherine, Hu Blair, Pell Samuel, Markwalter Kyle, Ryals Nicholas, Ramish David, Ungerleider Jessica and Vernon Gregory.

**Dunn Loring:** Pang Brian.

## FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Multicultural Dialogue and Ramadan Iftar Dinner.** Free. Family and Community Traditions will be the theme of the 9th McLean Community Connections community dialogue and dinner at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean on Thursday, Sept. 25. Registration at 6:15 p.m. Dinner at 6:45 pm. RSVP required 703 324 3453.

**The McLean Women's Bible Study** will celebrate their 25th Anniversary on Sept. 18 with a luncheon at the Westwood Country Club in Vienna. Founded in 1983 for neighborhood Bible study, the group has studied God's Word, made new friends, and shared life. Meetings are Thursday mornings at a local home in McLean for coffee and Bible study. The morning is divided between coffee time, a guest speaker and in small groups with facilitators. The McLean Women's Bible Study is open to all women, who are invited to join the celebration Sept. 18 and begin Bible study on September 25th. Call 703-448-2020 or email [Marthawiles@msn.com](mailto:Marthawiles@msn.com).

**St. Luke's United Methodist Church Food Drive.** Donate non-perishable food and toiletries for a local food bank. Drop off items Saturday, Sept. 20, between 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 7628 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church (one mile east of Tysons Corner Mall). 703-893-9220.

Interested in learning or reviewing the history and meaning of the Christian Faith as practiced by Methodists? Come and learn who we are. Sundays, Sept. 21- Nov. 23, 9:45-10:30 a.m. **Oakton United Methodist Church**, 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton, at the intersection of Rt. 123 and Hunter Mill Road. Visit [www.oaktonumc.org](http://www.oaktonumc.org) or call 703-938-1234.

**Oakton Church of the Brethren** will hold a candlelit Spiritual Renewal Service on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. Guest pastor Jim Hardenbrook. 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. 703-281-4411 or [www.oaktonbrethren.org](http://www.oaktonbrethren.org).

**Smith Chapel concert**, "Songs for Danny." Sept. 27 at 4 p.m. Free food and music. Bring chairs or blankets. Smith Chapel, 11321 Beach Mill Road, Great Falls. 703-404-1767.

**Dr. Larry Hurtado**, Head of the School of Divinity and Professor of New Testament Language, Literature and Theology at New College, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Sermon series beginning Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Video and discussion beginning September 29, 6:30 p.m. **Trinity United Methodist Church**, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. McLean. 703-356-3312

**The Church of the Good Shepherd Christian Writers Workshop.** Oct. 4, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Register by Sept. 24. "Alive in Words," a Christian writers workshop featuring Mary Lou Redding, editorial director of the Upper Room. The Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna. Visit [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com) or call 703-281-3987.

**The Shepard Center of Oakton** presents an Evening of Music and Comedy. Saturday, Oct. 4 at 7:30 p.m. Christian Assembly, 8200 Bell Lane (off Cedar Lane near Gallows Road), Vienna. 703-281-0538.

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### Episcopal

Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521  
Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991  
St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

### Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

### Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church...703-938-2119  
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

### Methodist

Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509  
Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987  
Dunn Loring United Methodist ... 703-573-5386  
Ephiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494  
Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705  
Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233  
Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594  
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700  
Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680

### Non-Denominational

Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

### Presbyterian

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ... 703-560-6336  
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577  
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

### Quaker

Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394

### Seventh-Day Adventist

Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001  
Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-938-8383

### Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230

### Unity

Unity of Fairfax ... 703-281-1767

### Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

### Church of the Brethren

Oakton Church of the Brethren ... 703-281-4411

### Catholic

Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877  
Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828  
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555  
St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

### Charismatic

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

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Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

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## REAL ESTATE

# Make Decisions with Dispatch

It is all about thinking, planning, and working with the right people.

**C**hanging your mind is a privilege, not a right.

That may sound a little harsh, but so are unexpected costs increases. So how do you keep those costs to a minimum? This may be starting to sound like a broken record, but the answer is planning. Changes made early in the design process are going to cost less than changing your mind about where you want the shower a month before the project is scheduled for completion. Once construction begins, expect a \$100 or higher administrative charge added to each change order. It may not be identified as such, but it is in there somewhere. This is why setting priorities is so important.

In general, it is less expensive to make changes to your wish list than to your design and less expensive to make changes during design than in bricks and wood during construction. Earlier is always better.

