

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

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Nichole and Mariella Rodriguez pose among the stacks of Girl Scout cookies gathered in the Neighbors International Foundation office. The cookies are to be sent to troops in the Middle East, but the foundation is short on money for postage.

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Plenty of Cookies, Not Enough Postage

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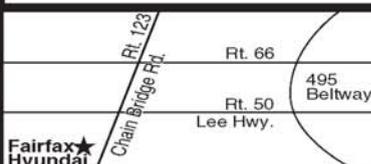
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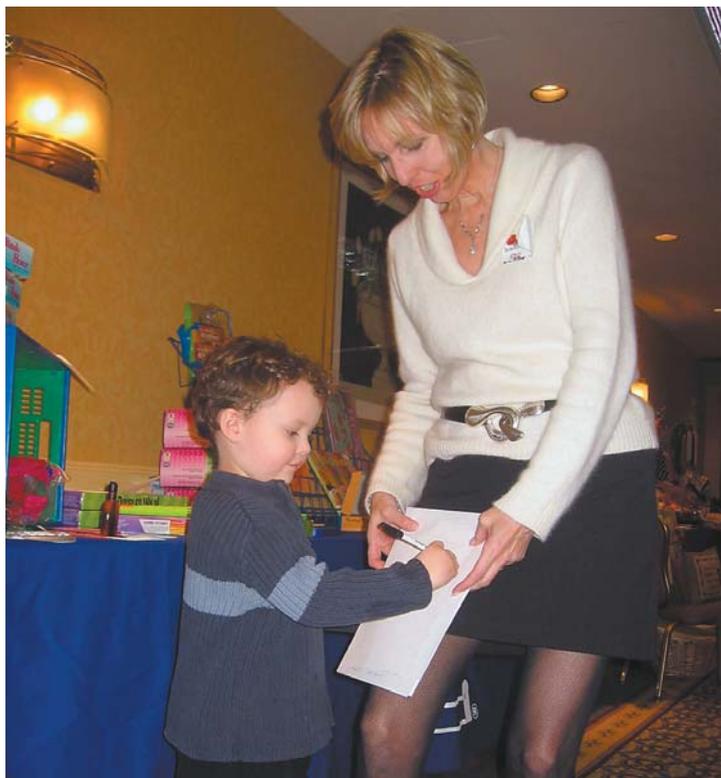
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In 2008, JP Vinter signs his autograph for Childhelp Fashion Show and Luncheon co-chair, Bootsie Humenansky of Great Falls.



Runway diva Faith Ann Finch of Reston awaits her cue with her mother, Kim.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

Pictured, from left, are Churchill Road Elementary School fourth-graders, Sean Olmsted, Christian Markwart, Alex Wallach, Grant Hughes and Ethan Reblitz. Back row, Langley High School seniors Danny Pritchett and Barrett Hunter, along with Dave Ickowski, Churchill Road fourth-grade teacher.

Show of Support

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

The Washington Area Chapter of Childhelp, a nonprofit dedicating its resources to the treatment and prevention of child abuse, holds its 4th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Reston Hyatt Regency. WJLA TV News anchor, Cynne Simpson, will emcee the fashion show featuring more than 26 models, from moms to teens, "tweens" and children. "Healing the Hearts of Children" is this year's theme.

"This is a party with a purpose," said event co-chair, Bootsie Humenansky of Great Falls. "We did try to make it a lot of fun. It's an opportunity for people to throw off the winter blues, to introduce spring fashions and trends," Humenansky said. "It's a good girls' day out."

For members, sponsors, friends, tennis teams and book clubs, it's a chance to socialize for a good cause, Humenansky said. The luncheon menu features butternut squash soup, spice-rubbed chicken breast on a bed of saffron-herb orzo with broccolini and thyme bordelaise and key lime pie.

Most of the models are from the McLean/Great Falls area and several of the teens and preteens are members of WINGS, a Childhelp mother/daughter service-oriented group.

"This year will be the most fun," Humenansky said. "We're trying to grow every year." Title sponsor, Booz Allen Hamilton, has been "very, very helpful" to the chapter, she said.

Last year, guests said they wished they

Where & When

The Greater Washington Chapter of Childhelp Fashion Show and Luncheon is Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Reston Hyatt Regency, Reston Town Center. Tickets are \$75. Call Bootsie Humenansky at 703-444-3839 or e-mail her at bootsieh@aol.com to buy tickets or to reserve a seat. Payment in advance is by check or cash. The schedule: 10 a.m.-noon, boutique sales and silent auction; noon, lunch served and presentation of award to Kathylee Forrester; 12:30 p.m., one-hour fashion show begins; boutique sales continue until 3 p.m.

had more time to mingle and browse the boutique vendors. For 2009, the event opens an hour earlier, at 10 a.m. Jewelry, accessories, beauty products, home fashions, children's books and hand-painted glassware are featured among the 20-plus vendor boutique. There is both a silent and a live auction, as well as a raffle.

Kathylee Forrester, who created therapeutic stuffed bears, will be recognized with a "Champion for Children" award at the luncheon. Forrester is an adult survivor of childhood abuse; her father was the perpetrator. Born of her personal terror, Forrester became an advocate of stronger laws to protect children. She has designed Patches the bear to help children express their emotions. Forrester donated 300 bears to the national organization and to the Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia.

"We're raising money through this luncheon to support the Childhelp programs in the Greater Washington area, including our shelter on Waples Mill Road," said publicity co-chair, Denise Balzano. Last year, the

Childhelp holds benefit fashion show and luncheon.

fashion show and luncheon netted the Greater Washington Chapter of Childhelp more than \$35,000 for distribution to the Fairfax shelter and the residential treatment facility outside Culpeper.

EACH DAY IN AMERICA, more than four children die as a result of child abuse in the home.

Childhelp is one of the oldest and largest national nonprofits dedicated to the treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect. The organization provides a broad continuum of child abuse prevention and treatment programs that directly serve children and their families, including The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-4-A-CHILD), residential treatment villages, children's advocacy centers, abuse prevention training for children and adults, as well as group homes and foster care.

"IT'S A GOOD TIME to renew friendships, socialize and get a better look at all the vendors and silent auction items," said Humenansky. "And have a mimosa."

Tickets for the Childhelp luncheon and fashion show are \$75. Call Bootsie Humenansky at 703-444-3839 or e-mail her at bootsieh@aol.com to buy tickets or to reserve a seat. Payment in advance is by check or cash. The schedule is: 10 a.m.-noon, boutique sales and silent auction; noon, lunch served and presentation of award to Kathylee Forrester; 12:30 p.m., one-hour fashion show begins; boutique sales continue until 3 p.m.

For more information on Childhelp, see www.childhelp.org.

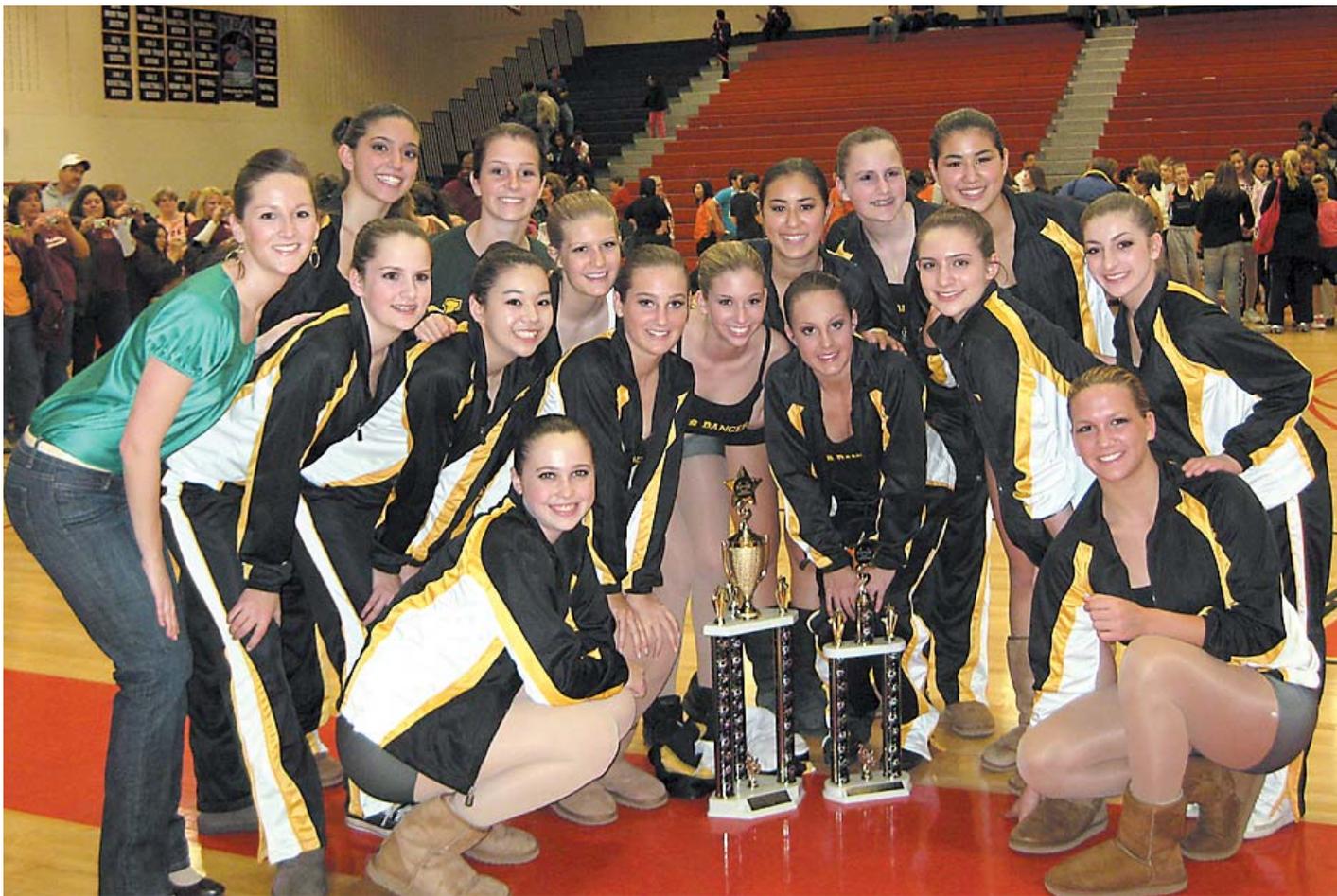
Langley Players Meet Loyal Fans

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Langley Saxon basketball starters forward Danny Pritchett and guard Barrett Hunter took a break from their busy schedules to enjoy a pizza lunch with a group of their most loyal fans. For the past two years, these five Churchill Road Elementary School students have come to all the Langley home games to cheer on the team. They know all the players and keep an eye on them during games. The boys developed their interest in the Langley basketball program when they began attending the summer basketball camps sponsored by the high school's varsity team.

