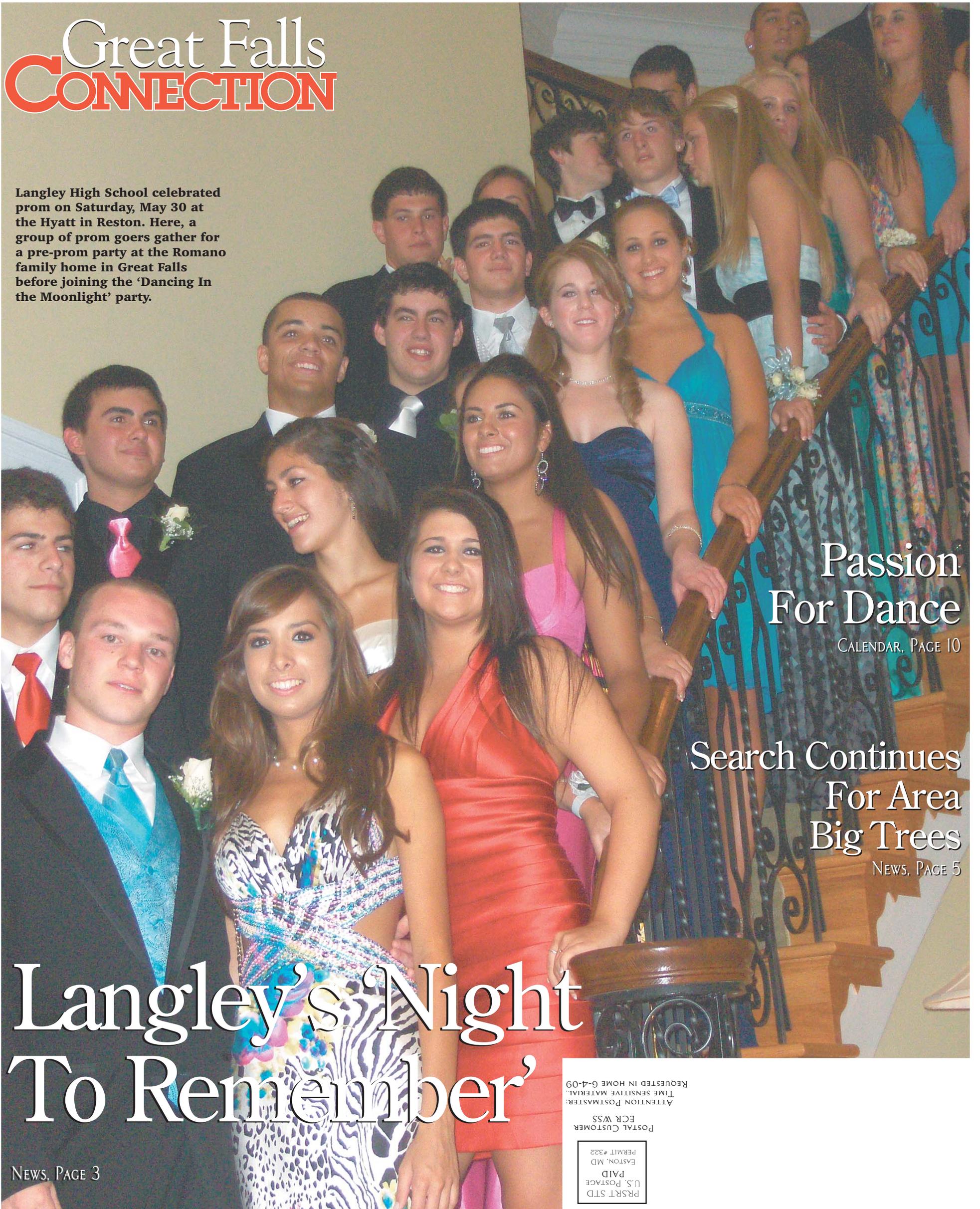


Great Falls CONNECTION

Langley High School celebrated prom on Saturday, May 30 at the Hyatt in Reston. Here, a group of prom goers gather for a pre-prom party at the Romano family home in Great Falls before joining the 'Dancing In the Moonlight' party.



Passion For Dance

CALENDAR, PAGE 10

Search Continues For Area Big Trees

NEWS, PAGE 5

Langley's 'Night To Remember'

NEWS, PAGE 3

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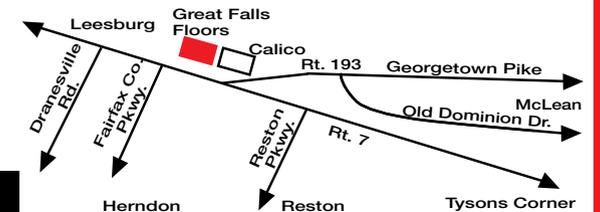
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PHOTO BY GREG HERO

Langley High Junior girls get together for Saturday's prom. From left, front row: Kelly Hubbell, Nicole Desbois, Kim Kealy, Marla Espensa, Dani Berger and Skylar Thompkins; back row: Shannon Engle, Brooke Brown, Emily Spees, Alex Barton, Courtney Meadows and Kate Hartnett.

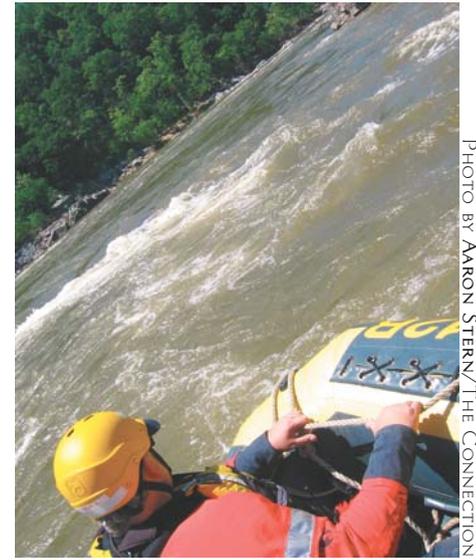


PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE CONNECTION

Frank Smith, chief of the Great Falls (Va.) Volunteer Fire Department, is at the bow of a swift water rescue boat as it makes its way up the Potomac River towards Great Falls.

Langley's 'Night To Remember'

Prom highlights 'Dancing in the Moonlight' theme.

Langley High School celebrated prom on Saturday, May 30 at the Hyatt in Reston. Students gathered to enjoy the "Dancing In the Moonlight" theme. For many, prom is an anticipated evening that is a favorite memory. "I look forward to enjoying a night of dancing with my friends," said Dan Orne, class of 2009.

Others viewed the night as another experience to add to the many they have enjoyed at Langley. When asked of his favorite high school memory, Jimmy Gimbert said: "My favorite memory was our senior trip to Hershey Park. I will miss living so close to all my friends next year." Gimbert plans to attend Virginia Tech in the fall.

Although prom is an event that marks the end of the school year, many students were excited about their summer activities. "I will be traveling all summer to Hawaii and other places," said Kerry Aldrich.

Others intend to stay closer to home. Laura Falconi will work at Banana Republic and Emily Bullen will be working at Wolf Trap.

Even though prom marks the end of the school year, students were excited to dance and have fun with their friends. Zack Grenn said he couldn't wait to get the "Get the party started," and Emily Ohriner said, "This night will be one to remember."

— CAROLINE ADAMS



PHOTO BY CAROLINE ADAMS/THE CONNECTION

From left, Charlie Buechner, Haley Campbell, Hillary Gabriel and Keenan Fisher enjoy Saturday evening's Langley High prom.



From left, Teddy Peterson, Ben Walsh, Andreas Hero, Connor Greening, John Mensing and Garrett Burke go to the Langley prom.

Practicing Rescuing Skills

Recent deaths and rescues on the Potomac highlight river's danger.