**MAKE SURE** your architect or builder understands what you want. Have him restate, in his own words, everything you have told him. Get it in writing. Then go over it again.

Be sure you understand the design. Don't be intimidated by the design drawings. It took your ar-

chitect years to understand the relationship between two-dimensional drawings and three-dimensional space. You cannot expect to understand it in a few weeks or months. Have a feel for the size of the rooms. What will you see out the window when you stand at the sink? How you will move from space to space? Where your furniture will go? Where will the light be in the afternoon?

### GOOD HOUSE



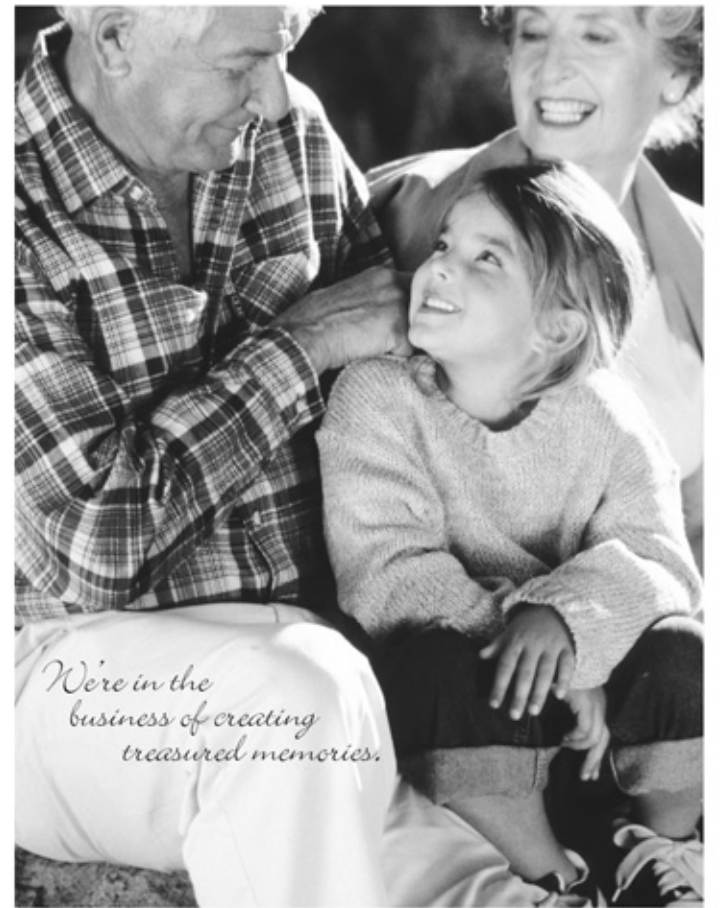
WILL DENNEHY

Select materials and fixtures early. You want a complete set of construction documents because your builder and his subs will give you a better price if they know exactly what they are pricing – the tighter the drawings, the tighter the price.

It can be unsettling to select tile and light fixtures and other finishes before you see the actual space. Your architect can help. He or she should have a good idea of how you want the space to feel and it's much easier to make selections after they have narrowed down the options. You can then look over their selections and make the changes you want later. Don't wait too long. If the ceramic tile you finally found and love has a 10-week lead-time, you will have to choose between living without the tile and stopping the work.

When you do change your mind, don't dawdle, do it. Time is very definitely money in both design and construction. A change from American to European

SEE PLANNING, PAGE 20



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This charming brick rambler is sited on a gorgeous .61 acre lot & features a kitchen which is open to the spacious family/sun room, a living room with fireplace & picture window, hardwood floors & a sunny, walk-out lower level.

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1800 Old Meadow Rd #1014..	\$434,400	Sun 2-3:30.....	Joan Tunstall.....	McEearney.....	703-790-9090
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**In McLean, Lauri, 703-917-6460, or lauri@connectionnewspapers.com**

## REAL ESTATE

# Planning Eliminates Problems

FROM PAGE 19

tile could change the layout in the bathroom. If you take three days to decide on the plumbing fixtures you want, you may lose three weeks. The plumber has other work. If he can't work on your job, he will work somewhere else. It could be awhile before he's back. The painter can't start before the plumber's finished. The hardwood floor and carpet can't go in until the painting's done. Expect a bill from the contractor to pay for all that rescheduling.

It is all about thinking, planning, and working with the right people.



