

# 'A Place for Music To Happen'

NEWS, PAGE 4

The cast of St. Francis Episcopal Church's recent production of 'Godspell Jr.,' mainly members of the junior choir, pose in the church parking lot on the second performance day. Major productions like this have become mainstays at the church.



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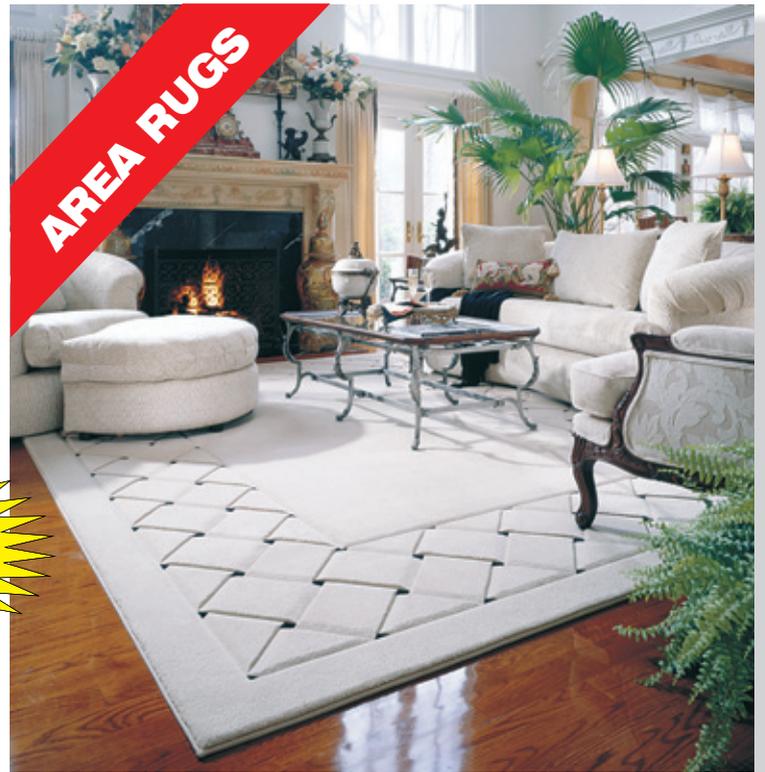
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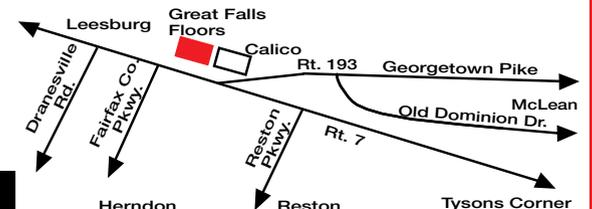
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## Real-Life Look at Budget

Supervisor reflects on week of budget hearings.

BY JOHN FOUST  
DRANESVILLE DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

**F**RIDAY, March 27 - This was definitely not my typical day. My wife Marilyn, our son Patrick and I started the day in Lisner Auditorium for the ceremonial installation of Eric Holder as Attorney General of the United States. Marilyn has been partners with Sharon Malone, Eric's wife, for over 15 years and Sharon invited us to this historic event. Both Eric and President Obama spoke passionately about the importance of protecting the constitutional rights of all Americans. It was an inspirational way to begin what promised to be a challenging week. After the ceremony, Marilyn went to the reception at the Justice Department. I headed back to my office to prepare for the upcoming Board meeting and four nights of public hearings on the budget.

**SATURDAY**, March 28 - I usually have many events to attend on weekends. Because I needed time to get ready for the coming week, I limited myself to three this weekend, all Saturday morning. I started early by visiting the United Prevention Coalition's substance abuse and violence prevention conference. From there, I headed to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department for a great "all you can eat" pancake breakfast. My next stop was Langley High School where I participated in a Post Legislative Session Town Hall Meeting conducted by Senator Janet Howell and Delegates Margi Vanderhye and Jim Scott. Then I went to my office and spent about six hours preparing for the Monday Board meeting. Before each board meeting, the supervisors receive a "Board book" that contains most of the material that will be covered at the meeting. This week the board book took up three separate volumes. Around 7 p.m., I went home, hoping to watch my alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh, defeat Villanova and advance to the Final Four. Oh well, there's always next year.

**SUNDAY**, March 29. Most of the day was spent at my office. In addition to the materials in the Board book, each supervisor typically prepares his or her own "Board matters" and presents them to the board for approval at the meeting. I spent a lot of time Sunday studying the Board book and preparing Board matters. As chairman of the Audit Committee, I prepared a Board matter that summarized the most recent audit report and moved that the board adopt it. My citizens' task force on the budget prepared an addendum to their initial report so I prepared a board item to share the addendum with all members of the board and



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

**Dranesville Supervisor John Foust (D) writes a diary on the week of county budget hearings.**

**DIARY** county staff. I also prepared an item that asked the board to issue a certificate acknowledging the significant accomplishments and contributions of a constituent. Finally, the advertised budget recommended eliminating Connector Bus express service from the Herndon area to Crystal City and the Pentagon, so I prepared a request that staff determine how we can save these important transit routes.

**MONDAY**, March 30. The board meeting started at 9:30 a.m. One of the highlights of the morning was a presentation of the Advisory Social Services Board's annual report by Dranesville resident Marcus Simon. Marcus described a significant increase in the requests for assistance caused by the declining economy. He asked that the board maintain budget support for services that provide a lifeline to residents in time of crisis. I submitted my four Board matters and all were approved. After lunch, we held several public hearings including hearings on revenue enhancement items. Decisions on these items were deferred and will be made as part of the process of finalizing the 2010 fiscal year budget. At about 7:30 p.m. we began the public hearings on the budget. Speakers addressed many issues with several expressing their strong support for the supervised visitation program run by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and several others supporting funding for child care and early childhood education programs. Sixty-seven speakers were signed up but only about 45 showed up, which meant I was home by midnight.

**TUESDAY**, March 31. The public hearings on the budget resumed at 3 p.m. with 110 speakers signed up and a presentation from the School Board scheduled for 7 p.m. Since we are holding the public hearings on the

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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

**Virginia Sircy and Melissa Coombs hope to continue expanding the music program at St. Francis.**

## 'A Place for Music To Happen'

St. Francis Episcopal Church continues to expand musical offerings.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**M**elissa Coombs and St. Francis Episcopal Church's junior choir, The Joyful Noyz, just finished their major production for the year, two performances of "Godspell Jr.," and now they are preparing to sing at an Easter service that will be attended by the bishop. On Sunday, April 5, they provided music for the Stations of the Cross to be acted out in mime. Meanwhile, the adult choir performed Mozart's "Requiem" March 22 and will also give a number of performances leading up to Easter, and preparations are already underway for the choir's November performance of "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace." The church won a Lilly Grant from the Eli Lilly pharmaceutical company to help cover the cost of the production.

"This church has always been a place for music to happen," Rector Penny Bridges said, noting that St. Francis is the Great Falls venue for Amadeus Concerts Inc. and the Voce Chamber Singers. However, she said she had seen the music program, which puts on many performances open to the public, expand during the six years she has been with the church.

"It certainly has grown over the six years in terms of children's music," she said, noting that Coombs, the church's assistant music director, has put on a major production such as "Godspell Jr." with the children every year for the last three years.

**THE SHOW**, which was performed March

29 and 31, is a junior version of the Broadway musical "Godspell." Twenty-two children from first through ninth grade, including three from Great Falls United Methodist, performed in the show, which one of the church's high school students choreographed. Like all of St. Francis' musical productions, it was open to the public.

"We did a Sunday afternoon and a Tuesday and it was standing-room-only both times," Coombs said.

As for the adult choir, Bridges said she had seen it grow from the occasional evensong to performing Mozart's "Requiem."