BY AARON STERN
THE CONNECTION

About a quarter mile north of the Old Angler's put-in on the Maryland side of the Potomac River, just south of Great Falls, there is a pink and white rope that stretches fifty feet from a rocky outcrop on the shore to a small rocky island in the river. The rope is marked by fluttering pink ribbons and is threaded through a neon green hula hoop.

On Thursday, May 22 Lamont Payne, a member of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue's swift water rescue team threaded his rescue boat up the Class 1 rapid that runs beneath the pink rope. As the boat reached the rope Payne throttled down so that the boat hovered just beneath it. In the bow of the boat Frank Smith, the volunteer chief of the Great Falls (Va.) Volunteer Fire Department, reached up from a crouching position and grabbed the hula hoop and lifted it from the rope. For several seconds the boat held its place in the rapids and Smith held the hula hoop aloft so that its sides did not come in contact with the rope.

"That's hard to do, especially with all this water," Payne said, shouting above the noise of both the boat's motor and the running rapids.

SEE GOOD FORTUNE, PAGE 6

Primary Tough Choice for Dems

Strong candidates lead to indecision?

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

With the Democratic gubernatorial primary less than two weeks away, Scott Surovell still had not made up his mind about his vote.

Surovell, a Mount Vernon resident, is not a typical voter. He is the chair of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, one of the largest local Democratic organizations in the commonwealth. Surovell is paying very close attention to the race and the three candidates — state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25), former Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe and former Del. Brian Moran (D-46).

"These candidates are pretty similar on policy. There are subtle differences but they are all strong candidates. I think the question a lot of people are trying to answer is which candidate would be the best to go up against Bob McDonnell," he said. "I am actually undecided. I have really been struggling with this myself."

Many other likely voters are having a tough time choosing a candidate in Democratic Party's gubernatorial primary June 9.

"It was a tough decision. We are have embarrassment of riches this time around and it was a tough choice to make," said Greg Zimmerman, a Democratic activist from Arlington County, who would not reveal who he was supporting publicly.

"I think, for Democrats, I think this primary is really difficult," said Loretta Nawakowski, the Democratic Party's captain for the Greenspring voting precinct, which traditionally has the highest election turn out of any precinct in Virginia. Though the residents are known for being politically active, attendance at a candidates' forum May 14 on the Greenspring campus was particularly high, about 250 people.

Volunteers who have knocking on the doors of reliable Democratic households in Northern Virginia have also found a lot of uncommitted voters.

"I am going door to door and a lot of people are undecided," said Steve Baker, an Arlington resident who supports McAuliffe.

Voters may be having a tough time choosing a candidate because the three men in the race are similar in many respects.

Deeds, a native Virginian who lives in Bath County where he grew up, likes to tell the story of his mother only giving him a few \$20 bills in his pocket when he went off to college.

McAuliffe, a McLean resident, started a driveway paving business at 14 years old in upstate New York so that he could pay for school.

Moran, a former state delegate for the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County, recalls when he father was laid off and his employer towed away the company car they

CREIGH DEEDS



Age: 51
Residence: Bath County, Va.
Hometown/Grew Up In: Bath County, Va.
Family: Wife Pam and four children
Education: Concord College (bachelor's degree in 1980), Wake Forest University (law degree in 1984)
Community Work/Relevant Experience: former Bath County

prosecutor; House of Delegates member (1992-2001), state Senator (2001 in present)
Web site: <http://www.deedsforvirginia.com>

used as a family station wagon.

All three candidates promise to make Virginia the epicenter of green technology and jobs. McAuliffe talks of turning chicken waste into fuel. Deeds wants to build an algae-to-fuel plant in Hampton Roads. Moran calls for wind farms off the coast of Virginia Beach.

Northern Virginia, they all expect, would be a hub of green job research and take part in developing things like the smart electrical grid and clean coal technology. "I think we can build on the technology companies that we already have here," said Moran.

Moran, in particular, appears to be trying to set himself apart by running to the left of his primary opponents on social and environmental issues.

If elected governor, Moran promises to seek repeal the 2006 Marshall-Newman amendment, which defines marriage as between a man and woman and bans marriage-like contracts for same sex couples. "We should not be placing discriminatory language in the Virginia constitution," said Moran at the Greenspring forum.

As a state senator, Deeds voted in favor of the same-sex marriage amendment in 2006. McAuliffe said he does not support gay marriage but is fully supportive of civil unions. But he has said multiple times that the campaign should focus on other issues.

"If we don't fix the economy, we are going to go backwards on several fronts folks," said McAuliffe at an Annandale debate.

Moran has spoken out against drilling for oil or natural gas off the coast of Virginia and opposes the construction a new coal power plant in Surry County between Richmond and Hampton Roads.

On the issue of offshore drilling, McAuliffe backs limited exploration for natural gas but not for oil. Deeds said he would support some exploration for oil and natural gas.

McAuliffe says if elected governor, he would work to push all payday lenders, which provide small, short-term loans at a very high interest rate, out of Virginia.

Critics of payday lenders said many people become trapped in a unending cycle of debt through these types of loans, which

TERRY MCAULIFFE



Age: 52
Residence: McLean, Va.
Hometown/Grew Up In: Syracuse, NY
Family: Wife Dorothy and five children
Education: Catholic University of America (bachelor's degree -1979); Georgetown University (law degree in 1984)
Community Work/Relevant Experience: Democratic National Committee chairman

(2001-2005); confidant of U.S. President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; national finance director of President Jimmy Carter's 1988 re-election campaign
Web site: <http://www.terrymcauliffe.com/>

they can never afford to pay back.

McAuliffe has also been critical of Virginia's largest utility company, Dominion Power, for not being open to renewable energy and energy efficiency proposals. "There should be no more rate increases until they agree to move on wind and solar power," said McAuliffe, who is not accepting donations from Dominion or the company's political action committee.

Dominion Power has been the largest business interest or individual contributor to Virginia's statewide political campaigns over the last 13 years. Since 1996, the utility company has donated \$5.2 million to political candidates, \$2.45 million to Democrats and \$2.65 million to Republicans. Both Moran, who has accepted \$46,800, and Deeds who has accepted \$57,200, from Dominion since 1996,

said McAuliffe's pledge to turn down Dominion money is hollow because the McAuliffe campaign held a fundraiser at the home of Thomas Capps, Dominion's retired president.

When there is consensus on an issue, such as the need for quick job creation, the candidates have different approaches.

Deeds, who represents the Charlottesville area, wants to use Virginia's well-regarded higher education system to spur growth and new employment.

McAuliffe would have a hands-on approach to attracting business to Virginia. As governor, he intends to be the commonwealth's number one salesperson and business recruiter.

"You all know I am good at getting money out of people," said McAuliffe at a meeting with the Northern Virginia Technology Council. The candidate, who once wrestled an alligator for a campaign donation, revolutionized political fundraising for the national Democratic Party.

Moran, who runs his own small law office, said he intends to shore up the economy by supporting and promoting small businesses.

"I have created a business in Virginia, a small business," said Moran.

If elected, Moran's first action as governor would be to convene a bipartisan sum-

BRIAN MORAN



Age: 50
Residence: City of Alexandria
Hometown/Grew Up In: Natick, Mass.
Family: wife Karyn and two children
Education: University of Massachusetts, Amherst (bachelor's degree), Catholic University of America (law degree)
Community Work/Relevant Experience: former Arlington County

prosecutor, House of Delegates member (1996-2008), House of Delegates Democratic caucus chair (2001-2008)
Web site: www.brianmoran.com/

mit of business community members and government leaders to brainstorm about the best ways to address the current economic situation in Virginia. The summit would not just address job creation but also housing needs and other problems that have cropped up in the down economy.

"We need a governor who puts the people first," said Moran at the Greenspring forum.

Deeds and Moran have similar professional backgrounds. Both worked as local prosecutors and are currently lawyers at small law firms. They are also both former members of the House of Delegates. In 2001, Moran replaced Deeds as the House of Delegates Democratic caucus chair when Deeds won his election to the state senate.