**Building a new home or an addition can be one of the great experiences of your life. Plan for it.**

### THINGS GO WRONG

Even the National Symphony is occasionally out of tune. During a process as complex as design and construction, things inevitably go wrong. You can fight it and have a nervous breakdown, or you can plan for it, and by planning, eliminate many

of the problems. You have architects, contractors, bankers, plumbers, electricians, and other assorted characters, you, your spouse, and your dog, all trying to work in a small space with a gen-

erally agreed-upon goal – your new home. Unfortunately, everyone may not be on the same track. In fact, some may be going in the opposite direction. A talented architect, experienced in residential design, along with a competent contractor, also experienced in residential construction, can get everyone on the same track and moving in the same direction. Failure to note the emphasis can cause loss of sleep, money and your sense of humor. Building a new home or an addition can be one of the great experiences of your life. Plan for it.

See [www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips/adultpersonal.asp](http://www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips/adultpersonal.asp) for classes on working with architects and builders.

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# SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

Preschoolers and kindergartners participate in "We're Writing our Classroom Constitution" event at **Village Green Day School at Great Falls**. They are celebrating the 221<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Constitution on Constitution Day.

Student (delegates) convened the first week of school in Classroom Conventions to decide on the rules that they wanted to include in their Classroom Constitutions. Teachers engaged their students in a shared writing activity that resulted in large "We the Classes..." posters. This activity introduced students to the idea of rights and responsibilities, and the freedoms enjoyed in the United States. "This is an especially important lesson in the democratic process this election year," says Paula Shapiro, Curriculum Coordinator for the school.

On the morning of September 17, after voting and acceptance, students, teachers and administrators will assemble on the school grounds to publicly read and sign their Classroom Constitutions using quills and ink. A reading of the preamble of the US Constitution will conclude the celebration.

**Augustus Jackson Spivey**, a graduate of Langley High School, has enrolled at Hampden-Sydney College with the Class of 2012 as a Patrick Henry Scholar. Spivey is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gregory B. Spivey of Great Falls.

**Siena Academy** (Preschool and Elementary) celebrates its fifth year of operation. The school also welcomes many new Montessori trained teachers/guides this year. Siena Academy is the parish school of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Great Falls. Many celebratory activities are planned for the students and parishioners during the parish picnic, which is scheduled for Sept. 27.

Siena Academy takes pride in being the only Montessori Catholic diocesan parish school in the U.S. It strives to adhere to the Association Montessori Internationale school standards, and currently offers two Children's House environments which serve a mixed-age grouping of children from 2-1/2 through 6 years, and an Elementary program for ages 6 -12 years. Presently the school has approximately 145 students with a small wait list, and continues to strive to offer the best to children, making education the highest priority.

**Saint John Academy** in McLean was one of four diocesan schools received Blue Ribbon School of Excellence awards by the U.S. Department of Education. These schools were the only private Virginia schools selected for the award this year.

**Spring Hill Elementary** is reducing trash by composting cafeteria waste. After burying cafeteria trays for the winter, last year's 3rd grade students discovered that all fruits and vegetables decomposed into the soil. With an award for selling compact fluorescent light bulbs, the students chose to use the money to purchase a compost bin.

The bin is now installed and the students are sorting their lunch leftovers. Each class fills a container at the lunch table as they clean up, then students from each class take the scraps outside to the compost bin. Once the compost is finished it will be used to fertilize the gardens and habitats in the Spring Hill outdoor classrooms. Spring Hill's science teacher, Alison Bauer, has received a great deal of support from Carol Hunt, a kindergarten teacher at Westlawn Elementary, which has been composting their cafeteria waste for two years.

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# SPORTS

## Saxons Grind Out Win Over Herndon

Khan's fourth quarter field goal boosts Langley football to 10-7 triumph.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

In an early season matchup between two good high school football teams, the Langley High Saxons got the better of the interior play and defeated visiting Herndon, 10-7, last Friday night.

Langley improved to 2-1 with the win. The Saxons broke a 7-7 tie with just over eight minutes remaining in the fourth quarter when sophomore kicker Farhan Khan, a first year football player, booted a 32-yard field goal. The three-pointer held up for Langley, which won for the second straight week following a week one loss at Chantilly.

"He made it easy," said Howerton, of Khan's field goal that was true as gold.

Khan, a Langley High soccer player in the spring, expressed interest in coming out for football in early June. His strong leg impressed the Langley coaching staff and he became the team's top kicker.

