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The Flower Queen, Emily Ngau, has her tiara adjusted for the finale by Patty Pleasant.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION
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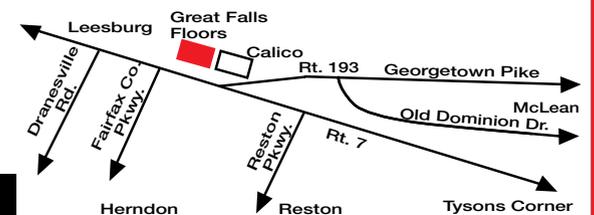
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Conceptual design for Great Falls' next fire station.

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SOUTH (STREET FRONT) ELEVATION

GFCA Gets Fire Station Update

Wastewater management, timing of turn-lane construction still uncertain.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

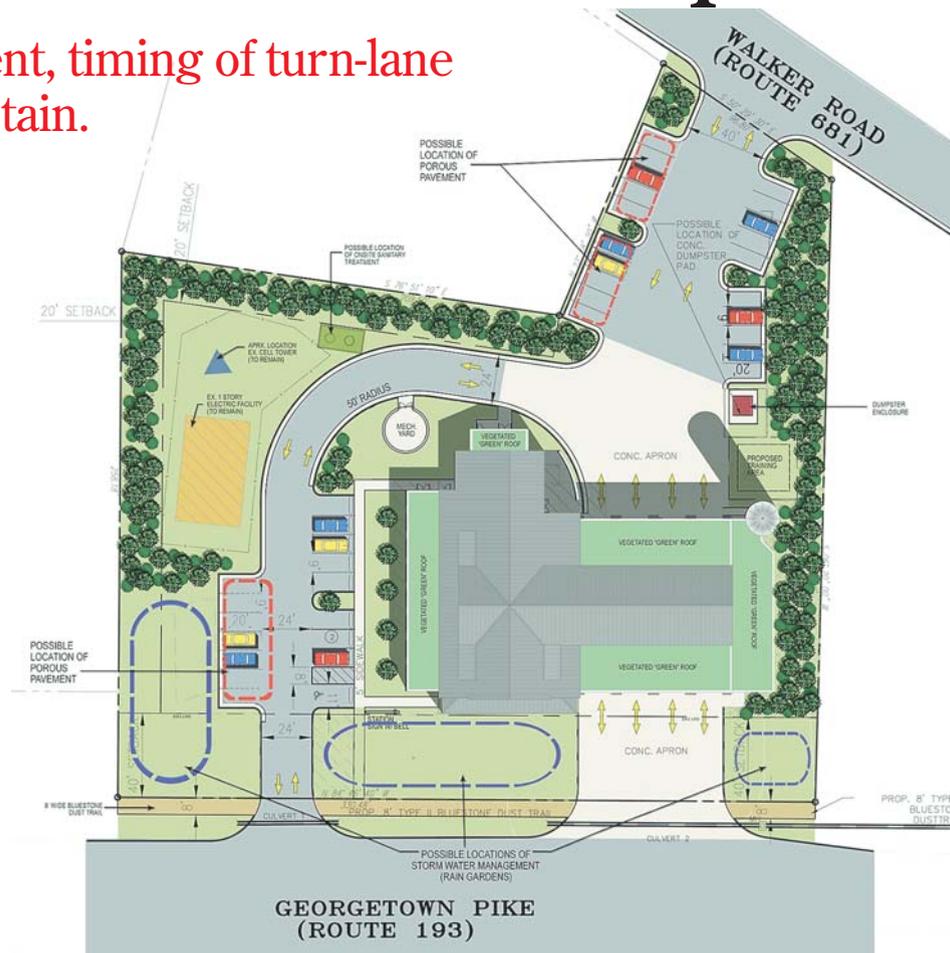
While designs for the new Great Falls Fire Station are nearly finalized, plans for the building's wastewater management and the timing for the construction of a right-turn lane to accommodate the closing of the cut through on the station's property are less certain.

The cut through created by a fire station parking lot and driveway between Georgetown Pike and Walker Road, which currently alleviates congestion at the intersection of those two roads, will be closed as soon as construction begins in the coming spring. But construction of a right-turn lane from southbound Walker Road onto Georgetown Pike is scheduled to begin almost a year later and to be completed around the summer of 2010, county officials told members of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) at a meeting last Thursday, Nov. 13.

Max Hojatzadeh, the engineer designing the turn lane, said the county was doing everything in its power to get it built sooner.

Ken Lim, project manager for the fire station construction, said the rebuilding could not be put off until the turn lane is built. "The longer we wait, the cost is going to be different," he said.

MEANWHILE, county officials are still planning to continue to have wastewater hauled off the site by truck, but are also exploring the last remaining option for a septic field. Carey Needham, deputy director of planning and design for the Public Works Department, said the county was talking with the owner of the house behind the fire station about testing the house's yard to see if it would be suitable for a septic field. He said the county would know in the next two or three months



Site plan for the new fire station. Design was made tricky by the fact that the site is less than half the normal size of a Fairfax County fire station plot.

"We don't just call someone and say, 'Hi, build me a fire station and bill me when you're done.'"

— Ken Lim,
project manager

whether buying the property for a septic field was a viable option.

If so, purchase of the property would require additional funds, Lim said. In the

course of 30 years — the station's minimum expected life span — the pump-and-haul method would cost about half of the \$1.2 million that buying the land would cost, Lim said.

He said a maximum of two to three trips per week would be required for hauling wastewater, although the number of trips would probably end up being lower. In accordance with state code, the wastewater tank will hold 20,000 gallons, about 10 times the size of the existing tank.

The new turning lane will stretch more

Tunnel Hope Revived

Advocates of underground Metrorail route look to new administration for solutions.

BY MIRZA KURSPAHCIC
THE CONNECTION

Tunnel supporters for the Metrorail extension through Tysons Corner have not given up yet, even as preparatory work for the aerial route for the "Silver Line" to Dulles Airport and beyond continues. They hope the next presidential administration will listen to their concerns and reconsider the way forward in connecting the nation's capital with its international airport by rail.

"The presidential election kind of shuffled the deck," Scott Monett, president of Tysons Tunnel Inc., the organization leading the charge for the underground alignment through the commercial center, said. He said the incoming U.S. secretary of transportation will be "sitting in a very nice spot to help us" reconsider the rail alignment.



Scott Monett has been leading the charge for the tunnel advocates.

"Everybody knows it's the right thing to do," Monett said about the tunnel. He said the most common term he hears about it is that it is a "no-brainer." Monett believes the incoming Democratic administration will focus on job creation and building new infrastructure. "There is a heavy union component to the Democratic Party and unions want jobs for their members," Monett said. He said the rail extension would serve as a huge job generator for the region.

The U.S. secretary of transportation may have a large role to play in the determination of how the project proceeds. According to McLean resident Bill Coleman, a transportation secretary in President Gerald Ford's administration, a federal statute established the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA), which took over the rail extension project. "It is therefore a federal entity," Coleman said. "You need to demand that the secretary of transportation take another look at it," Coleman said about the project and the current contracts driving it.

SEE NEW STATION, PAGE 28

SEE TUNNEL, PAGE 8



Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock)



Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

Transportation Priorities Addressed

Committee reports progress on several project.

BY JOAN BARNES
GREAT FALLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

The damage caused by tropical storm Hanna to the Springvale Road bridge has been repaired and the bridge reopened. We have been informed that VDOT will install additional signs at Georgetown Pike and the Beltway to notify drivers of the pike truck restriction.

Progress is being made on several projects of priority to Great Falls: the design work is proceeding for the installation of a traffic signal at River Bend Road and Georgetown Pike; the technical preliminary engineering analysis of the Seneca Road/Georgetown Pike intersection is underway; county and VDOT staff are evaluating our proposals for Walker Road crosswalks/streetscape at the village center. We appreciate the efforts of Tania Cunha in Supervisor Foust's office in advancing these projects; Tania has recently accepted a position in the private sector.

The Fairfax County Planning Commission will be holding a hearing, currently set for Dec. 4, on the proposed rebuilding of the Great Falls Firehouse. We expect to be updated on the status of the Walker Road intersection improvements in advance of the hearing. VDOT has proposed regulations governing the placement of commercial entrances, including subdivisions, on our local roads. The regulations can be found at www.virginiadot.org/projects/accessmgt.

We have received a number of inquiries recently regarding signs posted along the roads in our community. These types of signs in Great Falls are regulated by the Commonwealth of Virginia and by Fairfax County. We have been informed by the Fairfax County Police Department that unauthorized parties removing/damaging/destroying signs can be charged with "destruction of property" or "larceny." If individuals suspect that a roadside sign may not be in compliance for any reason, they should report it to Fairfax County Zoning Enforcement, 703-324-1300, and/or the Virginia Department of Transportation, 703-383-VDOT.

Our Nov. 20 meeting agenda will include discussion of the committee's recommendations regarding the transportation elements of the firehouse project; the VDOT commercial entrance regulations; roadside signs; transportation funding and project status.

The writers is the co-chair of the GFCA Transportation Committee.

Bulova, Herrity To Run For Chairman

County anticipates early February election.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly won his new position in the U.S. Congress last week on Nov. 4, but two of his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors have been preparing for his departure for months.

Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D) and Springfield District Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R) made little secret of their interest in chairman's position this fall, especially since Connolly was the favorite to take Virginia's 11th Congressional District.

Even before Connolly made his election night victory speech this month, Bulova shared plans for her county chairman campaign kick off Nov. 12.

Herrity, who is Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of Arrowhead Global Solutions, a local technology company, has been shaking hands at events like the Vienna Fourth of July festival and others miles outside his district for months. He officially announced his candidacy Nov. 13.

The countywide race to succeed Connolly is likely to be short and fast. The chairman will step down in early January and county officials expect a special election to replace him will occur in early February, about one month later. The new chairman would serve out the rest of Connolly's term and has the chance to stand re-election in 2011.

BOTH Bulova and Herrity said the economic downturn and Fairfax County's budget shortfall would be their top priorities as chairman.

