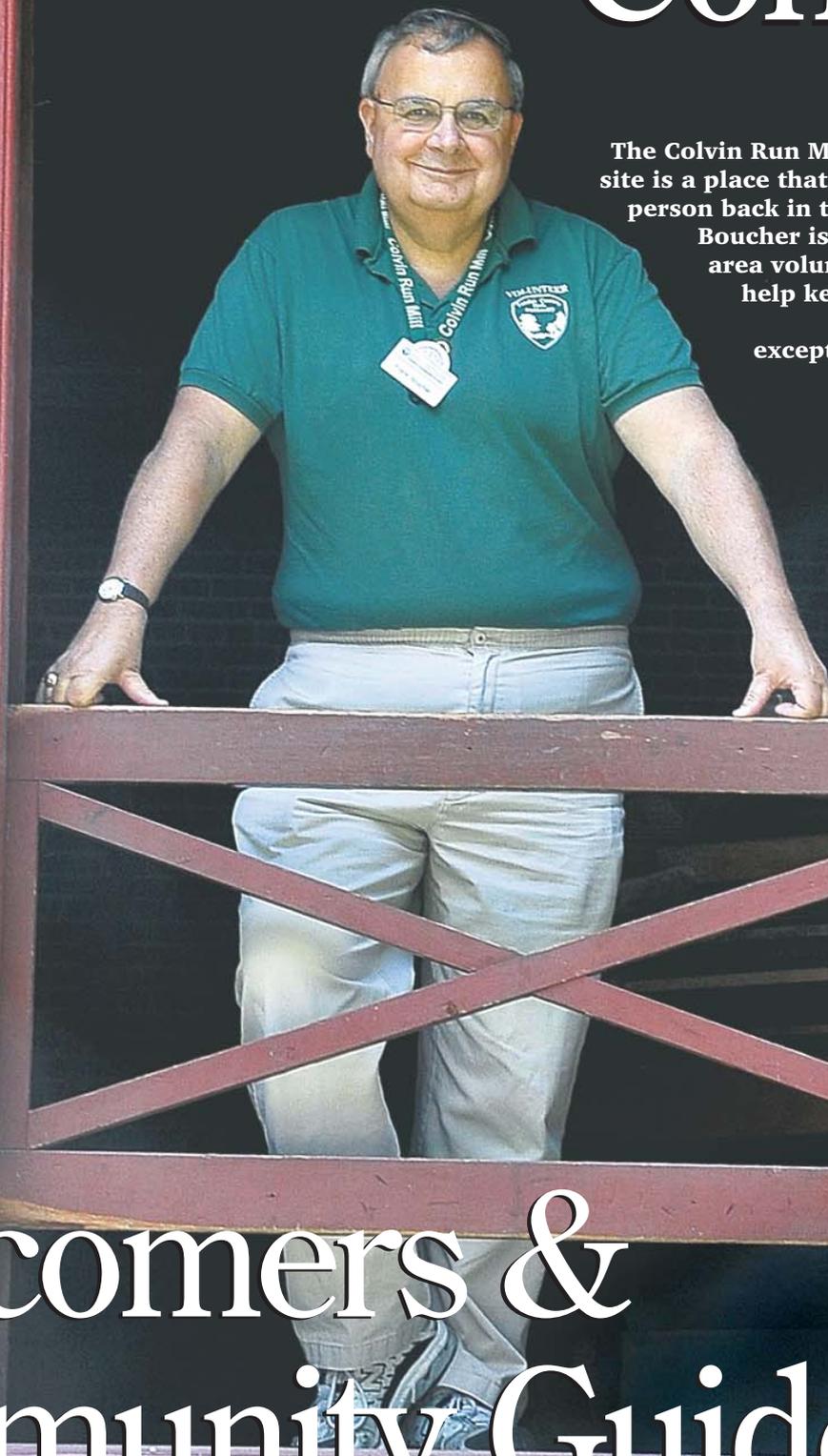


Great Falls CONNECTION

Where History Comes Alive

NEWCOMERS GUIDE, PAGE 3

The Colvin Run Mill Historic site is a place that can take a person back in time. Frank Boucher is one of the area volunteers who help keep the site open daily except Tuesdays.