"It really took off after Virginia came," Coombs said, referring to Virginia Sircy, who moved to the area from Oklahoma in July 2006. The previous organist had left, and Sircy decided to take over that duty temporarily. She is now the church's music director.

Musically, Sircy said, "This church does an awful lot for a relatively small church." She said support from both the clergy and the worshippers made the expanded music program possible. "The members and congregation are very supportive, not only in terms of money but in terms of attendance."

"It makes a huge difference having a musician for a rector," Coombs said.

Bridges, a member of the McLean Orchestra, sings soprano and plays the viola. She said she had been able to bring some of her knowledge of music and the work that goes into it to the church's administrative committee. "So I've been able to encourage

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## Environment Meeting On Backyard Birds

Great Falls Citizen Association will hold its Environment meeting on April 14, 7:30 p.m. at the Grange, discussing "Lives of the Bright and Beautiful -Backyard Birds." Charles Smith, senior naturalist at the Fairfax County Park Authority, will give a presentation on the behavior-nesting, migration and food sources of our local feathered friends.

## Cherry Blossoms Peak at Meadowlark

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens' cherry blossom trees are estimated to be in peak bloom April 6 - 11. The park serves as a backdrop for nearly 100 cherry trees that bloom around the lake, mainly Yoshino cherries, the same trees that are along the tidal basin in Washington, D.C.

"Meadowlark is not in the 'urban heat island' that D.C. is the center of, so it's cooler out here and the cherry blossoms bloom a little later. It makes for a great opportunity to enjoy the trees both downtown and here," said Keith Tomlinson, manager at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

Meadowlark is located in Vienna, off of Beulah Road, between Route 7 and Route 123, south of the Dulles Access Road.

## Paulson Offers Business Counseling

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) and Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) announce the appointment of Ron Paulson as a resident counselor who will offer weekly business counseling sessions at the FCEDA headquarters in Tysons Corner. Paulson joins David Krauskopf as a resident counselor at the FCEDA. He will hold counseling sessions for business start-ups, existing business owners and FCEDA clients at FCEDA headquarters in Tysons Corner. Sessions are one hour long and by appointment only. To schedule an appointment, contact the FCEDA at 703-790-0600 or info@fceda.org. For more information about SCORE, visit [www.score.org](http://www.score.org).

Paulson brings a background in technology, management, planning, government contracting, finance and acquisitions. He retired as vice president of engineering at Lockheed Martin in February 2008 after 35 years of experience in aerospace management, engineering and research and development. Paulson holds a doctorate in mechanical engineering with minors in physics and mathematics, and a master of science degree in management.

## Read-a-thon at Tysons Mall

As part of National Library Week (April 12-18), the Fairfax County Public Library goes to Tysons Corner Center on April 14 for a special Read-a-thon from noon - 2 p.m. in the children's play area in the Food Court on 3 (near the movie theatres). Tysons Corner Center is located at 1961 Chain Bridge Road in McLean.

Preschoolers and families can join Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth, Mr. Knick Knack, children's author Janet Stoeke, and other guests, including a firefighter and police officer, as they read from their favorite picture books. Attendees will enjoy a visit from a storybook character and activities for all ages. Stoeke's books will be available for sale and signing courtesy of Barnes & Noble. Stoeke will appear at the bookstore at 2 p.m. following the Read-a-thon. For more information, call 703-324-8428 or check the library's Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library). The Read-a-thon is cosponsored by the Fairfax Library Foundation, Tysons Corner Center and Barnes & Noble — Tysons.

The Fairfax County Public Library has also declared April 18 "Library Appreciation Day." Residents can stop by their nearest library branch to express their appreciation for library services and staff or post their comments on the library's Web site, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

**A narrow, two-lane road for most of its length, Walker road opens into a broad expanse of pavement just south of Georgetown Pike.**

# Toward a Pedestrian-Friendly Great Falls Village Center

**Design to constrict  
Walker Road stretch  
meets with approval;  
funding still sought.**

**T**en years after it was first conceived and three years after work began in earnest, a plan to make the village center more pedestrian-friendly was approved last month by the Great Falls Citizens Association. Funding the project will be another matter.

The point is to effectively narrow Walker Road just south of Georgetown Pike to three lanes and add a crosswalk between the shopping centers on either side of the road, said Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) Transportation Committee Co-Chair Eric Knudsen, who has been working with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), former Supervisor Joan DuBois and current Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) to come up with the plan. Most of the road from Columbine Street northward would have one through lane in each direction, a parking lane on each side and a central left-turn lane.

This would leave pedestrians with only three lanes to cross, Knudsen said. "That's the whole point of this, so you can park your car at one place and walk across the street and shop there."

The lanes would also be widened from 11 to 12 feet.

There are three options for the project, each requiring a different level of funding. The cheapest option, estimated to cost about \$30,000, would be to scrape the existing lines off the pavement and paint new ones, as has been done on stretches of the Beltway since HOT lanes construction began. However, as with the Beltway, the first set of lines would remain somewhat visible, particularly on rainy nights, Knudsen said. "Nobody has supported the first option."

Repaving the road and painting the new design is estimated to cost about \$130,000.

Full implementation would include "curb extensions," trapezoid-shaped extensions into the road that would preclude anyone from driving in the parking

lanes. They would actually be situated a short distance from the existing curb in order to continue to allow proper drainage of runoff. This would cost about \$230,000, and the price tag jumps to about \$250,000 if the curb extensions are filled with dirt and plantings are added.

Four of the extensions would be situated at the corners of the crosswalk, which is to run from the Wachovia Bank to the parking lot in front of Safeway. It will be just north of the automobile crossing there because of issues with handicapped accessibility and a fire hydrant, Knudsen said.

A triangular "pork chop" is to be installed at the southbound right-turn lane onto Columbine Street to prevent drivers from passing each other on the right.

Under the second option, what would be the curb extensions would be painted on the asphalt, and the actual curbs could be installed when further funding became available.

Knudsen said the switch to a two-lane road with a single, shared turn lane would enable the speed limit along that stretch of Walker Road to be reduced to 25 mph. The speed limit is now 35 mph.

VDOT completed the plan in February, and after the citizens association approved it, it was presented to the Great Falls Business and Professional Association (BPA) on March 18. The BPA is working to get its members' signatures on a letter to Foust endorsing the project. All the way around, Knudsen said, "It was met with enthusiasm."

The project began as an addendum to a 1999 traffic calming study, but funding for design work was not acquired for some time. "The community has been waiting for 10 years for this to happen," Knudsen said, noting that the 2007 Great Falls 2020 Vision Survey and the business community had also called for a more pedestrian-friendly village center.

The wait is not over yet. The project still lacks funding, and the county is now struggling to scale back its budget. "We've got to be realistic right now," Knudsen said. However, he said funding was out there, whether county, federal or privately matched. As a shovel-ready project, he said, Walker Road might be able to win money from the stimulus package.

— MIKE DICICCO

# Hilton Headquarters Moves to Tysons Corner

In mid-March, the Hilton Hotels Corporation signed a 10-year lease on more than 100,000 square feet of the newly completed Park Place II building in Tysons Corner and will move its global headquarters there from Beverly Hills, Calif.

The headquarters is moving in almost next-door to one of its branches, the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, located two buildings down. The move is to take place late this year.

The 11-story building, com-

pleted last year, is one of the first buildings in Northern Virginia to achieve a gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating. The Hilton Headquarters will occupy about one-third of Park Place II.

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**Park Place II on Jones Branch Drive in Tysons Corner will become the new global headquarters for the Hilton Hotels Corporation.**



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# OPINION

# Celebrating Poetry

The Connection will print poetry submitted by readers.

April is National Poetry Month according to the Academy of American Poets, and here at the Connection, we invite poets to send submissions for us to print.