"He's a new kid for us, a sophomore with a real strong leg," said Howerton. "He's a soccer player who had never played football before. The kid doesn't say a word and doesn't seem to get nervous at all."

**PAVING THE WAY** to the win for Langley was its outstanding play across the offensive line. The Saxons won the battle of the trenches throughout the game and ultimately wore down the Hornets' defense.

Langley senior running back David Helmer carried the ball 37 times for 180 yards, with a first quarter touchdown run from a yard out.

For the game, Langley ran 60 offensive plays and earned 19 first downs to Herndon's seven. It was a game of outstanding ball control for the Saxons' offense.

"Especially in the second half," said Howerton, of his team's ability to keep the ball. "We had it the whole time and the [Herndon] kids were getting pretty tired. Our ability to handle them up front, especially at the end of the game, wore them down a little bit."

Of Helmer's big rushing game, Howerton said, "The kid's a tough kid. He's a state championship wrestler. He's not very fast, but he runs up in there, twists and turns and keeps his legs moving."

Howerton is determined to have his offense become more versatile than season's past when the Saxons were looked upon as strictly a grinding, running team that rarely passed the ball. But the coach said he has a strong passing quarterback in senior Danny Pritchett and would like to throw the ball 20 times a game.

"This is the best quarterback we've had,"



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Langley senior Derek Eklund runs the ball in the Saxons' opening week loss at Chantilly earlier this season. Since the setback, the Saxons have won games over Jefferson and Herndon. This Friday night, Langley will be at home against Marshall.**

said Howerton. "We can throw the ball and we have some receivers."

With its ground game in strong fashion against Herndon, however, Pritchett needed to throw the ball just 14 times, completing 10 of the passes for 84 yards and an interception.

**HOWERTON** was disappointed his team did not score more points against Herndon. He said his team moved the ball deep into

Langley territory on a few occasions, only to be hurt by drive-stalling penalties. For the game, Langley was penalized 10 times.

"Penalties hurt us the most," said Howerton, who said his team will have to clean up its game this Friday night when the Saxons open up their Liberty District schedule at home against Marshall. "The 10 penalties were pretty costly. We had penalties inside the 20 a couple of times."

Herndon (2-1) came into the game with

wins over Park View and South Lakes under its belt. But in the low scoring affair against Langley, the Hornets could score only one touchdown, that coming on a one yard scoring run by junior quarterback Zack Ozycz in the second quarter. Herndon will be looking to get back on the winning track this Friday night when it opens up its Concorde District schedule with a home game against Centreville.

### Northern Virginia Senior Olympics Begin Saturday

**The annual Northern Virginia Senior Olympics** will begin this Saturday (Sept. 20) at 10:30 a.m. at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center (3501 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Arlington). Competition in track and field, softball hit and throw will take place. The Virginia Hospital Center is sponsoring a health fair at the Senior Olympics, which will continue through Oct. 2. The public is invited. No admission fee. For more information, call 703-228-4721.

The remaining Senior Olympics schedule includes: **Mon., Sept. 22**, backgammon, racquetball and basketball free throws at Lee District Park (6601 Telegraph Rd., Franconia), team line dance at the Lincolnia Senior Center (4710 Chambliss St., Alex.) and bowling at Bowl America Shirley (6450 Edsall Rd.,

Alex.); **Tues., Sept. 23**, women's 3x3 basketball, chess, bait casting, Frisbee throw, yo-yo at Lee District Park, eight ball pool at Lincolnia Senior Center, singles tennis at Wakefield Park (8100 Braddock Rd., Annandale); **Wed., Sept. 24**, golf at Penderbrook Golf Club (3700 Golf Trail La., Fairfax), shuffleboard, horseshoes and bunco, at Hollin Hall Senior Center (1500 Shenandoah Rd., Alex.), chess at Lee District Park, miniature golf at Cameron Run Regional Park (4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alex.), singles tennis at Wakefield Park; **Thurs., Sept. 25**, table tennis, scrabble and cribbage at Lee District Park, duplicate bridge at Lincolnia Senior Center and doubles tennis at Wakefield Park; **Fri., Sept. 26**, doubles tennis at Wakefield Park, swimming and diving at Lee District Park; **Mon., Sept. 29**, ice skating at Kettler Capi-

tals Iceplex (Ballston Mall, Arl.); and **Tues., Sept. 30 through Oct. 2**, pickleball at Thomas Jefferson Community Center.