Newcomers & Community Guide 2009-2010

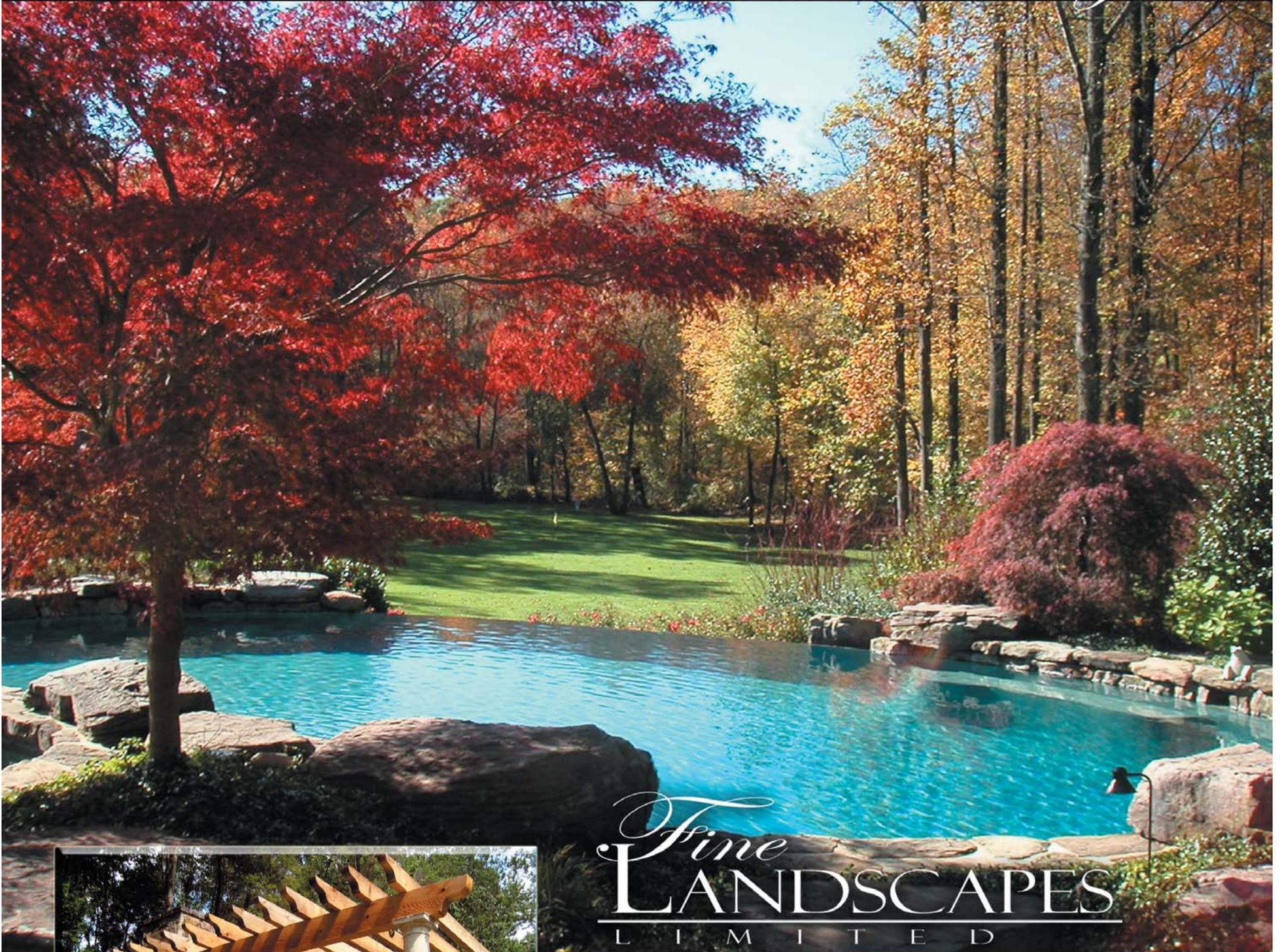
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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Your Community Connection

We're looking to hear more from our readers.