On April 10, 2007, the Alexandria City Council named Mary McElveen as the city's poet laureate for a three year term.

This is one service local government could expand in these economic times; Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties, the City of Fairfax, the towns of Herndon and Vienna could consider appointing their own poets laureate.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Saving the Beauty Of Great Falls Area

To the Editor:

Kudos to Jennifer Warren for her deeply felt and insightful article on the need to preserve open spaces in and around Great Falls ["The Wonder of Great Falls," Connection, April 1-7, 2009]. With the rate of suburban sprawl taking place in northern Virginia, even during the current economic downturn, it is encouraging to see a local resident speaking out for the retention of those scattered fragments and corridors of green that still persist among an increasing monotony of strip malls, suburbs and freeways. The historical and natural treasures that remain intact in Fairfax County deserve permanent protection, and a program is available to local landowners interested in keeping their own corners of Fairfax green and growing.

Conservation easements are the most tested and effective means of ensuring that privately-owned land is kept permanently available as open space. A conservation easement basically consists of a landowner's volunteering to restrict the level of development that can take place on his property in a binding agreement with an easement "holder," typically a non-profit organization like the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust or a state agency like the Virginia

The National Poet Laureate serves as consultant to the Library of Congress and "seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry."

Virginia also has a poet laureate, a position established by the General Assembly and appointed by the governor from nominees submitted by the Poetry Society of Virginia. The current poet laureate of Virginia is Claudia Emerson, [claudiaemerson.org](http://claudiaemerson.org).

The Alexandria Poet Laureate will promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, encourage creative writing and reading of all forms of literature, and promote literacy through poetry.

Are you a poet? The Connection will print poetry submitted by readers this spring and occasionally throughout the year.

Outdoors Foundation. The easement holder makes certain that the protective terms of the easement are complied with over time. Title and all other property rights remain with the landowner, including the right to use the land in any way that doesn't harm its recognized conservation values. The donor may sell, bequeath, or lease his property as usual, and public access is generally not necessary.

Landowners feeling today's economic pinch may benefit by placing a conservation easement on their property because it is no longer assessed as pricey developable real estate. Federal and state government encourages this form of voluntary downzoning by offering estate and income tax incentives, including in particular a federal income tax deduction and a marketable state income tax credit. Thus a landowner can receive a cash benefit without having to actually sell off any land.

The conservation values identified in the deed of easement are what makes the land worth preserving, and the easement guarantees that the benefits the general public has received from these values will continue. Careful drafting of an easement is necessary to ascertain that these values, which can include agriculture, forestry, wildlife habitat, and scenic or historic open space, will be protected in perpetuity. The tax incentives considered below are effectively a reward for protecting a public good, and have been crucial to the preservation thousands of acres of

Virginia's natural heritage.

**Federal Income Tax Deduction:** This incentive reduces the easement donor's taxable adjusted gross income (AGI) by up to 50 percent per year over 16 years by the amount of the "easement value" (a property's pre-easement value minus its post-easement value equals its easement value) until the amount of the easement value is used up. Taxpayers making 50 percent or more of their income from farming or forestry during the year of donation can reduce their AGI by up to 100 percent.

**Virginia State Income Tax Credit:** This generous program offers credits that can be used to offset an easement donor's state tax liability dollar-for-dollar. Importantly, any unused credit may be sold for cash to other Virginia taxpayers, so once a donor has secured his own tax obligation, any unused credit may be exchanged with other taxpayers for cash. A credit equal to 40 percent of the property's easement value is available for the year of donation and over the following 10 years.

## Write

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

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, Va. 22102  
Call: 703-917-6444. By fax: 703-917-0991.  
By e-mail: [info@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:info@connectionnewspapers.com)

## Moving Words Poetry Reading

Program places poetry on Northern Virginia Metrobuses operating in Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County and Fairfax City. Winning poets read their work.

Tuesday, April 21, 7-9 pm.  
Dome Theatre, 1101 Wilson Boulevard, Rosslyn  
703-228-1854  
[www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural\\_affairs/movingwords.htm](http://www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural_affairs/movingwords.htm)

## Release of Poetic Voices Without Borders, 2

April 23, 2009, 7-9 p.m.  
The Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. (across from the VA Square Metro, Arlington)  
Please join us as we celebrate the release of *Poetic Voices Without Borders, 2* and National Poetry Month. The poets will read from the anthology and their current work. 703-248-6800

## Poem a Day

Go to [www.poets.org](http://www.poets.org) to sign up for a poem a day in your email box.

**Federal Estate Tax Diminution:** Easement donation removes the easement value from the donor's estate for inheritance tax purposes, thus lowering the inheritance tax and making it easier to keep family lands intact upon a landowner's death. This has proven to be of particular benefit to farmers and other owners of highly appreciated rural land in Northern Virginia.

If you are concerned about keeping your own slice of Fairfax's dwindling open space intact now and in the future, a conservation easement is something to consider. The tsunami of asphalt and concrete that has drowned most of the county has yet to claim every last farm and forest, and some may yet be saved by landowners who like Ms. Warren wish to see the beauty of the Great Falls area kept alive for those who come after us.

**William H. Funk**

The writer is an easement specialist with Conservation Partners, LLC. He may be contacted at 540-458-3664 or at [wfunk@conservationpartnersllc.com](mailto:wfunk@conservationpartnersllc.com), or visit [www.conservationpartnerllc.com](http://www.conservationpartnerllc.com).

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# BULLETIN BOARD

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

## TUESDAY/APRIL 14

**League of Women Voters.** 12:30 p.m., Star Nut Gourmet, 1445 Loughlin Ave., McLean; 7:45 p.m., Vienna Evening, 409 Beulah Road, Vienna. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area will meet to discuss the topic "Strategies for a Safer World/Encouraging Public Conversation about the Middle East." Contact Anne at 703-448-6626 for the McLean meeting and Annette at 703-281-9715 for the Vienna meeting.

**NARFE Monthly Meeting.** 1:30 p.m., Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The National Association Active and Retired Federal Employees will be holding their monthly meeting with guest speaker Bryan Bishop, lead attorney at Living Trust Attorney, Ltd., will speak on estate planning. Call 703-205-9041.

**"Cool Technologies."** 7:30 a.m., Patton Boggs, 8484 Westpark Drive, Ninth Floor, McLean. "Cool Technologies for a Hot Government Market" will focus on high priority government programs and initiatives such as Network Centric Operations/Warfare, Cloud Computing and Cyberspace Security. \$45/ NVTC Members, \$75/non-members. Visit [www.nvtc.org/events/geteventinfo.php?event=COOLT-5](http://www.nvtc.org/events/geteventinfo.php?event=COOLT-5).

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

**Assert Yourself.** 7-9 p.m., The

Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Tina MacIsaac, MSW, will teach those who are reluctant to speak up for themselves to those who believe they are too outspoken to be more assertive in your personal and professional lives in this three-week program. \$90/person, \$75/Center Circle Donors.

To register, go to [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or call 703-281-2657.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 16

**Alternative House Open House.** 8-9 a.m., 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna. Find out more about issues facing young people in the community and get an overview of the House's history, programs and services. RSVP to Gina Cocomello at [gina.cocomello@TheAlternativeHouse.org](mailto:gina.cocomello@TheAlternativeHouse.org) or 703-506-9191.

**Shepherd's Center Open House.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Universalist-Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna will hold an Open House and Registration for the Spring Session of "Adventures in Learning." Call the Shepherds' Center office at 703-281-0538 or e-mail [office@scov.org](mailto:office@scov.org).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 19

**New Providence Republican Women's Club.** 2-4 p.m., at the home of Carol Cannon, 2205 Aryness Drive, Vienna. The Club will hold its annual "Membership Tea." Former Virginia State Senator Jeannemarie Devolites- Davis will be the guest speaker. Call 703-591-7368.

