

PHOTO BY MIKE DiCICCO/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 10 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 12 ♦ FAITH, PAGE 15 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 20 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 21

Returning The Favors

NEWS, PAGE 3

Founder Joe Cassella poses with employee and friend Dianna Sievers in Elite Fitness, where balloons and snacks mark the gym's 10th anniversary. The business has forged a close relationship with Great Falls over the last decade.

Holiday
With Arts
NEWS, PAGE 16

Safe from
Sewer and
Water
NEWS, PAGE 3

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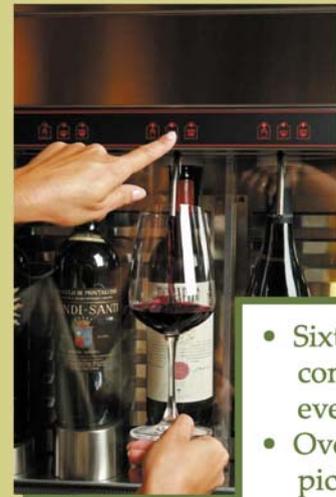
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NEWS

Returning the Favors

Tenth anniversary finds gym, community helping each other.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Since he opened Elite Fitness in a small location behind Arby's, Joe Cassella has made himself an integral part of the Great Falls community, according to Optimist Club member Joda Coolidge. Cassella has worked with the club on three fund-raising 5K run-walks for local residents. "He's always the first one in line to do anything, as far as community support," Coolidge said.

Now in a larger space in Colvin Run Shopping Center, Elite Fitness is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

When sixth-grader Peter Choo died of cancer in September of 2007, Cassella decided to sponsor a race in the boy's name, raising money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, not just that year but every year. The race was repeated this year, and Elite Fitness also sponsored a similar event in May to raise money to help pay medical bills for Langley High School graduate Nick Cafferky, who was a rising senior when he was paralyzed in a beach accident a year and a half ago.

"Great Falls has been very, very good to Elite Fitness, and so he likes to return the favor," said Dianna Sievers, who knew Cassella for several years as her personal trainer and started working part-time at his gym about a year and a half ago. She called him "a very giving soul."

NOW, THE COMMUNITY has a chance to give back to Cassella. Elite Fitness began celebrating its anniversary in September, and it was about that time that Cassella was diagnosed, at 39, with mesothelioma, a form of cancer generally caused by exposure to asbestos.

The response from the community and gym members has "just been unbelievable. I don't know where to start, between the cards and the support," Cassella said. "What I keep hearing is, 'You've done so much for so many people, we want to give back to you.'" He said clients had offered to take on such jobs as looking after the gym's equipment and working on its Web site, as he is home for a week or two after each chemotherapy session. "They'll do anything they can to keep Elite going," he said, adding that staff, too, had stepped up and taken on more work.

In his office, a helium balloon reading, "Feel better," was taped to the wall. It was from Peter Choo's father, Edward.

Choo said he had not even been aware of



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Joe Cassella has expanded Elite Fitness' space once in the last 10 years and is now ready to do it again.

Elite Fitness's existence until he was approached about the 5K, although he lived nearby. "His support was really, really great," Choo said. He said the race had been his first trip out of the house since his son's death. "I did not go anywhere outside Peter's room for the first three months."

CASSELLA said he had already been planning a 5K with the Optimists Club. "We picked Make-A-Wish, and one of our members said, 'Peter Choo just passed away and he went through Make-A-Wish. We could do it in his memory.'" Cassella had T-shirts made.

"His preparation was very thorough and very, very touching," Choo said, adding that Cassella's initiative was the only reason there was an annual run in his son's name. "He's a strong man, so we just pray for him."

When the Optimists approached Cassella about a 5K for Cafferky, Coolidge said, "Within five seconds, he said, 'Sure, I'll support it. It sounds wonderful.'" Each of the races had cost almost as much as the \$8,000 or so that they pulled in, she said. "Joe paid out of his pocket all expenses."

She said Cassella also took in young people and mentored them.

"He likes to give high school and other young people the opportunity to be exposed to job opportunities and will help guide them through the work experience," Sievers said, adding that he also exposed young employees to people who might be able to help them with internships or future jobs.

As for any other charitable endeavors,

Sievers said she couldn't be sure. "Joe likes to remain anonymous in a lot of the things he does."

Cassella said he chose Great Falls 10 years ago because there was a market to be tapped there. He subsequently came to enjoy working in an area where he continues to meet "so many interesting people," he said.

"We've trained numerous — believe it or not — cancer patients and gotten them back on track."

— Joe Cassella

HIS FAVORITE part of the job, he said, is working with people who are recovering from injuries or illnesses. "We get a lot of people who just want their quality of life back," he said. "We've trained numerous — believe it or not — cancer patients and gotten them back on track." He said he found this sort of work far more rewarding than shaving a

second off someone's time, although he added, "I can make your quads Arnold-like if need be."

In order to serve a variety of clientele, he said, he has focused on maintaining a non-competitive, non-threatening environment. "You've got someone on the treadmill who's trying to run a five-minute mile and another woman who's just trying to stay on there for five minutes," he said, noting that it was up to him and the staff to make sure both clients were at ease and getting what they needed.

He said he also tried to make changes based on members' suggestions. In that interest, he has been looking for a larger space to move into, so that he can offer daycare while parents exercise, but he said he had now put those plans off for the time being.

Safe from Sewer and Water

Proposed changes to public water and sewer requirements should not affect Great Falls.

Proposed changes to the county code and Public Facilities Manual regarding requirements for sewer and water connections should not have an impact on the Great Falls community, said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). Nevertheless, he said he was having the Great Falls Citizens Association's Planning and Zoning Committee work with his office and county staff to vet the proposals before any vote is taken by the Board of Supervisors.

One amendment would require that the public sewer system serve all structures lacking a septic system or with an irreparably failing septic system in a sewer service area.

"This will not require new subdivisions in Great Falls to be connected to sanitary sewers," Foust said, noting that the community is not within a sewer service area.

The other change would require public water to be extended to new subdivisions with lots smaller than 75,000 feet. It would eliminate a current exemption for two-lot subdivisions with lots sized between 20,000 and 70,000 square feet.

Foust noted that water had to be extended "when it is deemed available. The issue in Great Falls will be, what does 'available' mean?"

Most properties south of Georgetown Pike are already served by public water, while most north of the road have well water.

Great Falls residents have long fought to keep public sewer out of the area, as a way to limit density. Foust said sewer would be the major factor in that respect, but the Great Falls Citizens Association members he had talked to were afraid that extending the public water network could be "kind of the camel's nose in the tent."

"Whether [density] would increase with public water is a risk they're not willing to take," he said. "We're going to vet it very, very carefully to make sure it doesn't have any unforeseen consequences we would object to."

Staff had been asked in July of 2007 to explore amendments that would prevent a situation that occurred in the Mount Vernon District, where a well serving a new house failed and could not be fixed, and a new well could not be drilled.

The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the matter on Jan. 15.

— MIKE DICICCO



PHOTO BY BRANDY HOLLAND

Spring Hill Elementary student Alicia Gonzalez, first grade; Khaled Elmeligy, general manager, Panera Tysons Corner; Ethan Clark, fourth grade; Brandon Engel, fourth grade, ham it up and show off their favorite sandwiches, featured in a cookbook.

Panera, Spring Hill ES Launch Sandwich Cookbook

Panera Bread and Spring Hill Elementary School in McLean kicked off sales of the "Change for Children Sandwich Showcase Cookbook."

The cookbook is on sale in all 30 Northern Virginia Panera cafes for \$2 with all funds from its sale benefiting Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children.

Fun Events at Maison et Jardin

On Saturday, Dec. 6 Maison et Jardin, located at 9867 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, held a Brunch with Santa (Charles Owen) and the Grinch (Mike Kearney) from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Maison et Jardin is hosting fun events throughout December, including the upcoming Mia's Big Bow Workshop on Sunday, Dec. 21, 1-2 p.m. Maison et Jardin will be open on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information call 703-759-2825.



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COMMUNITY

Call to 'Shop Great Falls'

GFCA, GFBPA promote "buy local" initiative.