Over 500 seniors are expected to compete. Gold, silver and bronze medals will be awarded after each event. The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics is sponsored by the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William. Additional sponsors are Goodwin House Incorporated, Greenspring Retirement Community, Sunrise Senior Living, BB&T, Humana, Verizon Wireless, Debbie Miller, McEneaney & Associates Realtors and Ruxton Health of Alexandria. Further information may be obtained by checking the website at [www.novaseniolorlympics.com](http://www.novaseniolorlympics.com).

# SPORTS

## Saxons' Cross Country Under New Head Coach

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Langley High cross country program has a new coach at the helm of the program this fall. Mike Kiernan, a longtime coaching figure within the area's high school cross country and track and field scene, is now at the helm of the Saxons' cross country program.

Kiernan was hired to replace Astrid Howell as the Langley head coach. Howell stepped down during the offseason. She recently had a baby and wants to devote her time to being a mother, although she will still work within the program as an assistant coach when she can.

**KIERNAN** comes from Westfield High School, where he served as the co-head coach of the track and field program last spring. Currently in his 20<sup>th</sup> year of coaching, Kiernan served as the Bishop O'Connell head coach in both cross country and track and field from 1988 through 2001.

He says he is excited to now be at Langley, where he has talented runners on both the girls' and boys' sides.

Some of the top runners for the Langley girls include twin sisters Lauren and Carolyn Shaw, as well as Amanda Steffy. Lauren Shaw is the defending Liberty District champion.

"All three of them are tremendous," said Kiernan.

"They were all instrumental to the success of the team at the district level last year."

In 2007 under coach Howell, the Langley girls finished second in the district championships before going on to finish ninth at the Northern Region Championships.

Langley juniors Jill Canning, a first year runner, and Anneke Day also both figure to be instrumental to the team's success this season.

The Langley boys' team is less experienced. However, the Saxons have two runners who finished in the top seven at districts last year. They are junior Tommy Bylund and senior Hunter Bohlen, the Saxon boys' team captain.

The Langley boys are coming off a 2007 season in which it finished fourth overall at districts to qualify for regionals. Kiernan believes this year's squad is once again capable of making it to regionals.

"A big goal for us will be to get to regionals again," he said.

**LANGLEY** has had a busy schedule of late. The Saxons participated in the Brentsville Relays this past weekend. On Tuesday of this week, they were scheduled to compete at the Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park.

On Thursday of this week, Langley is scheduled to compete in a four-team district meet at Nottoway Park in Vienna. And this Saturday, the Saxons will run at the large Oatlands Invitational in Leesburg. The meet begins at 9 a.m.

## Lange Faces Wiley at Patriot Center

**Ice Promotions** announced recently that **Great Falls resident Jimmy Lange** will face **Grove Wiley** in a 10-round Main Event of the live, professional boxing card scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Patriot Center. The event marks the junior middleweight's first action since suffering a shoulder injury in May 2007 that has caused a 17-month layoff and led to Lange relinquishing his WBC Continental Americas 154-pound title.

A native of Arlington, and a Bishop O'Connell High School graduate, Lange has headlined all five previous professional boxing events at the Patriot Center, located on the George Mason University campus, including the sport's debut at the arena on Sept. 17, 2005. He drew national attention as a participant on the first season (2005) of the NBC boxing reality program, *The Contender*, and possesses an impressive 28-3-2 (20 KOs) record.

Wiley, a tough, veteran fighter with a record of 30-11-1 (14 KOs), is best known for beating legendary world-champion Julio Cesar Chavez in a fifth-round TKO, sending the Mexican superstar into retirement. While the Omaha, Neb.-native has lost six of his last seven fights, he has faced stiff competition, including Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. (who holds Lange's former championship belt). In fact, the combined record of Wiley's last seven opponents is an impressive 249-13-4.

A rematch between two popular D.C. area Beltway boxers was added to the card as junior welterweights

Jaime 'The Punisher' Palma (13-12-1, 6 KOs) of Alexandria, and Smithburg, Md.'s Dean 'Pitbull' White (14-9-1, 3 KOs) will square off in an eight-round contest. Palma, who scored a unanimous eight-round decision over White one year ago, looks to get back on the winning track after having lost his last two bouts after previously reeling off six straight, including winning the Virginia Light Welterweight title.