A fixture of political talk shows, McAuliffe is one of the most recognizable Democratic Party figures on the national stage, even though he has never held elected office.

McAuliffe is trying to reshape his public persona into that of a Mark Warner-like businessman, who does Democratic Party activism on the side. He has rescued both a failing bank and Florida home building company during his career. Through these and a few other business ventures, McAuliffe said he has created several thousand new jobs.

Deeds and Moran tout their legislative experience in Richmond as an asset.

Deeds said he was able to get legislation passed as member of the minority and the majority party in the House of Delegates and Senate.

"I am going in knowing that system like the back of my hand," said Deeds.

While McAuliffe talks about needing to win more Democratic seats in the House of Delegates, Moran points out that he has actually done that as head of the House of Delegates Democratic caucus.

"I helped build the House Democratic caucus from 33 members to 45 members," said Moran.

McAuliffe, who has lived in McLean for almost 20 years, does not seem phased by his lack of experience at the Virginia statehouse. The Washington insider is running as a Richmond outsider.

"If you are happy with Richmond, I am not your guy," said McAuliffe.

See www.ConnectionNewspapers.com for more.

NEWS

Search Continues For Area Big Trees

Hikers visit Virginia's tallest tree.

Robert Vickers, Fairfax County's Tree Commissioner, led a hike along the Potomac River on Sunday, May 31. The hike was conducted so that Vickers could locate several big trees on the Virginia State list.



Robert Vickers explains how to measure a tree.

Jo Fleming, a participant in the hike, described trees as objects that "may not have human life but are connected to human life through the memories people associate with particular trees and the role they play in human existence."

Vickers led the hikers to a bitternut hickory that is the tallest in the state. "It is assumed to be around 250-years old and stands at 120 feet tall," said Vickers.

An American sycamore was also a part of the hike, being one of the top 10 largest in the state of Virginia. "American sycamores are the largest trees east of the Mississippi and are beautiful when observed during the wintertime," Vickers said. "Their white bark stands out from the other trees around it."

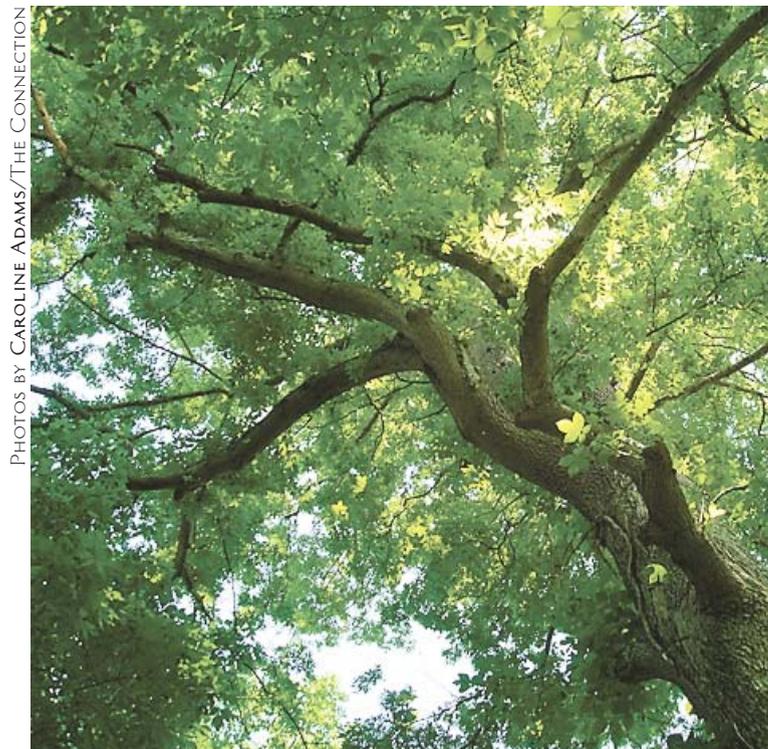
Considering the height of such massive trees, Vickers explained how trees are measured. "There are three things that are measured in order to distinguish a tree's height: 1) the circumference in inches, 2) the height in feet, and 3) the crown, which is the spread of foliage," he said. "It is definitely

a two-person job."

Vickers said that he enjoys hiking wooded areas in attempts to find big trees. "I may designate a tree as the wrong kind at first, but I sure am good at spotting the big trees," he joked. Vickers also led hikers to the third largest hackberry and fifth largest scarlet oak in the state.

"This part of the state has such unusually large trees because it is undeveloped," said Mike Clagett, a participating hiker. "So much of this land cannot be built on because it is a wetland."

— CAROLINE ADAMS



This tree is the tallest bitternut hickory in Virginia.

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PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE CONNECTION

Lamont Payne, a member of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue's Swift Water Rescue team, pilots his boat upriver towards Great Falls.

'Good Fortune Has Run Out'

FROM PAGE 3

THAT EXERCISE is a common practice for members of the Fairfax and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Swift Water Rescue Teams. The team member holding the hula hoop is tested for control skills that translate to holding an injured person immobile during a rescue, said Smith, while the boat driver's skills are tested by keeping the boat still in the middle of churning water surrounded by boulders.

"Now you see why I ride with him," Smith said of Payne.

Smith and Payne were among dozens of local rescue authorities and personnel that took part in a demonstration of swift water rescue capabilities just below Great Falls to tout the dangers of the Potomac River as summer nears. The annual event has become a spring ritual for officials of the six governmental agencies that oversee the 14-mile stretch of the Potomac River from Great Falls to the Key Bridge, but two recent drownings and a slew of swift water rescues this spring have increased the urgency of educating the public about the dangers of the river. After five people accidentally drowned in the river in 2004 a cooperative initiative between the National Park Service, the United States Park Police, Montgomery and Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Departments, District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Harbor Patrol, and District of Columbia Fire & E.M.S. Squads resulted in zero drownings from 2005 through 2008.

"Our good fortune has run out," said Bob Zoldos, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue's Technical Rescue Operations Team Chief.

THE DAY was sunny, but the beautiful weather and the calm surface of the Potomac River be-

lied the water's danger, said Kevin Brandt, superintendent of the C&O Canal National Historical Park. Massive currents called hydraulics work beneath the river's surface and can suck swimmers downward. Those hydraulics, cold and swift water, and the rocks below the surface form a potentially fatal combination, Brandt said. Jim Seavey, chief of the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department later recounted a 14-year-old who went swimming in the seemingly calm water at the Old Angler's put-in 15 years ago. He was sucked under and his body found downriver several days later, but two rescue divers were sent in to search for his body at the Old Angler's put-in and nearly drowned themselves. After that incident Montgomery County changed their regulations to largely restrict rescue divers from moving water, Seavey said.

"It proves how treacherous this river is," said Seavey.

As Brandt spoke on Thursday morning a group of kayakers suited up and pushed off towards Great Falls. Kayaking is permitted above and below the falls, though kayakers who wish to shoot falls must speak with State of Maryland officials and sign a release form, according to Montgomery County Fire and Rescue officials. Swimming in the Potomac River Gorge — also referred to as the Mather Gorge — is forbidden, and as several boats hauled various media representatives in their boats towards the falls Thursday morning several teenagers loitered at the edge of 20-foot tall cliffs along the Maryland side of the river. Cliff jumping off the C&O Canal National Historical Park's Billy Goat Trail is common for local high school students, said Payne, while at least half of the swift water rescue rescues that are performed are actually for injured hikers along both sides of the river.



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The private garden at **Domaine St. Charles in Great Falls** will be open to the public for one day only on **June 6** through The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program.

Gardens Welcome Visitors

Several private gardens in Great Falls, McLean area open to public on Saturday, June 6.