BY KATHLEEN J. MURPHY
AND SUE BENNETT

The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) initially reminded the community of Great Falls last year and the year before to "buy local," as our small, independently-owned shops are what makes our village unique and special. The Great Falls Business & Professional Association (GFBPA) has started an initiative called "Shop Great Falls" — because they realize that there are a lot of opportunities to do business that remains untapped to date. Jack Legler, who led the GFCA membership meeting on behalf of GFBPA, acknowledged that there are CEOs of major businesses working from their homes in Great Falls who could benefit from service providers in the community and could support the growth of local busi-

nesses. GFBPA would like to reach businesses and professionals working from home.

This first GFCA and GFBPA joint meeting was led by GFCA board member, Wayne Foley and Jack Legler, GFBPA's vice president of leadership, building on the work of the GFCA's Long-Range Planning & Development Committee last year.

THE EVENING was punctuated by lots of coupons and a variety of samples, generously shared by shopkeepers and other businesses that serve the Great Falls local market:

The Saddlery has loaded up on Christmas gifts this year. They have the best chocolate available for purchase. They are holding a "Dad's night" for dads of riders to come, smoke cigars, drink wine and buy their holiday gifts. Cathy's Corner has some amazing gifts at reasonable prices, customized stationery and holiday cards and great gift wrapping. Great Falls Studios is holding art shows around town. Give the gift of art this season. The Magic Pet Place has a new owner who has brought

the best dog food to Great Falls, along with great grooming and other dog and cat supplies. Maison du Vin, our new wine store in the Village Green has a great selection of wines and a wonderful new owner who is a resident of Great Falls.

Not to be outdone by all the coupons and samples offered by retailers, Jack Legler, president, Legenter LLC, offered a 50 percent discount on a professional assessment through the end of December. Patti Brownstein, president of LGP Promotional Group (Let's Get Personal) explained how any T-shirt or logo or promotional gift or marketing materials — whether for one customer or sales person or a huge enterprise — falls into her domain. She has contacts from years of experience that enables things to get done in record time and on a competitive budget.

THE GFBPA campaign offers Eight Great Reasons to Shop Great Falls — source GFBPA online, www.GreatFallsBPA.com:

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SEE REASONS, PAGE 17

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Horses and Bunnies and Dogs

Hundreds of pets abandoned as recession worsens.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

Cupcake is a dwarf rabbit, as sweet a small furry thing as one can imagine. She loves to lie down on her back next to you and fall asleep as you rub her stomach. She did not focus on the appeal by the U.S. automobile executives for a \$34 billion bailout or the billions pumped into the banking system, but she is a victim of the rising U.S. recession nevertheless.

Her young mistress, who dearly loved her, lost her job and had to move in with others in a building that doesn't allow animals. She brought her beloved Cupcake to the Fairfax County Humane Society with tears in her eyes, grateful that someone would try to take care of the little animal.

Now Cupcake lives with six other rabbits hoping for adoption in a time when, according to Susan Spaulding, a 20-year veteran of rescuing animals, "there is a huge drop in adoptions and that means shelters don't have the space to care for more animals."

Sugar and Spice, a pair of chestnut Quarter horses, lucked out in this dangerous world. When their 72-year-old mistress lost her farm home in Lorton to foreclosure last August, the Fairfax County Humane Society was able to take them in. The equine pair took the second ride of their lives on a horse trailer, nervously induced to go up the ramp with horse treats. Now they roam a 13-acre farm run by the Society on Route 29 in Centreville. Adoption, perhaps not together, is a possibility. There are seven other horses at the farm and six on the waiting list.

Licorice's owners brought this lovely black and white cat and her companion Candy to the Humane Society because they lost their jobs and went back to Canada. Then Candy was adopted and Licorice was so upset for a while that she wouldn't come out of her carry all. Now she's one of 39 cats awaiting new homes at the Humane Society.

Carol Relkin, who runs the Humane Society's headquarters where small animals reside, said the calls she gets everyday "are often heart-breaking," as people try to find a place for beloved pets.

THERE WERE thousands of foreclosures in Fairfax over the past year, and many people cannot afford the rent in county apartments. Michelle Hankins, number two official of the Fairfax County's government-run shelter said the number of "owner-sur-



Sugar and Spice landed at the Humane Society farm in Centreville after their 72-year-old owner lost their home to foreclosure.



The Humane Society's Vicki Kirby with Spice; Sugar is in the background.

rendered animals" is up 39 percent over 2007 and it keeps the shelter packed.

The county had 32 cats ready for adoption earlier this month and 38 other pets from gerbils and rabbits to parrots and hamsters.

But that literally is the tip of the iceberg. Hundreds of cats and dogs are being cared for in shelters and foster care while seeking adoption by animal rescue groups across



Licorice arrived at the Humane Society when her owners lost their jobs and moved back to Canada.



Cupcake's owner lost her job and had to move in with friends in a place where no pets were allowed, landing Cupcake at the Humane Society of Fairfax County.

"Now they bring in animals because they can't afford food or vet bills or they lost their jobs or are facing foreclosure."

**— Vicki Kirby,
Fairfax County Humane Society**

the area.

Chris Haslam, president of the Commonwealth Cat Rescue, Inc., has 38 cats for adoption. Now he gets 10 or 12 calls a day from owners seeking to find a home for a cat they cannot afford.

The chief of NOVA Rottweilers (www.md-novarotties.org) said her group's funds are exhausted and adoptions have virtually stopped. She has two Rottweilers left, but cannot take any more until she gets more contributions and finds more foster homes.

Space and money are the factors in the humane handling of animals. Fairfax County's animal shelter, run under the direction of the police department, has an earned reputation for being one of the more the humane shelters, according to Spaulding who has moved around the coun-

Donate, Adopt

The Humane Society of Fairfax County needs donations of money, pet food, and other items. Mail or drop off at the Humane Society offices, 4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, 22030. Call 703-385-7387 or see www.hsfc.org.

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try in her husband's years as a military officer from South Texas to California and then to Northern Virginia.

"What we try to do is change the 'pound attitude' to a 'shelter attitude,'" she said, urging county authorities to view their role as helping small animals and not just waiting to kill them.

Behind the current crisis is "pet overpopulation," which Paw Prints and Purrs, Inc., a national study group, said results from people not understanding what a responsibility pet ownership is. According to the Doris Day Animal League, more than six million dogs and cats are "euthanized in shelters each year." Millions of other pets die on the streets, highways and forests from starvation, freezing and attacks by predators.

Spaulding said that owners often let cats loose when they abandon them under the theory that cats can survive more easily than dogs, but animal experts said most house cats only last a short time in the open. The critical lack of space and foster homes in this new rush of abandonment means more cats and dogs are facing euthanasia.

Haslam said that not only is the intake of animals skyrocketing, but also the adoptions have dropped off sharply meaning that the foster homes where his animals are cared for have no more space.

Two years ago, the Fairfax Humane Society refurbished its farm on Route 29, building a multi-room dog facility with fenced outdoor play areas and veterinary treatment and viewing rooms. It built new stables and refurbished the farmhouse. Here they care for nine horses as well as some dogs.

Neutering is the primary defense against pet overpopulation. All the animals that enter rescue homes or the county shelter are neutered before they can be adopted as pets and other medical needs are met. But the cost is not cheap.

"Our main expense is veterinarian care," said Haslam. "You need blood work, testing, surgery." Animal care far exceeds the small fees that they charge for adoptions.

November and December are prime months for gifts to meet the Dec. 31 deadline for tax deductions. But Kirby said that donations are coming in more slowly than past years.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

School Board Work Session/Audit, 4:30 p.m. Work Session/Forum, 5:30 p.m. Regular Meeting/CIP, 7 p.m. Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. 703-204-8100.

Employees' Retirement Board of Trustees Meeting, 3:30 p.m. at the Mainland Building, Main Conference Room, 10680 Main St., Suite 280, Fairfax. 703-279-8200.

Board of Equalization, 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Rooms 7 and 8, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-4891, TTY 703-222-7594.

Tenant-Landlord Commission Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-5959.

FRIDAY/DEC. 19

Board of Supervisors Audit Committee Meeting, 3 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 530, 12000 Government Center

Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-2531.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

Board of Equalization, 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 9 and 10, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-4891, TTY 703-222-7594.

Saturday/Jan. 3

Community meeting with Delegate James M. Scott, Delegate Margi Vanderhye and State Senator Janet Howell, 10 a.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Karol Straub, 703-938-1414.

MONDAY/JAN. 5

School Board Meeting and Work Session, 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7935.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 7

Community Revitalization and Reinvestment Advisory Group, 3 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Board Conference Room, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-246-6504.