Meet the Author

Local author Laura Elliot will be at Great Falls Library Monday, March 2, from 4-5:40 p.m., discussing her juvenile fiction "Give Me Liberty." The book centers on the role teens and tweens play in the Revolutionary War.

L. M. Elliott is author of "Under a War-torn Sky," a NCSS/CBC Notable Social Studies Book and Jefferson Cup Honor Book; "Annie, Between the States," a Virginia Readers' Choice finalist, IRA Teachers' Choice, and New York Public Library Book for the Teen Age; and "Flying South," winner of the Joan Sugarman Award for Children's Literature. Her most recent novel is set in Williamsburg during the American Revolution and recounts how ordinary citizens risked all to seek liberty and often had to make the bitter choice to stand against their neighbors or friends in battle.



CONTRIBUTED

The team is now focusing on its trip to Orlando, Fla., in March where it will compete nationally at Disney's Wide World of Sports.

Langley Dance Team Keeps Winning, Goes to Orlando

The Langley High School Saxon Dance Team has spent the beginning of 2009 competing in local dance competitions around Northern Virginia. On Jan. 24, the team competed at the Brooke Point Invitational in Stafford, winning first place for its high-kick routine and second place for its jazz piece. Sophomore Hillary Benjamin received fifth place

for her solo. On Feb. 7, the dance team traveled to Gar-Field High School, in Prince William County, for the Sweetheart Invitational, winning another first-place trophy in the varsity kick category and second place in varsity jazz. The team's back-to-back first-place wins cemented the team's status as the best high-kick team in the region. Junior Dani Burger won third place for her solo

at the Gar-Field competition. The team is now focusing on its trip to Orlando, Fla., in March where it will compete nationally at Disney's Wide World of Sports. The Saxon Dance Team is looking forward to representing Langley High School as well as the McLean and Great Falls communities in Florida. Langley's Dance Team is choreographed and directed by Ellen Shatzen.

Plenty of Cookies, Not Enough Postage

Neighbors International seeks donations to cookies to troops overseas.

The Neighbors International Foundation will have plenty of Girl Scout cookies to send to U.S. troops in the Middle East, but it may not have the money to mail them.

The cookies, bought by customers of Girl Scout troops across the area, began pouring into the Neighbors office in Great Falls last weekend, and the organization expects about 15,000 boxes to arrive over the next few months. However, the cost of postage is expected to run about \$15,000, and only about \$1,000 has been donated to date.

Neighbors International has been sending Girl Scout cookies to U.S. troops for years, and founder Sharon Rainey said postage donations have never gotten off to such a slow start.



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Girl Scout cookies are piling up in the Neighbors International Foundation office.

Help Out

Donations to help Neighbors International ship Girl Scout cookies to U.S. troops stationed overseas can be made on the foundation's Web site, www.nifoundation.org, or by mail or in person at the Neighbors office, 1146 D Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066. Packing parties will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the office this Saturday, Feb. 21, March 14, March 28 and April 25. To volunteer, call 703-759-2102 or e-mail sharon@myneighborsnetwork.com.

As their service project for the year, many Girl Scout troops in Great Falls, McLean and the surrounding area solicited purchases of boxes of cookies to be sent to the soldiers, and the Scouts gathered the cookies and delivered them to Neighbors. Volunteers will participate in packing parties to assemble and address the packages.

Donations to help pay for the boxes to be sent can be made online, by mail or in person at the Neighbors office in Leigh Corner Center.

— MIKE DICICCO

Gilbert's Corner Project

Gilbert's Corner has either completed or is constructing five roundabouts in their area as a way to calm traffic while preserving the community's semirural atmosphere.

Kenny Robinson, VDOT project manager of the Gilbert's Corner project, will visit Tuesday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m., at the Old Schoolhouse to share his experiences and insights on the design, functionality, construction process, reactions of the community after completion of the first roundabout, etc. This is an informational session only. It is meant to educate the community of Great Falls about the latest ideas being considered by other communities within Fairfax County. All are welcome to attend.

Nominations for Teen Character Awards

The McLean Citizens Association, through its Education and Youth Committee, is sponsoring the Teen Character Award to recognize teens with exceptional ethical and compassionate character. Teens who have cared for elderly relatives or younger siblings or who have helped out in their neighborhood or community on their own and without compensation or other formal recognition deserve to be recognized not only for themselves but as an example to others.

If you know a teen you would like to nominate, pick up an application form at the McLean Community Center, Langley or McLean high schools or Cooper or Longfellow middle schools. Nominations must be turned in to the McLean Community Center no later than Saturday, April 25.

2nd Annual Cooper Spelling Bee

Cooper Middle School will hold its Second Annual Spelling Bee Monday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m. Thirty-seven students will compete until a single student remains as the winner. Participants include winners or runner-ups from classroom spelling bees held in December in all the English classes for grades seven and eight. All students participated including special education students and ESOL students. Winners and runner-ups were identified.

The winner will advance to the Fairfax County Spelling Bee Saturday, March 21, at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria. The county bee winner moves on to the nationally recognized Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., in May.

This year's school bee judges include Janie Strauss, FCPS School Board member; Anthony Terrell, assistant principal, eighth grade, and Mark Emery, FCPS after-school programs administrator. The pronouncer is Leslie Psaltis, librarian/media specialist.

COMMUNITY

Snack Becomes Family Business

Great Falls resident creates allergy-free energy bar for children, ends up with licensed business.

About a year ago, Great Falls resident Amy Dean started playing around with recipes for nut-free energy bars. Now, Jesse Bars LLC, named for her youngest daughter, is a licensed business, and Dean packages and distributes dozens of the bars she makes in her kitchen.

Two of her three children have nut allergies and her daughter, Jenna, now 14, was tired of watching her volleyball teammates eat granola bars and energy bars during tournaments, when she had no comparable snacks for herself.

While food allergies are on the rise, it has become increasingly difficult to find high-energy, healthy snacks that do not contain traces of nuts, said Dean, who also coaches volleyball at Langley High School. Those that she was able to find were generally expensive and did not go over well with her children.

OVER THE YEARS, Dean had experimented with healthy, allergen-free recipes but without much luck, "and this recipe I came up with turned out really, really good," she said. She researched many recipes and started experimenting with a few of her own. "I threw in everything I knew my kids would like and I took out everything that would kill them," she said.

"I threw in everything I knew my kids would like and I took out everything that would kill them."

— Amy Dean

When the recipe turned out well, she started taste testing the bars among local people with allergies. "I started thinking, 'Wow, we could really fill a need with this,'" she said. She tweaked the recipe for a month or two and came up with three flavors — "Choc-Oat Chip," "Berry Oat" and the combination "Choc-Oat Berry."

Last May, she started her business. She named the bars after Jessica, also known as Jesse, 10, who has the most severe allergies in the family and has gone into anaphylactic shock four times as a result of accidental nut consumption. Dean said most of her customers now are local resi-



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

From left, Amy, Jesse and Jenna Dean pose with their homemade Jesse Bars in the kitchen where they're produced.

dents and their friends, only about half of whom have children with nut allergies. Some weeks, she makes 300 bars and other weeks only a dozen.

Jessica often brings home money that classmates have given her for orders of bars.

When large orders come in, the kitchen becomes a bakery and the dining room is a packaging area. "We basically don't eat really good meals that week because it's all about the bars," Dean said. As a stay-home mother, though, she can do much of the work while the children are in school.

The Great Falls-based Media Plus Design created the Web site and designed the labels and Dean said she hopes to one day increase production to the point that the snacks will come in regular wrappers like other mass-produced energy bars. By that point, the business would have to move out of the kitchen and into a separate facility.

MEANWHILE, she said, she is taking it slow, perfecting her business model and making sure she can keep up with demand. Once the business is turning a profit, a portion will be donated to food allergy research. "Our dream is to have a big enough business where we could give them a whole lot of money to cure this," Dean said.

Also in the future could be new flavors and bars that cater to those with dairy, gluten and soy allergies. For now, Dean said, she just likes seeing Jesse Bars eaten around the nut-free lunch table at Jesse's school.

— MIKE DICICCO

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OPINION

No to Gatehouse II

Almost \$100 million for second school HQ building is pre-meltdown thinking.

Superintendent of Schools Jack Dale and other Fairfax County Public school administrators persist in pressing for the purchase of a new, additional building next to its current headquarters.

School Board members and Board of Supervisors members should push back against this proposal.

So far, proponents of buying the 275,000-square-foot building next door to the 210,000 square foot existing headquarters say that this is the only way they can vacate 15 properties.

Vacating those buildings will save millions of dollars they say by terminating leases and avoiding renovations; plus some are needed for new schools. These savings lead proponents to call this program "self funded."

But now that we are in a different economy, local government will have to learn to think differently about such problems.

Leaders will have to find a way to vacate 15 buildings without spending nearly \$100 million, thereby reaping the savings without going into debt for part two of a school Taj Mahal.