The gardens of two members of the Great Falls Garden Club will be open to the public on Saturday, June 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. as part of The Garden Conservancy's 2009 Open Days.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Cobb is located at 820 Crooked Crow Lane. A deer fence, allowing them to cultivate sun, shade, wetland, vegetable and

perennial gardens encloses seven of their 14-plus acres. The property includes several ponds, an octagon lily pond that echoes the octagon-shaped gazebo; a fish-pond; and a stream that runs through woodland and open meadow, as well as a two-story glass conservatory. The Cobbs do all the maintenance on this natu

SEE GARDENS, PAGE 9



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OPINION

Vote June 9, Much at Stake

All polling places open, all registered voters eligible.

Every polling place in Northern Virginia will be open on June 9 for a Democratic primary, with two state wide races and several important contested primaries locally.

Much is at stake for Democrats in choosing a candidate for Governor.

The contentious, high volume campaign between the three candidates, Terry R. McAuliffe of McLean, Brian Moran of Alexandria and

EDITORIALS

Creigh Deeds of Charlottesville will be settled by voter turnout on June 9.

Primaries like this in Virginia often garner embarrassingly low turnout given how much it matters.

The winner will seek to extend the leadership of Mark Warner (D) and Tim Kaine (D), the current and past governors, facing Bob McDonnell (R) in the general election in November.

Virginia desperately needs strong leadership at the top for the sake of the economy, transportation, healthcare, education, public safety and the needy.

The governor of Virginia is limited to a single four-year term.

See www.connectionnewspapers.com for more coverage of the race.

On the Ballot

STATEWIDE

Democratic primary, Governor, choose one:

♦ Terry R. McAuliffe, McLean, <http://www.terrymcauliffe.com>

♦ Brian J. Moran, Alexandria, <http://www.brianmoran.com>

♦ R. Creigh Deeds, Charlottesville, <http://www.deedsforvirginia.com>

♦ R. Creigh Deeds, Charlottesville, <http://www.deedsforvirginia.com>

Democratic primary, Lieutenant Governor, choose one:

♦ Jody M. Wagner, Virginia Beach, <http://www.jodyforva.com>

♦ A. Michael Signer, Arlington, <http://www.mikesigner.com>

♦ Jon I. Bowerbank, Withdrawn 5/18

VIENNA

Democratic primary, House of Delegates, 35th district, choose one:

♦ Roy J. Baldwin, <http://www.roybaldwin.com>

♦ John F. Carroll, <http://www.carroll2009.com>

♦ Mark L. Keam, <http://www.markkeam.com>

♦ Esam S. Omeish, <http://www.omeishfordelegate.com>

Also on the ballot are Democratic primary races for Lieutenant Governor, House of Delegates in Vienna, District 35; Arlington, District 47; and Falls Church, District 38.

Because voters do not register by party in Virginia, all registered voters are eligible to vote in the June 9 primary races.

For information on where to vote and more, see www.sbe.virginia.gov.

Father's Day Photos

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and

grand children.

Father's Day is Sunday, June 21, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos as soon as possible, including names of everyone in the picture, the date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to include your town name and neighborhood.

We prefer digital photos, but we also accept prints. We will do our best to return hard copies of photos that include a self-addressed-stamped envelope for that purpose, but please do not send us any photos that cannot be replaced.

Send photos to McLean Connection, Father's Day Photo Gallery, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Or e-mail them to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

We're Moving

The Connection, including our entire group of 17 weekly newspapers, is moving its headquarters this week from Tysons Corner, a location we have enjoyed for well over a decade, to Alexandria.

Our new address is Connection Newspapers, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Our phone numbers will remain the same, with our central number 703-821-5050.

— MARY KIMM,

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GFCFA Achievements, Challenges

Candidates for GFCFA president reflect on year behind, year ahead.

Highlights of a Good Year

BY RALPH APTON

The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCFA) overall primary objective, 50 years ago, today and in the future is to preserve our historic, low density, semi-rural character and to protect our environment. Under retiring President Jim Luce, GFCFA completed a successful year promoting community and citizen interests via non-partisan political advocacy and through more than 12 committees, sub-committees and task forces. The following is a summary that highlights the key accomplishments and issues:

1. **Transportation.** (a) Traffic lights on Georgetown Pike at River Bend and Seneca roads will be installed during late 2009; (b) Safety improvements on Walker

Road and Seneca Road were just completed, additional ones are under study; (c) \$500,000 is funded and Virginia Department of Transportation engineers are at work improving Walker Road-Georgetown Pike intersection turn lanes; (d) Georgetown Pike traffic calming in the 25 MPH Great Falls 1-mile village center is being enforced; (e) "Save The Pike" petition to continue Georgetown Pike as Virginia's first scenic byway rather than VDOT's plan for a commuter road was signed by over 2,000 citizens; (f) Under review are one-lane bridge improvements, crosswalks at the library and Georgetown Pike and at Safeway and Walker Road plus safer entry to The Grange.

Unresolved are increased Georgetown Pike traffic issues due to VDOT 10-year delays in finishing Route 7 six-lane construction between Great Falls and Dulles

SEE HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 15

A Moment of Choice

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY

It is quite uncommon for GFCFA members to have a choice for president. It is usual and customary for the GFCFA Nominating Committee to pick the entire slate, and for the membership to affirm the choices made by the nominating committee at the election in June.

This year is different. This year I was nominated from the floor to be president and I accepted that nomination. This year, the members of GFCFA have a choice for president.

In my opinion, the membership of GFCFA needs a choice. We have become overly dependent on the status quo. Only relatives and friends of members who are running for the board show up to vote.

SEE CHOICE, PAGE 19

THE CONNECTION

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Private Gardens Open to Public

FROM PAGE 7

ral looking property. The home of Ellen and Allie Ash is located at 704 Gouldman Lane. Surrounded on all sides by giant American holly trees, the Ashes built their contemporary house in 1981 and the gardens have slowly been expanded to encompass most of their 5-acre property. Many small specialty gardens for roses, sedums, vegetables, show-quality dahlias and a goldfish-inhabited lily pond share the backyard. The highlight is the nearly 2-acre

woodland garden, with its meandering moss trails, a combination of shad and sun-loving plants, numerous sculptures and whimsical garden accessories. Oaks, hickories and dogwoods are joined by azaleas, rhododendrons, laurels, pieris, daphne, viburnums, camelias and hydrangeas.

Several other private gardens in Fairfax County will be open that day as well: Domaine St. Charles, 9315 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls; the home of Brigitte Duces and John Strawhorn, 920 Coun-

tryside Court in McLean; and Windy Hill Farm Garden, 7409 Windy Hill Court in McLean.

Directories, which include one admission ticket, provide information on all of the venues and are on sale for \$16.95 at Maison et Jardin, 9867 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Individual tickets for admission to each garden are \$5. Information about the program is available at www.opendays-program.org. Proceeds support the national preservation work of the Garden Conservancy.

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Passion for Dance

Great Falls School of Theatrical Dance celebrates 30th anniversary.

By ABIGAIL ALBRIGHT
THE CONNECTION

For 30 years, The School of Theatrical Dance has been a staple in Great Falls and has inspired dancers of all ages to pursue their love of dance.

Theresa D'Alessandro, founder and artistic director/director of the upper school, opened the SOTD upon graduating from Mary Washington University with a B.A. in dance.

"I always knew I wanted to teach, and I was interested in doing that and choreography, but I had never been exposed to anything except classical ballet," D'Alessandro said. "Going to college introduced me to modern dance and that changed my whole perspective on what is considered quality dancing."

While at Mary Washington, D'Alessandro drove home from Fredericksburg on weekends to teach ballet at the Great Falls Grange Hall. By the time she

graduated, D'Alessandro had about 40-50 students, which gave her confidence to open her own studio.

"I borrowed one month's rent from my parents, kept my fingers crossed and here we are," D'Alessandro said.

Thirty years later, the SOTD offers classes for all ages in ballet, jazz, tap, modern, aerobics and pilates. D'Alessandro teaches all of the styles, but she is currently teaching the intermediate and advanced level classes of ballet, pointe, jazz, modern and adult tap and jazz.