This issue of the Connection includes our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

Through narrative, listings, viewpoints and photographs, we endeavor to capture what it means to live here, highlights of places to visit and things to do, a snapshot of local history, help finding community resources and tips on adjusting to living here.

If you are new to the area, you'll find resources and ideas on these pages and on our Web site, www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

Even some longtime residents may not have visited some of the key places in and nearby their hometowns. Have you visited Great Falls National Park and seen the falls? Have you been boating in Lake Fairfax in Reston? When was the last time you visited the animals at Frying Pan Park in Herndon? Have you attended the historically accurate demonstrations at Claude Moore Park or at Colvin Mill?

We offer many more resources on our Web site. There you will find the complete community guides for each of our 17 papers, including more extensive listings than appear in the newspapers.

You can now access the print edition of each of our papers online, showing each page exactly as it appears in the paper, including cover, photos, display ads and classified advertising.

Go to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, and click on "Print Editions" in the red bar.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

AT THE CONNECTION, we invite newcomers to the area and long-time residents alike to be a part of providing more reader input.

Let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, call us or send us an e-mail.

We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an e-mail letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or something you have a question about, give us a call, or drop us a line.

If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, we are looking for people to feature each week.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show.

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Where History Comes Alive

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site attracts young and old.

BY SHANNON McCULLOUGH
THE CONNECTION

The Colvin Run Mill Historic site is a place that can take a person back in time. Traditional grain grinding, make-your-own crank ice cream, farm animals, blacksmithing, woodcarving and old-fashioned games are all attractions of the Colvin Run Mill.

Located at 10017 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls, the mill is open to the public free of charge daily except Tuesdays. The Mill has been open to the public in its current state since 1972. The Mill was functional as early as the first half of the 19th century.

Dawn Kehrer, the collections coordinator, works at the Mill and helps manage the donations and the museum exhibit located in the general store. Her favorite part of

working at the Mill is all the old things. "I like talking about how the mill worked 200 years ago," said Kehrer.

She invites everyone to visit Colvin Run Mill, which offers grain-grinding demonstrations every weekend as well as blacksmithing demonstrations and free wood carving lessons.

The Mill also has a barn and a blacksmithing workshop. Pat McGuire of Herndon volunteers at the workshop. He has been blacksmithing for the past 14 years. McGuire demonstrates basic blacksmithing to the visitors of the Mill on weekends. His favorite aspect of volunteering at Colvin Run Mill is the location. "It's a beautiful setting," he said. McGuire also added that plenty of "nice folk" are around the mill including visitors and staff members.

The Colvin Mill is situated on a



The visitors center and general store at the Colvin Run Mill.

36-acre lot. The grounds have walking paths and many picnic tables.

For more information call the

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. E-mail or mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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Send mail to the Great FallsConnection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 2231 or e-mail greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

VIEWPOINTS

What is the best part of living in Great Falls?

— JORDAN CLARK



PHOTOS BY JORDAN CLARK/THE CONNECTION

Ginny Sinclair, owner of Grandmother's Back Room, 42-Year resident of Great Falls

"The best part about living in Great Falls is the democratic nature of Great Falls as a village now,

where everyone tends to speak to everyone else. The whole community is friendly and safe. I love the fact that there is so much to do in Great Falls. Just last week, I sponsored one of the weekly music shows on the Village Green. There were kids running around, parents mingling with one another, and I even put out some of the racks of children's clothing for the community to enjoy. There is always something to do in the Great Falls community. There are the fireworks every year, the Citizens Association, Great Falls Friends and many more groups that you can join to meet people in the community. The only thing I would like to tell newcomers is to start using your community. Go to shops, meet the people, try the restaurants because that's truly what keeps this community going."



Nancy Needleman, Great Falls homeowner, resident since 1980

"I picked Great Falls because of the nature, the trees, just the basic beauty of Great Falls. The Historical Society has done a great job

of maintaining the integrity of the original Great Falls scene. I love Great Falls because of the people. The people in Great Falls are very polite, sophisticated and patriotic, which makes a big contribution to the warm welcoming feeling you feel as a newcomer. For all newcomers, I would say start volunteering in your community. There is always some sort of organization in Great Falls that needs help. Look in the newspaper every week, or through a church organization, they are always looking for some new fresh faces to help them out with some sort of project. Also, take advantage of the great restaurants and business that are here in the Great Falls Village. This is truly a very safe community, where everyone is welcomed. Welcome, and enjoy newcomers."