There are some 600 employees in Gatehouse I, and plans to move some 700 more to

Gatehouse II. That's nearly half a million square feet of top quality office space for administration. There will be no teachers or students in these buildings.

We should note that this proposal comes from good intentions. We hear that camaraderie, synergy and communication have all improved from having a critical mass of administration and services located in a single place. It's a benefit Dale, Dean Tisdadt and others rightly would like to expand.

But administrators of the Fairfax County Public School system do not need office space fit for a top-flight law firm. Space inside Gatehouse I could be reconfigured so that almost all employees had their own cubicles — not offices. A few small conference rooms could make room for private conversations and phone calls as needed.

Many employees already telecommute, or could, on some days, and others spend most of their time in a variety of schools. These employees should share space; a cart for their files and a laptop should enable them to use modular space, greatly increasing the number of workers who could be accommodated in-

side the existing building.

FCPS also purchased three acres next to Gatehouse I where the original proposal was to build Gatehouse II. Now the proposal is to purchase an adjacent existing building.

Instead, the schools should install modulars (trailers) on the three acres to accommodate any employees who need to vacate the 15 buildings but don't fit inside a reconfigured Gatehouse I.

There are also problems with the process being used in this decision. There have been no public hearings on the subject. And the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider this next week. When we modernize or build schools here, voters get to weigh in by means of a referendum, and Fairfax voters have overwhelming supported school projects. Why don't voters have a say on this, which has been in the works for years?

This way, the schools can save \$100 million twice.

Don't just take our word for it, read the school system's arguments in favor of buying Gatehouse II at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/office.htm>.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Open Letter To Chairman Bulova

Dear Chairman Bulova:

I thought this cat was dead. Why do we have to continually consider, especially in secret this very bad idea called Gatehouse II?

Citizens are becoming fed up. The big elephant in the room over the last several months has been exotic Wall Street conglomerates who turned out to be not so exotic and not so good at management decisions. Among those bad decisions were mortgage schemes in which no early-year interest payments were required of some subprime borrowers. Subsequently, as we now know, these not so exotic organizations have required a bailout. Then as the "bailout money" was distributed, we discovered some of that bailout money was being used to award management ludicrous bonuses.

Not to be outdone by Wall Street, it now it appears Fairfax County is attempting to bailout some real estate speculators who made a bad business decision in late 2006. You may remember, mid-year 2006 was at the height of the real estate market and ex-

actly the wrong time to make a buy decision, especially of the building at 8111 Gate House Road and unbelievably for \$43,545,000. In an effort to put some lipstick on this bovine, Fairfax County is calling it Gatehouse II and trying to bond out and then obligate somewhere around \$100 million capitol expense to acquire and upgrade this building. Despite the School Board's assertion to the contrary, this is the same money that could be used to accomplish critically needed refurbishment of existing school facilities.

To make matters worse, for some reason, the first three years of interest is not being paid. Apparently it is being added back into the capitalization of the mortgage so even more interest will be due in the future. Does this interest delayed strategy ring a bell? The other costs, to include future interest payments, are additional tens of millions of dollars not being shown nor discussed.

To add insult to injury, I have just learned Fairfax County Public Schools has an organization called the "Department of Statistical Responsibility." What exactly is this all about? Sounds like a "spin" group to me. What this school administration needs is a Department of Fiscal Responsibility, not

a department that appears to be devoted to manipulating numbers to advertise how great our schools are."

Bruce Bennett
Vienna

Dale is Wrong On Gatehouse II

To the Editor:

Just when you thought that you have heard enough about bailouts, wait until you hear about this one On Feb. 12, 2009, Superintendent Jack Dale sent his marketing message to the Parent Advisory Council (PTA) to drum up support for spending \$94.5 million dollars on his pet project of acquiring another administration building for his staff. The public is expected to believe that purchasing this building will generate cost savings of \$62 million — up \$40 million from just a few months ago. Wow — imagine that — \$40 million in savings appeared out of no where. With that kind of magic, we could solve our economic crisis instantly.

Dale's message to the PTA, "No money will be taken away from schools or students, the project will be fully self-funded through savings and efficiencies and no payments will need to be made

until fiscal year 2013."

No payments until fiscal year 2013 — yes, and the law of economics says that if you are borrowing money and not repaying the principal, guess what? The debt balance goes up. This is part of the reason for the mortgage mess. Putting off payment for three years is not a savings nor is it efficient.

Dale is wrong. Spending \$94.5 million of scarce funds to buy and renovate another administration building does take money away from students, teachers and our schools. If South County High School can be paid for by EDA bonds, so can other schools renovations.

So here are three novel ideas for Dale, School Board members and the Board of Supervisors who will go behind closed doors to discuss and vote on this proposal on Feb. 23. First, the \$94.5 million generated by selling EDA bond should be used to renovate those schools that have been sitting in the queue for decades. The parents of West

Springfield High School should be appalled that this is not the plan.

Second, under the leadership of the new board chair, Sharon

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

Bulova, the discussion between the School Board and supervisors should come out from behind closed doors. There should be public vetting with a public hearing for this proposal.

And finally, return the administrators who were once teachers back into the classroom. Then you won't need another building and our children would be getting a better education. Our kids and teachers deserve better — especially the ones stuffed into trailers and in schools that are falling apart.

Kim Farrell
Vienna

More Arms, Less Crime

To the Editor:

Your Opinion in the Feb. 11, 2009 Connection ["Gun Show Loop Hole Stays Open"] was very misleading. First of all, there was no "affront" to the Virginia Tech victims' families. The criminal that committed the murders did not purchase any of his arms from gun shows. You also failed to mention

the fact that criminals do not buy guns at gun shows. In fact, it was liberal privacy policies that prevented the shooter from being registered into the instant check system. You also failed to mention this situation was corrected in January 2008 by the passage of HR 2640, which was signed into law by the president. This is evidenced by your inability to identify any violent crime committed with a gun show purchase. This is because criminals buy illegal guns on the black market. Gun shows sell mostly collectible items, which are generally rare, expensive and not of much utility to criminals. You failed to discuss why the law failed to pass. It is because the law would do nothing. For example, where does the gun show begin and end? If an unscrupulous seller steps outside the building, is the sale no longer at the gun show. What about if the sale is made after the show ends? The State of Virginia is one of the most heavily armed in the union and has one of the lowest crime rates. I challenge this paper to find an area of the country with gun bans that has low-crime rates.

Sam Lowenstein
Vienna

Streak Not Likely To Be Broken

To the Editor:

One of the joys of an approaching spring is the start of a new baseball season. Unfortunately, controversies surrounding steroid use have placed a cloud on Major League Baseball. It seems a long time ago since Cal Ripken saved baseball by breaking Lou Gehrig's 2,130 consecutive-games streak. Fortunately, residents of McLean can celebrate a streak as impressive as that of Cal Ripken and the Iron Horse. Local resident, and McLean Rotarian, Bob Rosenbaum has been volunteering his time playing piano and entertaining folks at the Lewinsville Adult Day Health Care Center since 1987. This almost 22-year-old streak continues and like Cal's streak is one not likely to be broken. Bob's selfless giving of his time to the community deserves recognition and is something that makes life better and more enjoyable for those visiting the center. Bob's hit this one out of the park.

Mike Holleran
Herndon



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- Saturday, Feb 14th
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- Saturday, Feb 21st
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CA & OR Pinot Noir
- Thursday, Feb 26th
Wine Dinner at Le Mistral in McLean

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SCHOOLS



PHOTO BY NORMA JAMSHEED

Back, left are Ernie Leighty, Great Falls ES; Matt Ragone, Langley HS; Matt Harris, Forestville ES, and Don Hutzal, Churchill Road ES. Front row: Steve Hockett, Colvin Run ES; Arlene Randall, Cooper MS and Roger Vanderhye, Spring Hill ES.

Langley Pyramid Principals Tour Each Others' Schools

On Friday, Feb. 6, the seven Langley pyramid principals joined together for a day of camaraderie and sharing. Beginning at 7 a.m., at Langley High School, they spent the day visiting each of the seven schools in the pyramid to learn from each other and share ideas. The principals had the opportunity to interact with children, parents and teachers from other schools, as well as to observe and participate in unique programs and tour each others' buildings.

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SCHOOLS

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

Oakcrest School has been awarded the National Endowment for the Humanities Picturing America grant. Picturing America is a new initiative from the National Endowment for the Humanities to bring masterpieces of American art that showcase our country's history and character to classrooms and libraries nationwide. Oakcrest history teacher Muriel Croston applied for the grant earlier this year.

Visually impaired **Harry Epstein** will speak to students at Spring Hill Elementary Friday, **Feb. 20** at 9 a.m. Epstein, who lost his sight two years ago, explains what it is like to be blind and the best way to interact with visually impaired people. Contact principal Roger Vanderhye at 703-506-3400 or roger.vanderhye@fcps.edu.

Andrew Paulson, a voice performance major from Great Falls, was named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2008 semester at the Westminster Choir College of Rider University in Princeton, N.J.

Three students were named to the 2008 dean's list at Colby College in Waterville, Me.: **Tamar H. Hassan**, sophomore, son of Hany and Deborah Hassan of Great Falls. **Duncan H. Hardock**, sophomore, son of Randolph and Anne Hardock of McLean. **Sally H. Klose**, freshman, daughter of Thomas Klose and Elizabeth Hull of McLean.

Cat Gardiner of Great Falls was named to the dean's list at Beloit College for the fall semester. Gardiner, a freshman, is the daughter of Kent and Linda Sue Gardiner.

Great Falls residents **Mahsa Kazemifar** and **Ryan Link**, have graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg.

Erin Glennon of Great Falls, graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and daughter of Sarah and Jim Glennon, was named in her freshman year to Columbia University's Dean's List for the fall 2008 semester.

Alexander M. Gregory and **Hannah K. Laws** of Great Falls have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Radford University. Gregory, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew M. Gregory of Woodland Falls, is a senior marketing major. Laws, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Laws, is a sophomore recreation, parks and tourism major.