If the real estate tax rate is kept at the same level, Fairfax is facing a projected \$500 million shortfall in the county's \$3.4 billion general fund during next fiscal year. Fairfax has already had to wrestle with a \$65 million budget shortfall in the current fiscal year, which started July 1. The county

Sharon Bulova (D)

Age: 60
Current Home: The Cloisters of Fairfax, Fairfax County resident since 1996
Hometown/Grew Up In: Pikesville, Md.
Education: University of Virginia (classes via Fort Belvoir extension campus), Northern Virginia Community College, business management (1977)
Family: husband Lou DeFalaise, two adult children, three grandchildren
Professional experience: book keeper, sales and office manager
Political experience: Braddock District Supervisor (1987-present), former aide to Annandale District Supervisor Audrey Moore (1984-1987)
Civic experience: founding member of Virginia Railway Express Operations Board (1989 - present), Governors Commission on Rail Enhancement for the 21st Century (2004 - present)

executive required county agencies to make mid-year cuts.

If the supervisors had to wrestle with just a \$400 million budget shortfall next year, they would be looking at cutting roughly 12 percent of Fairfax's total operating budget. According to county staff, \$400 million is equivalent to what the county sets aside for public works, courts, community development, parks and recreation, libraries, administrative and support services, county transit and Metro funding combined.

Budget staff predicts that the tight fiscal situation would continue beyond next year and that the county could take several budget cycles to recover from the current downturn.

Bulova, 60, who has sat on the board since 1987, said she is the most qualified person to steer the county through tough financial times. She has served as the supervisors' budget committee chairman for all but four of the past 20 years. Former county chairman Tom Davis headed the committee in the early 1990s.

Bulova said she played a pivotal role in guiding the county out of its last fiscal crisis in the mid-1990s.

"I was the budget chairman when we took action to address the last downturn and we emerged from that recession in better shape than we had been in when the downturn began," she said.

Patrick Herrity (R)

Age: 48
Current Home: Clifton/Centreville
Hometown/Grew Up In: Springfield, Va.
Education: Virginia Tech., B.S. in Accounting (1982)
Family: Wife Nancy and two high school children
Professional experience: chief financial officer at Arrowhead Global Solutions, government contractor (2005- present)
Political experience: Springfield District Supervisor (2008-present)
Civic experience: former executive committee of Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, former board member of Northern Virginia Technology Council, youth athletics coach

The county found new and better ways to partner with the non-profit and faith communities to deliver services. As a result of the last recession, the supervisors also created a revenue stabilization fund, which the county is tapping right now, to provide "rainy day" money for the county if it ever faced a mid-year budget shortfall, she said.

"Looking ahead, I want to find those same opportunities to pull out of this current recession in a sound and improved manner," said Bulova.

As chairman, Bulova wants to focus on "getting us back on our fiscal feet so we can emerge from the recession better than ever."

STILL, Herrity, 48, said it might be time for a new perspective and blames Bulova, in part, for the county's current financial crisis.

"Basically, she was the budget chair that got us into a lot of this mess. I don't think the county can afford three more years of the same," he said.

Fairfax should have been better prepared for an economic downturn, particularly the slowing down of the real estate market, said Herrity, who joined the board in January. While Herrity is in his first year on the county board, he could bring name recognition to the race. His father, Jack Herrity, served 16 years on the Board of Supervisors, including 12 years as chairman.

Residents' home values have more than

SEE CHAIRMAN, PAGE 15

Dysfunctional Theater

In "Noises Off," Langley students play players playing badly.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

"Everything is very frantic and happens really fast, so it's all about timing," Langley High school junior Wesley Brandt said during a rehearsal for the school's upcoming production of the farcical comedy "Noises Off." His character, Lloyd, is particularly frantic because, Brandt said, he has romantic connections with just about every female character in the play.

Lloyd is also the director of a British theater troupe of dubious quality putting on a disastrous sex comedy called "Nothing On."

One of Brandt's many cues came up and he had to run onstage to chase a girl up a flight of stairs.



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Kate DaRocha and Alvin Kui play Belinda and Freddie playing Flavia and Philip in Langley High School's upcoming production of "Noises Off."

"We have actors playing actors playing characters. It's crazy," said actual director and theater instructor Phyliss Jaffe.

THE PLAY will run this Thursday,

Friday and Saturday.

Act I depicts the dress rehearsal the night before "Nothing On" opens, Jaffe explained. Act II is a performance one month into the show, and by Act III, set months later, Jaffe said, "all hell's broken loose, and the actors are doing things to each other onstage." Each act takes place during a performance of Act I of "Nothing On," and Act II takes the audience backstage.

One of the show's most important roles is filled by the set, a complicated, two-story structure of doors and staircases that rotates between a stage set and a backstage set. Jaffe said the group had the assistance of a couple of students' fathers, who are professional builders, in building the set. "So the frame is actually a house built to code," she said. The students installed the walls, carpeting and details.

She said the complexity of the set was one reason the school hadn't put the play on sooner. "The kids have wanted to do it for

SEE LANGLEY, PAGE 27

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PEOPLE

Times and Tickets

Performances will be at 2 and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29 and at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 30 at the Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Tickets cost \$23 for adults, \$20 for students and senior citizens and \$16 for children under 12. To order tickets or for more information, call the studio at 703-759-3366.

PEOPLE IN NEWS



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION

'Nutcracker' Returns

Haddad dance studio's annual, lavish production appeals to all ages.

The upcoming production of "The Nutcracker" by Great Falls' Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet aims to offer something for everyone, from young children to more sophisticated dance aficionados.

"Little children love it because they see children dancing," Haddad said. "We have the tiny little 5-year-olds as the mice." Meanwhile, the cast of 101 dancers will also include graduates of the dance school, guest artists and Russian male dancers.

This is the 17th year the school has put on the show and, as usual, no expense has been spared, with more than 700 pieces of costume and an extravagant set that includes falling snow and a tree that grows from scene to scene.

Although the basic setting and choreography remain about the same, Haddad said, "We enlarge it every year and make a

few changes."

In spite of the imported dancers, Haddad said the production is very much a community effort. "More than 80 percent of the cast comes from our area," she said, although she noted that a few were former local residents now attending college elsewhere. One has made a four-hour trip from Allentown, Pa. for each rehearsal. Also, she said, "The parents have been absolutely amazing helping with the costumes and the scenery"

She said the show was a way to "start off the season in a happy way. The children know that when they're struggling to learn the steps, that it's going to bring pleasure to a lot of people."

Three performances are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 29 and 30 at the Madeira School in McLean.

— MIKE DICICCO



Rebecah Shepherd adjusts trumpeter Anna Hurley's cap.



The Dolls: Raegan Long, Sophie Fouldi, Mason Glembocki, Emma Norris and Sabrina Luz.



Margaret Haddad adjusts the costumes of her grandchildren Julianna and Anthony. This is Haddad's 22nd year of teaching in Great Falls.



Rev. Paul Gysan, representing Christ the King Lutheran Church, was recognized at a recent Great Falls Pack 673 Cub Scouts meeting and presented a framed copy of the charter, which will be displayed in the church. Pictured from left, are Eric Raudenbush, Todd Walmsley, the Rev. Paul Gysan and Bruce O'Cain.

Thirteen years ago, the church agreed to sponsor the organization, but the relationship has taken on increased importance this year, as Great Falls Elementary undergoes renovation. Christ the King Church immediately agreed to provide meeting space for the Cub Scouts.

The Rev. Paul Gysan has attended numerous Arrow of Light ceremonies, where Cub Scouts "cross over" and become Boy Scouts. For many of these ceremonies he has composed and sung a song unique for the event.

Gysan told the 50 boys in attendance at the chartering recognition that the church continues to give them support because they believe in the Boy Scout's mission "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

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Recognizing Neighborliness

Neighbor of the Year awards presented by Neighbors Web site.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

When Elizabeth Marcotte got an e-mail last month from Sharon Rainey, asking what she was doing on Saturdays in November, she assumed Rainey was about to enlist her help with some sort of charity drive. Instead, she told the crowd assembled at Katie's Coffee House last Saturday afternoon, the myNeighborsNetwork.com founder and president had requested Marcotte's presence at a ceremony where she would accept the Michael J. Kearney Neighbor of the Year award.

"I was totally blown away, shaking, honored, crying," Marcotte said, speaking at that very ceremony.

When she told her husband about the award, she said, he had asked, "Why'd they pick you?" Her son's response had been the same.



PHOTOS BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Sharon Rainey, founder of myNeighborsNetwork.com, presents Alex Holtberg with the Neighbors of the Year award.

Puzzled, Marcotte mentioned this to her friend Karen Landy, she recalled. "She said, 'That's why they



Elizabeth Marcotte shares some advice with the crowd gathered at Katie's Coffee House.

picked you — because you do what you do every day and you don't even realize it's special."

THE WINNER of the Neighbors of the Year award for youths 22 and younger, Langley High School

SEE AWARDS, PAGE 9



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Name of Event:

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NEWS

Tunnel Supporters Argue Their Case

FROM PAGE 3

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) said the contracts signed to date do not necessarily bind the public in the future, especially as the new president comes to Washington, D.C., and a gubernatorial race takes place in Virginia next year. "I don't believe we are bound by that till kingdom come," Petersen said.

Both Petersen and Monett said U.S. Rep. Jim Oberstar (D-Minn.), chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, had stated that the issue of the rail alignment, above or underground, is up to the Commonwealth of Virginia. Petersen said he wished to clarify a misconception that the federal share of the funding for the extension, \$900 million, depends on the alignment. "The \$900 million is not contingent upon over ground or underground," Petersen said.

MORE THAN 200 tunnel supporters gathered at the Tysons Corner Sheraton Wednesday night, Nov. 12, to discuss the hope for the tunnel through Tysons Corner. All of the speakers at Wednesday's forums said they are supporters of rail to Dulles, but not of the aerial alignment through Tysons Corner. Jay Donahue, former Town of Herndon Planning Commissioner and candidate for the House of Delegates, said the tunnel is still very much alive, "particularly with a change in the administration." He said the tunnel is clearly a better way to proceed with the construction of the rail extension.

Although he is a Herndon resident, Donahue said he has great interest in how the project proceeds. "All Northern Virginians and Fairfax County residents should care," Donahue said. He said Tysons Corner is the region's economic engine and a lot of people from Herndon and other communities work and shop at Tysons Corner.

Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), who acted as the moderator for the forum, said the rail alignment through Tysons Corner is "one of the most important issues that has faced our region since I've lived here."