MORE VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 19

Great Falls residents gather to listen to Rew Smith performing on the Summer Concerts on the Green series.



PHOTO BY SHANNON McCULLOUGH/THE CONNECTION

Music Brings Community Together

Sunday Summer Concerts on the Green.

BY SHANNON McCULLOUGH
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Village Centre offers a pleasant way to enjoy the final minutes of a summer weekend: listening to some music, visiting with friends and neighbors and enjoying a picnic.

Every Sunday, from 6-8 p.m. from June 7 to July 26, the Great Falls Citizen's Association hosts a musician or musical group for a free outdoor concert on the Green.

Eric Knudsen of the Great Falls Citizen's Association said "usually we get around 200 people" at these outdoor concerts. "For a lot of local people, [the summer concerts] are just how they spend their Sunday evening", said Knudsen. His favorite aspect of the summer concerts is "the music itself," he said. "It's a nice way for the community to get together" in a casual setting.

Various local businesses rotate sponsoring the summer concerts. The June 28 concert featured a



Rew Smith and his band perform at the Great Falls Village Green.

pop/rock artist Rew Smith. He performed a combination of original songs as well as some well-known covers. The Newcomers of Great Falls, Dominion Title and Great Falls Friends sponsored Rew

Smith's performance.

The Newcomers of Great Falls is a social organization that helps both new residents of Great Falls and long-term residents become more active in the community through events such as the Summer Concerts on the Green. Dominion Title is a settlement company located in the heart of Great Falls. Great Falls Friends is an organization that focuses on the overall betterment of Great Falls as a community. It sponsors the Independence Day festivities as well as the Oct. 31 Fall Festival.

"We are here to benefit the community throughout the year," said Susan Canis, who is on the board of Great Falls Friends.

The Summer Concerts on the Green give Great Falls residents an opportunity to come together in a casual setting, relax, listen to some free music and enjoy the community of Great Falls.

"They give a home town feeling to Great Falls," Canis said, speaking on why she likes the Summer Concerts on the Green.

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2009 Elections

Virginia voters will go to the polls on Nov. 3, 2009 to chose their next governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and local state delegate. Fairfax County voters will also have a local bond package on the ballot, in which they will be asked to pay for local school and county building projects.

On election day, polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Absentee voting can also be done at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday Sept. 18 to Oct. 13. From Oct. 14 to Oct. 31, absentee voting will also be available from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

On Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31, absentee voting will be available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For those who need to register to vote, you must either do it in person at the Fairfax County Government Center by Oct. 5 or mail in a voter registration application that is postmarked by Oct. 5.



Barbara Comstock (R)

For more information, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/citizen/> or <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/>

The following races are going on in your area:

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR

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Bob McDonnell (R) - <http://www.bobmcdonnell.com/>

VIRGINIA LT. GOVERNOR

Bill Bolling (R) - <http://www.billbolling.com/>

Jody Wagner (D) - <http://jodyforva.com/>



Margi Vanderhye (D)

VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL

Ken Cuccinelli (R) - <http://www.cuccinelli.com/>

Steve Shannon (D) - <http://shannon2009.com/>

HOUSE OF DELEGATES - 34TH DISTRICT

Barbara Comstock (R) - <http://comstockfordelegate.com/>

Margi Vanderhye (D) - <http://www.vanderhye.com/>

*If you want information on who has donated money to these candidates, please visit the non-partisan Virginia Public Access Project at www.vpap.org.



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



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PHOTOS BY SHANNON McCULLOUGH/THE CONNECTION
Stacy Lemmon prepares Bigg Riggs' produce at the Great Falls Farmers Market.



The Great Falls Farmers market at the Village Centre.

A Place 'to See One Another'

Saturday Morning Farmers Market at the Village Centre.

BY SHANNON McCULLOUGH
THE CONNECTION

Patrons of the weekly farmers market at the Village Centre in Great Falls say

they find much more than just fresh farm produce and overall high quality there.