Kirsten Gamotis of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2008 president's list at James Madison University.

Great Falls residents **Alexander Alarif**, **Michelle Bovee**, **Thomas Bridges**, **Chien Jen Chen**, **Valerie Chiang**, **Cornelia Herman**, **Jessica Hsu**, **Ashley Iaconetti**, **Mahsa Kazemifar**, **John Marsh**, **Amanda O'Hear**, **Christina Saris**, **Tara Searight**, **Mark Waugh**, **Kimberly Winters** and **Christopher Yi** have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at James Madison University.

McLean High School's Yearbook, **The Clan**, has been named a finalist for the 2008 National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Yearbook Pacemaker Awards. **Hannah Bryan**, **Beth Cannon**, **Kenzie McCluer** and **Kaitlyn O'Donnell** are the editors and **Meghan Percival** is the advisor. Call the FCPS Department of Communications and Community Outreach at 571-423-1200.

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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/FEB. 18

Sonya Kitchell, Residency and Naia Kete.

Acoustic/indie. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

C. J. Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band. General admission dance. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Book Discussion, 7:30 p.m. Call branch for the title. Adults. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.
Recital Series. 1 p.m., St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The "Third Wednesday at One" recital series presents organist Jonathan Laird. Free. 703-356-0670 or www.musicinmclean.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 19

Young Dubliners. Rock and Irish music. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Mae, Shirock and The Daylights. Rock. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Italian Love Affair. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. This course features an oenological tour from the northern regions to the southern provinces.

Cyber Summit. 7 p.m., Vinson Hall Auditorium, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. The Safe Community Coalition will host its third annual Cyber Summit. The theme of this year's program is Internet & Digital Technology: Teaching Our Children about Cyber-Safety, Cyber-Ethics, & Cyber-Security. Free and open to all. Visit www.safecommunitycoalition.net.

FRIDAY/FEB. 20

'A Raisin in the Sun,' 7 p.m. at James Lee Community Theatre, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Angela Hansberry's 1959 play about a family's experiences in Washington Park. For tickets, contact Nomikka Hunter at 703-324-555. Admission \$5. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec.

Luke Brindley. Acoustic/rock. 8 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Jonathan Edwards, folk singer. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$24. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

African American Pioneers in Aviation. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Talk with local Tuskegee Airmen, and learn how they achieved success through determination and perseverance. Music, book signings, hands-on activities and story time for children ages 4-7 and their adult companions. Free admission. 202-633-1000 or www.nasm.si.edu.

Paul Green School of Rock. 80s Hair Metal Show. 7 p.m. at Ned Devines Irish Village, 21800 Town Center Plaza, Sterling. Tickets \$10. 703-444-7873 or irishvillage.neddevines.com

L.A. Theatre Works and "The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial," 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University, at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Tickets are \$19-\$38. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Citrus Fruit Sale. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Temple Oranges, Seedless Grapefruit, Valencia Oranges, Honey Tangerines fresh from Florida and maple syrup available for purchase. Call 703-356-8259.

Chris Ayer. 7:30 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Singer/songwriter Chris Ayer will perform his original music. Tickets: \$15/person, \$12/McLean residents. Call 703-573-SEAT or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

Pig Farm. 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. 1st Stage presents "Pig Farm," a comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25/adults, \$15/students; call 1-800-838-3006 or visit

www.1stStageSpringHill.org.

"Making Connections Arts Marathon," a 24-hour festival of theater, art, music, film and dance activities starting 8 a.m. at George Mason University's Fine Arts Building, Performing Arts Building and the Johnson Center, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Free. 703-993-8898. Visit www.gmu.edu/cfa for a schedule of specific events.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

Second City National Touring Company. Improv. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Paul Green School of Rock. 80s Hair Metal Show. 7 p.m. at Ned Devines Irish Village, 21800 Town Center Plaza, Sterling. Tickets \$10. 703-444-7873 or irishvillage.neddevines.com

Luke Brindley. Acoustic/rock. 8 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Robert Bobbert and the Bubble Machine, powerpop for little boys and girls. 11 a.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Building a Garden. 10 a.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Horticulturist Lorie Short will demonstrate how to build a trough. Recipes, forms, curing processes and texturing techniques will also be discussed. Free. Reservations required. 703-255-3631.

Childhelp Fashion Show. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Spring clothing collections for ladies, teens, and children, silent and live auctions, raffle and boutique sales. Proceeds benefit Childhelp's child abuse treatment and prevention programs. Admission \$75. 703-444-3839 or bootsie@aol.com.

Langley High Fashion Show. 7 p.m., Langley H.S. Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Mystique, a Cirque du Style dense with lion tamers, acrobats and ringmasters galore will perform. For ticket information, e-mail Tricia Poythress at tricia.poythress@fcps.edu

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$19-\$38. Age 12 and under, half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

The Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association, 7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Dancing lessons begin at 7:30 p.m. with open dancing from 8:30-11 p.m. \$12 per person. 703-860-4941 or www.nvcwda.org.

Citrus Fruit Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m., American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Temple Oranges, Seedless Grapefruit, Valencia Oranges, Honey Tangerines fresh from Florida and maple syrup available for purchase. Call 703-356-8259.

Sports Cards and Comic Books. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Tysons Corner, 1960 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The Sports Card and Comic Book Show will be held. Admission: \$3/person. Call 301-990-4929.

Pig Farm. 4 and 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." \$25 adults, \$15 students. 1-800-838-3006 or www.1stStageSpringHill.org.

Night Sky Festival. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Riverbend Park Visitor Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Space enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy guided stargazing, peering through a telescope and listening to ancient stories about the constellations around a campfire. Other activities and games will be held throughout the evening. Hot chocolate, tea, coffee and snacks will be available for purchase. \$5 per person. To make a reservation, please call 703-759-9018.



Folk singer Jonathan Edwards will perform on Friday, Feb. 20 at The Barns at Wolf Trap.

SUNDAY/FEB. 22

Pianist John Eaton will perform a variety of American songs by composers popular in the 1920-1950 era, 3 p.m. at the Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Tickets: \$29/person, \$23/McLean district residents. Go to theatre box office, call 703-573-SEAT or visit www.ticketmaster.com to purchase tickets.

'Pianofortissimo' featuring The Silver-Garburg Piano Duo, with the Amadeus Chamber Players. Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos, Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saens and more. St. Luke Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Admission \$25, including post-concert refreshments and a chance to meet the performers. Age 17 and under free. 703-759-5334 or www.amadeusconcerts.com.

Second City National Touring Company. Improv. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

An Evening with Fred Eaglesmith. Roots rock. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Celtic Concerts, 4,6, and 8 p.m., The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Al Petteway and Amy White perform Appalachian musical translations of Scotch-Irish traditions with guitar, mandolin and Celtic harp. \$15. 703-759-3309.

Charles Darwin's Birthday. 2-4 p.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Learn about the life of Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution during a birthday party complete with cake and celebration. \$5 per person. Reservations required, call 703-255-3631 ext. 0.

Pig Farm. 2 and 6 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." \$25 adults, \$15 students. 1-800-838-3006 or www.1stStageSpringHill.org.

Local Matinee with Thomas and Black Bird Lewis, 2 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$8. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Belly Dancing. 11 a.m., The Alay'nya Studio, 1437 Emerson Ave., McLean, will hold a class for women wishing to join ongoing Beginner's belly dance classes. \$75. 703-268-6959.

Freedom in Creation Benefit. 2 p.m., The Conscious Bean, 10123 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. A benefit for Freedom in Creation, a community led arts-based psychosocial, education and water development program aimed at empowering children of war-affected Northern Uganda. Art will be on display and a concert by the Brother Ponies of Leesburg will be held. 571-237-3886.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

Open Mic Night with Ron Goad. 7 p.m. \$2. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Learn Languages with Jabberu, 10:30 a.m. Introduce a foreign language to your toddler. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/FEB. 24

Great Decisions Seminar, 2 p.m. Roundtable discussion of U.S. foreign policy. Adults. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

Victory Red, Ringleader, Tami D'mar and Rana Mansour, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25

Ian McLagan and the Bump Band. 7:30 p.m. \$17 advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.
Sing Along with Miss Belle, 10:30 a.m. Hugs and songs with Miss Belle. All Ages. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

THURSDAY/FEBRUARY 26

George Winston, folk pianist. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Ask an Expert: Margaret Weitekamp on the Mercury Capsule Phone Booth. 12:30-12:45 p.m. at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Free admission. 202-633-1000 or www.nasm.si.edu.

Griffin House and Charlie Mars. Rock/folk. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Common Threat, Along Those Lines, The Hard Lessons and Fall Back Plan, 10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/FEB. 27

George Winston, folk pianist. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Red Molly. Folk/bluegrass. 7 p.m. \$12 advance, \$15 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Antique Show and Sale. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Dealers will display and sell a variety of furniture and collectibles. Admission is \$4.50. 703-255-6360.

Pig Farm. 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25 adults, \$15 students. 1-800-838-3006 or www.1stStageSpringHill.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 28

Aztec Two-Step. Acoustic duo. 7 p.m. \$20. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

George Winston, folk pianist. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Planting Gardens. 10:30 a.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Chief Horticulturist Doris Rodriguez will share ideas about removing existing vegetation and the use of soil amendments and fertilizers, plus preparing ground for planting. Free. 703-255-3631.

Justin Trawick band. 10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Antique Show and Sale. 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Dealers will display and sell a variety of furniture and collectibles. Admission is \$4.50. 703-255-6360.

Dave Parsons Dance, 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. The company includes Billy Smith, a 2007 George Mason University dance alumnus. A free pre-performance discussion begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44. Charge by

phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

The Meeting, 7 p.m. at James Lee Community Theatre, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. A drama about the lives and times of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. Contact Nomikka Hunter at 703-324-555. Admission \$5. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec.