"We cannot afford to make this mistake," State Del. Dave Marsden (D-41) said about the aerial alignment. Although his district does not touch the proposed rail extension, Marsden said he cares about the alignment issue as a Fairfax County citizen and representative. "It has to be underground,"



PHOTO BY MIRZA KURSPAHIC/THE CONNECTION

More than 200 people came to the Tysons Corner Sheraton in support of the tunnel option for the Metrorail extension to Dulles Airport.

Coleman said, adding that the tunnel would be operational six years sooner than the elevated track and cost \$157 million less. In addition to the schedule and the cost benefits, the tunnel would cause fewer disruptions above ground and prove to be environmentally sound.

Speaking of the environment, Roger Dietrich, a representative of the 8,000-member Sierra Club in Northern Virginia, said the tunnel would prove more effective in getting people out of their cars and onto public transit to visit Tysons Corner. "We need to make it a quality place that attracts people and quality development," Dietrich said. He said that would be impossible to accomplish with the elevated alignment. "It flies in the face of everything you might want to do with smart growth and quality development," Dietrich said.

Rob Jackson, president of the McLean Citizens Association, said that while the public has different views on the benefits Metrorail would bring to surrounding communities, there is unanimity that the elevated track through Tysons Corner is "plain wrong." He said an elevated line would divide Tysons Corner. Jackson added that the solution is simple and involves getting elected officials to enable a bidding process on the project to serve the public good.

Carroll Carter, a retired publisher of Mass Transit magazine, said the tunnel would bring about a different landform for Tysons Corner. "What kills you here is that you are giving over so much land to a transportation system," Carter said.

"**THERE ARE A LOT** of small businesses that are going to suffer because of the aerial alignment," Matt Wallace, president of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, said. He said the "biggest transportation blunder" in our area is still preventable. "Get Rich-

mond and the federal government to understand that this is a decision that will affect our children and our children's children," Wallace said.

Roger Cryan, president of the Mantua Citizens Association, said Tysons Corner, if planned right, could transform into a great American city as the Washington-metropolitan area continues to grow. "To make this impossible, there is only one thing, an ugly, concrete, elevated metro line," Cryan said.

"We don't want a Tysons Mixing Bowl, we want a walkable Tysons," Hutch Douglas of the McLean Hamlet Citizens Inc. said. "It's inconceivable that Ballston and Rosslyn are underground and the current plan for Tysons calls for an elevated structure," Jack Mitchell, president of the Westbriar Civic Association, said.

"There are 15,000 residents in Vienna and we are very proud to be behind the tunnel," Vienna Mayor Jane Seeman said.

While Monett continues to fight for the tunnel option through Tysons Corner, he is pursuing a more balanced funding formula for the project. He wishes to see the federal share of the funding increase in order to limit the financial exposure of the Dulles Toll Road users whose contribution to the project is not capped. "Everyone has a cap on their financial exposure, except us locals," Monett said.

Coleman, the former U.S. secretary of transportation, said he has written letters to the current transportation secretary. He also urged the attendants at Wednesday's forum to contact the incoming presidential administration and the incoming U.S. senator from Virginia, Mark Warner. Coleman said Tysons Corner is currently the 12th largest commercial area in the United States and if the tunnel is built it would rank as high as the eighth largest within the next 10 years.



Friends and family of the award winners fill Katie's Coffee House for Saturday afternoon's award ceremony.

PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/ THE CONNECTION

Awards Presented

FROM PAGE 7

freshman Alex Holtberg, had worked for years to collect, assemble and send care packages to U.S. troops fighting in the Middle East, first on his own and then with the Neighbors International Foundation, Rainey said. "You name the need, and Alex will put the word out, collect the donations and help get them packed and ready to mail," she said, noting that the teen has shown up for almost every Neighbors International care package party in the last few years.

Rainey said Marcotte, too, worked with the Neighbors International Foundation, as well as Suited for Change, which donates

suits to places like women's shelters, and also worked to support breast cancer research. As the owner of the Let's Dish restaurant chain, Rainey said, Marcotte had created the Pink Dish campaign to provide free meals for breast cancer survivors.

RAINEY said neighbor and breast cancer survivor Sally Welton had supported the nomination, recalling the time Marcotte had shown up at her house with a week's worth of food after Welton's surgery.

Rainey also said Marcotte consistently looked out for the personal and professional interests of those around her. "She is determined to do good, to help anyone she can in any way that she can."

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OPINION

Call for Student Connection

Looking for writing and artwork by local students.

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Connection turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students.

As with previous years' issues, we will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any media; photos of sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to sub-

mit are also encouraged.

We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled. Past contributions have come from children from nursery schools through those preparing to graduate from high school.

Sometimes an art or English teacher will assign a project and submit the work of an entire class, but individual submissions from any young person in the commu-

nity are also welcome. We prefer digital submissions.

Please be sure to include the name of the artist or author, and include age, school attended and name of the hometown, along with a phone number to be used for verification purposes only.

Mail, e-mail or deliver submissions to the Connection by Dec. 5. Our address is 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. E-mail to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com, or call 703-917-6428 with questions.

EDITORIALS

Here's a Stimulus Plan

Many localities are calling for their share of the federal bailout. It's not unreasonable, given that the economic slowdown means less revenue for localities at the very moment local citizens turn to their local governments for more help.

For a stimulus plan that would create jobs, give localities a boost and provide lasting benefits, the next phase of stimulus spending should involve dispensing funds to localities that have major projects, like rail to Dulles or

school building and renovations, ready to go.

Rail to Dulles is not the only major (and sorely needed) transit project that has been languishing in a parsimonious and convoluted federal process waiting for funding. Let's spend \$150 billion paying for projects around the country that will put people to work right away, stimulate the economy via jobs and demand for goods and services, take cars off the roads.

Think what a boost it would be to the local economy to have most of the cost of such a

Build rail to Dulles, and other infrastructure projects.

project taken care of by the feds.

Do we have anything to show for the \$150 billion in stimulus checks mailed out to consumers a few hundred dollars at a time?

The federal government is spending inconceivable sums of money to help stabilize the economy. Let's spend some of it on something that will last.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,
703-917-6416

LETTERS

Election 2008 Shows Democracy Alive, Well

To the Editor:

There will be many memorable images from election 2008, but perhaps none is more heartening than that of Americans voting in staggering numbers at the polls. It is an affirmation that our democracy is alive and well. Voters deserve to be congratulated for their deep commitment to voting and for their patience and perseverance. They showed real dedication by voting early, standing in long lines when necessary and making sure their voices were heard.

In Fairfax County, 78.7 percent of the 665,674 registered voters voted for president/vice president. Election Day went smoothly and after the early morning rush, there was little waiting to vote at most precincts. Voters were greeted with the option of using the "old" WinVote computer or the new optical scanning paper ballot. The paper ballot option sped up voting and seemed to be well received by those who chose to use it.

Democracy got a big boost this election with such enthusiastic participation from voters, especially younger voters ages 18-29,

but there is always more to be done to make it work well for all Americans. The challenges we face will require our continued participation in this democratic process. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area works year-round to inform our community about candidates and advocate on issues that affect our daily lives. We were immensely gratified to see so many people engaged in the political process this year and were proud to be a part of the process in various ways such as producing our Voters Guide and registering voters.

As president of the Fairfax Area League of Women Voters, I invite others in the community to maintain their commitment to civic improvement by joining the league and helping us continue the good work. Together we can keep our community strong, healthy and vibrant. For more information, call 703-658-9150 or go to our Web site, www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Sherry W. Zachry,
president
League of Women Voters of the
Fairfax Area

Of Budgets and Buses

How everyone wins with better school start times.

BY SANDY EVANS, PHYLLIS PAYNE AND TERRY TULEY

As the budget crisis looms over all Fairfax County school issues, it's important to remember that changed bell schedules can both improve student health and learning while also saving money.

Benefits of having the right schedules for our students and buses include: Students who are awake during class, reduced absentee, tardy, and drop-out rates, less depression, and improved performance in class, sports and behind the wheel. There are multiple health and academic benefits to all our students, both elementary and adolescents, to having them in school when they are most ready to learn.

Implementing healthy start times for our children can be a win-win for the students and the budget. Thanks to recommendations from the school board-appointed Transportation Task Force,

the FCPS transportation department has updated routing maps and found many efficiencies. Compared with previous estimates to fix a broken transportation system, the most recent proposal would actually save about \$16 million (so far).

ESPECIALLY IN TIMES of tight budgets, we must look to providing our students with the essentials. One of these essentials, as outlined in FCPS's Strategic Governance Goal 6.7 is to provide a "healthful learning environment" for our children. Sleep researchers point to early school start times as a major culprit in our adolescents' chronic and harmful level of sleep deprivation. Jurisdictions that have a start time of 8:30 to 9 a.m. show that teens do sleep longer with these start times. They fall asleep at about the same time (close to 11 p.m.) and use the extra time in the morning to sleep.

Research indicates that after a complete night's sleep, memory is consolidated and test performance improves. Interrupted or incomplete sleep disrupts this process and impairs cognition. Not all sleep is equal. The deepest sleep,

SEE OPINION, PAGE 14

THE CONNECTION

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SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to greatfalls-@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Starshine Theater of Great Falls is now enrolling student actors ages 4 through 12 for the play, "Peter Pan." Each student receives a dramatic character role, as well as singing and dance/action opportunities. Rehearsals begin Saturday, Dec.6 at 2 p.m. at The School of Theatrical Dance in Great Falls.

Also enrolling: "Starshine Little Dancers" Workshop for ages 3 through 5 (pre-ballet & creative dance), and "Music 'n Motion for Mommy 'n Me" for ages 1 through 4 (singing, dance/action activities and dramatics). Contact: Patricia Budwig, Creative Director, 703.790.9050, (email: StarshineTheater@aol.com)

Kennedy William Kanagawa of Great Falls has graduated from Muhlenberg College, Allentown Pa., with a bachelor of arts in theatre and dance.

Patrick McCann of Great Falls, a graduate student pursuing a degree in statistics, is representing the graduate school at Virginia

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 19

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More Unlicensed Than Drunk Drivers at Checkpoints

When the Fairfax County police set up a checkpoint over a weekend night, they are more likely to find people driving without a license than people driving under the influence, according to county executive Tony Griffin.