Del. Scott Lingamfelter's Wine &

Cigars Event, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Palm Tysons Corner, 1750 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. 703-201-7776.

THURSDAY/JAN. 8

Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board, 4 p.m. at the Department of Housing and Community Development Main Offices, HCD Center, 3700 Pender Drive, Fairfax. 703-246-5164, TTY 703-385-3578.

Speaker Bill Howell's Business Leaders Reception, 6-8 p.m. at JR's Stockyards Inn, 8130 Watson Street, McLean. 703-201-7776.

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Pajama Day at Forestville Elementary

Wednesday, Dec. 10, was a schoolwide pajama day at Forestville Elementary. This event for the children served as a reminder of two service learning projects the school has been involved in. Each child was encouraged to bring in a gently used book to be donated to a needy child in a Fairfax County Public School. The school has also joined with Share Inc., a charitable organization, in gathering new pairs of pajamas at the school. All sizes of pajamas from 12 month to adult size 2XL were collected.



Forestville Elementary students brought in books to donate to other FCPS schools. Pictured are, back row, Catherine Byers and Andrew Phillips; middle row, Emma Ritchie, Janelle Valenta and Kaitlyn O'Connor; front row, Tess Mellinger, Mohini Sudhakar, Grace Valenta, Reed Miller, Rafe Smith and Timmy Valenta.

PHOTOS BY MATT HARRIS

Carolyn Saba and her daughter, Isabelle Saba, donating pajamas in their pajamas.



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OPINION

When To Chase? How to judge when benefits outweigh risks to police, public?

In the past week, there were two instances of police chasing perpetrators through multiple jurisdictions that raise some questions.

In one case, a tractor trailer driven by a man fleeing police in Montgomery County crossed the American Legion Bridge on the Capital Beltway into Fairfax County and then exited in Tysons Corner before crashing down the block from this newspaper's offices on Westpark Drive. Dozens of police cars from Maryland and Virginia participated in the chase, broadcast live on some channels via helicopter.

The chase ended with a few fender benders and the suspect being tasered. No one else was hurt.

But we wonder what kind of damage could have occurred.

When does it make sense to chase a suspect driving a vehicle with contents unknown into the center of one of the largest shopping districts in the United States during the holiday shopping season? With helicopters in pursuit perhaps this is a case where tracking the truck until it ran out of gas was a possibility.

Last week, a 19-year-old bank robbery suspect from McLean was shot dead by police within sight of a middle school after a foot chase led them to an Arlington neighborhood.

Last February, a Fairfax County Police Officer drove her police cruiser through a red traffic signal on Richmond Highway on the way to answer a call, striking the car of 33 year-old Ashley McIntosh and killing her. The officer was cleared of charges of reckless driving.

EDITORIALS

We don't pretend to understand all of the factors that come into play in making such decisions in general or these decisions in particular. We do know that we would like police to be open with the public about their policies.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

More on Poor Students

Several thoughtful emails were sent responding to our editorial, "Don't Lump Poor Students Together." (Dec. 3, 2008, www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=322904&paper=65&cat=110)

Some writers pointed to many factors besides concentration of student poverty that affect the quality of a school.

For example, Graham Road Elementary, with a high percent poverty rate, performs comparably to many schools with wealthy student populations. Graham Road, at least one writer said, is a good school because of great principal, great resources and parents who care.

The way the editorial was written does present too simplistic a picture.

While concentration of poverty in schools creates significant and often unnecessary chal-

lenges, and decreasing the concentration has benefits, this is far from the only factor involved in creating a successful school and student achievement.

Absolutely a great principal can inspire staff and parents; teachers and parents who care can make an incredible difference. And it is also quite possible for a school populated by affluent families to be mediocre.

Any yet, as the school system draws new boundaries, it is a mistake to create this additional challenge of concentrating poor students in one school.

But there is much more work than that involved in creating great schools.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wimpy Wordsmithing

To the Editor:

I really got a chuckle out of the article about "Pike Setbacks" last week [Pike Setbacks, Community Center Discussed, Great Falls Connection, Dec.10-16, 2008], especially the sentence that read, "A setback of 50 feet is already required along the road, and it remains unclear whether the new home is in compliance with existing rules." Judging from the photo, it's either an example of blind journalism or Blagojevich-style politics in Great Falls. The positive side of the wimpy wordsmithing of the "county's Planning Commission" is that, if more mansions are built this close to Georgetown Pike, it will be impossible to widen it for more traffic in the future.

Gene Phillip
Great Falls



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

This newly built home on Aziza Court, abutting Georgetown Pike, inspired a nomination for Comprehensive Plan language calling for larger setbacks from the road.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10

Planning Commission Environment Committee, 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Board Conference Room, 12000 Government Center Parkway,

Fairfax. 703-324-2865, TTY 703-324-7951.

Trails and Sidewalks Committee, 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 8, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, 703-324-1380.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

Architectural Review Board, 6:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County

Government Center, Conference Rooms 4/5, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-1380.

Board of Equalization, 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 7 and 8, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-4891, TTY 703-222-7594.

Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority, 7 p.m. at

the Department of Housing and Community Development, FCRHA Board Room, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-246-5102, TTY 703-385-3578.

Park and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting, 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St. Fairfax. 703-385-7858 or www.fairfaxva.gov/ParksRec/MeetingPostings.asp.

THE CONNECTION

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Newspaper of
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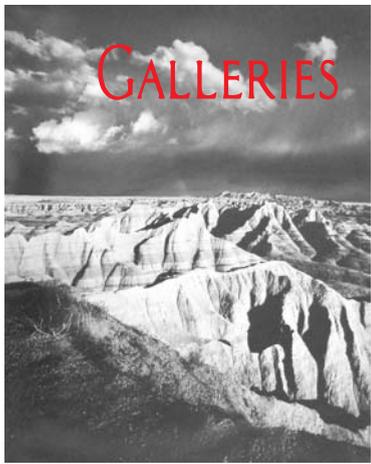
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'North, South, East and West,' a collection of black and white landscape photographs by Great Falls photographer Jan Bender, will be on display Jan. 4 through Feb. 8 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 12:30-2:30 p.m. The exhibit will be open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703-430-9566.

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.

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CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Book discussion. 7:30 p.m. Call for title. Adults. Great Fall Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

Rude Buddha and Cerca Trova. Rock. 8 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

A Christmas Carol, the Musical. 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center. Tickets at 703-790-9223 or 703-573-SEAT. Non-perishable food or toy donations accepted for SHARE.

Wine Tasting at The Saddlery, from 6-9 p.m. 703-759-3500 or sarah.kirk@thesaddleryinc.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 19

American Legion Post 270 Charity Citrus Fruit Sale. Seedless grapefruit, navel oranges, and Sunburst tangerines fresh from Florida from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Holiday Gift Boxes and pure Maple Syrup also available. Proceeds support local community youth, patriotic activities, and veteran needs. 703-356-8259.

James Madison Girls Lacrosse Chili Dinner and Cook-Off, 5-7 p.m. at Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Proceeds benefit the team. Adam Swink will be performing at the dinner. Tickets \$8, children 6th grade or younger \$5.

Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun Holiday Show. Rock/country/rockabilly. 8 p.m. \$20. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

A Christmas Carol, the Musical. 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center. Tickets at 703-790-9223 or 703-573-SEAT.



Photo by Traci Brooks

McLean residents David Rampy, Brent Stone and Paige Farrington-Himes play the Ghost of Christmas Present, Ebenezer Scrooge and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Be, respectively, in a dress rehearsal for the McLean Community Players' musical production of "A Christmas Carol" (Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, Dec. 18, 19 and 20).

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

The Conservatory Ballet's 37th Annual 'The Nutcracker,' 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Madeira School Theater, 8328 Georgetown

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Fifteenth Annual G-gauge Model Trains at Colvin Run Mill Barn, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The trains cover the entire barn floor, approximately 400-square feet. G-gauge trains are 1/24 actual size, making them large enough to display intricate details. Colvin Run Mill is located at 10017 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls. 703-759-2771.

Rocknokers Holiday Show and Sing-a-long. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

A My Favorite Highway Christmas and Chelsea Lee. Pop/rock. 7 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

It's a Hanukkah Happening. 3:30 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library. Songs and Stories with songwriter Carol Boyd. 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

A Christmas Carol, the Musical. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center. Tickets at 703-790-9223 or 703-573-SEAT.