The Market began on April 25 and will run until Nov. 21. The Market is open from 9 a.m. to 1

p.m.

Fifteen vendors come weekly to the market to offer their foodstuffs and goods. In addition to the expected produce provided by multiple vendors such as Bigg Rigg Farms, the market offers baked goods, wine, meat and dairy products.

While the traditional farmers market focuses on the produce, this market features other goods with equal prominence.

The market is sponsored and run by the Great Falls Charitable Foundation. On site was Market Manager James Monroe. Monroe supervises each vendor and ensures that everything runs smoothly. He said that the market's existence is based on vendor and patron participation. "The market has been very successful," he said, because of the "great response from the community."

All vendors are local. Some provide produce that cannot be found elsewhere.

Ole Pioneer's Kitchen sells homemade, wholesome meat products such as sausage. Although this is their first year at Great Falls, Ole Pioneer's Kitchen already has a strong fan base. "The only reason I'm here is for this meat," said Thomas Cole of Great Falls.

In addition to the market being a resource for fresh, wholesome food, it is also an opportunity for the community to come together. The market is not exclusive to food vendors either. The Neighbors Network, a local non-profit, has a booth at the market, fund raising for care packages for American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Great Falls Farmer's Market has much to offer. "[The market] is a great place for people to see one another," said Sharon Rainey of the Neighbors Network.

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CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

A variety of clubs and organizations are active in the Great Falls area. To add to or modify this list, call 703-917-6449.

Alzheimers Family Day Center

The Alzheimers Family Day Center provides services and support for Alzheimers patients and their families, including family day care. Call 703-204-4664 for information.

Cooper Trash Parkout Inc.

A private, nonprofit organization formed in June 2003 to continue community garbage pickups and recycling efforts at Cooper Middle School. Membership is \$270 and entitles members to return recyclables and trash for pickup at Cooper every Saturday from 8-11 a.m. Call John Theon at 703-356-1435

Dranesville District Democratic Women's Club

This club promotes Democratic policies and candidates. Meets monthly at noon on the fourth Monday of the month for lunch at a local restaurant and presents a guest speaker who addresses local issues. Call Trianthe Dakolis 703-356-0529.

Dranesville District Democratic Committee

The committee identifies, grooms and supports potential Democratic political candidates for public office. Call Sue Rosenberg, district chairman, at 703-938-5031 or visit www.fairfaxdemocrats.org.

Dranesville District Republican Committee

The committee's goal is nominating and electing Republicans to public office. This is where volunteer grassroots politics begins. Call Dave Hunt, district chairman, at 703-734-4868.

Georgetown Pike Association

The association preserves the character and integrity of Georgetown Pike, once a buffalo trail along the Potomac River, now a two-lane road between Route 7 in Great Falls and Route 123 in McLean. The pike, 13 miles long, was Virginia's first scenic byway. This winding, shady, historic road is the home of residences, schools, churches and horse farms in McLean and Great Falls. Call John Adams, president, at 703-893-8573.

Safe Community Coalition

The Safe Community Coalition (SCC) is a 501(c) (3) organization whose vision is a community where youth learn to make responsible decisions and where they are safe, healthy, and free from alcohol and drug use. Serving the McLean/Great Falls/Falls Church school communities since 1995, the SCC offers programs for youth, parents, and the community in collaboration with other community sectors concerned about our youth: schools, PTAs, faith organizations, businesses, law enforcement, the medical community and civic organizations. There are volunteer opportunities available for high school students, through the Youth Advisory Council, and for adults through the task forces on Academic Pressure and College Stress, Safe Social Alternatives, Mental and Physical Health, The Internet and Technology, Values Clarification and Alcohol, Drugs, and Smoking. To learn more about the Safe Community Coalition, please visit www.safecommunitycoalition.net or email us at scc@safecommunitycoalition.net

Analemma Society

The analemma is a correction curve that goes around the meridian, used to convert "sun time," which changes day to day, to "civil time," or clock and calendar time. This group of astronomers and scientists meets monthly to plan the

observatory park at the Turner Farm in Great Falls. A plan for an international sundial garden and observatory with several telescopes for public use is under development. Visit www.analemma.org.