"Each police station has controlled stops in the district and they tend to arrest more people for not having an operator's license [than drunk driving]," said Griffin at the Board of Supervisors legislative meeting Nov. 14.

Fairfax County officers wrote about 5,440 tickets for driving without a license from October 2007 through September 2008. Of the eight precincts, the Mount Vernon police district garnered the most offenders in this area last year, with about 1,120 tickets issued for this problem.

Some elected officials suspect that some of the people caught driving without a license are undocumented workers because illegal immigrants are prohibited from acquiring driver's licenses in Virginia.

"Hundreds of people are getting pulled over and arrested for not having a driver's license. ...These are hundreds and hundreds of people who have never had a license, never had training" said Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust (D).

Foust suggested Fairfax County look into a state legislative initiative backed by the Town of Herndon, which has taken several aggressive steps to crackdown on illegal immigrants. The town government proposed a measure that would allow police officers to impound a citizen's vehicle if that person was caught driving with no license for a second time.

Some Fairfax County supervisors had reservations about the measure, partly because it was part of a Herndon legislative package focused on illegal immigrants that the county generally did not support.

Most supervisors wanted more information from the Fairfax County police about the problem before they backed a solution.

"I think this is a bit ominous. The owner and operator of the vehicle may not be the same," said Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D).

In an interview this week, Springfield Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R) said something should be done to address the issue.

Herrity said one of the problems is the fines for driving without a license are not high enough to deter people, until someone is caught for the third time. Since many people regularly driving without a license use aliases with the police, the offenders rarely rack up the three charges that trigger a harsher fine and penalty, according to Griffin.

Herrity would like the police to run a background check on all people pulled over for driving without a license. But the supervisor is not sure the checks, which are time consuming for police, should take priority over other law enforcement duties.

"Do you want to pull police officers off the street to do this?" said Herrity.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Police encounter more people driving without licenses than driving under the influence, according to a report this week. In the Mount Vernon police district alone, police issued 1,120 tickets for driving without a driver's license last year.

Put 'County Checkbook' Online?

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors backed away from an initiative to provide more transparency by itemizing county expenditures online when board members put together the county's 2009 state legislative package Nov. 14.

State Senators Ken Cuccinelli (R-37) and Chap Petersen (D-35) have already submitted a bill for next session that could require the creation of a searchable, detailed database of its budget and expenditures.

The measure is similar to the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, which set up a free publicly searchable Web site for all federal contracts and grants over \$25,000.

President-elect Barack Obama and Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Ok.) were leaders on the open government legislation. Former presidential candidate John McCain (R) was also one of its initial sponsors in the U.S. Senate.

After the federal law passed, several states followed with their own transparency laws, including Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin (R) who posted her state's check register online.

"Other states have done this. We will monitor it and see how it has gone there," said county attorney David Bobzien.

Some county staff said they could think of examples where government would want to keep some of its payments "out of the public record."

"There are some downsides to doing this. We need to examine it. We need better answers," said county chairman Gerry Connolly (D).

But Springfield Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R)— who is running to replace Connolly — said he felt the county was dragging its feet on the issue. "For us not to be doing that is ridiculous. It has been done in a bi-

partisan fashion across the country," said Herrity.

Connolly Favors Bail Out for Localities

U.S. Representative-elect and current Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly (D) indicated that he would advocate adopting an additional Economic Stabilization Act to give federal assistance to local governments.

"When you are looking at bailing out GM, Ford and Chrysler, how about bailing out us? There has to be aid to localities for the purpose of stimulus," said Connolly at a county board legislative committee meeting Nov. 14.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors also backed a resolution adopted by the Virginia Association of Counties that requested the federal government give money directly to localities and not only to state governments.

Fairfax Students Report Depression

The percentage of Fairfax County Public School students reporting depression has fallen in the last seven years but still remains higher than the national average, according to the county's 2008 Youth Survey released Nov. 14.

Approximately 31 percent of the eighth, 10th and 12th grade students in Fairfax County who participated in the survey said they had felt so sad or hopeless almost every day for weeks that they had stopped participating in some regular activities. The national average is for their peers reporting depression is 28.5 percent.

The number of Fairfax County students who say they have experienced depression has consistently dropped since 2001, when 35 percent of those surveyed said they felt the same symptoms.

The percentage of Fairfax students who have considered attempting suicide, about 14.5 percent, is around the national average, 14.7 percent, and has also dropped from its 2001 figure, 18.5 percent.

Those students who report a suicide attempt, about 3.5 percent, is approximately half of the nationwide figure of 7 percent.

About 35 percent of girls reported feeling sad and lonely to just 26 percent of boys. Approximately 18 percent of girls to just 11 percent of boys said they had considered suicide and the percentage of female students who said they attempted suicide, 4.7, was more than twice than of the boys, which hovered around two percent.

In terms of ethnic groups, Hispanic or Latinos appeared more prone to feeling depressed, 39 percent.

White students were the least likely to report depressive symptoms, according to the report.

Since 2001, all student ethnic groups in Fairfax County had seen a decline in feelings of depression, according to the survey.

But Dranesville District School Board member Janie Strauss cautioned people not to be too optimistic about the statistics.

The a nationwide drop in attempted and "successful" suicides among teenagers but the incidents of cutting — self-mutilation to relieve stress — have increased, she said.

Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly said he would like to see Fairfax County Public Schools train classroom teachers to spot early warning signs of depression or suicide in their students.

"My candid opinion is that we don't do this well. ... And there is a still a tremendous stigma attached to suicide," said Connolly. "A teacher who is trained a little bit could be a pivotal figure."

Help is available for anyone who depressed or considering suicide by calling CrisisLink at 703-527-4077, or 1-800-SUICIDE.

Panel Recommends New Utility Fee

Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council proposed a new storm water management impact fee during a Board of Supervisors meeting Nov. 17.

The county currently pays for storm water management through its general fund. The supervisors dedicate one penny of Fairfax's real estate tax rate, 92 cents per \$100 of assessed value, to the cause, which would amount to about \$21 million annually.

Due to budget constraints, the county has been using more of the funding from the storm water-dedicated penny to cover staffing and equipment, resulting in a 38 percent reduction in funding going to actual infrastructure upgrades.

The environmental advisory council would like to see a steadier stream of funding for storm water management, particularly in light of the county's projected \$500 million budget shortfall next year.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 19

Loudon Wainwright III. 8 p.m. Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter at The Barns. Tickets \$22. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Who's Hibernating? 10:30 a.m. Age 2-5 with adult. Chipmunks, ground squirrels and bats are just a few of the animals getting ready for hibernation. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Organist Kimberly Hess. 1 p.m. at the Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Free. 703-356-0670 or www.musicinmclean.org.

Kismet, Euphonism and Capital Blend. 7:30 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 20

Claude Moore Colonial Farm Winter Traditions Workshop. 6-8 p.m. at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Explore the customs of 18th century winter pastimes, including Wassail and Christmas celebrations. Singing, dancing, storytelling and more. Reservations required. \$5 non-members, \$3 Farm members and current volunteers. Workshops intended for adults and mature children. E-mail kcannon@1771.org to reserve.

Ari Hest and Luke Brindley Band. 8 p.m. Two rock acts at The Barns. Tickets \$16. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Tiny Tot Tales. 10:30 a.m. Age 13-23 months with adult. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Cartoon Workshop. 3:30 p.m. Age 8-18. Create a cartoon strip. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

Jim Jeffries, comedian. 8 p.m. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

"How to Find the Right College for your Child," with Nancy Rosenberg, M.A., M.Ed., 7:30 p.m. at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. 703-641-5451 or www.novachadd.org.

"Noises Off," 7:30 p.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-287-2700 or www.langleydrama.com.

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Silent Auction. 7-10 p.m. in the Flame Room, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. All proceeds and donated funds will help purchase a new ambulance for Fire Station 402, VVFD. A list of items up for auction is at www.vvfd.org. 703-827-5288.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

A Tribute to Warren Zevon, featuring Jon Carroll, John Jennings, Patty Reese, The Cravin' Dogs, Little Pink, Janine Wilson, The Hanson Brothers, Mike Cotter, Billy Coulter, David Kitchen, GHZ, The Alexandria Klezmet, Bill Starks, Paper Umbrella, Rocky Roberts. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

"Madeline's Christmas," 7:30 p.m. at the Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Tickets are \$10 adult,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18



Gavin Mikhail performs at Jammin' Java on Friday, Nov. 21.

GALLERIES



The McLean Art Society Meeting will feature colored pencil artist Nancy Garcia from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21 at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Guests are welcome. 703-790-0123.

McLean Project for the Arts, through Dec. 20 at the McLean Community Center: the Emerson Gallery will have Georgia Goldberg: Seeing the Unseen-Light, Shadow and Air, The Atrium Gallery presents Aimee Helen Koch: Undressed, and The Ramp Gallery will display Photograms by Michael C. Mendez.

THURSDAY/NOV. 20

Third Thursday Art Night, 5-8 p.m. Miniature works by exhibiting artists for sale, stylish jewelry and more. Ayr Hill Gallery, 141 Church St. N.W., Vienna. 703-938-3880 or info@ayrhillgallery.com

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

Vienna Arts Society 39th Annual Treasury of Art Show, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Multi-craft Showcase at Lofty Salon & Wellness Center, 354 West Maple Ave., Vienna, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Jewelry, accessories, ceramics and specialty food items available. 703-242-0609 or loftysalon.info@yahoo.com
Vienna Arts Society 39th Annual Treasury of Art Show, 10

a.m.-9 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna.

The TaBois-Bonhomme Galerie d'Art at Regency at McLean, 1800 Old Meadow Road, Suite 113, Tel.: (703) 442-7588in will celebrate it's First Anniversary with An Enchanted Evening of art, music, dance, and conversation beginning at 7:30 p.m. Black-tie, cocktail, or stylish attire is preferred in keeping with the evening's planned festivities that will include an Argentine Tango performance by Todd Borzych and MigleGineityte. This evening will close the gallery's current exhibition, Distinctive Impression II: Paintings by Bill Firestone and Peter Haiklis/Sculpture by Stephanie (Haikalis) Firestone. This exhibition is a family affair, with husband, wife, and father displaying their distinctive artistic talent in unison. For more information visit <http://www.ctabois.com/events.php>.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Holiday Art Soirée & Charity Fundraiser. Ayr Hill Gallery, 141 Church St. N.W., Vienna. 703-938-3880 or info@ayrhillgallery.com
Vienna Arts Society 39th Annual Treasury of Art Show, 12-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna.