McLean High School Chemistree 5K, 10 a.m. at McLean High School. Raedun Knutsen at 703-362-5016 or Raedun.knutsen@gmail.com, or Omar

Bohsali at 703-470-7012 or omar.bohsali@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 21

Fifteenth Annual G-gauge Model Trains at Colvin Run Mill Barn, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The trains cover the entire barn floor, approximately 400-square feet. G-gauge trains are 1/24 actual size, making them large enough to display intricate details. Colvin Run Mill is located at 10017 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls. 703-759-2771.

A My Favorite Highway Christmas and Chelsea Lee. Pop/rock. 7 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

Open Mic Hosted by David Cotton. 7 p.m. Free. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Crafts for the Holidays. 4 p.m. Pottery painting, mosaics and more. Age 6-12. Great Fall Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/DEC. 23

Todd Wright's Sixth Annual Christmas Spectacular. 8 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 24

Jewmongous. 7 p.m. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Songs and Hugs with Miss Belle.

10:30 a.m. Classic children's songs. All ages. Great Fall Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

FRIDAY/DEC. 26

The Bigger Lights, The Friday Night Boys and Mercy Mercedes. 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 27

The Pat Sommers Project, 6 p.m. at Ned Devines Irish Village, 21800 Town Center Plaza, Sterling. 703-444-7873 or irishvillage.neddevines.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 28

Tom O'Connor and Brent Shuttleworth. Pop/rock. 2 p.m. \$8. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Jonasay Reunion Show and Trustfall. Pop/rock. 7:30 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 29

Winter Break Camp for Children at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, from Monday, Dec. 29 through Friday, Jan. 2. Games, arts and crafts, music and special events. Registration forms at the Old Firehouse Teen Center. Half-Day Camp, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. for ages 4-6; \$55 non-residents, \$45 district residents. Full-Day Camp, 9 a.m.-4

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

p.m. for ages 5-9; \$85 non-residents, \$75 district residents. 703-448-TEEN.
Open Mic Hosted by David Cotton.
 7 p.m. Free. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

"Robbie-noceros" New Years Eve Party for Kids: Robbie Schaefer and Rocknoceros ring in the New Year . 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Virginia Coalition. New Years Eve Celebration. 8 p.m. \$75 plus \$25 optional bar package. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

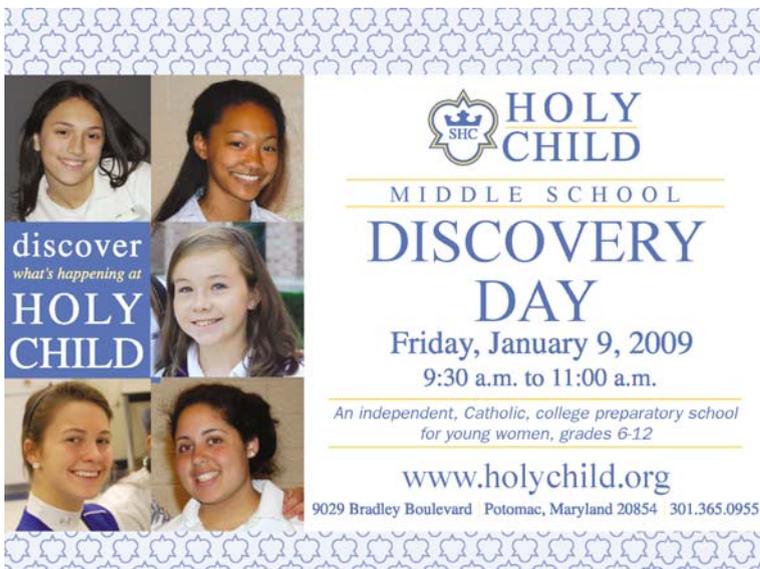
FRIDAY/JAN. 2

Melodime and Louis Fabrizi. Rock/blues/country. 7:30 p.m. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

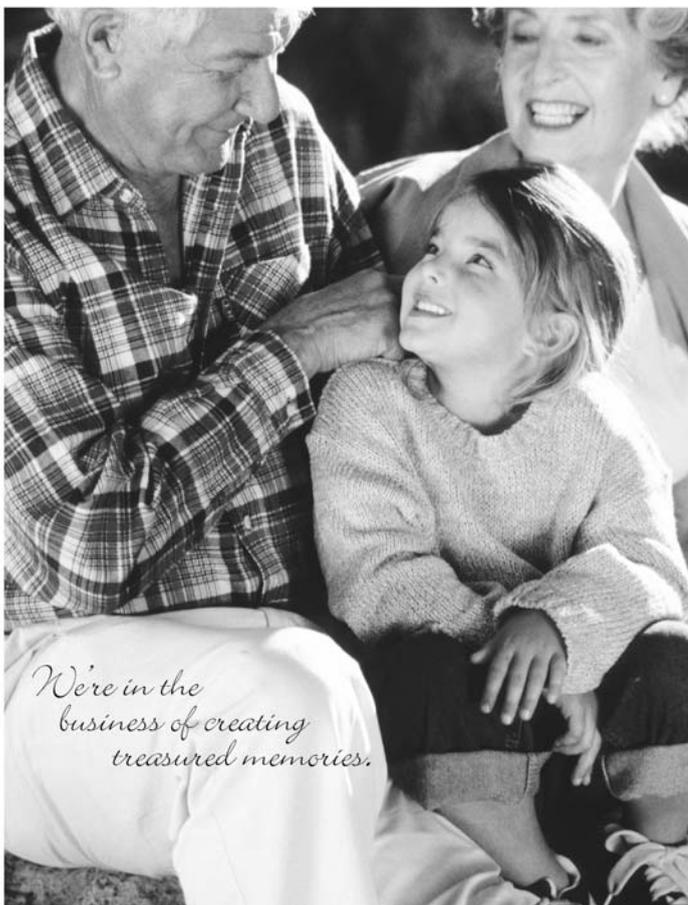
PJtheVIKING, Young Enough, The Grenade and more. 10 p.m. \$5. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 3

Ammar Malik, The OK Corral and Pretzcoat. Pop/acoustic. 7:30 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.



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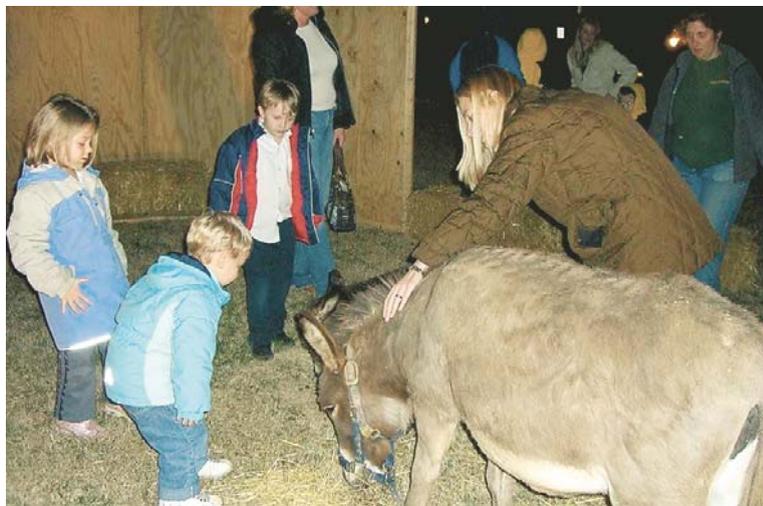
Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Chanukah Wonderland at Tysons Corner, 8100 Oak St., just off Gallows Road in Vienna, through Friday, Dec. 26. Sunday-Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free admission. Meet Judah Maccabee, tour the Chanukah House, make candles, build a giant Lego menorah, design cards for Israeli soldiers. Arts and crafts, games, olive oil show and olive press, Chanukah Superstore and café, Chanukah Mad Science, Katie Balloons and comedy and magic shows. 703-821-7770 or www.chabadtysons.com.

Redeemer Lutheran Church Annual Living Nativity, Dec. 18 and 19, 6:30-8:30 pm. Visit live animals at the crèche, where children can dress like Mary and Joseph. Crafts, Christmas carols, cookies and hot cocoa. Redeemer is located at 1545 Chain Bridge Road in McLean. 703-356-3346 or www.redeermclean.org.