Two of Lange's previous opponents will face one another when Fontaine Cabell (22-8-2, 17 KOs) battles Chad Greenleaf (10-10-1, 4 KOs) in an eight-round bout. Cabell earned the respect of area fans for his valiant effort and rugged performances against hometown favorite Lange in their two championship bouts held at the Patriot Center in December 2006 and in May 2007. In his last fight, the Orlando, Fla.-based Cabell fell to Freddy Muriel, a participant on season two of *The Contender* series.

Greenleaf, a southpaw from Parkersburg, W.Va., lost to undefeated Beltway boxer Jesse 'The Beast' Nicklow in his last contest. He went the distance but lost a decision to Lange back in May 2003.

Tickets, priced at \$30, \$50, \$75, \$100, \$150, \$200, \$300 and \$500 (VIP Ringside), are on sale and can be purchased through Ticketmaster by calling phone charge at 703-573-7328, logging onto [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or by visiting the Patriot Center Box Office. Group tickets and sponsorships are available by calling 703-536-6060.

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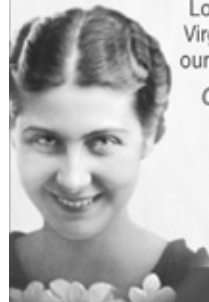
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<b>Bank Owned----ON-SITE</b> <b>Springfield</b> 3 beds, 2 baths, 1152 sq ft 6010 Frederick Sale Date: Sat Sept 20th at Noon FREE COLOR BROCHURE 800-260-5846 www.AuctionServicesIntl.com James Meadows 290-700-3414		<b>Designated</b> <b>"Qualified in Submarines"</b> <b>JOIN</b>  <b>Call: Submarine Veterans</b> <b>Northern Virginia Base</b> Steve Jaeger 703-696-5354 Treasurer@USSVINOVA.org		We consign/pay top \$ for antique/semi antique furn. including mid century & danish modern Teak furniture, sterling, mens watches, painting/art glass, clocks, jewelry, costume jewelry, etc. Call Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790.	<b>Hardwood Artisans Twin Loft bed</b> , solid oak w/ upgrade English Oak stain (looks great with antiques) Solid hardwood decking (no slats), allows for young children-college age and easier to make. 5 step ladder allows for small children. Perfect condition, 2 years old, retails for \$1725 new www.hardwoodartisan.com. For Sale \$600, phone 703-868-1461

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**TRUSTEE'S SALE**  
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Improved by the premises known as  
6474 Oakwood Drive, Falls Church, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Joseph Michael Russell, dated January 19, 2005, and recorded January 24, 2005, in Deed Book 16907 at page 1908 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

**Tuesday, September 23, 2008 at 12:15 p.m.**

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 158, Section 3, Belvedere as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 969 at page 138, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 6474 Oakwood Drive, Falls Church, Virginia 22041.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of \$29,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 4.870 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY  
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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## Barreling Through in Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Knowing as little as I do about the future price of a barrel of oil, and by association, the future price of a gallon of gasoline and home heating oil, commodities with which I am financially very familiar — and impacted, I can only guess as to there future level. As such, the present is what matters to me. And to that end, I am now reading financial news updates on the web, specifically as it relates to oil, trying to anticipate its price fluctuations. It's almost as if, not being able to beat them, perhaps I can join them, in some small way, at least as far as this Joe Schmoe is informed.

And so, I now pay attention to international — or national events — that might affect oil production and/or its transportation, gasoline stocks/supplies/inventory, monetary exchange rates, the weather and of course, the actual price at the pump. When the per gallon price is higher than it was previously, I try to buy less; when the price at the pump is lower, I try to buy more. I guess you could say it's my way of dollar cost averaging. And though I certainly realize, that in spite of my best intentions, buying less gas per trip because the price is high is only going to result in my returning sooner to those very same pumps rather than later, still it's mind over matter. If I think I'm spending less, maybe I actually am. (Any port in a storm, I suppose.)

Granted, it's all very delusional because gasoline, and to a lesser degree, home heating oil, is not exactly a voluntary purchase. In fact, it's practically mandatory. For without it, you're going nowhere — literally, and if you're at home, and it's winter, you're freezing too. Talk about adding insult to injury. So you have to buy it, or else; with cash, credit or debit, and let the other chips (bills) fall where they may. And though oil and other fossil fuel-type commodities may not be as crucial as food, water and clean air, try living without it. Not only will the effects not be pretty, they'll be downright painful, and not just at the pump, either.