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FROM PAGE 10

REM (rapid eye movement) is concentrated in the last hours of the normal sleep cycle. So when sleep is cut off, some of its most important functions suffer. The body will demand the sleep it needs in one form or another. Some students will fall asleep in class, while others will experience "mini-REM's" that make them miss a few seconds of instruction at a time.

At the International Conference on Sleep and Learning, held in Washington D.C. in March 2008, neuroscientists agreed:

* Adequate sleep helps you learn, retain and fully understand new material.

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Sandy Evans and Phyllis Payne are co-founders, and Terry Tuley is chair of SLEEP (Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal). Go to www.SLEEPinFairfax.org for links to research cited in this column.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
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7913 Westpark Drive
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Chairman Race Heats Up

FROM PAGE 4

doubled, resulting in significantly higher taxes and more revenue for county government. Supervisors should have been more conservative about spending the additional money and adding new county programs, said Herry.

The Springfield District supervisor also implied that Bulova and Connolly had not focused new revenue on the county's most critical needs. As the local economy boomed, traffic got worse and the locality, which is looking at cutting public safety funding, saw a spike in crime this year, he said.

In his short time on the board, the Springfield supervisor has also been an advocate for more community involvement in Fairfax's budget process and supported the board's decision to hold community dialogues about county budget priorities this fall.

"[In recent years], we haven't had outside input into the budget process other than public hearings," said Herry.

BULOVA said she, Connolly and the other veterans on the board couldn't be blamed for the county's current financial problems.

"This is a worldwide economic downturn and Fairfax County is affected by it. I have done a very good job of steering the county through tough fiscal times before and I will again. Tom Davis was chairman of the board the last time we were affected by a recession and it certainly wasn't Tom's fault," she said.

Many of Bulova's Democratic colleagues have already expressed support for her and said her experience as budget chairman would

"I have done a very good job of steering the county through tough fiscal times before and I will again."

— Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock)

be a valuable asset.

"The main reason I am backing Sharon is we need someone who understands the budget backwards and forwards. There will be tough decisions and we need someone who understands the ramifications of those tough decisions," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Others, mostly Republicans, have already come out for Herry.

"Sharon was chairman of the budget committee last year when they put off a lot of their decisions. They didn't do what they might have done because Gerry was running for Congress. They didn't make any of the tough decisions," said Davis.

HERRY could face an uphill battle getting elected countywide as a Republican.

Fairfax has not had a Republican chairman since Davis left the post 13 years ago, and all but two of the nine district supervisors are Democrats. Michael Frey (Sully) is the only other Republican on the board.

The Nov. 4 election also wasn't encouraging. Sixty percent of Fairfax County voters chose President-elect Barack Obama, giving the Democrat over a 100,000-ballot victory over Republican John McCain in the locality.

Bulova also has a track record

"I don't think the county can afford three more years of the same."

— Supervisor Patrick Herry (R-Springfield)

of getting elected as a Democrat in one of the county's more moderate-to-conservative magisterial districts, said Scott Surovell, head of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

"Sharon has a long history of getting things done and the Braddock District voters have confirmed that five times now. She has held that seat for 21 years, which says a lot about her ability," said Surovell.

But Davis pointed out that his successor, Kate Hanley, won the county chairman seat in a similar, unfavorable climate for the Democrats in 1995.

Davis, who was then chairman, was one of over 50 Republicans to win new seats in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994. His move to Congress triggered a special election for county chairman in an era when Republicans had the advantage, but Hanley, a Democrat, still won the countywide seat.

"This is different set of issues, different turnout model and different people from the [Nov. 4] election," he said.

In some ways, the Democratic blow out on Nov. 4 could help Herry, according to Jim Hyland, head of the Fairfax County Republican Committee.

"I have no doubts that Republicans will be highly motivated given that election," he said.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

\$5 student. 703-790-5450 or www.oakcrest.org.

Gavin Mikhail. Pop/rock. 7 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

"Noises Off," 7:30 p.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-287-2700 or www.langleydrama.com.

Grange Hall Concert for Environmental Change, with the Jim & Ashley Cash Band. 8 p.m. at the 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Tickets \$10. 703-421-7210 or www.jimandashleycash.com.

Great Falls School of Art Silent Auction, 7 p.m. at 1144 Walker Road, Great Falls. All proceeds will assist the Great Falls School of Art locate, equip and manage a teaching facility in Great Falls. Reservations required, www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

Oakton Church of the Brethren's 15th Annual Christmas Craft Show, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Free admission. All proceeds go to repayment of the church's handicapped access renovation project loans. 10025 Courthouse Rd., Vienna. 703-281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

"Madeline's Christmas," 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Tickets for 11 a.m. are \$5 per person, \$20 per family. Tickets for 7:30 p.m. are \$10 adult, \$5 student. 703-790-5450 or www.oakcrest.org.

29th Annual Holiday Bazaar, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter

Mill road, Oakton. Water media, glass, knitting, jewelry and more. Mellarkins@verizon.net.

Plymouth Rock and Roll Thanksgiving Show: Rocknocos Gives Thanks for YOU! Music for kids. 11 a.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Tracy Grammer. Acoustic/folk. 7 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The Dreamscapes Project and Zelos. Acoustic rock. 9:30 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

"Noises Off," 7:30 p.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-287-2700 or www.langleydrama.com.

Oakton Church of the Brethren's 15th Annual Christmas Craft Show, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free admission. All proceeds go to repayment of the church's handicapped access renovation project loans. 10025 Courthouse Rd., Vienna. 703-281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Iona performs pan-Celtic music 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at The Snuggery of the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Reservations required. \$15. 703-759-3309. Visit www.IonaMusic.com.

29th Annual Holiday Bazaar, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Mellarkins@verizon.net.

Pete and J, Garrison Starr and

Taylor Carson. Roots/pop. 7:30 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/NOV. 25

Tea Tasting. 10 a.m. Green Teas. \$20. Cathy's Corner in the Village Centre, Great Falls. 703-757-6209 or www.greatfallsteagarden.com.

VTRCC Chamber 101. 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Lofty Salon & Wellness Center, 354 Maple Ave. West, Vienna. How to maximize Chamber membership; prospective members learn how membership can benefit. Free. 703-281-1333.

VTRCC Holiday Mixer. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Lofty Salon & Wellness Center, 354 Maple Ave. West, Vienna. Mona Harb, owner of Lofty Salon will host a VTRCC holiday event. \$10 members, \$15 non-members. 703-281-1333.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

Turkey Trot. 10:30 a.m. Age 2-5 with adult. Stories and activities. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak ridge Ave., McLean. 703-356-0770.

Reggae Night with The Internals and The One Band. 8 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 27

The Feast: Bo Jankans, Sleepy Hollow, Blackbox Entertainment and Trekot. Hip-hop. 9 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.



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SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 11

Tech as a student ambassador for the 2008-09 academic year. The graduate ambassadors program provides opportunities for graduate students to be actively involved in building and promoting a graduate community. The focus of the Graduate Ambassadors Program is to assist with graduate school information sessions and conduct special advising sessions. They also help with graduate school orientation, preview weekend and mentoring new graduate students.

Oakton High School Dance Team Clinic, Dec. 15-18, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. Open to students in grades 7-12. Pre-clinic registration \$90, registration at the door \$100. Contact Missy Isakowitz at isakowitz5@gmail.com or Coach Rowley at Karen.Rowley@fcps.edu.

Alyssa Marie Mesich, daughter of Sandy and Gary Mesich of Vienna, was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma at James Madison University. Mesich is majoring in business administration.



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For my Co-Curriculum placement this year, I am helping teach children at an art center in Washington. I love my Wednesdays. I get to work with preschoolers in the morning on ceramics and drama. Then in the afternoon, I work with fifth graders in drama. They are so expressive. It's a great opportunity for them. For me, too. At the end of the day, I go to Starbucks with my fabulous supervisor. We get to talk about everything. It's amazing what you can learn about yourself through others.

”
Alyssa

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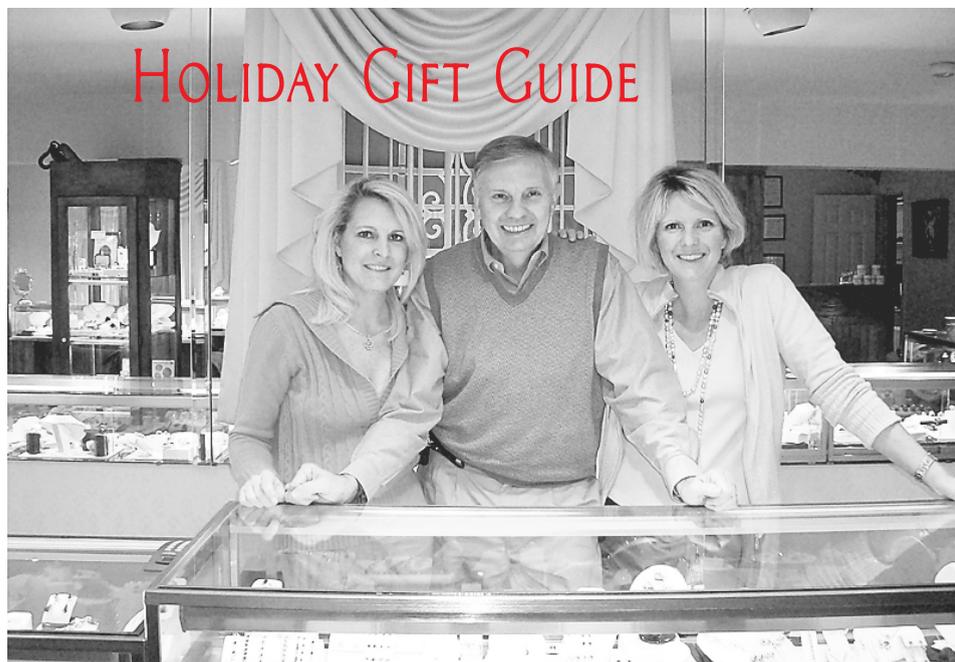


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Jorge Adeler with daughters Wendy, left, and Valentina, right, Adeler Jewelers.