FORMER SOTD STUDENT Kris Beery came back to teach upon graduation from Shenandoah University. Beery is the assistant director of the school and director of children's classes.

"It's very hard to come across people like Theresa," Beery said. "She is very giving of her time. She's very loving with everyone. She is one of the most patient people I have ever met in my life. She's just an excellent role model

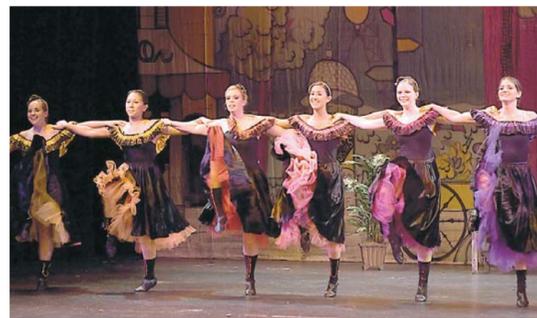


PHOTO BY VIHAO PHAM

In The School of Theatrical Dance's 2008 production 'An American in Paris,' students Leah McSteen, Charlee Vasiliadis, Kallie Boruff, Joanie Vasiliadis, Katherine Boruff and Colleen Wilde smile during their performance.

SUMMER PERFORMANCE BY THE SCHOOL OF THEATRICAL DANCE

"A Pig's Tale," Wednesday, June 17, 6:30 p.m., The Alden Theater at McLean Community Center

Based on E.B. White's "Charlotte's Web." The performance will feature all SOTD dancers and includes original choreography by faculty members Theresa D'Alessandro, Kris Beery, Carol Hallman and Caitlin Hoffman. General admission is \$20 and \$15 for children and seniors

and mentor."

D'Alessandro grew up in Great Falls and attended Langley High School. She took dance lessons from Solange Binda in the early 1960s at the Ballet Academy of Northern Virginia and later studied at the Washington School of Ballet.

"Solange Binda was very nurturing and a very gentle teacher, but you knew what she wanted you to

do and it inspired you to work hard," D'Alessandro said. "She didn't threaten you, and I think that's what I've brought to my teaching."

In addition to a passion for dance and teaching, D'Alessandro has brought the knowledge of the human body to her teaching.

"The advantage to my going to college, rather than heading to the audition circuit was, that in addi-



PHOTO BY CAROL HALLMAN/SOTD

Theresa D'Alessandro works on form with students Dana deLaski and Kelsey Albanese during rehearsal Sunday.

tion to raising my awareness about alternative dance aesthetic, it gave me the understanding that the consideration of individual anatomy is imperative in dance instruction," D'Alessandro said. "The ability to analyze each individual's body, and to say 'OK, this is what you need to do in order for your knees to last your lifetime,' we are thinking ahead and thinking we want to protect their bodies forever."

D'ALESSANDRO said that in order for her to maintain freshness

SEE D'ALESSANDRO. PAGE 12

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/JUNE 3

Great Falls Friends. 8 a.m., Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A light breakfast, networking and an opportunity to hear Jorge Adeler of Adeler Jewelers speak on seeking emeralds. 703-757-8560.

THURSDAY/JUNE 4

Army of Me, The B-Film Extras and Miguel Tenicela. 8 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Jungle Fantasy. 8 p.m., Wolf trap, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Aerialists, contortionists, acrobats, jugglers, and musicians. Tickets from \$20-\$75. 1-877-WOLFTRAP; or www.wolftrap.org for tickets.

"Aida." 7:30 p.m., McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. 703-714-5700.

FRIDAY/JUNE 5

The Kennedys. 7:30 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

DMV Showcase Vol. 4. 10:30 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

"Pavilion." 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-674-3177 or www.thehubtheatre.org.

"Aida." 7:30 p.m., McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. 703-

714-5700.

Summer Swing Dance. 8-11 p.m., McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Tickets: \$25/couples who are McLean Tax District residents, \$15/individual Tax District residents, \$25/person for all others. 703-790-0123.

Summer Book and Garage Sale. 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. More than 15,000 hard and soft cover titles. Garage sale includes household items, furniture, clothing, toys, jewelry, fabric and craft items. www.1771.org.

Ballet Demi-Gala. 1 and 6 p.m., Madeira School Theater, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Excerpts from "Paquita," "Le Corsaire," "La Bayadere," "Swan Lake," "Midsummer Night's Dream" and more. Tickets: \$16/advance and \$18 at the door for children; \$21/in advance and \$23 at the door for adults. 703-715-8366.

Art Open House. 7-9 p.m., Great Falls School of Art, 1144-D Walker Road, Great Falls. Open house and reception featuring original works by students and teachers. www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 6

Summer Reading Program Open House. 10:30 a.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

Book talks, browse through selected books and sign up for summer reading volunteer opportunities. All Ages. 703-757-8560.

Paintout at Riverbend Park. Watch artists paint "en plein-air" at Riverbend Park Visitors Center. Artwork will be available to purchase from noon to 2 p.m. Arrive as early as 7 a.m. to observe the artists at work. Meet at the Visitor Center at noon to view all the paintings and vote for your favorite. Riverbend Visitors Center is at 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Free. 703-759-9018.

"Pavilion." 4 and 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-674-3177 or www.thehubtheatre.org.

"Aida." 7:30 p.m., McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. 703-

714-5700.

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Family Fun Weekend. 12-3 p.m., Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Make and sample ice cream, watch grinding on a mill tour, visit farm animals and play old-fashioned games. 703-759-2771.

Dulce Taylor. 6-8 p.m., Palladium Civic Place Floor, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Roots, rock and blues style songs. Free. 703-288-9505.

Tales of a Mysterious Land. 2 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Hand puppets, rod puppets, masks and simple props used to demonstrate three stories of Chinese folklore. \$12/person, \$8/district residents. Ages 4 and up. 703-573-SEAT or visit the Alden Box Office.

SUNDAY/JUNE 7

Summer Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m., Great Falls Village Center, Georgetown Pike and Walker Road, Great Falls. Western Electric will perform live. Free. Call 703-759-2485.

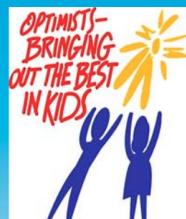
Annual Louisiana Swamp Romp, 2 SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 13



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D'Alessandro Teaches Love of Dance

FROM PAGE 11

in her teaching, she is constantly learning new techniques of teaching and dance, which she can share with her students and faculty.

"[Theresa] has been doing it for so long, this is part of her joy in life, this is what keeps her going," Beery said. "Her son is a great source of joy for her, too."

Many alumni of the SOTD have gone on to dance in professional

productions, and some of this year's seniors are pursuing degrees in dance from various universities.

D'Alessandro said she is often asked why she hasn't opened another studio.

"From a business perspective, it would be a really good idea, but I like to know my students. I like to be able to confer with all of the teachers about the students," D'Alessandro said. "I don't want it to get so overblown that I have no idea who my students are, where

they come from or where they are going."

Beery agreed that she enjoyed the atmosphere of the small school.

"We know all of our girls and our families. I like that because I know who has allergies and who's not feeling well today," Beery said. "That's how Theresa always made me feel when I was a student here, that I was important, you're not just a number you're an active member of the class."