And so this morning, I had my wife, Dina, call me as she drove by our local gas station to give me a price-per-gallon update. Yesterday (Aug. 30) the per gallon price for the mid-grade my car requires was \$3.43, a recent low. I knew I should have filled up then, what with Hurricane Gustav churning and strengthening in the Gulf, but since I had groceries — frozen food and ice cream, in particular, I couldn't risk the time it would have taken, sitting in line at the gas station with my perishables maybe perishing, so I drove on home, regretting my decision by not really second guessing it. And unfortunately for me and my flowing cash, I paid for it, eventually.

Dina called and told me the price was now \$3.57 per gallon, 14 cents higher. Certainly not Earth-shattering (or even mind-numbing), but 4.1 percent higher than it was the day before. And though I can absorb the increase, I'd rather not. I don't know if it's my advancing age but, the older I get, the more difficult it is to do with less. And with respect to the dollars on the barrel head, the less I have, the more careful I am spending it.

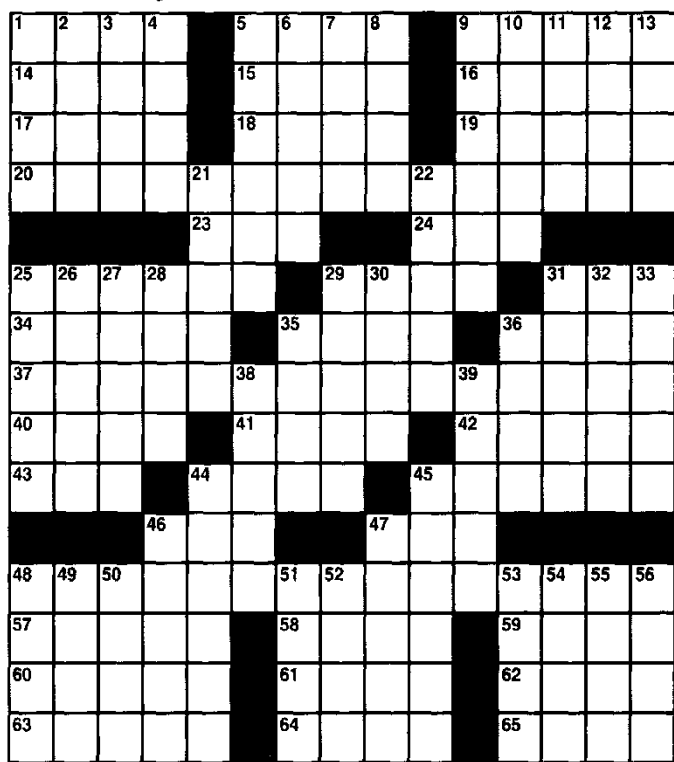
I realize it's only money, but the oil companies have plenty of it already. I'm just trying to find a way to keep more of it for myself, however pointless it sometimes seems.

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

# NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0329-6



Puzzle by Bill Ballard

## ACROSS

- 1 Where Picassos hang in N.Y.C.
- 5 Baby buggy
- 9 Popular jeans
- 14 During
- 15 Four-star review
- 16 Defendant's excuse
- 17 Honored lady
- 18 Portent
- 19 St. Kitts and \_\_\_\_\_ (Caribbean nation)
- 20 Fashion slogan in the business world
- 23 Brooch
- 24 What's left after deductions
- 25 Palestinian chief Yasir
- 29 Trot or canter
- 31 Concert music blaster
- 34 Childbirth
- 35 "Schindler's \_\_\_\_\_"
- 36 Asterisk
- 37 Advice for the impulsive consumer

- 40 Pianist Myra
- 41 Bruins' sch.
- 42 "\_\_\_\_\_ ho!"
- 43 Surgery sites, for short
- 44 Son of Seth
- 45 Food wrappers and such on the street
- 46 Slump
- 47 Response to a bad call
- 48 Catch phrase for the avid mallgoer
- 57 Approvals
- 58 Dinghy propellers
- 59 College in New Rochelle
- 60 Leader after Indian independence
- 61 Soothing agent
- 62 Runs (for)
- 63 Carpenter's device
- 64 Educator Horace
- 65 Helper: Abbr.