Great Falls Charitable Foundation - Brogue Charities

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, Great Falls Charitable Foundation - Brogue Charities raises money for local causes in Great Falls. The organization has sponsored many local charitable organizations such as the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, The Great Falls Ecumenical Council, the Analemma Society, Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, Colvin Run Mill Park, Safe Community Coalition, Alternative House and the Amadaeus concerts. Great Falls Charitable Foundation -Brogue Charities sponsors through the Friends of the Great Falls Fireworks, the Fourth of July Fireworks for the public at the Turner Farm Park. Call Mike Kearney, 703-759-6563 or e-mail broguecharities@aol.com.

Colvin Run Citizens Association

This association meets at Colvin Run Schoolhouse and holds regular Saturday night dances featuring music of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, and the Big Band sounds of the Colvin Run Dance Band at the Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls. Lessons begin at 8 p.m. with instruction in tango, jitterbug, polka, salsa, waltz and other popular favorites. Dances follow at 9 p.m. and continue to midnight. Set-ups are provided. Admission is \$12 per person. E-mail mail@colvinrundance.com.

Dranesville Community Trash and Recycling Inc.

A private, nonprofit organization of volunteers who wanted to offer traditional parkouts in Great Falls, which permit citizens to pay a \$267 annual fee to bring their trash and recyclables, including newsprint, bottles and cans, to Great Falls Elementary School at 701 Walker Road on Saturday mornings. Hours are 8 a.m.-noon. Call Garrett Preis at 202-439-8632.

Friends of Colvin Run Mill

Volunteers dedicated to preserving the heritage of Northern Virginia for future generations. The restored Colvin Run Mill is a working 19th century water-powered grist mill at a park at Colvin Run Road and Route 7 in Great Falls. Exhibits, programs and demonstrations include grinding grains, blacksmithing and whittling. Visit the mill and the period-appropriate dry goods store at 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/crm.

Friends of the Great Falls Library

A group of book-lovers that raises money to expand programs for children and outreach at the Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, the group meets monthly at the library, except for the summer when the group is on hiatus. Call the library at 703-757-8560.

Friends of Riverbend Park

Supports the staff and programs at the 418-acre park on the Potomac River in Great Falls. Volunteers raise money for equipment, work at the park and raise community support for its needs. Visit www.forb.org.

Great Falls Arts Center

Located on Walker Road in Great Falls, this center offers exhibitions, art classes and monthly programs on famous artists and major art movements. Year-round art classes in drawing, oil painting and

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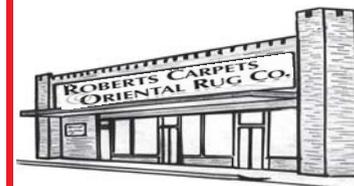


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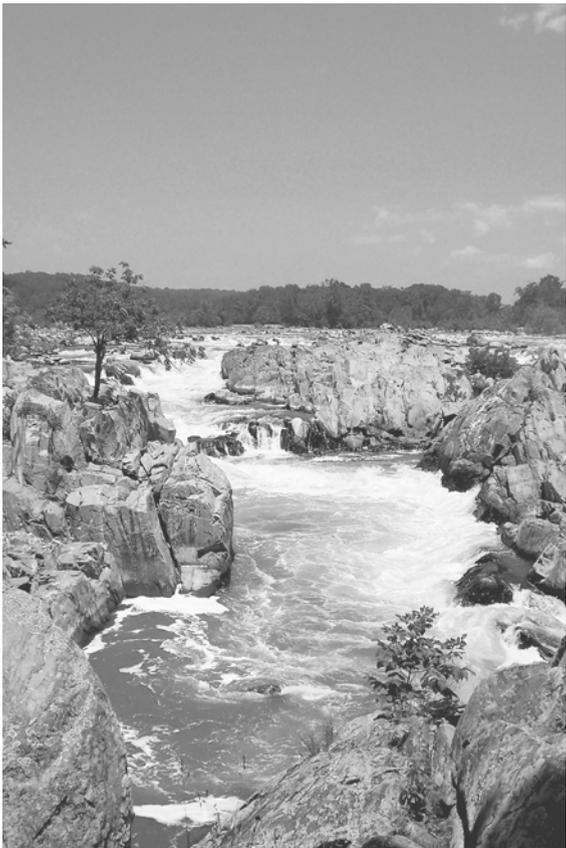
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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



PHOTOS BY SHANNON McCULLOUGH/THE CONNECTION

A view from one of the overlooks at the Great Falls Park.