Pig Farm. 4 and 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." \$25 adults, \$15 students. 1-800-838-3006 or www.1stStageSpringHill.org.

Furia Flamenca. 8 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Local dance company Furia

Flamenca will perform flamenco dance. \$30/person, \$25/McLean district residents. Purchase tickets at the Alden Theatre Box Office or call 703-573-SEAT or visit www.ticketmaster.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

The Master Singers of Virginia present Francis Poulenc's three best-known works, the Mass in G Major, the Prayers of St. Francis for men, and the Petites Voix for women. 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, McLean. Season tickets are \$38 for adults and \$30 for seniors or students; individual ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors or

students in advance (\$2 more at the door). 703-655-7809 or www.msva.org.

Bo Bice. Southern roots and blues. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Celtic Concerts, 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Celtic music by Iona. \$15. 703-759-3309.

Antique Show and Sale. 12-5 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Dealers will display and sell a variety of furniture and collectibles. Admission is \$4.50. Call 703-255-6360.



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NOTICE OF NOMINATION THE McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

SMALL DISTRICT NUMBER ONE OF DRANESVILLE PUBLIC NOTICE OF NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION TO THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

NOTICE is hereby given that an election to select persons to serve on the McLean Community Center Governing Board, as authorized in a Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on February 8, 1984, will be held on McLean Day, at the Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia:

*Saturday, May 16, 2009
10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

Said election will select individuals to serve on the Governing Board in the following numbers and categories:

Three (3) adult residents of Small District No. 1 of Dranesville District being eighteen (18) years or over to serve terms of three (3) years, and:

Two (2) youth residents of Small District No. 1 of Dranesville District being fifteen (15) through seventeen (17) years of age to serve one (1) year terms. One resident shall be elected from the area served by McLean High School, and one resident shall be elected from the area served by Langley High School. The areas served shall be prescribed in the current edition of Approved Boundaries, Fairfax Public Schools.

All residents seeking nomination to the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center shall file a petition to be received **on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, March 27, 2009**, at:

McLean Community Center • 1234 Ingleside Avenue • McLean, VA 22101

Petitions for use in filing for nomination may be obtained beginning **at 9 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 23, 2009**, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia.

Nominees shall be required to obtain the signatures of ten (10) residents of the Small District No. 1. All petitions will be certified on **Friday, March 27, 2009**, by the Election Committee, and names of nominees will subsequently be published in newspapers having general circulation in the Dranesville District.

Candidate photos will be taken at the Center on Saturday, March 28, 2009, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon.

All residents of Small District No. 1 of Dranesville are eligible to vote for candidates in their respective category: adult and youth.

- Adult: Any resident who is eighteen (18) years of age or older on the day of election; and
- Youth: Any resident who is fifteen (15) through seventeen (17) years of age on the day of election.

Verification of age and residence shall be determined from drivers license, student identification card, birth certificate, or other satisfactory evidence.

The complete results of said election will be reported by the Election Committee to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at their next regular meeting following the election, and said Board of Supervisors, after determining that it is in the public interest, shall appoint those persons receiving the greatest number of votes in their respective categories (adults and youth) to the McLean Community Center Governing Board. Said certification for this election shall be effective upon action by the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman
Election Committee

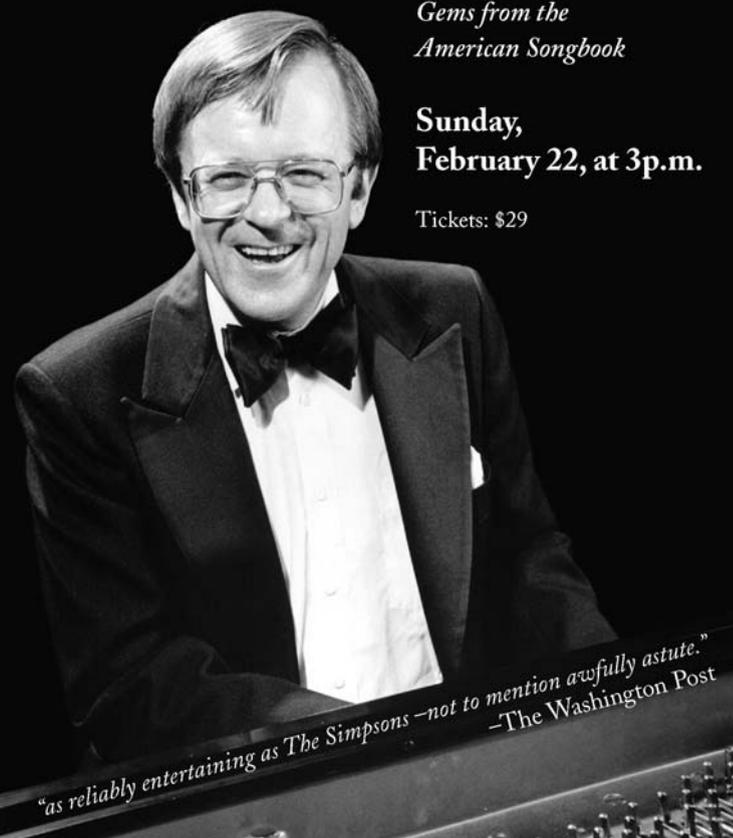


John Eaton

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Artists Jo Fleming and Bill Moore stand before her painting "Tangle," acrylic on canvas and his bronze sculpture "Scarab."

ArtspaceHerndon Presents Paintings and Sculpture

ArtspaceHerndon, a new community art gallery and classroom studio located in the heart of Herndon, is presenting Habitat, an exhibition of contemporary landscape paintings and sculpture addressing the subject of adaptation of the environment and its living inhabitants.

Jo Fleming of Great Falls presents paintings, which share her observations of "modified" wild places and depict flora and fauna utilizing available resources in the landscape. Some paintings recognize gestures of man in the built environment to interact with the natural world.

Colorfully patinated bronze sculptures by Bill Moore of Silver Spring, Md., present, at magnified scale, the physical adaptations of armored beetles and ancient fossil fish, which were predators of the seas millions of years ago.

Exhibition dates are Feb. 10-March 9; a reception, which is open to the public will be held Feb. 21, 5-7 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sundays, 1-3 p.m.

For more information, visit www.artspaceherndon.com, www.jofleming.com or www.moore sculpture.com.

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SCHOOLS

School Eyes 'Ideal' Setting

Before filing applications, school begins talks with neighbors, GFCA.

BY MIKE DiCICCO
THE CONNECTION

Five acres near the intersection of Old Dominion Drive and Georgetown Pike could become the grounds of the first school in the Great Falls area.

Mary Anne Duffus, founder of the Brookfield Montessori School in McLean, hopes to create a second location for her school in the woodland neighborhoods near Great Falls National Park.

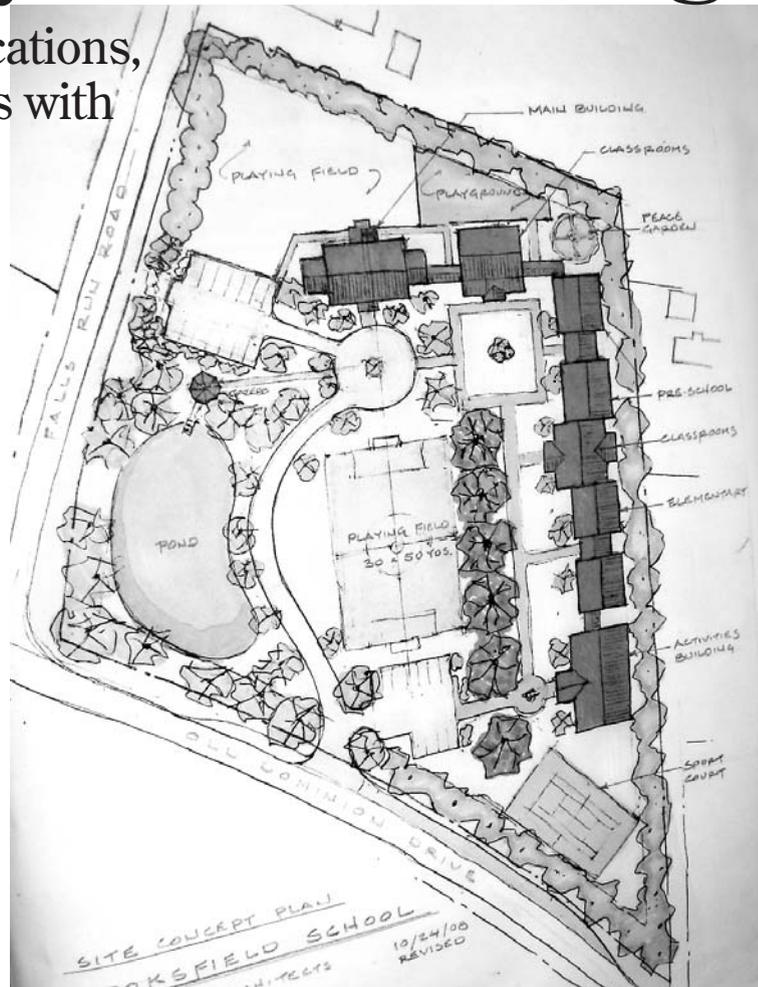
Although the site, adjacent to Falls Run Road, is technically a McLean address, it is in a border area that comes under the purview of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA).

An abandoned plant nursery occupies the land.

At a meeting of the GFCA's Land Use and Zoning Committee last Thursday, Feb. 12, Duffus presented her plan and fielded questions from neighbors of the site. The school has not yet applied for the special exception it would need in order to build on the land, preferring to begin talks with neighbors and gather community input before submitting any applications.

The 21-year-old Brookfield School in McLean has 91 students in preschool through third grade and Duffus said the school has had a waiting list of applicants every year. The proposed new school, once fully phased in, would have a student body of 200, from toddlers through sixth grade.