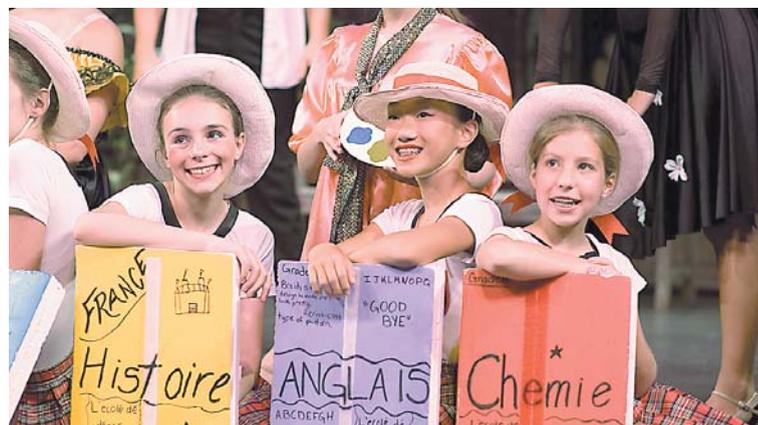


PHOTO BY VIHAO PHAM

Students Adriana Lundgren, Karsyn Lawler and Olivia Abboud show off their creative costumes in The School of Theatrical Dance's 2008 production 'An American in Paris.'

WHERE SUMMER SCHOOL MEETS SUMMER CAMP.

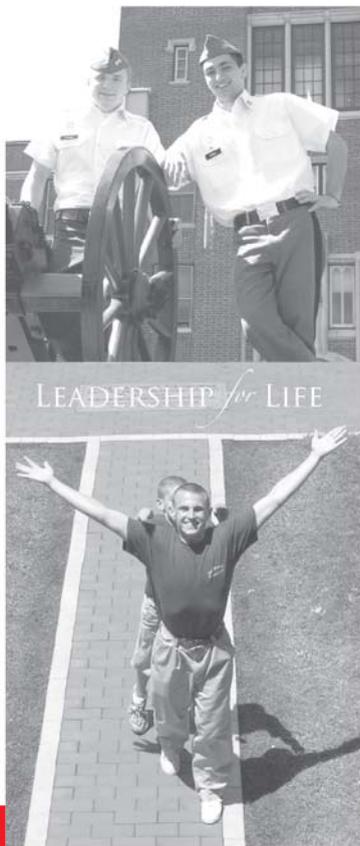
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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

p.m. at the Filene Center. \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

“Pavilion.” 4 and 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-674-3177 or www.thehubtheatre.org.

The Adventures of the Koala. 2 p.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Author Allison Sutherland reads from her book, “The Adventures of Kaluwarra the Koala in the Galapagos Islands.” Free. Ages 3 to 8. Reservations recommended. 703-255-3631.

Tour of the Potomac Valley Collection. 2 p.m., Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Learn about native plants such as Baptisia, Coreopsis, bladdernut, black cohosh, viburnums and Rhododendron. Free. 703-255-3631.

Family Fun Weekend. 12-3 p.m., Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Learn to carve wood, watch grinding on a mill tour, visit farm animals and play old-fashioned games. 703-759-2771.

MONDAY/JUNE 8

Celtic Woman, 8 p.m. at the Filene Center. \$25-\$55. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Monday Flicks. 11 a.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Bring a snack and enjoy a children’s book on DVD. Call for titles. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/JUNE 9

Pink Martini, 8 p.m. at the Filene Center. \$40 in house, \$22 lawn. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

K12, Inc. Operation Lemonade (OL '09) Fundraiser and Nary the Flounder. 7 p.m. At Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10

Luka Bloom and Birdie Busch. 7:30 p.m. At Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

King Teddy, 8-10 p.m. at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 7:30 beginner lessons. \$10. 703-414-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

Sex & Missiles. 8 p.m. At Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 12

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Route 2912 (Randolph Drive), between Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) and Route 620 (Braddock Road). The proposed alternate route for trucks is via Route 236 (Little River Turnpike), between Randolph Drive and Braddock Road and Braddock Road, between Little River Turnpike and Randolph Drive.

Comments can be sent to Regional Traffic Engineer, 14685 Avion Parkway Chantilly, Va. 20151; or you may call (703) 383-2400.

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To honor dad on Father’s Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father’s Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what’s going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: PhotoM@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
 The Great Falls Connection, “Me and My Dad Photo Gallery,”
 7913 Westpark Dr., McLean, VA 22102

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Langley Lacrosse Prevails in State Quarterfinal

Saxon boys next set to meet Broad Run in state semifinals.

A four-goal game for Langley attackman Ethan Bailey, along with a hat-trick from Ryan Ningard and a grudging defense, paced the industrious Saxons to a 14-4 state tournament quarterfinals win over the Blackhawks of Brooke Point High School (Stafford) this past Saturday at Langley.

In all, seven Saxons registered goals in an encounter that matched the top-seeded Northern Region boys lacrosse champions from Langley with the Northwest Region third-seed squad from Stafford.

In addition to Bailey and Ningard, attackman Kyle Maida, middies Joey Byrne and Charlie Scharfen, and defenders Brendan Dwyer and Thomas Robinson contributed goals in what was the tenth time this season at least seven Saxons have scored in a game.

Brooke Point attackmen Johnny Daugherty and Alan Jones, as well as middies Seth Hodgen and Paul Hummer, each provided a goal for the Blackhawks, which ended their prosperous season with a respectable 14-7 record. Brooke Point is a member of the Northwest Region.

Langley (19-1), with the first round win, was scheduled to play in a state semifinals game on Wednesday evening of this week against Broad Run (16-3), a first round winner over Loudoun Valley (17-3) last Saturday. The Spartans are members of the Dulles District in Loudoun County.

The Saxons faced the Spartans of Broad Run previously this year in the West Springfield Spring Break tournament, with Langley earning a 12-7 victory in the early April battle.

THE SAXONS did not wait long to serve notice of their intentions to command the afternoon engagement against Brooke Point, when longstickman Dwyer delivered his first goal of the season less than a minute from the opening face-off. The early warning sign for the visitors grew out of the first scoring bid of the contest, from Brooke Point, which was saved comfortably by Langley goalie Galen Kuney. Kuney then promptly cleared the ball to Dwyer, stationed at the mid line, from where the defender ventured into attack and grabbed the quick score for the hosts.

Langley forged a 5-2 advantage by the end of the first quarter then largely closed out negotiations for the win during a second quarter that saw the Saxons doubling their goal production while shutting out the Blackhawks. The five-goal burst was completed by a second longpole score, this from Robinson, who exploited a gap in the Brooke Point defensive line to fire in an unassisted goal, getting his side eight goals to the good going into the halftime break.

Brooke Point did add single goals early



The Langley High boys' lacrosse team celebrated its Northern Region title win over Robinson a couple weeks ago. Now, the Saxons are competing at the state playoffs.

in the third and fourth quarters, but Langley replied with a pair later in each quarter and a stifling defense to secure the winning position.

Saxon netminder Kuney was seldom bothered with Blackhawk shooting efforts but was active in initiating fast breaks with two such counter attacks leading to Langley scores, including Dwyer's game-opener. Brooke Point goalie Marc Wilander was by far the busier of the goalies, and while he did well on several occasions coming up with fine saves, he had to deal with the Saxons enjoying just too many more promising, close-in looks at goal than the Blackhawk netminder would have liked his defenders to permit.

Brooke Point did offer a swift reply in the early going when Hummer maneuvered from behind the cage and took advantage of his marker, Saxons' Alex Devlin, slipping in back of the net. The brief moment of freedom allowed the Blackhawk sophomore to gain favorable shooting position for firing in past Kuney to tie the score at one apiece only 85 seconds after Dwyer had scored.

But just a minute later, Bailey snapped in a shot from 12 yards to restore the lead for Langley. Then, just after the ensuing face-off when Kuney saved a Blackhawk shot, the Saxon goalie worked another quick transition, this time through his brother, senior middle Jeremy Kuney, who in turn set up Bailey for the junior attacker's second goal of the game less than 4 minutes into the affair.

Ningard delighted the home fans with a workmanlike goal near the halfway point of the opening quarter. The senior attackman tracked back into defensive duties when it appeared the Blackhawks were mounting a fast break assault. Ningard was rewarded for his hustle when he created a turnover deep in the Langley defensive zone, gained possession and returned to the attack using open space to his advantage to drive home an unassisted goal at the end of a long sprint.