## TUESDAY/APRIL 21

**Negotiating Your Property Settlement Agreement.** 7-9:30 p.m., The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Attorney Patti Philipse will present the benefits of negotiating a separation, custody and property settlement agreement, how to approach the negotiation, negotiating strategies and more. \$50/person, \$40/Center Circle Donors. To register, go to [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or call 703-281-2657.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 22

**Assert Yourself.** 7-9 p.m., The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Tina MacIsaac, MSW, will teach those who are reluctant to speak up for themselves to those who believe they are too outspoken to be more assertive in your personal and professional lives in this three-week program. \$90/person, \$75/Center Circle Donors. To register, go to [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or call 703-281-2657.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 29

**Assert Yourself.** 7-9 p.m., The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Tina MacIsaac, MSW, will teach those who are reluctant to speak up for themselves to those who believe they are too outspoken to be more assertive in your personal and professional lives in this three-week program. \$90/person, \$75/Center Circle Donors. To register, go to [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or call 703-281-2657.



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## FAITH

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

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, is celebrating Holy Week with the following services:

April 9: Maundy Thursday worship service, 7:30 p.m.

April 10: Good Friday Children's Service, 10 a.m.; Tenebrae Service, 7:30 p.m.

April 11: Easter vigil, 6 p.m.

April 12: Easter Festival Worship Services, 8:30 and 11 a.m.; Easter egg hunt, 9:45 a.m.

Gather at Great Falls National Park for an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m. This is sponsored by the Great Falls Ecumenical Churches. Rev. Paul Gysan of Christ the King Lutheran Church will preach. Special music will be provided and there will be special time for attendees to share their prayers. Members of the Great Falls Ecumenical Council will participate in this service. Boy Scout Troop 55 will serve as ushers. The offering will go to "Habitat For Humanity."

**St. John's Episcopal Church**, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, is celebrating Good Friday, Friday, April 10, with worship services. From 12-3 p.m., meditations will be given by Rev. Edward O. Miller Jr., and anthems by Mozart, de Victoria and Handel will be performed by the St. John's Choir. Also, "A German Requiem" by Johannes Brahms will be performed in English translation at 7:30 p.m. Call 703-356-4902 or visit [www.stjohnsmclean.org](http://www.stjohnsmclean.org).

**Lewinsville Presbyterian**

**Church** - the historic church in McLean at the corner of Great Falls and Old Chain Bridge Rd. - is celebrating Easter with a new full time Pastor Rev. Deborah A. McKinley. Holy Week and Easter events at Lewinsville Church include:

Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. - Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and Footwashing; Good Friday - Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m. - Service of Tenebrae (darkness); Great Vigil of Easter - Saturday, April 11 - 7:30 p.m. - Renewal of Baptism and Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; Easter Day - Sunday, April 12 - 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. - Festival Worship, Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

**McLean Baptist Church**, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, is celebrating Holy Week with the following services:

April 9: Maundy Thursday Worship Service, 7:30 p.m.

April 10: Good Friday Worship Service, 7:30 p.m.

April 12: Sunrise Worship at MBC Park at corner of Chain Bridge and Brawner Streets, 6:30 a.m.; Easter Worship Service, 8:45 and 11 a.m., Children's Easter Activities and Egg Hunt, 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Call 703-356-8080 or visit [www.mcleanbaptist.org](http://www.mcleanbaptist.org).

An **Easter Egg Hunt and Egg Roll** will be held Saturday, **April 11**, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at New Life Church, 1988 Kirby Road, McLean.

Children, up to age 11, can bring their basket and hunt for plastic eggs loaded with candy and toys or participate in an Egg Roll for prizes. Hotdogs, drinks and popcorn are free to everyone. Call 703-532-0161.



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# Music Program Expands at St. Francis

FROM PAGE 3

more support.” Bridges noted that the church now had two part-time paid musicians instead of just one. She also gives lectures on some of the major productions, like the talk she recently gave on “The Armed Man.” On special occasions, she even sings with the choir.

**THE CHURCH** also recently participated in Great Falls’ annual “Lift Every Voice and Sing” event, presents evensong performances twice a year, hosts an annual bluegrass service. “It’s the typical Episcopal service but just with bluegrass music,” Sircy said. The church will participate in a “Messiah” sing-along with the Amadeus Orchestra and other churches April 19 at St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean. The Difficult Run Jazz Band and others play at the church’s annual Country Fair.

All of the performances at St. Francis Episcopal are open to the public, and Sircy said the major ones, such as the recent “Requiem” performance, draw audiences



A scene from the recent production of ‘Godspell Jr.’

from as far away as Baltimore.

Coombs and Sircy said they hope to continue to expand the music program in the future. “There was a movement afoot at one point to have a praise service once a month,” Coombs said. This would feature pop-sounding music, and she said the interest in such a service still had not died. “And we have this dream of starting a chamber series.”

Also, she said the church would like to create a Northern Virginia children’s choir festival. She said Ellen Johnston, wife of bishop-to-be Shannon Johnston, had expressed interest in starting music workshops at the church. The new bishop’s wife is a well-known church musician.

In addition, the quartet to which Coombs and Sircy belong, Words & Music, is planning a tour.

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**CALENDAR**

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

**WEDNESDAY/APRIL 8**

**Vienna Tang.** Vocals and piano. 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$27. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus.** 7 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**B for Ballet.** 10:30 a.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Stories and dance activities. Special appearance by Ballet Petite. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-356-0770.

**The Bill Frisell Trio.** 8 p.m., Wolftrap Center for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The Bill Frisell Trio will perform jazz fused with rock, country and bluegrass. \$25/person. Call 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**THURSDAY/APRIL 9**

**A Blind Tasting.** 6:30-8:30 p.m., Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Enjoy two different classes of special tastings allowing each guest to test their knowledge and decipher different varieties.

**Bill Frisell Trio with Rudy Royston and Tony Scherr.** 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Ringling Bros and Barnum &**



**Rajashree Ranganathan will present her formal solo dance debut in an Indian classical dance form, known as Bharathanatyam Arangetram, on Saturday, April 11 at the James Lee Community Center Theater in Falls Church.**

**Bailey Circus,** 7 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**FRIDAY/APRIL 10**

**The Downtown Fiction,** 6 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Chuck Brown General Admission Dance.** 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$30. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road,

Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.  
**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus,** 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**SATURDAY/APRIL 11**

**Deanna Bogart Band,** 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$17 advance, \$20 at the door. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**A Tribute to Allen Toussaint,** with the Nighthawks, Mary Ann Redmond, The Grandsons, The Junkyard Saints, Tommy Lepson, The January Allstars, Jon Carroll and more. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus,** 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Bharathanatyam Arangetram (formal solo dance debut) of Rajashree Ranganathan,** 4 p.m. at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Free. Email [rsvprg@gmail.com](mailto:rsvprg@gmail.com)

**Afternoon Matinee,** 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. An afternoon movie and popcorn. Call or visit for movie title. Age 8-16. 703-757-8560.

**Matt Wertz.** 10 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Matt Wertz, whose album "Summer Sun"

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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# MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER 2009 GOVERNING BOARD ELECTION

*The Governing Board and staff of the McLean Community Center strongly encourage all qualified residents to vote for members of the McLean Community Center Governing Board. Your vote sends a very important message of your support of the Center's programs and services.*

## When & Where

Vote between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. at the McLean Day 2009 Festival on Saturday, May 16, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd.

## Requirements to Vote:

1. You must be a resident of the McLean Community Center tax district (Small District 1 of Dranesville District); however, you need not be registered to vote in the general election.
2. You must be at least 18 years old to vote for an adult candidate.
3. You must be 15 through 17 years old to vote for a youth candidate. Youth voters must reside within the high school district of the candidate for whom they are voting.
4. You must bring identification and proof of residency, such as a driver's license. If you do not have identification, you may sign a sworn statement.