## DOWN

- 1 Anti-D.W.I. group
- 2 Gen. Bradley

- 3 One who gives the silent treatment?
- 4 Summer quaffs
- 5 Loss's opposite
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ Navarro, 1926 Ben Hur
- 7 Allege
- 8 Kind of room
- 9 Surgical instrument
- 10 Vote into office
- 11 On the qui \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 Wading bird
- 13 Snake sound
- 21 The fifth tire
- 22 Togetherness
- 25 Notwithstanding, informally
- 26 Pinker than pink
- 27 Bottomless pit
- 28 Watch chains
- 29 Cyndi Lauper's "\_\_\_\_\_ Just Want to Have Fun"
- 30 On a deck, perhaps
- 31 No longer on deck?
- 32 Purple shade
- 33 Snoop
- 35 Kooky
- 36 It's for the birds
- 38 Mushrooms, e.g.
- 39 State sch. in Athens
- 44 Completely consumes
- 45 Start to untie
- 46 \_\_\_\_\_ whale
- 47 "Don Juan" poet
- 48 In \_\_\_\_\_ (together)
- 49 Toe's opposite
- 50 Worker welfare org.
- 51 Rich soil
- 52 Kind of land
- 53 Woman who can carry a tune
- 54 French kings
- 55 Handy bills
- 56 History

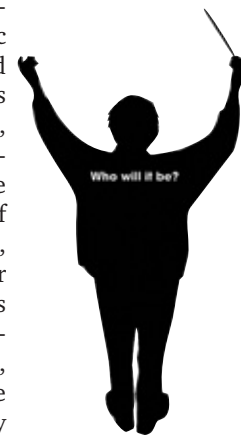
## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



# E ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

## Choose the New Maestro

FROM PAGE 12



son.  
"Orchestra members will have their own criteria for assessing the quality of each of the candidates. The audience will have its own process," said Salness. "I am looking forward to audience feedback."  
"I am interested in the candidate who gives a discernable voice to the orchestra, who makes the orchestra stand out in the community," he said.

**AT THE END** of the season in June 2009, The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra plans to announce the new music director, said Cathy Smith, marketing director with the orchestra.

"Any kind of change can be difficult, but this is very exciting to us," she said, calling the six music director finalists "the best that's out there."

**"Each of the conductors undoubtedly will make the orchestra sound different."**

—David Salness, Concertmaster

Francis Kieffer, of Mantua, has been a regular attendee of concerts with her husband Jerry Kieffer for years. She looks forward to learning about each of the guest conductors and watching how the orchestra responds to

each conductor throughout the year. "It's kind of an adventure, actually," she said, of the upcoming season.

Lisa Baltzer, a violist, is the longest playing member of the orchestra who joined in 1964.

"I'm dying to go to the first rehearsal this week," said Baltzer, of Vienna. "I expect it to be very exciting, very refreshing because each conductor will bring his or her own music that they love and are inspired by."

Each of the six conductors has chosen the repertoire for their concert, as well as the guest soloist to perform.

"I'm looking forward to the new ideas and new energy that each of the conductor finalists will bring," said Baltzer.

**THE NEW** music director will assume the position at the beginning of the 2009-2010 season.

The music director plans the music to be performed each season, invites the guest soloists, auditions new players, and will serve as the public face of the orchestra, Smith said. "He or she also shapes its education and outreach programs, and embodies the overall philosophy and artistic direction of the organization."

Helen Fall, a viola player who joined the orchestra in 1993, will be focusing closely on the six conductors this season, from the elbows down.

"They have to make us believe that this is the way it should be done. They have 100 people who think they know something," said Fall, of Fairfax. "To see a conductor that can really tell you non-verbally what we're doing, if he or she can make you want to do something completely from the elbows down, that's something."

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra is funded in part by the County of Fairfax, the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

The Orchestra made its Kennedy Center debut in 1974.

"It takes a lot of money to put it all together, it's a commitment that Fairfax has made," said Fall. "I love playing, I love being a musician, it's my life."

Guest artists appearing with the FSO have included Jean-Pierre Rampal and Ella Fitzgerald.

Former National Symphony Orchestra music director Leonard Slatkin guest conducted the orchestra last season.

"You don't need to cross the river to have a high quality orchestral listening experience," said Salness.

## To Go

The Fairfax Symphony is in search of its first new music director in 37 years. Six finalists, selected from a pool of 249 applicants, will audition as guest conductors this season. The first concert of the new season is Saturday, Sept. 20.

**VISIT** [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).  
**TICKETS** \$25 and up, available online at [Tickets.com](http://Tickets.com), by phone at 888-945-2468, or in person at the George Mason University box office, Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6 p.m.

**PERFORMANCES** are at George Mason University, Concert Hall of Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax.

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