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A look at Great Falls' one-of-a-kind gifts this holiday season.



Starr Hamby, Seneca Hill Animal Hospital employee, in front of a wall stocked with holiday toys for dogs.

BY DANIELLE LANDAU
 THE CONNECTION

ADELER JEWELERS is a family-owned jewelry store in Great Falls. The small store offers customized jewelry and design-your-own pieces. It is known for its life-long service and beautiful pieces in every price range. Jorge Adeler, owner and a Vienna resident, started the business 34 years ago and recommends custom cufflinks made of coins for the hard-to-please husband this holiday season. Daughter Wendy, who works as the vice president of marketing for the business said, "I recommend pearls for women of all ages because they come in every color, length, type and price range and they truly never go out of style." The store is located at 772 Walker Road, and more information can be found online at www.AdelerJewelers.com, 703-759-3517.



Diane Perrino, Vienna resident and customer, and Cathy Moran, owner of Cathy's Corner.

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POSH PAWS is the ultimate pet gift store. Stocked with breed-specific ornaments, lush beds and squeaky toys in every shape and size, a trip to the gift shop is vital this holiday season. For those who have never been to the Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Resort and Spa, located on Georgetown Pike, here is an idea: take a tour and receive



Alanson R. Anderson, general manager of Maison Du Vin, in front of assortment of fine wines.

SEE GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 23

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FAITH

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

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries is looking for volunteers to provide food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Western Fairfax Ministries will provide information about a family in need, and the volunteer will deliver the basket(s) directly to the sponsored family. Contact Pam Ryan at 703-988-9656 or volunteer@wfcma.org.

Learning the history and meaning of the Christian Faith as practiced at **Oakton United Methodist Church**, Sundays through Nov. 23, 9:45-10:30 a.m. 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton, at the intersection of Rt. 123 and Hunter Mill Road. 703-938-1234.

Rabbi Lia Bass, on "Living a Life of Torah," 10 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 23. Rabbi Bass, the first woman from Brazil to be ordained as a Rabbi, will address the challenges facing modern Jews who wish to integrate tradition with modernity. Congregation Beth Emeth, 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon. \$18 for members of Beth Emeth and Etz Hayim, \$25 for non-members. 703-860-4515, ext. 127.

Tenth Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 25. Hosted by St. Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. Clergy will lead the service with prayers for peace and thanksgiving. Choirs from various congregations in our community will join together to provide an evening of inspir-

ing music. An offering will be collected for Our Daily Bread and the Committee Helping Others (CHO). Call the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna at 703-281-0538.

The Wonder of Christmas Holiday Concert, 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6 and Sunday, Dec. 7 at Columbia Baptist Church, 103 West Columbia St., Falls Church. Featuring the Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra, the Kids Praise Children's Choir, soloists, dance, and classic Christmas carols. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted for our world hunger fund. 703-534-5700 or www.columbiabaptist.org.

Epiphany United Methodist Church Annual Christmas Bazaar, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6. Silent auction, crafts, Poinsettias, wreaths and centerpieces for sale; baked goods and lunch also available. Located at 1014 Country Club Drive N.E., Vienna. 703-938-3494.

Jone Johnson Lewis discusses what people mean by "spiritual but not religious," at the Northern Virginia Ethical Society, 11:00 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 7. Free admission. Address: 225 Nutley St., NW, Vienna. 703-437-3161 or www.esnv.org.

Messiah Sing, with soloists and orchestra, Saint Luke Festival Choir and chamber orchestra, Paul Skevington, artistic Director, and Cheryl Branham, conductor. 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Adults \$15, seniors and students \$12. 703-356-0670 or www.musicinmclean.org.

Holiday Happenings

Sunday, November 30th
1 - 3 pm

Join us as we kick off the holiday season with a fun-filled day for the whole family. Browse through our fine stores and linger for some refreshments. Unique gifts to no-size-needed Gift Cards. Start your holiday shopping or wrap it up!

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At the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road in the heart of Great Falls.



FREE Carriage Rides with Santa

Share your wish list with Santa as you take an old-fashioned horse-drawn carriage ride around the parking lot. Make sure you bring your camera! Line subject to early closing.



FREE 5" x 7" Pet Portrait

Bring your family pet and our professional photographer will capture the moment. Dress up or be casual. Extra photos may be purchased. No appointment necessary but come early. First come, first served within allotted time. Inside a space by the Carriage Rides.



Bring a new, unwrapped toy to Long & Foster Realtors by Monday December 15th to cheer a needy child on Christmas and send a message of hope. The joy is in the giving.



Gail Crockett of Aunt Tink, vintage and period costume jewelry located in Reston, shows a mechanical gold flower brooch that opens and closes.



Art Finkel brought hundreds of vintage European, Asian and American posters for the show.

Antique Treasures in McLean

More than 55 quality antiques dealers offered a variety of antique treasures at the McLean Community Center's (MCC) 32nd Annual McLean Antiques Show and Sale, Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 8-9.

Show proceeds will benefit the Alden Theatre's James C. Macdonald Arts Scholarship Fund.

Managed by Pappabello Shows, the McLean Antiques Show and Sale offers American, English, Asian and European antiques, decorative accessories, furniture, folk art, fine porcelains, silver, linens, paintings, Oriental rugs, jewelry and more.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

FROM PAGE XX

a free collar for your pet. The resort and spa are two ways to spoil your pet this season and while you wait sip your complementary Starbucks coffee. The gift shop is a great place to look for presents for all the animals in your life. Posh Paws can be found at 11415 Georgetown Pike, 703-450-6760 or www.SenecaHillVet.com for more information.

CATHY'S CORNER is a store full of every possible gift for the girly girl you know. The cozy shop is filled with accessories, stationary,

luggage and personalized holiday ornaments. Cathy Moran, the storeowner said, "The most important thing with holiday gifts is finding things that are personal. Most of the stuff in my store has initials on it and the charm bracelets are great because you get to pick out the charms for the lucky recipient." The affordable gift shop is fun to look through and promises to have something for nieces, daughters, sisters and even moms. Located at 766 Walker Road, more information can be found at www.CathysCornerGreatFalls.com or by calling the store at 703-759-4975.

MAISON DU VIN is the newest house of wine in Great Falls, opened in October. With two tasting machines containing 16 different wines to try, the Maison is the place to shop for wines for any price. The wines are organized by country. The store's inviting look is accentuated by the smell of new wood. All of the wines are hand selected by a panel of experts, so any choice is truly a good choice. Maison Du Vin is located at 756 Walker Road and can be reached at 703-759-7330. Also check out the Web site at www.MaisonDuVin.com.

Grandmother's Back Room

Do you know there is a special place in Great Falls where you will find fashions by a broad range of designers plus gifts for little people - infants through boys size 12 & girls size 16. Here you will find a large selection of unique and tasteful children's clothes both classic and contemporary as well as accessories like bows, tights, socks and panties. This is also a great place to come for special occasion and birthday gifts. Select from piggy-banks, jewelry, unusual stuffed animals (including almost every breed of dog). We specialize in handmade receiving blankets and hand knit hats and sweaters. This is truly a unique Children's Shop.



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Park in the Visitor Parking Deck by the pond. Check-in will be in front of the Concern Hall (Bldg. 60 on Mason Pond Drive). Further details will be posted at www.racepacket.com.
What: USATF certified 5k race - course is two clock-wise loops around the Patriot Center
Registration: \$20 on or before Wednesday, December 17th, 2008; \$25 after December 17th and on race day
Packet Pick-up: Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at Metro Run & Walk from 6:00-8:00 PM (7516 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA)
Race Day Registration: GMU Concert Hall, Wednesday, December 31st from 2:30 to 3:30 PM (& Packet Pick-up)

Register online at www.racepacket.com

For info, see www.maddnova.org
or 703-379-1135

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NEWSPAPERS

Community Engages in 'Placemaking'

The writer is Chair of the GFCFA Long-Range Planning and Development Committee.

BY KATHLEEN J. MURPHY
GFCFA

Our Great Falls Beautification Project is dedicated to making the center a Great Falls a truly beautiful place to pass through, gather, enjoy, and shop in. This process of creating special spaces where friends and family would enjoy gathering is often referred to as

"placemaking." The very first principle of Placemaking is "the community is the expert." You know where the improvements can be made. As you have wandered around the village center, where are the places you would like to stop, but there's no bench? Where are the places you would like to stroll, but there's no path? Where are the places that make you

cringe, and you know there needs to be plantings or other screening? Where are the places you enjoy a lot and gravitate towards? Let us know your beautification thoughts. Send us an e-mail with your thoughts and observations (kathleenjm@aol.com).

Another part of beautifying the village center is your personal willingness to share your presence

with the community.

"You can live in the greatest neighborhood in the universe, but if you can't take the time to stop in the cozy coffee shop, wander over to the farmers market on Saturday morning, or chat for a minute with your neighbor in front of the grocery store, then you might as well live on the dark side of the moon. And if too many

people in your neighborhood have this kind of busy schedule, chances are, things won't stay great for long." (The Great Neighborhood Book)

The next meeting, to be held at the Great Falls Library Meeting Room at 7 p.m. on Nov. 25 will focus on visualizing changes that could be made in the Great Falls Village Center. All are welcome.

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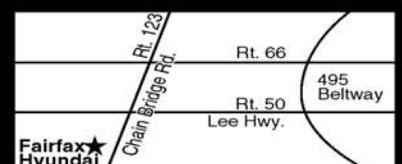
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SPORTS

Injuries, Tough Schedule Hurt Langley Football

Saxons started fast, but missed out on Div. 6 playoffs.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Langley High football team had high hopes of being a playoff team this past fall season after beginning the season 3-1. But the Saxons went 2-4 over the following six games to finish at an unfulfilling 5-5 and missing the eight-team Northern Region Div. 6 playoffs.

Injuries were certainly a factor in Langley's struggles over the second half of the season, according to head coach John Howerton. And a relentless schedule did not help either. Three of the Saxons' losses – at Chantilly, 21-14, in the season opener, at Oakton, 42-3, on Sept. 26, and at Liberty District rival Stone Bridge, 38-0, on Oct. 10 – came against teams that will be playing in region title games this weekend. Defending state AAA champion Stone Bridge (12-0) will play Edison (12-0) in the Div. 5 region title game on Friday night, and Oakton (12-0) and Chantilly (9-3) will hook up for the Div. 6 region championship on Saturday afternoon.