## Absentee Voting:

Any qualified resident may vote by absentee ballot. Residents may pick up an absentee ballot package at the Center's reception desk, Monday, April 13, to Wednesday, May 13, or may call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or send a request by E-mail to "mail@mcleancenter.org," to have the package mailed to their homes. Completed ballots must be received by the Center by close of business on Wednesday, May 13. **Write-in candidates are allowed.**

## Meet the Candidates

### Adult Candidates — Three Positions Open

#### Susan Bourgeois

McLean residents of 10 years, my family and I have enjoyed the diverse aspects of MCC from classes, to the Firehouse, summer camps and theatre. Living within walking distance of the Center and the downtown business district, I have seen MCC as an important anchor providing a unique identity and service for our community. As a developer of neighborhood retail shopping centers, my professional experience will be an asset to MCC as it explores facility expansions in and around McLean.



#### Buckley Anne Kuhn Fricker

I have lived in McLean all of my life, except for when I attended college and law school. I own a small business here in McLean that serves senior citizens and I am a McLean parent with children in the Fairfax County schools. I feel my experience as a McLean "lifer," a business owner, an attorney, a senior issues expert and a parent of children ages 15, seven and one, would be a positive addition to the Board.



#### David Sanders

The Board's vice chairman, I currently chair the Capital Facilities and am a member of the Finance and Executive committees. Previously, as Finance chairman, I led two successful efforts to cut the MCC's tax rate by 10 percent and seven percent respectively. A lifelong McLean resident, my goal is for MCC to continuously improve its delivery of quality programs at a reasonable cost. Additionally, I am active in coaching McLean Little League, McLean Mustangs Football and McLean Youth basketball.



#### Edward J. Shahin, Jr.

An honors graduate of Cornell University, I serve on the Board and chair the Program Committee. I am on the McLean Project for the Arts' Senior Committee. I'm a strong advocate for senior and active adult programs, construction of a gymnasium at Spring Hill and an expanded facility downtown to include a revitalized teen center, a senior center and a black box theatre. I volunteer for the local Widowed Persons Service and was named the McLean Rotarian of the Year.



### Youth Candidates — Two Positions Open

#### McLean High School area

##### James G. Bequai

A lifelong resident of McLean, I have attended both public and private schools in the area. Participation with my siblings in multiple sports activities over the years has allowed me to develop friendships within the McLean and Langley school districts. Having a sibling with significant disabilities has enabled me to be involved with non-traditional activities within the local community. This broader background will enable me to best represent the needs of the diverse McLean adolescent community on the Board.



##### Jennifer Dunn

I'm currently the Governing Board youth representative for the McLean High School district, and a junior at McLean High School. I've spent this last year helping to preserve and enhance Teen Center programming, volunteering at ArtFest, aiding in the selection of the new executive director, participating in the development of the FY2010 budget, and working on various other matters. I'd like to continue representing the interests of my peers by giving a voice to the teenagers of McLean.



#### Langley High School area

##### Angela Wertz

I'm a junior at Langley High School and I've lived in McLean all of my life. At the Center, I've participated in playgroup as a toddler, performed ballet at Alden Theatre as a child and ushered at plays as a teen. I am active in my community—in my church youth group and Girl Scouts, coaching MYI sports and working as a lifeguard/swim instructor. My experience as a leader and resident will make me a great addition to the Board.



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

**For more information, call 703-790-0123/TTY: 711**

**www.mcleancenter.org**

# People Share Stories on How Budget Affects Their Lives

FROM PAGE 3

budget four days this week, I have tried to limit the number of meetings I have in my office. Today, I had one meeting, at 10 a.m., with representatives of the Alliance for Human Services to discuss budget matters. Following that meeting, I reviewed and responded to some of the hundreds of emails and letters I have received about the budget. Then I headed to the Government Center for continuation of the public hearings. Recurring themes from speakers this evening asked the Board to protect the Penny for Affordable Housing, fund the supervised visitation program, and fund services for seniors and human services. We received excellent budget presentations from the School Board, the Volunteer Firefighters and the County's Employee Advisory Council. Once again, there were several people who didn't show up to testify and we adjourned by 11 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, April 1** - I had to be back at the Government Center at 3 p.m. for continuation of the budget hearings but this morning I needed to focus on a variety of other issues that are ongoing in the district. I met with staff members to get updates on projects involving HOT Lanes, trails, traffic calming, stormwater, land use, Dulles Rail and many other issues. And I continued to deal with the emails that keep coming. There were 141 speakers signed up today. This turned out to be the most interesting and enjoyable night of the hearings. The ARC of Northern Virginia advocates for people with severe physical and intellectual disabilities. They appear before the board regularly and they always have an entertaining way to make

their point. Tonight dozens of their supporters showed up in pajamas and robes to make the point that they would have to stay home and not be able to work and contribute to our community if the board withholds funding for employment programs they use. Despite their disabilities and serious concerns about funding, they were in a great mood and lifted everyone's spirits before they finished speaking. The cookies they handed out were also much appreciated. The supporters of English as a Second Language for Adults also left a lasting impression. In very good English, these immigrants told of the frustrations they had experienced before learning English and how, because of ESL, they were now able to help their children with homework, get jobs and become active and contributing members of the community. Numerous issues were covered by other speakers including an excellent presentation by members of the Commission on Aging on the impact the proposed budget cuts will have on senior citizens. Chairman Bulova is doing a great job running the budget hearings and everyone on the board seemed to be very interested in hearing from the speakers. I think we all realize our time will come to speak and negotiate over the budget, but our duty this week is to listen to what the speakers have to say. Once again, I was home before midnight.

**THURSDAY, April 2** - This was the final day of public hearings. The process has been interesting and educational and, on several occasions, entertaining. Before heading to the Government Center, I met with the officers of the firefighters union. The advertised budget proposes huge cuts to public safety.

They presented their suggestions for reducing costs while preserving jobs and services. As we struggle through this fiscal crisis, I have been very impressed by all the county employee groups. They recognize the serious fiscal situation and are committed to sharing the pain. None of the employee groups are asking for salary or benefit increases but they are all concerned about preserving jobs and services to county residents. There were only 80 people signed up to speak tonight. Each night we have had some very courageous speakers tell their personal stories about how county-funded services have made a significant difference in their lives and the lives of loved ones. Tonight the stories seemed especially personal and compelling. We heard how cuts to Fastran bus service will affect one speaker's severely intellectually disabled daughter, how a relatively small county investment in Drug Court changes lives and enables people to return to their families and become productive members of the community, how mental health services enabled a very impressive young woman recover from a severe nervous breakdown, how the victim of a violent assault relies on the services of Brain Injury Services, and many other stories about how the residents of Fairfax County have helped the most vulnerable and needy members of our community through the programs and services we provide. I left the Government Center by 7 p.m. and headed home. I left the public hearings with a lot to think about thanks to the many who took time to address their concerns to the board. Their time, commitment and courage will help the board set priorities and it will make a difference.