Bailey made an initial bid for completing

a first-quarter hat-trick with about 4 minutes left in the quarter, but his shot got no closer to goal than Wilander's goalie mask, from which the ball deflected well away from danger outside of the Blackhawk goalie's crease area.

Bailey did get his third at the 2:25 mark when Wilander made a partial save on the Langley attacker's shot but then failed to get the handle on the ball, which slipped through his grasp and settled into the net for the Saxon's fifth goal of the game.

Jones pulled one back for Brooke Point with just under 2 minutes remaining in the quarter to give the Blackhawks some encouragement. The sophomore attacker snuck a low-level shot past Kuney from close range to narrow his team's deficit to 5-2.

THE SECOND QUARTER, at its start, brought an illegal stick violation, and the dreaded 3-minute, non-releasable penalty for the trailing visitors. The Brooke Point

main defensive corps of Kevin McGlade, Alex Williams and Gerald Gooden did manage to limit Langley scoring during its man-down challenge to only a single goal by Bailey, one launched from close range after a patient build-up with the extra man. But this was just the beginning of a five-goal, second-quarter offensive from the hosts that saw Ningard scoring off of an assisting pass by Bailey about 3 minutes after the penalty had expired, then Maida supplying a pair within 52 seconds — the first unassisted and the second coming by way of a feed-in pass from middle Jack Curry that found the scorer unguarded three yards out from Wilander's crease line. Longstickman Robinson then supplied his goal with only 33 seconds left in the first half.

Daugherty got on the board to open second half play, but the Saxons replied with goals by middies Scharfen and Byrne. Scharfen drilled in after snatching an errant clearing pass by a Blackhawk defender under pressure from Langley attackers deep in the Brooke Point defensive zone. The Saxon middle made no mistake when he was allowed to venture closer to goal and blast in with little interference from the tiring Blackhawk defenders.

Byrne then used a bounce shot from about 8 yards to stake Langley to a 12-3 scoreline before the end of the third quarter.

The Blackhawks opened the scoring for the final quarter by way of Hodgen, who already had been enjoying a modest edge in face-off play for the afternoon. A feed-in pass from Daugherty found the sophomore middle situated well and clear about 10 yards out to deposit into the net, a relatively seldom event for the face-off specialist middle.

But the Saxons completed the scoring for the day when Byrne furnished his second of the game about 5 minutes into the fourth quarter, and Ningard completed his hat-trick with less than 3 minutes of life remaining to the playoff encounter.



Great Falls Girls Reach Finals in Woodbridge

The Great Falls Girls 98 Spirit Team was the U10 Finalist Trophy winner at The Virginian Tournament that took place over Memorial Day weekend in Woodbridge. This tournament is the second largest soccer event on the East Coast, with teams coming from as far away as Canada and Georgia. The 98 Spirit team won four games over the weekend to qualify for the championship game on Monday, May 25. They lost in the championship game to Fredericksburg and received the Finalist Trophies. Shown here are, front row, Alexa Meigenhauser, Sara Scherping, Emily Trepacz, Danille Huber-Inbar and Alexandra Abravanel; back row, Coach Ingrid Zegada-Frias, Erin Fredrick, Ainsley Jacobs, Caylee Cuppernull, Merrill Wheeler, Laura Zimmerman, Marguerite Bennett and Coach Luis Bartra.

OPINION

Highlights of a Good Year

FROM PAGE 8

Toll Road.

2. **Outreach** to Community Organizations & Homeowner Associations: Establishing closer GFCA ties with our many active community organizations, PTA and youth groups and homeowner associations was a 2008-09 objective.

3. **Land Use & Zoning.** Always busy examining and making recommendations for new or revised proposals whether a complex development or a small, single-property change. Currently studying major private school request at closed nursery on Old Dominion near Georgetown Pike that has neighborhood opposition.

4. **Long Range Planning.** This strategic think-tank committee undertook a community 2020-vision survey and then developed a GFCA long-range master plan. Some of the plan concepts may or may not be consistent with countywide plans because Great Falls residents often prefer semi-rural rather than traditional suburban standards. Concepts are discussed with concerned county of-

ficials and the Dranesville District Planning Task Force. Then, the GFCA Board considers individual nominations. In 2009, seven specific nominations from Great Falls were formally presented at a county Planning Commission hearing, including: Georgetown Pike setbacks; Colvin Run Mill historic area; Community Center site exploration; "bury the wires"; Watershed vegetative buffers; and two different trail surface standards. The Fairfax County Master Plan inclusion still requires each nomination to be approved by the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

5. **Environment, Trails and Parks.** This Committee renewed its Community Wildlife Habitat designation and successfully increased local property owner participation and certification. Stream, park and trail clean-up days continue, often with Boy Scout assistance. Trails leading to schools and village centers for hikers and bikers are a new emphasis together with trails to and within parks. Three of our six parks are on the Potomac River and contain portions of the interstate Heritage

Trail, which received funding for a 2010 bridge that crosses a steep gully. The three are: Great Falls National Park; Riverbend Park (FCPA), which had most of its 40 percent budget cut restored after intervention by GFCA and others; and a Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority unmanned park. Turner Farm (FCPA), with strong community involvement, has the only county astronomy center and will open an equestrian center in 2010. Colvin Run Mill (FCPA) is an operating 1800s mill and also encompasses 30 acres of snake inhabited marshland on the southern side of Route 7.

6. **Zero Footprint Methods.** This popular committee, established in 2008, wants to gain a "Cool Neighborhood Designation" for Great Falls — 150 GFCA and other households need to enroll in a healthier environment carbon footprint reduction program requiring homeowner actions in five areas: Home Energy Use; Water Use; Household Waste Recycling; Yard Care Practices; and Transportation Choices.

SEE HIGHLIGHTS, PAGE 19

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Paintout Returns to Riverbend Park

The public is invited to attend the Fourth Annual Dan and Jan Laytham/Riverbend Paintout at Riverbend Park in Great Falls on Saturday, June 6. It all begins at 5 a.m., when the first of up to 30 professional and juried artists enter the park. The artists are permitted to paint where they like, but must travel there only on foot and they must return to the Visitor Center with their completed paintings no later than 12:30 p.m. The event staff will hang the paintings on the Visitor Center's exhibition wall and the paintings will then be judged by 2007 Best in Show winner Armand Cabrera, who was recently featured in a 10-page article in International Artist Magazine.

WEEKEND IN GREAT FALLS

Photo Exhibit At Katie's Coffee

Photographs by Ed Behrens, a member of Great Falls Studios, will be featured throughout the month of June in Katie's Coffee at the Old Brogue, 760 Walker Road, in Great Falls.

The exhibit will feature a collection of images, principally reflecting international travel: "People, Places and Things." Included will be "Elephant Crossing (Kenya)" that received international recognition by "Outdoor Photographer" magazine.

Summer Camps For Drama Teens

Traveling Players Ensemble, a non-profit professional theater company, still has openings and scholarships available for middle and high school students in several of its summer camp programs, based at the Madeira School in McLean, beginning June 22.

Traveling Players camp week includes Thursday night campouts, sometimes a student's first experience sleeping in a tent. Children rehearse outdoors and perform at local sites, including outdoor sites throughout Virginia. The high school en-

semble, made up of actors as well as technical theater students, ends with a three-day camping/performing trip at Skyline Drive.

In the four week camps, middle school students prepare and perform a Moliere play, while high school students prepare and perform a Shakespeare play (this year, it's "All's Well That Ends Well"). Traveling Players also offers one-week camps in stage combat and clowning.

For additional information:
www.travelingplayers.org

Meeting To Address Plant Concerns

Join the Great Falls Group of the Sierra Club and Claudia Thompson-Deahl, environmental resource manager for the Reston Association, as she discusses the most problematic plant concerns and what we can be planting in their place. Entitled "Removing Invasive Exotic Plants and Replanting with Natives," the meeting is Monday, June 15, 7:30-9 p.m., at Lake Anne Community Center, 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Free. Refreshments will be served and socializing starts at 7 p.m.