Other losses to winning teams who went on to make the region playoffs were against district opponents Madison, 18-14, at home on Oct. 3, and at W.T. Woodson, 28-14, on Oct. 24.

One of the Saxons' best wins of the season came over Herndon, 10-7, at home on Sept. 12. The Hornets, which later in the season upset perennial region power Westfield, went on to qualify for the Div. 6 playoffs for the first time since 2003.

"I think if you go by strength of schedule,



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Chantilly QB Roger Strittmatter throws the ball against Langley in both teams' season opener earlier this fall. Saxon player Chris Sievers (17) is to the left, and Austin Pritchett (11) is to the right.

we're right up there near the top," said Howerton, who is now Langley's longest running football coach in school history following six seasons at the helm of the program.

Unlike Div. 5 schools (smaller enrollment schools in the Northern Region) where teams have at times snuck into the postseason with .500 or less records since the playoff field expanded to eight teams last year, teams in Div. 6 (larger schools) are not as fortunate. Last year, Langley finished with a winning record at 6-4, but barely missed out on the eighth and final Div. 6 playoff bid. This season, at 5-5, the Saxons were at least one win away from qualifying.

Langley, which has the second smallest enrollment among Div. 6 schools, is annually fighting for playoff spots against schools

larger than itself. Howerton said Langley football has never had a huge roster size, and therefore has never had outstanding team depth. A few key injuries can severely hinder the team's playoff hopes.

SUCH INJURIES this past season occurred when senior quarterback Danny Pritchett, the team's third year varsity starter, was lost for four games over the middle of the season, and when talented junior linebacker Austin Pritchett suffered a season-ending injury three games into the season.

"I didn't think our season was bad considering some things that happened [injury-wise] over the course of the season," said Howerton. "Injuries hurt us. Our two best players missed either half the season or most of the season."

Pritchett, in charge of the balanced Lan-

gley offense, threw for over 1,200 yards, despite missing the four games. Howerton said Pritchett, upon his return to the lineup for the final three weeks, never quite regained his earlier season form as a result of still not being at full strength.

"Danny was a kid we've been grooming for three years," said Howerton, who before the season believed Pritchett was ready to have a breakout season, which he did, as the team's starter. "I thought he did very well. Before he was hurt he gave us someone who could throw tremendously. We threw for more yards than ever before."

Langley ran the ball well, giving the Saxons a solid, balanced attack on offense. The team's leading rusher was senior David Helmer, who rushed for 1,075 yards and 15 touchdowns. He was one of two running backs in the Liberty District to gain more than 1,000 yards this season, the other back being Stone Bridge's Daniel Allen.

The Langley skill position players certainly benefited from the outstanding offensive line play, which included All-District linemen Scott Jones at center, Garrett Moore at guard and Chris Sievers at tightend. All three Saxon players had stellar senior seasons.

Jones, along with playing center and being the team's special teams' long snapper, also played at a high level on the defensive side of the field at an end position. There, he led Langley in tackles.

"The kid had a fantastic year," said Howerton, of the 6-5, 240-pound Jones. "He's a tall kid and he can run."

A lot of key players will be lost to graduation, but Howerton is confident about the future of the program.

"Our kids are good and tough and they work hard," said Howerton, the former West Potomac High coach before coming to Langley. "I want us to be competitive with anyone we play. I'd like to be able to get to the playoffs next year."

SPORTS NOTES



PHOTO COURTESY/THE REDS

The Regency Reds, a 14-under tennis team made up of six boys and girls players combined, recently won the Mid Atlantic Championship in their respective age group. As a result, the team was set to travel to Mobile, Alabama to represent the Mid Atlantic at the USA National Team Tennis Championship. The Reds practice at the Regency Sport and Health Club in McLean.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

The fall sports season has pretty much been completed. Langley had good success in cross country as the Saxon girls finished third in the Liberty District, while the boys were fifth. Here, Saxon boys' runner David Raffman (848) competes among a group of runners at the early season Monroe Parker meet at Burke Lake Park.

Langley Presents 'Noises Off'

FROM PAGE 5

years," she said. "We saw it on Broadway a few years back and they've just been bugging me." She did direct the play at McLean High School in 1988, but she said, that was before her present students were born.

"It's considered by many to be the funniest farce ever made, and it's certainly the funniest show I've ever done or seen," Jaffe said.

Senior Meg Honigberg hardly had time to introduce herself as the character Selsdon, who plays a character simply called "Burglar," before she had to run onstage clutching a bottle of whiskey.

As they rehearsed a scene from Act II, the students chased each other around the "backstage" set, wielding an axe at one another, finding and re-stashing the whiskey bottle and tying each other's shoes together in silence while running on and offstage. When offstage, they could be heard on the stage of "Nothing On."

SOPHOMORE Hayley Mueller



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

The cast of "Noises Off" rehearses a scene from "Nothing On."

plays Brooke, who plays Vicki, and she said both characters were "kind of stupid." While Brooke "doesn't know what's going on most of the time," the character she plays is "kind of a skank," Mueller said.

Then she had to hurry onstage to throw a silent tantrum.

"We've got, what, 20 doors?" Brandt said, indicating the set. "Every single second, someone is going on and off [stage] and doing crazy things." While his own

character is in over his head as the director, he said, he still finds time to point out all the other characters' flaws. "I'm just really mean to people."

And Selsdon's dysfunction? "I'm a washed-up old actress who has

Tickets and Times

"Noises Off" is showing at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov. 20 to 22 at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike. Tickets cost \$10, and \$1 from each ticket sale will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

a bit of a love for whiskey," said Honigberg. She said her character was conveyed more in her movements and expressions than her dialogue, particularly when depicting her inebriation, which becomes increasingly pronounced in each act. The challenge, she said, is not to overdo it.

"My character is kind of fun because I get to stand there and be oblivious," Mueller said. She said Brooke is a deeper character than she initially seems, although this does not come out until the second act.

She said she had never performed in a play that included an entire act of running around the stage with no dialogue, and she said timing the frantic "backstage" action to coincide with what was going on "onstage" during the second act was a major challenge.

Audiences would enjoy the comedic timing, ridiculous characters and the fact that the show "doesn't take itself too seriously," Mueller said. "It's very subtle and overt. It goes both ways."

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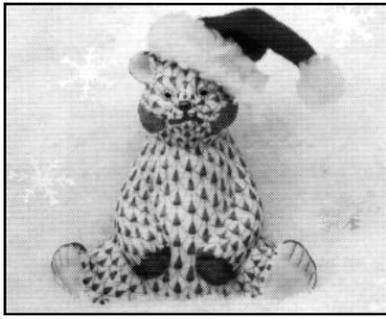
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NEWS

New Station by Fall 2010

FROM PAGE 3

than 300 feet north of Georgetown Pike, reaching past the existing entrance to the cut through, Tad Borkowski, transportation planner, said. He said the road would only need to be widened along the 140 feet or so closest to the intersection and the county may need to acquire a strip of land two or three feet wide from the owner of the shopping center on that corner in order to have room for the sidewalk and utility strip. The sidewalk on Georgetown Pike will now reach around the corner to the existing cut through.

The intersection will also become more pedestrian friendly in other ways. "The new signal will have updated pedestrian equipment," Lim said, noting that this included a feature that counts down until the stop signal. Also, the crosswalks on the south and west sides of the intersection will be redesigned to be more visible.

SOME GFCA MEMBERS wondered why there were no plans to create a crosswalk on the north side of the intersection and

"It will not be right turn on red. It can't be because of the sight distance."

— Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)

Hojatzadeh explained that the slope on the northwest quadrant would have to be leveled to bring such a crosswalk into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and leveling the corner would require the two large trees there to be taken out.

The trees also will affect users of the new turn lane. "It will not be right turn on red. It can't be because of the sight distance," Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) said, noting that the two trees block visibility.

Asked whether any changes would need to be made to accommodate drivers who would have used the cut through to travel north from Georgetown Pike to Walker Road, Borkowski said traffic simulation software showed

that a longer left-turn lane would not be necessary. The intersection now functions at a service level of D — just passable — and will continue to function at that level after the closing of the cut through and addition of the right-turn lane.

As for the station itself, plans have not changed much since the county presented them to the GFCA in April, but most of the details have been filled in, Lim said, and he noted that the projected budget has actually been reduced from \$13.2 million to \$12.1 million. "It appears that we are right now in very good shape."

The new station is expected to be open in the fall of 2010. During construction, Lim said, firefighters and equipment will probably stay on-site, the personnel in trailers and the equipment under a tent. However, he said that plan was still under review.

The station is being replaced because, having been built in 1960, it is too small and is no longer up to code. The new station will also be a "green building" with a silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. It will include rain gardens and a "green roof" with soil and plantings and will be made with recycled materials and designed to conserve natural resources.

Lim said the county had hired outside consultants to evaluate plans for the station and estimate the cost of construction and there will be a competitive bid on the project's contract in the spring.

"We don't just call someone and say, 'Hi, build me a fire station and bill me when you're done,'" he said.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 19

Vienna Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall. For agenda information, call 703-255-6341.

THURSDAY/NOV. 20

Vienna Board of Architectural Review meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall. For agenda information, call 703-255-6341.

TUESDAY/NOV. 25

Transportation Safety Commission meeting, 8 p.m. at Town Hall. For agenda information, call 703-255-6385.