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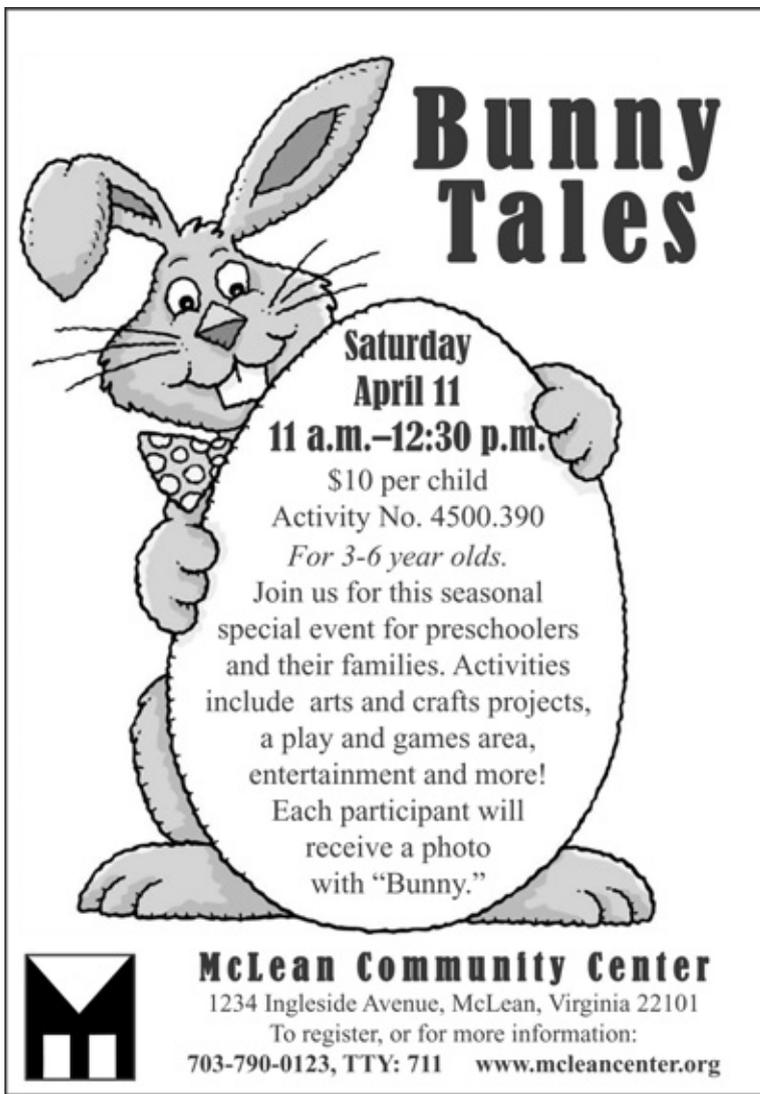
 

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# CALENDAR



## Bunny Tales

**Saturday  
April 11  
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

\$10 per child  
Activity No. 4500.390  
For 3-6 year olds.

Join us for this seasonal special event for preschoolers and their families. Activities include arts and crafts projects, a play and games area, entertainment and more! Each participant will receive a photo with "Bunny."

**McLean Community Center**  
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To register, or for more information:  
703-790-0123, TTY: 711 www.mcleancenter.org

FROM PAGE 10

debuted at #5 when released, will play live. \$15/person. Call 703-255-1566 or visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Easter Egg Treats.** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wildfire Tysons Galleria, Third Floor, 1714U International Drive, McLean. Dye Easter eggs and making your own Chocolate Peanut Butter Egg along with 9 News Now Anchor Lesli Foster and her daughter Jordan. Call Michelle Bringham at 703-442-9110 to make reservations.

**Spring Garden Tour.** 10:30 a.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join Chief Horticulturist Doris Rodriguez in a walk through the gardens and learn about spring flowering bulbs, perennials, shrubs and trees that perform well in this area. Maintenance tips and availability of these plants will be discussed. Free. Call 703-255-3631.

**Bunny Tales.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Bunny Tales is a special event that includes arts and crafts projects, a play area, entertainment and more. Participants will receive a picture with the bunny. \$10/child, adults/free. Ages 3-6. Call 703-488-8336, TTY: 711.

**Spring Kaledioscope Family Concert.** 3 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The McLean Symphony Orchestra will perform several notable works. \$25/adults, \$20/seniors, \$15/students, free/under 12. Go to the Alden Theatre Box Office or call 703-573-SEAT for tickets.

### SUNDAY/APRIL 12

**Easter Brunch.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Ritz-

Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Celebrate Easter with brunch. \$120/adult, \$39/child under 10.

**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus,** 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Spring Wild Flowers.** 2 p.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. See some of the region's most beautiful spring wild flowers in this internationally recognized conservation collection. Free. Call 703-255-3631.

### MONDAY/APRIL 13

**18<sup>th</sup> Century Clothing Workshop.** 6-8 p.m., Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Learn from experts the basics of 18th century clothing including shirts, trousers, waistcoats, caps, kerchiefs, shifts, petticoats, short gowns and aprons. Trace a pattern, examine examples of garments and obtain advice on your own clothing projects. \$5/person, \$3/Farm members and current volunteers. Reservations required; e-mail RSVP to [kcannon@1771.org](mailto:kcannon@1771.org)

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

**Book Discussion,** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for the title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

**Samantha & Dave.** 7:30 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Samantha & Dave will perform live. Call 703-255-1566.

**Bess Rogers with Allie Moss.** 7:30

p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bess Rogers and Allie Moss, both singer/songwriters, will perform live. Visit [www.myspace.com/alliemossmusic](http://www.myspace.com/alliemossmusic) or [www.myspace.com/bessrogers](http://www.myspace.com/bessrogers).

**Elena Gascho.** 1 p.m., St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Harpsichordist Elena Gascho presents a recital. Free. Call 703-356-0670 or visit [www.musicinmclean.org](http://www.musicinmclean.org).

### THURSDAY/APRIL 16

**Barrage.** Fiddle music, song and dance. 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$27. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus,** 7 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**2009 Perspectives Series.** 7:30 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Eugene Robinson, a nationally syndicated columnist and political analyst, will present "Today's News: Who's Up, Who's Down and What's Really Going On?" as part of the 2009 Perspectives Series. Call 703-324-8428.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 17

**The Hint CD Release,** 6 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Barrage.** Fiddle music, song and dance. 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$27. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.



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# Recalling the College Recruiting Experience

Local athletes remember the highs and lows of choosing a college.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Here is a look three college athletes from Northern Virginia — AJ Price (South Lakes), Ashley Abed (Oakton) and Jeff Allen (Langley). Each is pleased with where they ended up, but getting there was completely different for each, and anything but simple. See [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).



Jeff Allen (54) started all 12 games at center for the winning Elon University football team last fall.

## JEFF ALLEN, LANGLEY

A SCHOLARSHIP was not in the plans, at least not at the start, for Langley High graduate and current Elon University rising football senior Jeff Allen.

Allen, who played the physically demanding center position on the offensive line for Langley under coach John Howerton, had selected Elon (Southern Conference), a Div. 1AA school in North Carolina, as the college of his choice. He wanted to play football, but had not been offered a scholarship from the academically renowned school. So he eventually decided he would try to make the team as a walk-on player his freshmen year.

With the help of Howerton, Allen promoted his football abilities to the Elon coaching staff by sending them a highlight football tape during Christmastime of his senior year in high school. But he had not heard back from the



Langley High graduate and Elon football offensive lineman Jeff Allen

**“I basically came from out of the blue. I just kind of showed up.”**

— Jeff Allen, Langley grad, Elon football offensive lineman

football office.

It turned out that the Elon football program was at the time in the middle of a coaching change. Allen found out

later his tape had likely been tossed aside.

But, not to be discouraged, Allen sent a second tape to the new coaching staff. He

was informed, however, that the new recruiting class had already been selected. He was told he could try out for the team as a walk-on with scholarship money possibly available down the road if he made the team.

Allen did, in fact, make the team as a backup center. Not only that, he got put into a week-four game at Appalachian State (Boone, N.C.) that freshmen season, when Elon’s starting center was ejected.

He started a few more games that freshmen season. For the remainder of his freshmen season, Allen played a backup role with sporadic playing time, but it had been a successful first season for him. His play, in fact, had earned him a scholarship.

“My two goals [as a freshman] were to get onto the field and to be a scholarship player,” said Allen.