For more information, contact Linda Burchfiel at 703-506-4310 or larva@attglobal.net.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Nothing is too small to know, and nothing too big to attempt.
-William Van Horne

Growing Pains



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Oregano, thyme, rosemary, sage, basil, mint; some of the home-grown herbs and spices a few of our friends are growing/cultivating; with distinction, from what I've heard. And as I was listening to the ebb and flow of how their gardens grow, I could not imagine for a moment, why in the world I would ever undertake such an endeavor. Nevertheless, the passion and enthusiasm with which these friends were discussing their gardening gains — and losses, was so heartfelt, so filled with conviction, I couldn't help but be drawn into the conversation.

And the conversation was wide-ranging, too, gardening wise; from south-facing, to potting, to planting, to trimming and pruning, to plant-life expectancy, to harvesting, to the impact of weather and watering. The tips/anecdotes/words-to-the-wise just kept coming. As for the words to the stupid (yours truly) all I could do was ask questions and listen in amazement as these friends spoke about the care and feeding, locally, of these centuries-old and historically popular spices. The conversation sounded similar to many I've had about sports; using past, present and imperfect examples of players, performances, statistics, tendencies, championships, etc., rather than planting location, depth, proximity, and too many other planting considerations lost in translation, to determine an appropriate course of action/pursuit.

As I listened, and unfortunately didn't really learn, since it was established that my life didn't really depend on the outcome, (which if it did, it was suggested, I might pay more sincere attention), I nonetheless marveled at the depth of information that our friends possessed on the subject, information I presumed existed, but never previously bore witness to.

It never ceases to surprise me the things; categories, hobbies, avocations, vocations, pursuits, that people are into, and aware of, most of which are usually beyond my comprehension — and grasp, quite frankly. And it's not that I'm stupid when I sit and listen cluelessly; it's more that I'm incredulous how little I know about so many subjects, one of which was discussed this particular evening: the trials and tribulations — and rewards, of growing herbs and spices in your own backyard. Who knew there would be such back and forth — and such knowledge, about such things? Not me (in case you didn't know that previous sentence was rhetorical.)

And though I am now not the least bit interested in tilling the soil at "Belly Acres," (our two-acre, non-ancestral home), I am nevertheless intrigued by the possibility. The only problem I foresee, other than all the obvious problems that you readers foresee, is what exactly would I do with all the herbs and spices if I were able to actually grow them? The closest I get to a spice is my aftershave. The closest I get to an herb is my neighbor across the street. I realize that herbs and spices have something to do with food and taste and cooking and food preparation, but that's no more my world than growing the stuff was in the first place. Oh, I can certainly appreciate the effort required to grow your own; my problem is, if I did grow it, would I have to eat it?

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

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TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF VALUABLE
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Improved by the premises known as
3533 Valeview Drive, Oakton, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Michael Cole and Susan Benikas, dated July 24, 2002, and recorded August 5, 2002, in Deed Book 13181 at page 1017 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Monday, June 8, 2009

At 11:00 a.m.

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

Lot 36, Section 4-C, Valewood Manor Subdivision, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 5534 at page 1575, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 3533 Valeview Drive, Oakton, Virginia 22124.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$5,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 3.25 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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

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

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

This sale is being made subject to a superior trust.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also

shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

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

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

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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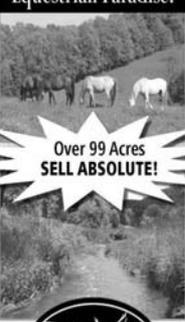
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OPINION

Highlights of a Good Year

FROM PAGE 15

7. Wasterwater Solution. This Task Force, which may be expanded to include non-GFCA members, is focused on finding one or more practical cost-effective solutions for the central Great Falls business-governmental septic system problems on both sides of Georgetown Pike, encompassing two shopping centers on one side and stretching from the library to the firehouse on the other side.

8. GFCA Newsletter. Expanding coverage of community meetings and special events. In future, also might take over public relations communications.

9. Web site. Soon adding: (a) Community Calendar, including meetings and special events; (b) Community Organization List, including Web site links and principal contact info; and, (c) Homeowner Association principal contact info. The Web site is in process of making other improvements.

10. Membership. All membership data now is within a new computerized system permitting easy weekly updates or whenever needed. Three and five-year member-

ships commenced in 2008 and are growing.

11. Firehouse Task Force. After three years of public meetings, some sponsored by GFCA, and after a 2009 GFCA Board Resolution was presented at a Planning Commission meeting, construction of a new Great Falls firehouse will commence in 2010. It was designed with advanced environmental touches that bring pride and prestige to Fairfax County Public Safety, GF volunteer firefighters and Great Falls.

12. Other GFCA Activities: (a) Hosting political candidate debates at the Grange. In the fall, GFCA will invite the two local 34th District Delegate candidates to a debate; separately, GFAC may have a forum for the statewide governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general candidates and/or their representatives. (b) Joined forces with the Great Falls Business & Professional Association to support a “Shop Local” campaign and on Georgetown Pike Nomination language. (c) Created close interworking with Great Falls Charities; two GFCA Board members also serve on the GF Charities Board.

A Moment of Choice

FROM PAGE 8

be taken care of for you. Or you may choose to become an active citizen who is ready to co-create a community in which we all participate in its unfolding and becoming. Our membership meetings could provide the experience of richly satisfying dialogue in which we commit to working on issues that matter to our residents, taking votes along the way to remain on track.

Our community voiced a vision for 2020 three years ago to arrive at 2020 with our semi-rural character intact. It is a clear vision of how we want things to look just 10 years from now. We have used the results to drive our APR Nominations last spring and they are progressing toward approval.

However, in the midst of our journey toward the year 2020, some major disruptive events have occurred. The entire global economy has decompressed. Our homes and mortgages may have become components of the turmoil. Jobs have been lost. Businesses have closed. And, stimulus money has been made available.

Mid-stream, on our way to the year 2020, the time could not be better for us to search for stimulus money and other capital that could be beneficial to our community. The time is right to become proactive: to search for opportunities; to brainstorm about possibilities.

It is time to allow the proactive to pre-

dominate over the reactive. It is time for us to take “our vision” into the territory of “the specifics” so that we can map out directives of which path we will take, as a community, specifically, to reach our 2020 vision.

Know that if you decide to choose me as the next president of GFCA, I will count on your citizen voice and your activist spirit to make a difference for our community. I am very busy, just like you. I have a lot on my plate, just like you. I wonder how I will fit this commitment in, just like you. But I know that all of us together can assemble sufficient collaborative presence to make a difference, to leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

If you want to give citizen participation a try, please start by coming to the GFCA election on Tuesday, June 9 at the Great Falls Grange at 7 p.m. You must be present, a resident of Great Falls and an active member to vote. Renew your membership, cast your vote, sign up for a committee and be prepared to participate actively in the unfolding of our community as we proceed on our journey to the year 2020, where we hope to find that semi-rural community we have always dreamed of preserving and protecting, with a new sense of community beyond anything we could have imagined.

Or you may choose to vote for my opponent, a wonderful person and capable candidate.

Our future is in your hands.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:
Letters to the Editor
The Connection
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1800 Presidents Street Reston, VA
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Explore.
Discover.
Learn.

COME HIKE AT MADEIRA Sunday, June 7: 1-3pm

Family Hike and Scavenger Hunt: Led by Madeira biology and environmental science teacher, Heidi Freeman. Appropriate for kids of all ages and their parents.

Flora and Fauna of Potomac Gorge: Brent Steury, Supervisory Biologist and Natural Resources Manager of the George Washington Parkway, will guide the hike and identify endangered plant life and abundant wildlife.

Bring a picnic to enjoy before the hikes set off at 1pm. Remember sunscreen, bug spray and sneakers. Please don't bring your dog. Rain or shine. Parking information available at the gatehouse.



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