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

Annual Meeting of Members and Holiday Party for the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Boone & Sons Jewelers, 1320 Old Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Vote for the 2009 Board of Directors and Officers. Katharine Ryan, 703-356-5424 or kryan@mcleanchamber.org. www.mcleanchamber.org.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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1781 Chain Bridge Rd #401	\$649,990	Sat 12-6	Maureen Simpson	Christopher	703-356-6035
1781 Chain Bridge Rd #108	\$880,000	Sat 12-5	Maureen Simpson	Christopher	703-356-6035
5934 Frazier Ln	\$899,000	Sun 1-4	Cecelia Lofton	Weichert	703-821-8300
1575 Maddux Ln	\$2,199,900	Sun 12-4	Lilian Jorgenson	Long & Foster	703-790-1990

Great Falls

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9090 Seneca Rd	\$1,950,000	Sun 1-4	Aaron Seekford	Realty Corp 9	203-836-6116

Vienna

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7992 Reserve Way	\$759,000	Sun 1-4	Farooq Akram	Jobin	571-437-1711
1320 Schuman Ct	\$849,000	Sun 1-4	Michael Schmidle	Real Estate by Owner	703-212-9506
9478 Deramus Farm Ct	\$1,150,000	Sun 1-4	Nancy Davis	Long & Foster	703-905-1100
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NEXT MONTH

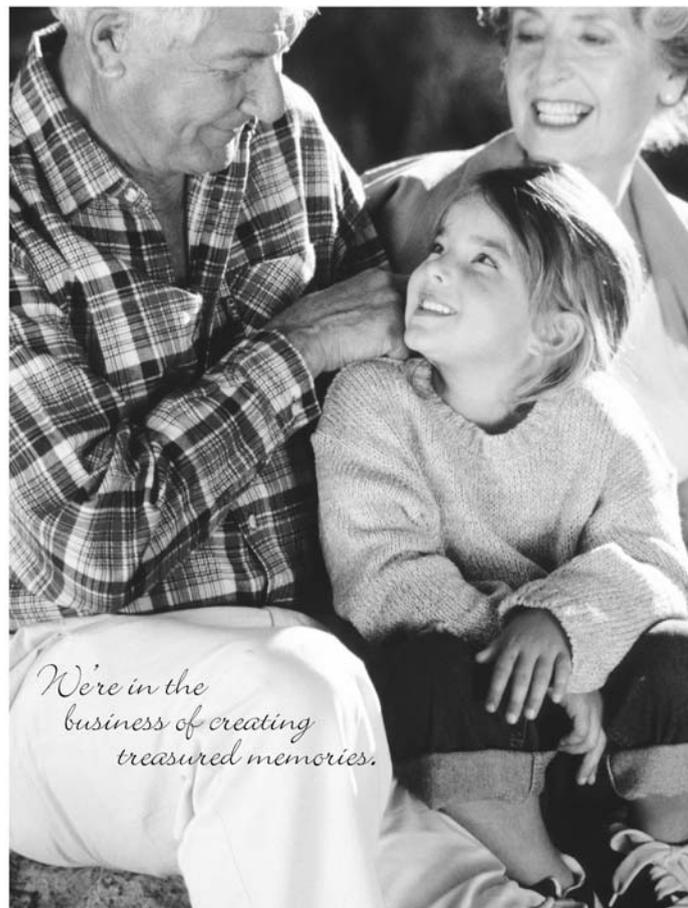
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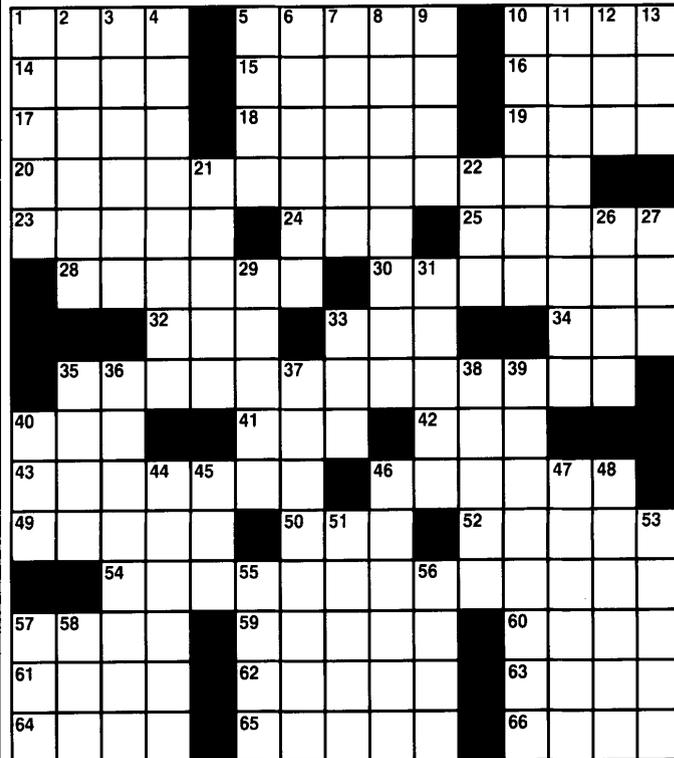
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Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0408-6



Puzzle by David J. Kahn

ACROSS

- Orchestra alternative
- Comment around the deck?
- Terrible —
- Last words?
- Opposite of sur
- Four-letter word
- Architect Saarinen
- Company whose logo has a red "o"
- Cogitate
- Noted director who acted in 30-Across with 35-Across
- Bud of baseball
- Before, once
- Isle of Man residents
- Brought up
- See 20-Across
- Calif. neighbor
- Midpoint: Abbr.
- On a roll
- See 20-Across and 54-Across
- Big —
- Link
- Classified inits.

- See 54-Across
- Singer Mel and namesakes
- Napoléon led one
- "Forget it!"
- Park, N.J.
- Noted director who acted in 43-Across with 35-Across
- Drunk's tipoff
- Plant and animal life
- Andrews of "The Mod Squad"
- Money writer Marshall —
- "A house — a home"
- Bator
- The rich man in "Rich Man, Poor Man"
- Some guard dogs, for short
- Get better

- Spent
- Shady alcove
- Kind of heel
- Push, maybe
- Tabby's mate
- Wisconsin city
- Exciting times in the N.I.T.
- wolf
- Plume source
- Earlier
- Brave one
- Harden
- 1980 Tony winner

- Gluck's "— ed Euridice"
- 29-Down role
- Precious
- Not permeated (with)
- Silly
- 1938 Physics Nobel
- Campaign asset
- Support provider
- Nigh
- Terre's opposite
- A lonely place, so they say
- Store, as fodder
- Ad dressing?
- Let —
- Successively
- Power stats
- Tanks
- Certain camera, for short
- Baseball's Brock

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



DOWN

- Loamy deposit
- Good dog
- Slimming device
- Some English students
- "— Room" (Beach Boys hit)

SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT!

Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers, and we'll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle, with your name, the puzzle number, and the time and date of the fax, to the Crossword Puzzle Desk, fax #703-917-0998.

The winner of puzzle #0407-6 is:

Ted Yaffe

Note: Due to space limitations, the crossword may not appear from time to time. In that case, you may look on our Web site: www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.

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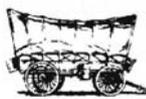
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LEGAL NOTICE

AT&T intends to file an application to construct a cellular telecommunications tower at 2305 South Walter Reed Drive in Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Wireless" will consist of a 73-foot tall stealth flagpole slimline monopole that will contain telecommunications antenna within the flagpole. The telecommunications equipment will be placed within an 18-foot by 30-foot fenced compound. An ice bridge will extend from the flagpole to the equipment within the fenced compound and a backboard will be placed north of the fenced compound. Electric and telecommunication underground from the fenced compound and proposed backboard to a utility pole located north of the proposed compound and adjacent to South Four Mile Run Drive. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Louis Deal, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o markos9@atcassociates.com.

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A Banner Memory



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I watched Paul Pierce and Ray Allen hoist the Boston Celtic's 17th NBA/World Championship banner to the rafters on TNT Tuesday evening, Oct. 28, the first ever in the "new" Boston Garden, (presently known as the TD Banknorth Garden), it reminded me, as sports often does, of my recently deceased father. (Dec. 2, 2008 will be the three-year anniversary of his death.)

As is the case between many parents and their children, sports was our bond. My father was the father who showed up to all his sons' little league, junior high school, high school and Babe Ruth-league games. He was the well-behaved model of parental involvement and decorum. Everyone knew him. He would encourage me before, during and after games, sometimes from his seat in the stands, and other times from even closer. Often, between innings, he would walk down to the team's bench, pat me on the back, and offer some words of wisdom: stop dragging my right leg, (I was a right-handed pitcher), keep my eye on the target, try to take a deep breath between pitches, etc. My father was the consummate professional (for lack of a better phrase) father; he was always there, always where he needed to be, and always what I expected and wanted him to be.

And while growing up, where my father, brother and I were every year around this time (the beginning of the NBA season), was in the old ("venerable" as it was so often described) Boston Garden for the first Sunday afternoon game of the season (my father's only off day). Typically, this game would be versus the Philadelphia 76ers, that meant Bill Russell against Wilt Chamberlain, with supporting casts of Hall of Famers and All Stars too numerous to mention. As a little boy, as a Boston sports' fan, going to a Boston Celtic's game against our arch rivals, was as good as it could possibly be. How he got tickets, I'll never know.

I can still remember being on the court and walking underneath the Celtic's basket, holding my father's hand and tilting my head up to see Bill Russell, all six foot nine of him, his goatee unmistakable in the glare of the stadium's klieg lights; he seemed like he was 10 feet tall, just like my father always did.

Never more than when he was dying, slowly, the debilitating affects of multiple strokes and old age gradually taking their destructive toll. For the last few years of my father's life, physically, he was not the man he would have wanted to be; he suffered indignities not uncommon to people requiring 24-hour care. But through it all, he never lost his sense of humor and never stopped caring about my mother, my brother and myself; always asking how we were doing, in spite of how difficult it was for him to express his thoughts. And even though the family's focus was almost entirely on him (for the three years between his first stroke and his last day), he never made it about him. He did whatever he could, limited as he was by his circumstances, to make it about us, just as he had done all those many years ago when he would get tickets for the Celtic's first Sunday afternoon game of the season.

My father owned a jewelry store in downtown Boston. He worked Monday through Saturday and a few nights in between. He left after breakfast (the years when he wasn't driving the neighborhood kids to elementary school) and came home in time for dinner. Sundays were his only day of rest. However, what he did with one of the first Sundays in the fall was to take his two sons to the Boston Garden to see the perennial World Champion, Boston Celtics. It wasn't exactly a schlep, but neither was it a simple undertaking, and he did it for years; all the time, whenever he could, however he could; he'd arrange it, that was my father.

When I see those Championship banners hanging from the rafters at the TD Banknorth Garden, I see my father's face up there as well, because that's what he was, a World Champion dad.

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



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