Last fall as a junior, it all came together for Allen, who started all 12 games for the 8-4 Phoenix, who barely missed the playoffs. Now, Allen, a business administration major with a concentration in management, is finishing his junior academic year at Elon and looking forward to next fall when he will play his senior season.

“I basically came from out of the blue,” he said, remembering that walk-on freshmen season. “I just kind of showed up.”

Allen, who has played under Elon coach Pete Lembo throughout his career, said “I knew I couldn’t slack off. I had nothing guaranteed.”

Allen credits his high school coach, Howerton, with preparing him for college football and the rigors of line play.

“His practices were set up [to teach] line technique,” said Allen, a two-time, First Team All-Liberty District center at Langley. “There was a good work ethic. It made a huge difference for me. I knew I was going to be ready for college [football].”

SEE RECALLING, PAGE 19

## How Far Some Will Go

Thousands of dollars and miles.

BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

Perhaps the only thing as practiced as Stephanie Sbardella’s swing may be her penmanship. After each of the collegiate softball camps that Sbardella, a junior third baseman at South County, attends, she has made it a point to draft her own personal thank-you letter to that school’s coach.

In the past two years, Paul Sbardella, Stephanie’s father, can count on one hand how many times the family has stayed home for the weekend, instead of electing to attend some sort of camp or clinic, aimed at Stephanie’s recruitment as a college athlete.

During one particular weekend this past winter, the Sbardellas left Lorton on a Friday morning and drove to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke — roughly 350 miles away — for a camp. Later that day, they drove 167 miles to Charlestown, S.C. and stayed the night. The next day, Stephanie Sbardella attended Charleston Southern University’s camp until 5 p.m. and then hopped back in the car for a 10-hour drive to the University of Delaware, which was Sunday’s destination, again for a camp.

“It’s something that she’s really in  
SEE HOW FAR, PAGE 16



LeighAnne Baxter, a senior on Robinson’s girls’ soccer team, earned a scholarship to Richmond.

FILE PHOTO

# World Wide Web of Recruiting?

High school athletes, college coaches take recruiting to the Internet.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO  
THE CONNECTION

Even before they became two of the top runners in the Mount Vernon High School track and field program, seniors Shaquille Thomas and Johnathon McMillon did everything together.

Friends since early childhood, the pair was nearly inseparable according to Thomas’s mother, Susan Crawford.

Thomas, who lived on Fort Belvoir military base between 1999 and 2005 began running in 2000 in a program on base that his mother helped coach. He convinced McMillon to join him two years ago.

So now as they chase dreams of running track in college, the pair has decided to go through the recruitment process together.

The two don’t look to be the prototypical recruits who make a college coach salivate. Neither has finished better than third at the Northern Region championships during the

outdoor or indoor track seasons and both have thus far qualified for the state championships just once.

“I didn’t really start track seriously until last year, so I didn’t really have any expectations about recruiting,” McMillon said.

That’s why last year towards the end of indoor track season, McMillon’s father, Ron, took his son’s recruitment in a direction many in this area and around the country have — to the Internet.

SEE WORLD WIDE WEB, PAGE 16

# World Wide Web of Recruiting?

FROM PAGE 15

One day while surfing the web checking out track results, Ron McMillon stumbled upon a service called beRecruited.com, one of several online services that, for a fee, helps connect high school athletes with college coaches.

Almost immediately, Ron McMillon set up accounts for both his son and Thomas, posting video he had taken from meets to the web. A year and a half later, Thomas has received interest from more than 20 colleges, while Johnathan McMillon is slated to attend Virginia State University on a track scholarship next fall.

"Usually, they wouldn't get this kind of attention unless they were some one-of-a-kind talent," said Crawford. "The kids who don't make the newspapers need something like this."



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

**Mount Vernon senior Johnathan McMillon (left) got a scholarship to run at Virginia State University next year thanks in large part to the online recruiting service, beRecruited.com.**

**PART OF THE REASON** Avi Stopper got out of coaching college soccer at the University of Chicago was the misconception he perceived from recruits and their parents about how to get noticed on the recruiting trail. A co-founder of captainU.com — similar to beRecruited.com — and the author of an e-book on recruiting called "Make the Team," Stopper thinks parents and athletes sometimes don't understand how college coaches think.

"A lot of people have the mentality that the way recruiting works is you go to show-

case tournaments and then you get recruited, but that's really far from the reality," said Stopper. "There are 1,000 players at any given showcase and 50 college coaches and the odds of a college coach seeing you play randomly when you're doing something great is really slim."

Stopper's website, captainU, is a web-based software that helps student athletes through the recruiting process, helping

them devise a step-by-step strategy to pursue athletic opportunities after high school.

Potential recruits can create a profile on the site for free, but for \$39.95 a month, captainU advertises access to 15,000 college coaches. Stopper said 90 percent of captainU's class of 2009 has signed with a college for next year.

The Web site beRecruited was started back in 2000 now has more than 150,000

athletes nationwide using its service, including 190 from Alexandria, 107 from Fairfax, 53 from Arlington, 31 from Reston, and 27 from McLean.

Jeff Cravens, the president of beRecruited, thinks the best evidence of just how many people need help with recruiting is seen in the site's newest service that allows parents to register to the site. In less than a year, more than 11,000 adults have signed up.

Still there are detractors. Bill Finney, the athletic director and women's basketball coach at Division III Marymount University in Arlington calls recruiting websites "a waste of money."

He says coaches are more savvy than to believe clips on the web that create the illusion of a basketball player with a 100 percent shooting percentage or a soccer player whose every pass results in a goal. He thinks recruits should be focusing on everything but athletics when looking for the right college.

"I would rather have my daughter go into the guidance office and say this is what I want to do the rest of my life," said Finney, who had one daughter play basketball at Georgia Tech and another play for him at Marymount.

"Instead of throwing away all this money, put the responsibility on your kids. Families can do all this on their own. All they have to do is research what colleges match both their academic and athletic needs and reach out to them. A lot of people are expecting someone to call them up and say we want you, but that's just not how it works."

# How Far Some Will Go for Recruitment

FROM PAGE 15

terested in," Paul Sbardella said. "I'm just there to support her. ... But it is a lot of driving."

Paul Sbardella estimates that he's spent

between \$7,000-\$10,000 on travel expenses and fees associated with all of the camps, clinics and competitive tournaments that his daughter attended during the past year.

At camps Stephanie Sbardella frequents, players of all ages, not just college recruits, are welcome. Some feature instruction. Some are composed mostly of games.

**BY DIRECTING** his own program at the high school level and also serving as an assistant soccer coach at Shenandoah University, Robinson girls' soccer coach Jim Rike has been on both sides of high-level recruitment.

Rike still attends camps as a Shenandoah representative but also hears about experiences that some of his high school players have had at them as well.

The defending Virginia AAA state champs, Robinson has four girls on its current roster committed to Division-I schools, with possibly two more on the way. To combat their rigorous club schedules, Rike has started to give his players at least one day off during the week, knowing that they had spent almost the entire weekend playing soccer.

"Five of my girls are on one club team, and they're approaching almost 150 games in a year of high level, premiere, showcase games because they keep going and going and going," Rike said. "I worry about the

effect it's going to have on their bodies 10 years down the road.

"From my standpoint, as a college coach, I only need to see a kid a couple times to see whether he can play for me or not," Rike continued. "I don't see need to see him 40 times. I've told my girls that you can have three or four great games, but all it takes is one really bad game and that gets set in the coach's mind and it evens out."

Dan Anderson, whose son, Holland Anderson, plays linebacker for the Centreville football team, has tried to find a steady mix. The Andersons did fly to San Antonio over New Year's for the U.S. Army National combine, which included 500 of the top juniors from across the country.

But the father still wants the sport to be fun for his son, an approach that has led the Andersons to attend only three high-level combines: the U.S. Army National, the Nike Combine and the Schuman Underclassman Camp. Dan Anderson said that his investment in his son's recruitment has cost more than \$4,000 to date.