St. John's Episcopal Church Festival of Lessons and Carols, on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. St. John's is one mile east of Beltway Exit 44, at 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

Christ the King Lutheran Church will have three Christmas Eve services on Dec. 24 at 10:55 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, and a Christmas Day service on Dec. 25 at 11 a.m. Nursery provided for the 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. services. www.Christ-The-



Redeemer Lutheran Church will present their Annual Living Nativity on Thursday, Dec. 18 and Friday, Dec. 19, from 6:30-8:30 pm. Redeemer is at 1585 Chain Bridge Road in McLean.

King-Lutheran.org.

❖ **Children's service** at 5 p.m. with Cherubs, King's Kids, and Chimers Choirs.

❖ **Family Candlelight Service** at 7 p.m. with King's Orchestra and King's Choir.

❖ **Festival Candlelight Service** at 11 p.m. with the Bell Team.

Providence Baptist Church Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 6 p.m. at 8980 Brook Road in McLean. 703-893-5330 or Providencetoday.org.

St. Mark Catholic Church's 24th Annual International Crèche Exhibit, on Saturday Jan. 3 from 5-7:30 p.m., and Sunday Jan. 4 from 9 a.m.-

1:30 p.m. Crèches from many nations will be shared by the parishioners of St. Mark. Free admission. 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. 703-938-4355.

Great Falls United Methodist Church Celebrate Recovery Ministry begins Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. A 45-minute contemporary-style service with music, prayer, and biblically-based messages, followed by coffee fellowship. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705.

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

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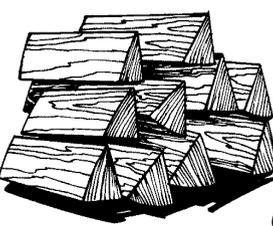
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COMMUNITY

Holiday With Arts

Great Falls artists mount exhibits at two locations.

Two new exhibitions by Great Falls artists will run through the holidays, illustrating the versatility of painters, potters, photographers, jewelry makers, sculptors and other artists who call Great Falls home.

The first is at the Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. It is called "Fresh Perspectives" and features 51 works by 22 members of Great Falls Studios, a community-service organization of artists based in Great Falls. The library show will hang through the end of December.

The second, also sponsored by Great Falls Studios, is at the Conscious Bean, a coffee house in the Colvin Run Shopping Center, 10123 Colvin Run Road. The themed show features the art of the coffee cup and will run through the end of January. On Jan. 18, the Conscious Bean will host a "meet the artists" reception, starting at 3 p.m. Several artists will talk about their work. Light refreshments will be served.

The library show, a regular all-member event mounted twice a year, is an exhibition open to all members of Great Falls Studios. "For the 'Fresh Perspectives' exhibit, artists brought work that's exciting and new. It shows what they've been working on and discovering in 2008," said painter Jill Banks, one of the artists responsible for hanging the show.



PHOTOS BY AL REITAN

GuruSangat Khalsa is one of 22 Great Falls residents represented in a show of local artists through the end of December at the Great Falls Community Library. She poses with one of her acrylic paintings, an abstract piece titled "Look."



Artist Jennifer Duncan (left) savors freshly brewed java with Kathy Huff, proprietor of the Conscious Bean, a coffee house in the Colvin Run area. A new art exhibit featuring the art of the coffee cup hangs behind them. The show was organized by Duncan on behalf of the 78 artists of Great Falls Studios.

"They've added a note about what's special about their pieces. What emerged is a beautiful show that's also educational about the creative process."

The exhibition at the Conscious Bean reflects the interests of its coffee-serving hosts. "I was surprised and delighted by the number of artists and the variety and creativity of their work," said painter Jennifer Duncan, who hung the show.

The art group also administers revolving displays of local work now hanging at three other locations: Katie's Coffee, 760 Walker Road; RE/MAX Gateway, 10135 Colvin Run Road; and the Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort and Spa, 11415 Georgetown Pike. Works at all five venues are for sale. Art from Great Falls Studios artists is also for sale through Christmas at American Plant, 10106 Georgetown Pike, where a small art boutique is opened for the holidays at the garden facility's "Yellow Cottage."

For more on Great Falls Studios, go to the organization's Web site at www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

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SCHOOLS

Chemis-Tree 5K Returns

Run supports scholarship fund in honor of late McLean teacher and Burke resident Terry Moore.

This Saturday, Dec. 20, at 10 a.m., the second annual Chemis-Tree 5K will be held at McLean High School. The run, hosted by graduates of the high school, raises money for the Terry Moore Scholarship Fund, named for the McLean High School chemistry teacher and active member of the Burke community who died of brain cancer in October of 2007.

This will actually be the second Chemis-Tree 5K held this year, as the initial run took place in June. From now onward, the race is to be held on the first day of the school system's winter break.

The goals of the fund are to award scholarships in Moore's honor, establish college funds for his three children and promote scientific curiosity. The organization bases its endeavors on Moore's values of compassion, dedication, kindness and love of education.

The name of the race comes from a tradition Moore established



Raedun Knutsen, one of the founders of the Terry Moore Scholarship Fund, congratulates Tracy Jenkins, winner of the original Chemis-Tree 5K, held in June.

during his seven years teaching at McLean High. Each December, students decorated a small, non-denominational plastic tree in his

classroom with chemistry-related ornaments.

About 300 people participated in last year's race.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Christian J. Hyland graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Hyland is a student at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. He is the son of Jason P. and Leslie Hyland of Locust Hill Drive, Great Falls, and a 2005 graduate of Langley High School, McLean.

James Madison Girls Lacrosse will be having a Chili Dinner and Cook-Off on Dec. 19 at Madison High School from 5-7 p.m. to benefit their team. Adam Swink will be performing at the dinner. The cost is \$8, children 6th grade or younger \$5.

McGlensey Powers Abiles of Vienna has received a bachelor of science degree in wildlife and zoological conservation from Murray State University of Murray, Ky. Abiles is the daughter of Jose and Elizabeth Abiles.

Navy Seaman Recruit John R. Newlin, son of Giovanna C. Robertson of Baytown, Texas and Stephen T. Newlin of Vienna, recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Newlin is a 2005 graduate of Barbers Hill High School of Mount Belview, Texas.

Brigid Donovan, a tenth grade student at St. James School in St. James, Md., has been named to the honors list for the first trimester. Donovan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Donovan of McLean.

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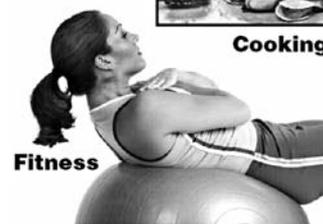
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FROM PAGE 5

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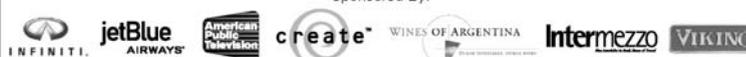
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White Out

While nearly one-third of the county is not white, 95 percent of its elected officials are.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

When he is sworn in on Jan. 20, President-elect Barack Obama will be the first African American to hold that office. He will also boost the number of people of color who represent Fairfax County by 25 percent.

Only four of Fairfax County's 80 current elected representatives, from United States President to Northern Virginia Soil and Water board members, are not white. None are Hispanic or Latino.

According to the 2006 U.S. Census, about 40 percent of Fairfax County defines itself as members of racial or ethnic minority groups.

Fairfax County Public Schools is a "majority minority" system, with white students making up just 48 percent of the total student population in 2008.

YET FAIRFAX COUNTY'S representatives hardly reflect the county's multi-ethnic and multi-racial make up. While nearly one-third of the county is not white, 95 percent of its elected officials are.

Until Obama takes office, none of Fairfax County's elected official at the federal level is a member of a minority group. Every person that represents Fairfax County in the state government, including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, six state Senators and 16 members House of Delegates members, is white.

At the local government level, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who is African American, is the only person of 10 sitting on the county board that is not white. Elected in 2003, Hudgins is the first African American and non-white person elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Ilryong Moon, Korean American, and Tina Hone, who is biracial, are both at-large members on the 12-member Fairfax County School Board.

George Lovelace, who is African American, sits on the Vienna's town council. He is the only non-white elected representative out of 20 in the county's three town governments of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

"The richness of Fairfax County is its diversity and, when you look across the room, you don't see that diversity across the leadership," said Hudgins.

From 2004 to 2007, just three of the 80 people holding public office in Fairfax County – 3.75 percent overall – were not white.