She said the school would consist of about 33,000 square feet housed in several cottage-style



An early draft of a site plan for the proposed school has been drawn up, but changes to the plan are likely.

buildings, creating "a sort of non-imposing, residential look."

Smith Wood and his wife, Jackie Fleisher-Wood, who live near the property, wanted to know what would prevent the school from expanding in the future if it were approved for the site.

LAND USE AND ZONING Committee member John Ulfelder assured that any expansion in terms of buildings, amenities or student body would require an entirely new special exception. "They would literally have to go back through the exact same process," he said.

Liz Savage, who also lives near the site, said she had an appreciation for the sort of learning the school would foster, as her children attend the similar Burgundy Farm Country Day School in Alexandria. However, she said she and her neighbors had concerns about the plan to put a soccer field with lighting on the property, as well as the school's daily impact on traffic, potential parking problems during any sort of festivals and the possibility of soccer tournaments at the school. "Non-invasiveness is very important to us," she said.

SEE MONTESSORI, PAGE 19

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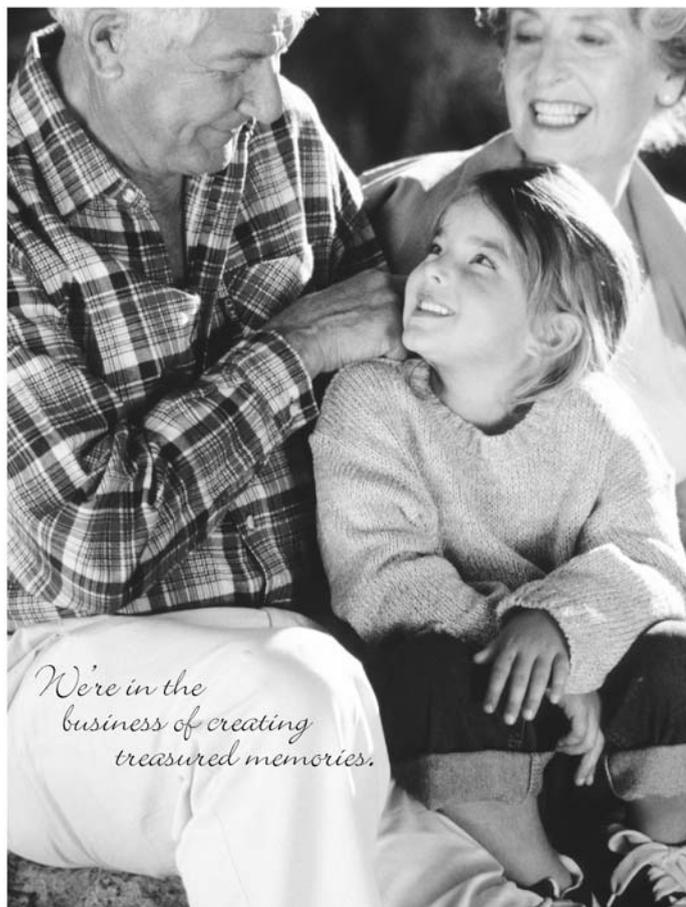
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FAITH

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

Great Falls United Methodist Church is at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705.

❖ **All Things New**, an ecumenical worship service every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Based on the Beatitudes of Jesus, for people affected by anger, fear, stress, dealing with rejection, credit abuse, drug/alcohol abuse, physical/sexual addiction or eating disorders.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, is hosting its semi-annual consignment sale of baby, child and maternity items Friday, **March 20**, 7-9 p.m. and Saturday, **March 21**, 8-11 a.m. 703-356-3567.

St. John's Episcopal Church supports over twenty outreach ministries, including SHARE, Habitat for Humanity, Martha's Table, and the Gen. Colin L. Powell Leadership Club at Macfarland Middle School in Washington D.C. Services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

The **Church of the Good Shepherd**, 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna, a United Methodist church, celebrates the publishing of its 10th annual "Devotions for Lent" booklet. The booklet of daily devotionals written by members and friends of the congregation will be available at the Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday 7:30 p.m. service at the church. The booklet also will be available at www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Budget Crisis Forum. 7:30 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Citizens Association is holding a forum on Fairfax County's Budget Crisis. County Budget Director Susan Datta, At-Large School Board Member Jim Raney and former Chief of Staff to the Dranesville Supervisor Rosemary Ryan will share their ideas and observations on handling the impending \$648 million County budget shortfall for 2010. Visit www.mcleancitizens.org, e-mail MCA.President@mcleancitizens.org or contact MCA President Rob Jackson at 703-556-9160 or Corresponding Secretary Sally Horn at 703-442-6601.

THURSDAY/FEB. 19

Republican Women Meeting. 11:30 a.m., 2205 Aryness Drive, Vienna. The New Providence Republican Women will meet. Call 703-591-7368.

Coping with Separation and Divorce. 7:30-9:30 p.m., The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. An 8-week workshop on learning ways to effectively cope with separation and divorce lead by Hilary Casaretto, LCSW, Women's Center Therapist. Fee: \$195/non members; \$175/Center Circle Donors (Members). Visit www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657 to register.

Attracting and Retaining Key

Personnel. 7:15-9:30 a.m., The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Experts will share their views on attracting and retaining key personnel in this uncertain market, including perspectives from leading compensation consultants and executive recruiters who have been assisting management teams and compensation committees in dealing with these issues. Event limited to senior financial technology executives only. Fee: \$45/NVTC Member, \$75/non members. Visit www.nvtc.org/events/geteventinfo.php?event=CFOSRS-12.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

American Association of University Women. 9:30 a.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women will hold its monthly meeting. Tracee Hamilton, deputy sports editor for the Washington Post and an onsite editor covering the Olympics since 1992, will be the guest speaker. Call 703-830-6503 or visit www.mcleanaauw.org.

Clutter is Spiritual Business. 1-4 p.m., The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Bev Hitchens, President of ALIGN, will help you establish goals to free you from clutter. Fee: \$55/non members; \$45 Center Circle Donors. Call 703-281-2657 or visit www.thewomenscenter.com to register.

Legal Aspects of Child Support. 10 a.m.-1p.m., Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Learn from an attorney how Virginia courts determine what financial support is required based on

spousal income(s), what is deemed to be in the "best interests" of the child and what to expect during the custody proceedings. Support group available. Fee: \$55/non members; \$45 Center Circle Donors. Visit www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657 to register.

Kidsave. 1 p.m., Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Learn about hosting/helping orphans from Colombia this summer. RSVP to djmdesenne@aol.com or www.kidsave.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

School Board Work Session, 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3500 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-385-7910.

Legal Aspects of Child Support in Domestic Violence Cases. 7-9 p.m., The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. This workshop is designed to help non-abusive parents learn about their rights and responsibilities within the legal system so that they are better able to make decisions from a position of empowerment rather than fear or lack of knowledge. Reduced fees available based upon financial need. Fee: \$45/non members; \$35/Center Circle Donors (Members). Visit www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657 to register.

TUESDAY/FEB. 24

Greening Data Centers. 7:30-9:30 a.m., Ernst & Young, 8484 Westpark Drive, McLean. Four roundtable discussions on green business centers. \$45/NVTC members, \$75/non members. Visit <http://www.nvtc.org/events/geteventinfo.php?event=GREENTECH1>.

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Langley Linemen Ready For the College Gridiron

Jones headed for JMU, Sievers set to play at Shepherd.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Langley High football has become associated with talented offensive linemen during coach John Howerton's six years in charge of the program. Opposing defenses realize they will have their work cut out for them in getting the best of Langley's physically strong and skilled offensive linemen.

Langley, during Howerton's tenure, has had 10 offensive linemen receive scholarships to play Division I collegiate football. That is fitting. Howerton himself was a standout offensive lineman at Shepherd University (W.Va.), where he is a member of the school's athletic hall of fame.

"This has been a bright spot for us," Howerton said of Langley's offensive lines over the years. "These kids don't necessarily get publicity of any kind. It's unusual to get that many [moving on to the college game]."

THREE-YEAR STARTING center Scott Jones recently committed to play at James Madison University on a full scholarship. The 6-foot-5, 250-pound Jones was named First Team All-State at his position following his senior season last fall.

Jones worked hard throughout his high-school football career, working on the fundamentals of his game at center position and getting stronger physically by regularly attending weight training sessions. He got better and better over the years.

"He's kind of a late bloomer," Howerton said of Jones. "He was always a little light [weight wise]. He wasn't on everyone's recruiting list early. He gained weight [in recent years]. He is a phenomenal athlete and just scratched his true potential here. JMU saw it."

Jones was an all-around contributor during his senior season. Along with his lead-

ership and prowess at center, he also was a standout defensive end and special teams' player as well. He led the Saxons in tackles from his defensive end position and also blocked seven kicks, three punts, on special teams.

Another standout lineman/receiver for Langley the past couple of years was senior Chris Sievers, a tight end who also saw some time at fullback. Sievers, the son of former NFL tight end Eric Sievers, caught 30 catches for 327 yards last fall. When he was not running pass routes, he was helping the Langley offense move the football with his crisp blocking.

Sievers will bring his talents to the Shepherd University football team next school year. He accepted a partial scholarship to play the sport at the NCAA Division II program last week.

"He's been a great athlete for us and has excellent speed," Howerton said of Sievers. "He is in-between size wise [at 6-1, 215] and was not recruited by many schools."

Those other schools might have lost out on a gem in Sievers, a hard-working three-year Langley starter who earned First Team All-Liberty District accolades last season.

Howerton believes Shepherd will utilize Sievers at h-back, a position that combines the skills of a tight end and fullback.

ANOTHER SENIOR SAXON, right guard Garrett Moore, will play his college football at The University of Pennsylvania, a private school in Philadelphia and an Ivy League member. Moore played at tackle position at Langley in both his sophomore and junior years before moving to guard for his senior year. The University of Richmond, which captured a national football championship this past season, offered Moore a scholarship, but Moore ultimately elected to become a Duke in Harrisonburg.