"You can't overwhelm them and it's got to continue to be fun," Dan Anderson said.

And just because an athlete stands out at a camp, doesn't mean the college that notices will be a good match.

"What we find is that kids who go to these showcases get wrapped up in the recruiting cycle with schools that aren't good fits



**Sbardella family roadtrip: one weekend, more than 1,200 miles.**



FILE PHOTO

**Stephanie Sbardella, a junior on South County's softball team, traveled to college camps almost every weekend.**

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF**  
**CONTRA COSTA**  
UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE  
MICHAEL AMANKWAH,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
AARON HERNANDEZ, SPECTRUM FINANCIAL, LLC aka  
SPECTRUM FINANCIAL FUNDING, and DOES 1 through 20,  
inclusive,  
Defendants. )  
Case No: MSC08-03159

**[PROPOSED] ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS**

On reading and filing the evidence consisting of plaintiff's  
Application for Order for Publication of Summons and the sup-  
porting Declaration of Harvey W. Stein, attorney for plaintiffs,  
for this Order, and it satisfactorily appearing to the Court there-  
from that defendants Aaron Hernandez and Spectrum Finan-  
cial also known as Spectrum Financial Funding, hereinafter re-  
ferred to as ("defendants") cannot with reasonable diligence be  
served in any other manner specified in Sections 415.10  
through 414.40 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and that a  
Cause of Action exists in favor of plaintiffs and against defend-  
ant.

IT IS ORDERED that Summons be served by publication in  
the McLean Connection, a newspaper of general circulation  
published in the County of Fairfax, Virginia, hereby designated  
as the newspaper most likely to give defendants actual notice  
of the action, and that publication be made once a week for  
four consecutive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of the Summons, a  
copy of the Complaint, and a copy of this Order be forthwith  
mailed to defendants at 1410 Woodhurst, McLean, Virginia.

Date: April 6, 2009  
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

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### LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION Notice of Availability of Competitive Grant Funds for Calendar Year 2010

The Legal Services Corporation (LSC) announces the availability of competitive grant funds to provide civil legal services to eligible clients during calendar year 2010. A Request for Proposals (RFP) and other information pertaining to the LSC grants competition will be available from [www.grants.lsc.gov](http://www.grants.lsc.gov) on April 10, 2009. In accordance with LSC's multiyear funding policy, grants are available for only specified service areas. The listing of service areas for each state and the estimated grant amounts for each service area will be included in Appendix-A of the RFP. Applicants must file a Notice of Intent to Compete (NIC) in order to participate in the competitive grants process. The NIC will be available from the RFP. Please refer to [www.grants.lsc.gov](http://www.grants.lsc.gov) for filing dates and submission requirements. Please e-mail inquiries pertaining to the LSC competitive grants process to [Competition@lsc.gov](mailto:Competition@lsc.gov)

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# RECRUIT ME, PLEASE



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

AJ Price emerged to become one of the metro area's top receivers during his senior season at South Lakes, drawing the attention of several big-time college football programs.

## Recalling the College Recruiting Experience

FROM PAGE 15



PHOTO COURTESY ANDERSON UNIV.

**2007 Oakton High graduate Ashley Abed**

**FOR ASHLEY ABED**, a 2007 Oakton High graduate, the path to becoming a women's college basketball player at NCAA Div. 2 Anderson University (S.C.) was an eventful journey.

During her junior season at Oakton, the 5-10 forward believed she would fit in nicely with a Div. 2 college program.

Her high school coach, Fred Priester, made a highlight tape of Abed to give to schools.

She elected to accept an offer to play at Francis Marion University (Florence, S.C.). But during the summer prior to her freshman year at Marion, Abed learned that a coaching change had occurred.

Abed did, in fact, like the new coach. But as things turned out, she received less playing time than she had hoped. Following the season, she decided she would transfer.

Anderson University women's coach Jeff Dow, upon learning about Abed, was interested in recruiting her. She visited the campus and met the coach.

But again, the school Abed was ready to attend made a coaching change. Dow, Abed learned the summer prior to her sophomore year, was leaving. The new coach would be Jim Brunelli. Abed, it turned out, had a terrific season.

The Anderson team was not expected to do well as a result of the late coaching change, but won the Conference Carolina championship and qualified for the NCAA Div. 2 tournament. Abed, a guard-forward, played 20-plus minutes per game.

"Coach Brunelli taught me a lot about myself," said Abed. "It felt really good to play and help a team win."

### A.J. PRICE, SOUTH LAKES

A.J. Price, a 6-foot-4 inch football wide receiver at Penn State University, did not emerge into a major recruiting prospect until his senior year in high school at South Lakes. That fall season, South Lakes coach John Ellenberger emphasized the Seahawks' passing attack, and Price had a breakout season, catching 32 passes for 816 yards and 11 touchdowns, averaging 25.5 yards per catch.

Major collegiate football programs, such as Duke, the University of Michigan, the University of Virginia and Penn State, contacted Ellenberger in order to make their intentions known about recruiting Price.

Each of those programs offered him a football scholarship. "I'm not really one for all the glamour and all, and I wasn't used to being the person being talked about. I tried to take it in stride," said Price.

Price, who graduated in 2008, will never forget the December day during his senior year that Penn State, under legendary coach Joe Paterno, offered him a scholarship. The moment came during the school day. Ellenberger, teaching an English class, got a call from Penn State and was told by a member of the Nittany Lions' football staff that they would make an offer to Price. The teacher-coach immediately found Price.

"I thought, 'Wow, not too many people experience this.'"

Price committed about a month later during a weekend visit to Penn State with his mother. "I told my mom on my birthday, then I told coach Paterno ... the next day at brunch."

Price said his contact person through the process was Penn State assistant coach Larry Johnson, a former head coach at T.C. Williams High in Alexandria.

"I love it [at Penn State]," said Price, a history major.

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# Great Falls Office

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## Congratulations to our 2008 Award Winners

In a most difficult year, our professional Realtors® performed beyond expectation! We congratulate them for their perseverance in meeting the challenges of last year's extraordinary market. Their achievements highlight their worth to you as consumers and to Long & Foster as people with whom we are extremely proud to be associated. For your 2009 real estate needs, call on our experts and our expertise at the Great Falls Office of Long & Foster Realtors®.



### Masters Club (Over \$20 Million in Settled Volume)

**Dan Laytham**  
Masters Hall of Fame  
Office Top Producer  
Top 10 VA/WVA Sales Volume



**Jan Laytham**  
Masters Hall of Fame

### Founders Club (\$10-20 Million in Settled Volume)



**Carol Jackson**  
Founders Hall of Fame  
Top 15 VA/WVA Individual Sales Volume



**Eileen Summers**  
Founders Hall of Fame



**Donna Uscinski**  
Founders Hall of Fame

### Chairmans Club (\$5-10 Million in Settled Volume)



**Elizabeth Hajost**  
Chairmans Hall of Fame



**Beth Putman**  
Chairmans Hall of Fame



**Karen Washburn**

### Presidents Club (\$3-5 Million in Settled Volume)



**June Crisan**  
Presidents Hall of Fame



**Sheri Daniel**  
Presidents Hall of Fame



**Angela Hellstern**  
Presidents Hall of Fame



**Mitch Neaves**  
Presidents Hall of Fame



**Debra Rubin**

### Directors Club (\$2-3 Million in Settled Volume)



**Jeni Haight**



**Nina Koeppen**

### Executives Club (\$1-2 Million in Settled Volume)



**Molly Decker**



**Lynn Kemmerer**



**Karen McCarthy**



**Anne Morrow**



**Jane Peil**



**Debi Whitaker**

(Hall of Fame Membership denotes a minimum of 5 times earned in the named club)