"It is one of the reasons I ran," said Hone about the lack of racial and ethnic diversity among Fairfax County's political leadership.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

When Barack Obama, shown here at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax in July, takes office as President, he will increase the current minority representation of Fairfax County by 25 percent.



Tina Hone



Ilryong Moon



Cathy Hudgins



George Lovelace

"The richness of Fairfax County is its diversity and, when you look across the room, you don't see that diversity across the leadership."

— Cathy Hudgins,
Board of Supervisors

"I know fully that one does not have to be a minority to understand and be passionate about issues that affect minorities. ... [But] I am someone who actually believes a government should reflect the diversity of the electorate."

"Especially for something like the school board, it is important to have various points of view represented on the board," said Bob Frye, an African American elected to Fairfax school board in 1995. "Having people from diverse backgrounds and occupations helped."

Elected officials also run the risk of leaving minority communities isolated or disenfranchised when the political leadership fails to reflect the electorate.

"Such imbalance does not help garnering support and buy-in from the under represented communities for policies set by the political leaders," said Moon. "Such imbalances also miss opportunities to tap resources and talents that minority candidates and communities can provide."

THERE ARE different theories as to why Fairfax County's political leadership does not reflect the county's population.

Some say Fairfax County's minority com-

munities have grown fairly recently and are still trying to grow roots establish themselves.

According to the U.S. Census, Fairfax was 81.3 percent white in 1990. By 2006, the county population was 67.9 percent white.

"When you compare [Northern] Virginia to the rest of the United States, our communities are still very young," said Isis Castro, a former county school board member.

MANY OF the new residents who make up Fairfax's fastest growing minority communities, Asian and Hispanic, are also immigrants. About 27 percent of Fairfax residents are foreign born and 32 percent speak a language other than English in their homes, according to 2006 census data.

The language barrier can make it very difficult for minority communities to get involved in politics and could also explain why certain groups have lagged in representation. "If you come here, you have to learn the language first, become successful and get involved in your community before you can move on to politics. That can take time," said Castro, who was a refugee from Cuba, moving to Florida as a child.

Fairfax Minority Elected Officials:

- George Lovelace:** Town of Vienna Council (1982-1996, 2003- present); House of Delegates (1997-1999)
- Bob Frye:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (1996-2003)
- Ernestine Heastie:** Fairfax County School Board, Providence District (1996-2003)
- Ilryong Moon:** Fairfax County School Board, Braddock District (1996-1999); Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2004-present)
- Isis Castro:** Fairfax County School Board, Mount Vernon District (2000-2003)
- Rita Thompson:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2000-2003)
- Cathy Hudgins:** Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Hunter Mill (2004-present)
- Tina Hone:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2008-present)
- Barack Obama:** United States President (takes office 2009)

New immigrants may also have a hard time understanding the political process in the United States or have had negative experiences with government officials in their home country.

"Many minority communities have not been in Fairfax long enough to learn and become comfortable with the American political process. Some communities have also traditionally shunned politics due to their own cultural and historical experiences," said Moon, who moved to Northern Virginia from Korea in high school.

"In addition to candidate recruiting, more education on our political process needs to be provided to communities," he said.

MANY CANDIDATES don't believe people of color really need "majority minority" districts to get elected in Fairfax County. Every minority elected official in Fairfax County was chosen by a majority white elector-

torate. County voters seem willing to look past race when voting.

When Ernestine Heastie was elected Providence's representative on the school board in 1995, the district had one of the smallest African American populations, just 5.2 percent, of any in the county. According to 2006 census data, the Hunter Mill district, which Hudgins represents, is just 6.2 percent African American and

nearly 70 percent white. "I think if a person of color runs for office in Northern Virginia, I think they are chosen based on what they bring to the table," said Lovelace, the Vienna Town Councilmember. "I am not naive enough to think that color doesn't matter but a person of color would get a fair look in Northern Virginia."

FAIRFAX COUNTY has a deficit of minority elected officials not because people of

SEE LITTLE DIVERSITY. PAGE 19

Little Diversity in County Leadership

FROM PAGE 18

color can't get elected but because of a deficit of minority candidates.

"There have not been enough minority candidates running for public office," said Moon. "The political parties need to do a much better job of reaching out to minority communities to recruit, encourage, groom and train more minority candidates."

Mexican American and Republican activist Laura Varamirez Drain agreed with Moon. The Reston resident was focused on national politics this past fall as national co-chair of Latinas for McCain and Virginia's only Hispanic delegate to the Republican National Convention in early September. But she says she will direct more of her attention to local politics now. "Fairfax is a very diverse community and we are not well represented. I think we have to do a better job of running for positions," said Drain.

SCOTT SUROVELL hopes to increase minority participation in the Fairfax County Democratic Committee as the organization's current president.

"I think candidates will come from that," he said. The local Democrats are trying to have more of a presence at ethnic community events and fairs. Surovell said party officials are also reaching out more to the ethnic media.

The party's information piece for public schools' Back-to-School Night was printed in four different languages this year. Fairfax County Democrats are also working toward offering their "sample ballots" in several languages.

Surovell added that the amount of money and time it takes to run for office is also a barrier. "A lot of people simply can't afford to make the jump [to elected office]," he said.

MOST of Fairfax County's minority elected officials have been affiliated with the Democratic Party, though Rita Thompson, a former school board member, was a Republican. The Republican Party also ran Vellie Dietrich Hall, a Filipino American, unsuccessfully for Mason District supervisor in 2007.

"In my opinion, we have a very diverse Republican Party. We have a lot of people participating from very different backgrounds. Our party vice chair is Korean and the head of the Mason District Republican Committee is African American. ... But all that hasn't translated into candidates and candidates getting elected," said Jim Hyland, recent head of the Fairfax County Republican Party.

The local Republicans have a hard time recruiting candidates, whether they are

"The political parties need to do a much better job of reaching out to minority communities to recruit, encourage, groom and train more minority candidates."

— **Ilyong Moon, Fairfax school board**

Moon.

Time and money are major reasons that minorities in particular do not run for office, according to several current and former minority representatives.

"Being on the school board pays \$12,000 per year and it is a matter of people who can do it. In my case, I was retired so I knew I would have a pension coming in," said Heastie, former school board member.

The average household income of Asian, African American or Hispanic households in Fairfax significantly lower than it is for their white counterparts, indicating that people from minority communities may

from a minority community or not, he said.

"It is getting harder and harder to get people to run for office. It has gotten more expensive and time consuming so people are less inclined to do it. You essentially have to be wealthy or in a situation where you don't have to work," said Hyland. "There are lots of good people I would love to run for office and they say they like being active in the party but they are not sure they want to quit their job, raise money and get pummeled by the press," he added.

Several people who currently hold and previously held elected office agreed the running for election is an intimidating task.

"It appears to be an awesome venture to do something like that. The person either has to have the resources or the ability to raise the resources," said Frye.

For minority candidates, role models and mentors are also few and far between.

"That fact that there are not many minority elected officials itself is not encouraging to any minority who may be considering a run," said

have less financial flexibility to run.

"For people who have kids it is just very difficult to give up the time and the money," said Hone, current school board member.

She added that people of color are more likely to have grown up poor or working class and giving up the luxury of free space in their schedule or extra money can be particularly hard because they have never had that flexibility before.

"It was hard to give up time and that extra financial security because I had never had it growing up. If I have extra time and extra money, do I give it to politics or my family?" Hone said.

The local Democratic Party expects its candidates to be active in the community and local politics for years before they attempt to run for office so energy and financial investment can be a long one that some people can't make.

Still, Hudgins, on the Board of Supervisors, said the way to cultivate and encourage minority leaders is to get them involved in community and county leadership.

As a supervisor, Hudgins tries to make sure her appointments to commissions, boards and authorities include people from an array of backgrounds.

"Most people in serving in elected office in Fairfax County today have been involved in some part of county government as citizen activists," said Hudgins.

HUDGINS also emphasized the importance of having a diverse county workforce, particularly among the civil servant leadership.

Currently, about 65 percent of county employees, excluding those in the school system, are white. Senior management in county government, however, is 82 percent white, 12 percent African American, two percent Asian and four percent Hispanic.

"I am someone who actually believes a government should reflect the diversity of the electorate."

— **Martina Hone, Fairfax school board**

Fairfax County Government Employees By Race/Ethnicity

The Asian and Hispanic communities – Fairfax County's two largest minority groups -- are underrepresented in the Fairfax County government. The following information is provided by the U.S. Census and Fairfax County government.