"He's an aggressive kid [on the line], is very smart and has excellent line technique," Howerton said of the 6-4, 250-pound Moore. "He gave us a lot of experience on the offensive line. He's got a good mean streak and will come off the line and try to punish an opponent."

Moore's older brother, Marshall Moore,



Scott Jones, a senior at Langley High, has signed a letter of intent to play football at James Madison University on a full scholarship. Jones was a three-year starter for the Saxons in football and was a team captain this past fall.

is an offensive guard at Brown University (Providence, R.I.), an Ivy League school. Marshall Moore was a First Team All-State player at Langley.

Recently signing to play at Division III Guilford College (N.C.) was Langley senior Bo Butcher, a 6-3, 305-pound right tackle who, with his military family, moved to the Northern Virginia area from Europe last August just as the new football season was getting underway. Howerton said it took Butcher a while to get acclimated to his new football surroundings. But once he did he was a fine player.

"He had a slow start but became very consistent," said Howerton. "He caught on quickly but it hurt him not being a part of the system [in prior years]. I thought he had a good season and improved each week. He's a classic offensive lineman and takes pride in his position."

Langley senior Martin Petras, Langley's left tackle last season, is thought to be leaning toward attending and playing football

at Washington & Jefferson College, a Division III school located 30 miles southwest of Pittsburgh. Petras is one of those players who worked extremely hard throughout his high-school career before earning a starting role for the first time as a senior.

"He's been in the program [over the years] and worked extremely hard in the weight room," Howerton said of the 6-5, 250-pound lineman whose family is from Czechoslovakia. "He had a very good senior year. He's aggressive and has good quickness."

Howerton is proud of all of these senior linemen who will graduate this spring and go on to play football in college.

"They are students first and want to go on to these academic schools," he said.

NUMEROUS LANGLEY High football linemen have gone on to successful collegiate football careers in recent years. Jeff Allen, a 2005 graduate, is a junior at Elon University, a private school in North Carolina. A starting lineman, Allen will begin his senior season next fall. As a college freshman a few years ago, Allen earned a starting position, which resulted in an eventual scholarship.

"He's a great kid and hard-nosed," Howerton said of his former player. "He's the most successful [lineman] we've had at the college level."

Another '05 Langley graduate, Travis Benson, is a student strength coach at Villanova University (Philadelphia). Benson is a former center for the Wildcats who saw his collegiate career end early as a result of a knee injury. But he remains a part of Villanova football in his new role.

Other former Langley linemen who went on to play college football include Princeton graduate Matt Murphy, who played a guard position for the Tigers; John Pedersen, a current tackle at Yale; Jon Shafran, who played his final senior season at William & Mary this past fall; Mike Cummings, a tight end at Dartmouth; and 2008 Langley graduate Will Wilson, who played for the Army prep school team this past fall and looks forward to the next four years as a West Point player.

SPORTS NOTES

Scott Jones, a senior at Langley High, has signed a letter of intent to play football at James Madison University on a full scholarship. Jones was a three-year starter for the Saxons in football and was a team captain this past fall. He has earned First Team All-Liberty District, First Team All-Northern Region and Second Team All-State honors. He is also a three-year Langley varsity wrestler and finished second in the heavyweight division at the recent district championships. In the classroom, Jones carries a GPA of more than 3.00 for his high-school career.

Langley High rowers and coxswains competed in the 2009 Mid Atlantic Erg Sprints at T.C. Williams High School (Alexandria) on Jan. 31. The athletes competed against other area high schools in events ranging from 500 to

2,000 meters. Langley's fastest athletes were juniors Stephanie Plunkett, a time of 7:48.7 in the 2,000, and William Chiang, 5:12.4 in the 1,500.

Langley is held its annual Ergathon fund-raiser versus West Springfield High this Saturday, Feb. 14, in the school cafeteria. Visit the Langley team Web site at www.langleycrew.com to learn more about the event or to make a donation to the team.

Madeira varsity girls basketball hosted top-ranked Georgetown Day last week in an Independent School League (ISL), Division A game. Although Madeira was prepared and excited about the challenge, Georgetown Day, which had only one league loss going into the contest, proved too athletic and quick and defeated Madeira, 60-43. Georgetown Day, which led 35-19 at the

half, shot well from three-point territory. Madeira played hard and well in the second half, outscoring its opponent, 28-25, in the latter half. The spirited second half was highlighted by strong performances from Audrey Hughes (14 points) and Tess Atkins (11). The team will be competing in the upcoming ISL postseason tournament.

The Oakton High boys swim and dive team captured the Northern Region title last weekend at Oak Marr Recreation Center. The Cougars finished with 232 points, besting second place Robinson (230.5) and third place Madison (205). Meanwhile, the Oakton girls finished sixth overall in a field of 25 teams. Robinson was the girls' team champion. Madison High was eighth overall.

The Oakton High boys' 200-medley relay team of Michael Hallock, KJ Park,

Zach Smith and Chris Megaw finished first, ahead of Langley. Also, the Cougars' 400-free relay team of Bradley Phillips, Park, Kevin Cho and Hallock took first.

Oakton's Michael Hallock won both the 100-free and 100-back events. Also for the Cougars, Bradley Phillips won the 200-free and finished second in the 500-free, and KJ Park won the 100-breaststroke and was third in the 200-IM.

For the Madison boys, Sean Fletcher won both the 200-IM and 100-fly races. Also, Robbie Parker was first in the 50-free and third in the 100-free. The Warhawk boys' 200-free relay team of Fletcher, David Fallavollita, Adam Pennington and Parker won.

Marshall's Cyrus Hashemi was second in the 200-free and third in the 500-free.

For the Oakton girls, Kaitlin Pawlowicz won both the 200-IM and 100-fly races.

From Madison High, Kelly Lloyd finished fourth in the 1-meter diving and Becky Shaak was fourth in the 500-free.

The Northern Region wrestling tournament took place at Fairfax High last weekend. There, Oakton's Chris Butters finished second overall in the 125-weight division. Butters reached the finals before losing to Raymond Borja of Hayfield, 6-1.

Marshall High's Andrew Embree also was a second place finisher. He lost to Annandale's Victor N Jomo in the 215 title match.

Madison's Albert Schultz finished third at 112 weight class. Other local place finishers included Oakton's Ethan Doyle (fifth at 140) and Oakton's Matt Patinos (fifth at 160).

The state AAA wrestling championships will be held this weekend in Salem.

HEALTH NOTES

Health notes are for support groups, exercise classes, blood drives and similar events open to the public at no or minimal cost. Send information to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Yoga for Body and Spirit, Wednesdays from 9:15-10:30 a.m. at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1125 Savile Lane, McLean. The first class is free, each subsequent class is \$15 or 6 classes for \$75. Bring a yoga mat. www.ipcmclean.org.

Northern Virginia Stuttering Support Group, a support group for people who stutter meets the **third Tuesday** of the month at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, at 7:30 p.m. Call 703-319-8382 or e-mail virginia.nsa@earthlink.net.

The Greater Chesapeake and Potomac Blood Services Region of the **American Red Cross** is **seeking volunteers** to assist its blood collections staff at blood drives and blood donor centers. This position is offered to people who are 14 years of age or older. Training is provided. To register for training, call the American Red Cross Volunteer Office at 1-800-272-0094, ext. 1, or e-mail karloff@usa.redcross.org.

Great Falls Parkinson's Disease Support Group meets on the **fourth Tuesday** of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike. The Parkinson Foundation welcomes PD patients and family members. They are dedicated to mutual self-help and the enhancement of coping skills for those with Parkinson's Disease. There is no fee. Call Glenn Lawrence at 703-406-2732.

Peer support group for survivors of clergy abuse and others affected by the abuse, on the last Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m., in the downstairs meeting room at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Road, McLean. Meetings are sponsored by Voice of the Faithful-Northern Virginia affiliate. Contact Ellen Radday at 703-538-6128.

Body and Soul Strength Training Class through mid-August on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 - 1:15 pm in the McLean Presbyterian Church Multipurpose Room, 1020 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Exercise at your own level to positive music with ACE certified instructor Dana Elsnick. Contact Dana at 703-847-9814 or great314dane@yahoo.com. Other area classes can be found by going to www.bodyandsoul.org.

Living with Epilepsy Support Group for parents meets the 2nd Sunday of each month. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. at McLean Bible Church, Room 1410, 8925 Leesburg Pike. Call to register, 703-770-2942 or jackiemillsfernal@mcleanbible.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency offers a variety of programs and support groups meeting at 3018 Javier Road, Fairfax. Call 703-204-9100 for more information.

❖ **An Anxiety Management Group**, for children ages 8-10.

❖ **Teen Talk: An Adolescent Adoption Series**, for adoptees ages 13-18.

❖ **Understanding Your Adopted Teen**, for parents raising adopted teens.

❖ **Support Group for parents of young adults with Asperger's Syndrome and related disorders.**

❖ **Social Club for Young Adults with Asperger's Syndrome**, a social club for young adults diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome or related disorders.

❖ **Get Connected: Adult Social Skills**, for men and women ages 19-35 who may have Asperger's syndrome.

❖ **You and Your Aging Parents**. Coping with illness, managing difficult emotions, identifying appropriate resources to support an aging parent and develop a care plan.

Body and Soul fitness classes recently began. Contact instructor for more information on individual classes; visit www.bodyandsoul.org for more classes. New students receive 15 percent discount. At McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, McLean, on **Mondays and Fridays**, 9:45-11:15 a.m., free childcare, call Mary Ward at 703-754-3722.

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Money Matters



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How to get by on one income while really trying? That will not only be the question but the strategy as my wife, Dina, and I, attempt to adjust to the new unemployment paradigm: she's out of work for the first time in our 30-plus years of marriage. Her long-time employer, Tivoli's Restaurant in Rosslyn (the deli and pastry shop remain open, however) closed after nearly 27 years serving the public (25 years during which Dina worked in the second floor lounge as a waitress and bartender).