Fairfax County Public Schools Employees by Race/Ethnicity

Fairfax County Public Schools is a majority minority system, where white students make up less than half of the school population. But Fairfax County's teaching core and administrators are still overwhelmingly white.



Though students in Fairfax public schools are only 48 percent white, 84 percent of its teachers are white. About seven percent of teachers are African American, three percent are Hispanic and four percent are Asian.

IN TERMS OF elected officials, Obama could prove inspiration for other people from minority communities who might want to run for public office.

"The Obama campaign did a lot to bring people in that we have not seen before. I am hoping that it will have a lasting impact," said Surovell of the local Democrats.

Several of the people of color who have been elected to office said they were inspired by previous campaigns.

"I reflected on the success Doug Wilder had running for Governor. I had been an appointed school board member so I thought I would try to run and I was successful," said Frye of his decision to become a candidate for school board.

Hudgins said she and others were inspired by Jesse Jackson's run for the U.S. presidency in 1984 and 1988. Jackson won the Virginia Democratic primary in 1988.

"There was a ground swell, particularly after '88, of folks who started running for office. When you are not seeing your face in a leadership role, it takes a bit more effort to say 'I can make that move,'" she said.

SPORTS

Saxons Pull Off Doubleheader Basketball Sweep

Saxon girls and boys teams both win at Annandale.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Both the Langley High boys and girls basketball teams were victorious last Friday night in double header hoops action against the host Annandale Atoms.

The Langley girls, under coach Cheryl Buffo, won the first game of the night, 53-49, before the Saxon boys were victorious in a close nightcap affair, 45-44.

Four Langley boys players scored in double figures to lead coach Travis Hess' team to victory. Senior guards Barrett Hunter, Thomas Kody and Jack Mclindon each netted 11 points, while senior guard Derek Baker scored 10.

LANGLEY, IN THE WIN, overcame a 24-18 halftime deficit. The Saxons, the defending Liberty District champions and Northern Region finalists last year, improved their early season record against Northern Region teams to 2-0. Earlier last week, they won over visiting Yorktown, 58-50, in a game played Dec. 9. Baker led Langley in that win with 22 points, while Kody scored 11.

The Langley boys open up their Liberty District season this week with road games at Stone Bridge, Dec. 16, and at cross-town rival McLean this Friday night, Dec. 19.

Friday's game will be part of a girls-boys doubleheader. The Langley girls are scheduled to open the evening with their game against the Highlander girls at 5:45 p.m.

Against Annandale last Friday, the Langley girls led 21-20 at halftime before going on to garner the hard-earned win. Sophomore center Audrey Dotson led the winners with 15 points, while teammate Kristen Kody, a junior guard, added 14 points. Junior forward Alexis Doherty contributed seven points.

The win snapped a two-game losing streak for Langley (2-3), who lost at Yorktown earlier last week, 43-38. No Saxon player scored in double figures in the loss to the Patriots, with Dotson and Doherty both finishing with seven points.



Langley boys basketball coach Travis Hess and his Saxons are gearing up for this Friday night's game at McLean.

Langley, along with the recent win over Annandale, also has a win over Hayfield. That 53-40 home win over the Hawks came Dec. 5.

Langley was scheduled to host Stone Bridge on Tuesday of this week before traveling to rival McLean on Friday.

MCLEAN'S FIRST boys basketball win of the season last Friday night probably tasted extra sweet for a Highlanders' team that opened the winter season with three straight losses.

"It's great for the kids," McLean coach Kevin Roller said of his team's 72-62 overtime triumph over visiting non-district opponent Centreville.

The coach said the win served as a confidence-builder for his team and what it takes to earn a precious "W." The Highlanders had been struggling in various areas of their game over their first three losses — a season-opening setback to Stuart and two defeats at a tournament in Myrtle Beach, S.C., two weeks ago. One of McLean's biggest problems was its poor outside shooting. McLean, a physically smaller team, has to do a lot of things well, including shooting the ball, in order to be successful.

And McLean's shooting touch from long

range came around in the win over the Wildcats.

"Centreville came out pretty aggressive," Roller said. "They had won the night before against Falls Church. We were able to get a couple of outside shots in the second quarter to keep [within] six or seven points."

But Centreville still had a fairly comfortable 28-19 lead at halftime. Both teams, Roller said, played a good third quarter of ball. The game's momentum changed in McLean's favor when senior point guard Peter Brosnan connected on a 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter to pull the Highlanders within three points.

"That really sparked the effort anew," Roller said of the important long-ranger by Brosnan.

IN THE FINAL quarter, the game went right down to the wire. Senior reserve center Ben Glauber (10 points), off an inbounds play, tied the game with a clutch 3-pointer with 15 seconds remaining. Centreville regained the lead moments later, however, by two points.

But on an in-bounds play with six seconds left, McLean junior forward Sean Fitzgerald gathered in a missed shot by a

teammate before going up to the basket. He missed the shot, but was fouled with no time left on the clock.

McLean's hopes rested on Fitzgerald, who coolly sank both free throws to tie the game at 56 and force overtime. No players were on the floor when Fitzgerald shot the free throws because regulation was over.

"Everyone likes to say he has ice in his veins," Roller said of Fitzgerald, a standout baseball pitcher for the Highlanders during the spring. "He was all by himself and he hit two to force overtime."

In the five-minute overtime session, Centreville took the lead at 58-56, but the Highlanders did not fall further behind and eventually overcame the Wildcats and won. McLean hit several free throws down the overtime stretch to hold off Centreville and get the much-needed first win of the season.

McLean knocked down eight treys in the win, including five by senior guard Matt Baruch (18 points), two by Brosnan (22 points) and the one by Glauber (10 points) late in the fourth quarter. Six of McLean's 3-pointers came after halftime.

"In the second half we cut down on turnovers and handled their pressure better," Roller said of a key to McLean's ability to get back into the game. "We've got some good athletes who can shoot well if we can spread the floor. When we shoot it well, teams have to extend [their defense]. They had confidence shooting and really that's one of the things we need to do to win — shoot it well."

The coach said his team did feel a sense of urgency going into the game at 0-3. Then, falling behind early to Centreville added to that pressure. But the Highlanders, behind their home crowd, ultimately got into a nice groove.

"When we got down early, the kids kept fighting and believing this is what we have to do to be successful," Roller said of stressing the Highlanders' keys such as continuing to play hard and working the ball around. "They had the commitment to stick with it and didn't get down."

McLean received a good game from senior center Leonard Gjino, who scored eight points.

This week, McLean was scheduled to play at Jefferson Tuesday. This Friday night, the Highlanders will host local rival Langley in a girls-boys doubleheader.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The **Langley High** girls basketball team, under head coach Cheryl Buffo, hosted the recent 1st Annual PeacePlayers International Tournament, the weekend of Dec. 5 and 6, at Langley High School. The participating teams were host Langley, along with McLean, Hayfield and South County high schools. The teams competed in a round-robin format. Admission to the games came in the form of a donation to PeacePlayers International.

In the benefit tournament, rivals Langley and McLean as well as Hayfield and South County united to raise awareness for PeacePlayers International, an innovative global organization that uses sports to unite and edu-

cate young people in divided communities.

Children who play together can learn to live together — a simple concept that goes unrealized in conflict-ridden communities where segregation, suspicion and violence rule. Introduce a basketball and caring coaches to middle-school youth and things begin to change.

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The **Madison High** girls swim and dive team defeated Marshall, 232-83, in a recent Liberty District meet. First-place finishers for the Warhawks included Becky Shaak, Devin Youngblood, Katarina O'Reilly (double winner), Julia Tanes, Bev Dobrenz, Lindsay Mottola and Kelly Lloyd (diving).

Also, the Madison boys were 216-96 winners over Marshall. First-place finishers for Madison were Joseph Capra, Justin Dutta (double winner), David Fallavollita, Sean Fletcher (double winner), Matthew Russiello, Austin Chute and Ryan Fox (diving).