To say she made friends over all those years would be an understatement of prodigious proportions. To say she networked an entire new family including the owners and their families, employees and their families, and, of course, the thousands of Tivoli customers and their families, together creating a fabric of associations and activities spanning the globe and lasting an entire generation, and then some, would be more accurate.

To characterize Dina's status as out of work is way to simple; disconnected from the only lifestyle she's really ever known and cared about her entire adult life would be more appropriate. And though the loss of Dina's income is significant (and matters more to me since I'm the business end of the relationship; she's the social director), I can certainly appreciate and understand how the loss of a lifestyle can be equally distressing. The joke among our friends has been that Dina doesn't need a new job, she needs a new lifestyle that pays.

Moving forward, the choices we have to make need to be a balance between substance and style, between money and quality of life, between fact and fiction, quite frankly. Having 25 percent fewer dollars to do it with is likely to be a challenge unlike any we, as a couple, have ever endured.

Moreover, given the middle age that we are, with the skill sets we possess, and further considering the inheritances that at present are unknown and unexpected, what we do, how we survive, what money we spend, seem unlikely to be replenished anytime soon by some financial savior riding in on a cash cow. It seems that we will have to make do riding the horse on which we rode in on.

All of which we can manage, I think. It's more that neither one of us expected to be horse-less at our present age, the age at which, accumulating for retirement becomes not only an extremely serious family business but maybe the most important, to the exclusion of all other, family business. And being left to fend more for ourselves than we had expected or anticipated was hardly the plan I had intended. Still, it's not over yet. My father made more money between age 55 and 70 than he had ever made previously, enough to fund my parent's retirement for the 15 years or so they had together before retiring for good.

If I am indeed my father's son, then I will succeed just as he did. It may not be easy but if I've inherited anything from my father (aside from his sense of humor), I've inherited his positive attitude. Dina's being out of work presents us with an opportunity. It's up to us to make the most of it.

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AN UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE
There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at:

Rosslyn Gas
1625 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22209

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Rosslyn Gas to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of gasoline at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact: Old Dominion Environmental, Inc. 185 Deep Woods Road, Louisa, Virginia 23093 540-967-3188
Attn: Kathleen Albertson
The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ in February 2009. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Mr. Alex Wardle at 703-583-3822 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until March 15, 2009 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC # 2008-3203.

Department of Environmental Quality
Storage Tank Program
Northern Regional Office
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE
PROPOSAL TO MODIFY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED AT A PETROLEUM RELEASE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

A petroleum release from former underground storage tank systems had occurred, and corrective actions have been implemented, at:

2758 North Washington Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Mr. Frederick Klein to prepare a Corrective Action Plan Addendum to address cleanup of petroleum fuel contamination at the site. If you have questions regarding the cleanup please contact:

John Diehl
Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc.
43045 John Mosby Highway
Chantilly, VA 20152
(703) 327-2900

The Corrective Action Plan Addendum will be submitted to the Remediation Division of the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ by January 30, 2009. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Mr. Randy Chapman of the DEQ at (703) 583-3816 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan Addendum submittal. The DEQ Remediation Division will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan Addendum until March 6, 2009, and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC # 1991-1474.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Northern Regional Office
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SCHOOLS



PHOTO BY ROB WILE/THE CONNECTION

Through internships at hotels and field trips to multimillion dollar businesses and attractions, students in Lindsay Zivney's marketing classes are able to get a jump-start on careers in the industry.

'Curriculum Showcase Night' at Marshall High

George C. Marshall High School held its first "Curriculum Showcase Night," Feb. 11. Parents and students were invited to tour the school and browse through its classrooms, where teachers, instructors and student volunteers had set up presentations of the various courses and programs offered.

Turnout was average, with a mix of current students hoping to determine which classes to take the following year and pro-

spective transfer students deciding whether they want to attend Marshall in the fall. Parents and students alike said they appreciated the opportunity to evaluate the school's programs — with several saying they were impressed that a public school would put on such an event. Principal Jay Pearson said they hope to undertake similar presentations in the future.

— ROB WILE

Montessori School Proposed

FROM PAGE 13

Laramie McNamara of the Mill Pond Valley Citizens Association said her neighbors were also uneasy about the proposed soccer field.

Duffus said the field would not be regulation size and the school would be too small to belong to a league and participate in tournaments. She said any lighting would be primarily to address safety concerns. "We want to have enough light so that if a teacher is walking to her car at night, we don't have her walking in pitch black," Duffus said.

David McElhane, a civil engineer working on the site plan, said a 25-foot strip of vegetative screening would surround the site, to block any lighting and give neighbors privacy. Also, he said, planners recognized that line of sight was an issue on that stretch of Old Dominion Drive and hoped to find a point of entrance and egress that would not cause more problems.

"What we were hoping is that the school itself would slow the traffic down," Duffus said.

Ulfelder said the speed limit in the vicinity of the school, now 40 mph, might be dropped to 25 mph during student drop-off and pick-up hours.

Wood wanted to know how the school might affect surrounding property values and Ulfelder said there was no evidence that it would have any negative impact.

the wells that would serve the school could cause problems with neighbors' wells. McElhane said this should not be the case. He also emphasized that the school's water needs would be less than those of most comparable schools. "One of the things we're going to be doing is site sustainability," he said, noting that the on-site pond would be used for irrigation, as well as drainage control, kayaking and nature lessons, and that rainwater would be gathered from the roof.

Ulfelder suggested that the school have the Health Department verify that the wells would not cause any problems, since the issue had arisen more than once.

For sewer service, the school would hook into the nearby public sewer system.

In a later interview, Duffus said the school would be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified and would include organic gardens and native species. She said the site's woodland setting, proximity to Great Falls and Riverbend parks and on-site, spring-fed pond made it ideal for the school, which emphasizes environmental stewardship and learning from nature. She said students at the Brookfield School regularly take "outdoor adventure" outings and would now be able to do some of those activities during the week.

"To me, it's like a magical little piece of land and it has everything to offer that we want to give our kids," she said.

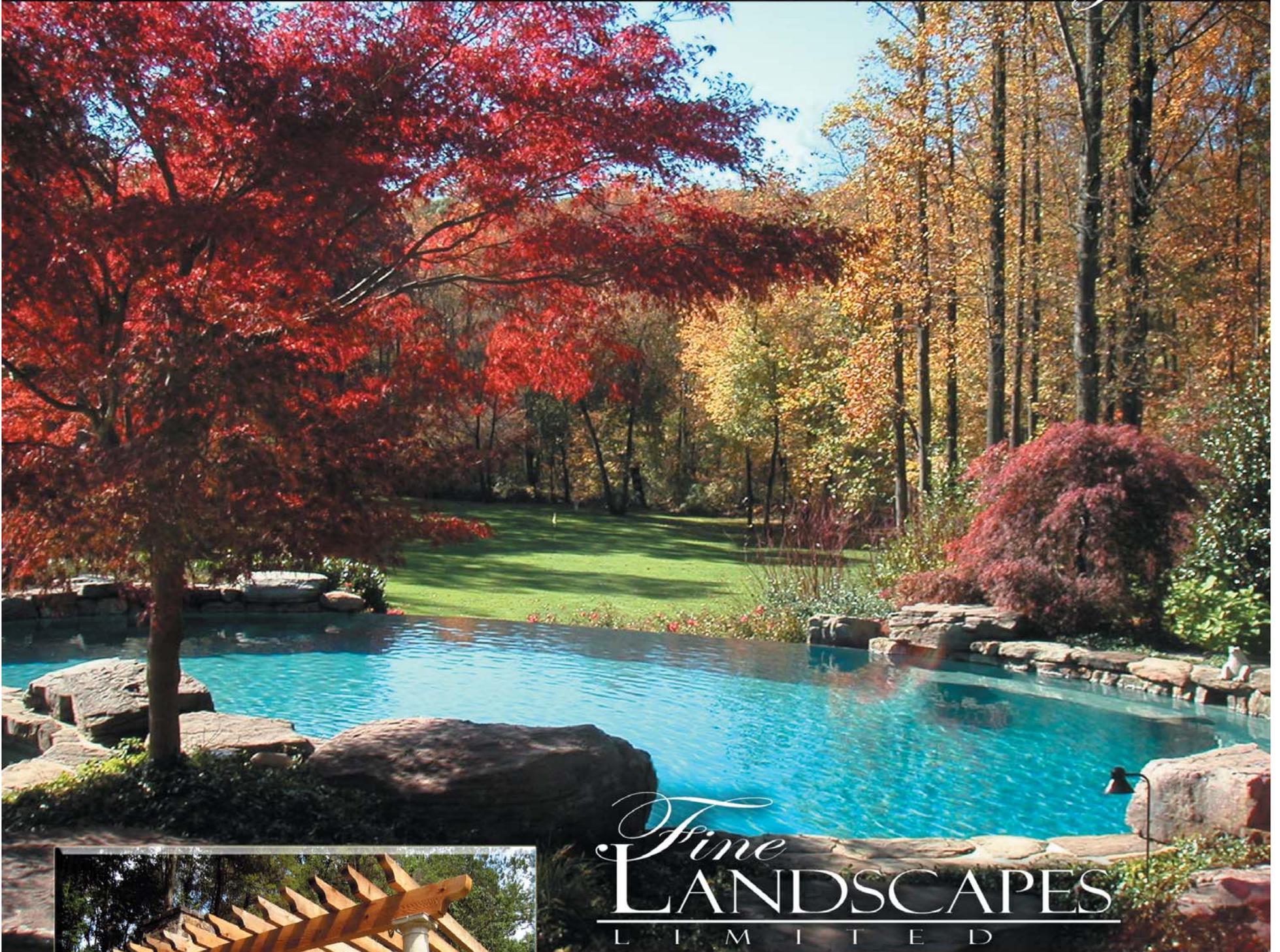
The school will likely file its application for a special exception sometime next month.

SOME NEIGHBORS raised concerns that

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