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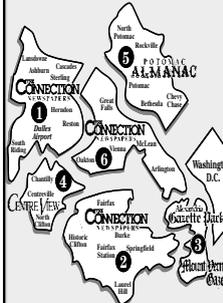
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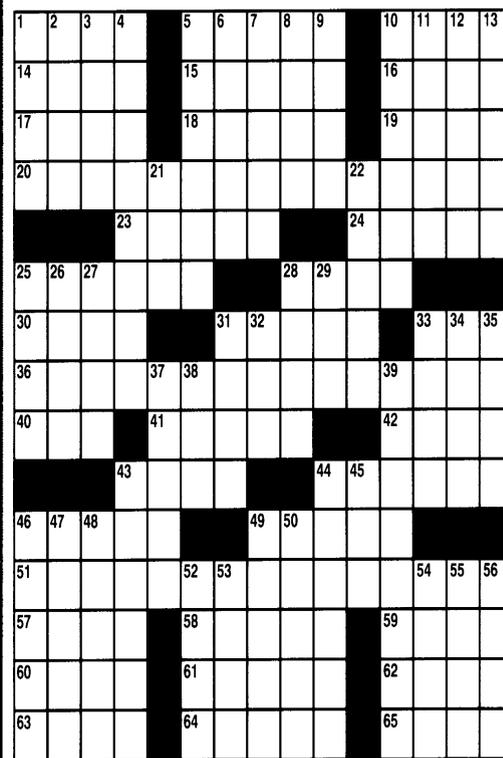
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NEWSPAPERS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0412-6



Puzzle by Diane C. Baldwin

ACROSS

- 1 St. Bernard's bark
- 5 Loud kiss
- 10 Air pollution
- 14 Victor who wrote "Les Misérables"
- 15 California border lake
- 16 TV drama length, usually
- 17 Stocking shade
- 18 Cell terminal
- 19 Old-fashioned letter
- 20 Saint-Exupéry lad
- 23 Implore
- 24 Done
- 25 Moves furtively
- 28 Gun's recoil
- 30 Money in 31-Across
- 31 Province in Tuscany
- 33 Indignation
- 36 Arachnid of song
- 40 Vegetable that's hard to eat with a knife
- 41 Rich soils
- 42 Close
- 43 Engagement token

- 44 Olympic prizes
- 46 Football Hall-of-Famer Merlin
- 49 Unbroken
- 51 Nursery rhyme fellow
- 57 Etna output
- 58 Grocery section
- 59 Singer Turner
- 60 In any way
- 61 Look of disdain
- 62 The "E" of B.P.O.E.
- 63 Take care of
- 64 Shorebirds
- 65 Medicinal amount

- 10 Psychiatrist
- 11 Pitcher's place
- 12 Cup fraction
- 13 Avarice
- 21 Sort
- 22 Sum up
- 25 Boo-boo
- 26 Paper-and-string flier
- 27 Celestial bear
- 28 Ivories
- 29 Election winners
- 31 For men only
- 32 Doctrine
- 33 Concept

- 34 Authentic
- 35 Goofs up
- 37 Pancakes served with sour cream
- 38 Charged particle
- 39 Like most paragraphs
- 43 First word on a "lost dog" sign
- 44 Lawn tools
- 45 Samuel's teacher
- 46 Young hooter
- 47 Sailor's time off
- 48 Deadly sins number
- 49 Not so dumb
- 50 Actress Hunt
- 52 Endure
- 53 Unemployment office sight
- 54 Metric weight
- 55 Signs, as a contract
- 56 Repose

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

E	T	T	A	P	L	A	C	E	P	O	P	P	A
C	H	A	G	R	I	N	E	D	A	T	L	A	S
L	A	R	R	Y	K	I	N	G	S	E	E	R	S
A	L	M	A	E	T	T	E	T	R	I	T	E	
T	I	A	D	R	E	S	O	N	E	S			
A	C	T	S	A	R	O	I	D	A	R	S		
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The winner of puzzle #0410-6 is:

Jane de Lange

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.

This Belle Was Saved By ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I rescued a damsel in distress earlier today and I did it by sitting on my rear end and thinking (remembering, actually). I received the semi distress call from my wife, Dina, at 9:25 this morning. I was in McLean, she was still in Burtonsville, 45 minutes away by car. Dina was calling to say that she had accidentally locked her keys in her car, and did I have any suggestions or words to that effect.

Being an experienced husband, I knew that inquiring (I use that term loosely) as to how such a thing, accidental though it may have been, could have possibly happened would serve absolutely no purpose, and most likely exacerbate an already unpleasant and inconvenient situation, so I refrained.

It happened. Why/how is irrelevant. Finding the solution was the proper course of action, at that particular time, anyway. And so we discussed our options: calling AAA, yours truly driving home to unlock her car with my key, attempting to use her car's second key-less entry key fob (the one I had on my key chain) to transmit a signal via cell phone in an technological trick to unlock the door while she held her cell phone against the car (something I had read somewhere — unfortunately, it didn't work), calling a locksmith, or even consider alternative modes of transportation: neighbor, taxi, subway, etc. After discussing all these options, I said I would call her back in five minutes after asking around the office in the event there was some idea that we hadn't considered.

A few minutes later I called her back. After speaking with other car owners in my office, some of whom had actually experienced the identical keys-locked-in-the-car problem, the consensus was that Dina should just call AAA. I called Dina back and advised her how best to proceed, and so she called AAA, with whom we've been members going on 25 years. I hung up and told her to call me back if she encountered any problems. At which point I figured my assistance was no longer needed so I resumed my morning duties and re-focused on the newspaper tasks at hand.

And as I returned to my desk and sat back down, I felt my car/house keys in my pant's pocket where I had put them in anticipation of possibly driving home after Dina had initially called to explain her plight. And while doing so, I felt again, saw again, the key fob to her car that I had on my key chain, that moments ago, in crisis mode, we had used (via our cell phones) unsuccessfully to unlock her car, and it hit me.

Dina doesn't use her car's key fob. She doesn't even carry it on her key chain. In fact, I think I remembered seeing it in the house, by itself, in an ash tray under a mirror in our living room where, if I wasn't mistaken, it had taken up permanent residence, so I called her back immediately, and somewhat excitedly, with news I thought, if true, would eliminate whatever cost and inconvenience waiting for AAA to arrive would cause.

And, before I could even finish my thought, Dina had, per my suggestion, looked in the ash tray, found her key fob and was already on her way outside to her car, a mere 10 yards or so from where the key fob was (and the front door is) and voila, one button press later, "presto chango," like magic, or shall I say exactly like key-less entry technology was designed to do, the car door opened. Dina quickly called to cancel the AAA Road Service and off to work she drove, with nary a hint of the disaster/delay that might have been.

Mighty Mouse would have been proud as I "saved the day!" And though I didn't exactly swoop down from the sky like he often did, it sure felt like it. For a low-tech, mechanically declined, tool twit like me, this rescue was as good as it gets.

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

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Public Notice – Environmental Permit
PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality to limit air pollution emitted by a facility in Arlington, Arlington County, Virginia.

Public comment period: December 18, 2008 to January 20th, 2009

Permit name: State Operating Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the Air Pollution Control Board

APPLICANT Name, address and registration number: Verizon Business; 2400 North Glenville Drive, Richardson, Texas 75082; Registration Number: 73726.

Project description: Verizon Business has applied for a new permit to operate fuel burning equipment at Verizon Business located at 1320 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia 22201. The permit would allow the source to operate one diesel fired engine-generator set.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: Elizabeth Aiken; Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193; Phone: 703-583-3890; E-mail: ehaiken@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: 703-583-3821. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality to limit air pollution emitted by a facility in Vienna, Fairfax County, Virginia.

Public comment period: December 18, 2008 to January 20, 2009

Permit name: State Operating Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the Air Pollution Control Board

APPLICANT Name, address and registration number: Verizon Business; 2400 North Glenville Drive, Richardson, Texas 75082; Registration Number: 73728.

Project description: Verizon Business has applied for a new permit to operate fuel burning equipment at Verizon Business located at 8500 Tyco Road, Vienna, Virginia 22182. The permit would allow the source to operate two diesel fired engine-generator sets.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: Elizabeth Aiken; Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193; Phone: 703-583-3890; E-mail: ehaiken@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: 703-583-3821. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above.

21 Announcements

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Hard Times of Clarendon, Inc HTCLAR Limited Partnership trading as Hard Times Cafe, 3028, Wilson Blvd, Clarendon, Arlington, VA 22201-3810. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a mixed beverage/Beer and Wine on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Richard J. Kelly VP

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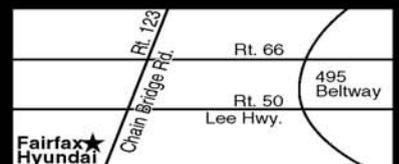
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