Forrest Horton of McLean and Charlie Clarke from Vail, Colo. enjoy the falls.

Enjoying ‘Majesty of the Falls’

Great Falls National Park attracts locals, visitors.

BY SHANNON McCULLOUGH
THE CONNECTION

Considered by many as “The Niagara of the South,” the Great Falls of the Potomac River are situated right in the back yard of the Great Falls community. The park attracts approximately 500,000 visitors per year.

Besides offering a beautiful view and being a tranquil place to spend an afternoon, the falls represent the fall line of the Potomac River. The fall line is a physical border between coastal lands and upland regions. The falls are a result of a 77-foot drop in altitude in a series of cascades.

The park offers 15 miles of easy to moderate hiking, three different overlooks to the falls — two of which are handicap accessible, picnic areas, a snack bar, horseback riding, bicycle trails and the historical canal. George Washington was instrumental in the building of the canal.

Sherry Bellamah of Sterling said she comes to the

park at least five times a year. She cited her favorite aspect of the park by pointing to the falls and saying simply, “this.”

Although the National Park Service administers the park, Pepco and Fairfax County own the land.

Some local residents work there. Bob Layton of Great Falls has been volunteering as a ranger in the park for the past 15 years. He began to volunteer at the park after his retirement because of the beauty of the park and because volunteering gives him a chance to “give something back.”

The park is open to the public all year round, although the summer offers warmer temperatures and sunnier weather. Forrest Horton of McLean said that he visits Great Falls Park every other month and he enjoys seeing the changes throughout the seasons, citing the ice flows from West Virginia in the early spring being of great interest. His favorite part of the park is the “power and majesty of the falls.”

Charlie Clarke from Vail, Colo. came to visit the park with Horton. It was his first time at the park. “It would be neat to see the changes over the seasons” for the local residents, said Clarke.

The park’s visitors are a mix of locals and travelers. Admission for vehicles brought into the park is \$5 and \$3 for each person without a vehicle.



The flood lines of the Potomac River from past years.



Boating is popular at Riverbend.

Kayaking, Fishing, Painting ... at Riverbend

Riverbend Park is a quiet and peaceful attraction.

BY SHANNON McCULLOUGH
THE CONNECTION

Located on the Potomac River about 1.5 miles upriver from the Falls, Riverbend Park is open to the public free of charge daily.

Run by the Fairfax County Park Authority, the park has much to offer including 409 acres of hardwood forest and meadows, 10 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails, picnic facilities, bank fishing, a boat ramp for private boats and a Visitor Center with exhibits, library and discovery area.

The park sponsors summer specific events, including classes for children and adults. Riverbend provides multiple excursions throughout the summer for fly-fishing, kayak tours on the Potomac, trail running, dynamic nature walking and meteor shower watches.

The Riverbend Park is staffed

with naturalists and nature enthusiasts. Brigit McArdle, administrative assistant and naturalist, works at Riverbend. She recommends the kayak tours. Also, she recommends the park for painters who enjoy outdoor painting.

McArdle said that different types of wildlife are prevalent in the park. Snakes, gray and red foxes, flying and gray squirrels, hawks, woodpeckers and other birds are commonly found in the woods of the park.

Riverbend Park rents out row-boats and fishing rods and sells live bait for those who aspire to fish, but might not have all the supplies. Fishing is popular in the calm waters of the Potomac. Bass and sunfish are the most common types of fish caught at Riverbend.

The park is also wheelchair accessible in part. The boating area and picnic areas are both wheelchair accessible.

“It’s the best place ever,” said McArdle.



Picnic tables and fire pits are also ready for use. Bring on the s’mores.

PHOTOS BY SHANNON McCULLOUGH/THE CONNECTION

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Amazed by Mather Gorge

One of the best kept secrets in Great Falls.

By WALT LAWRENCE

The Potomac River serves as one constant in the life of our Great Falls community that we can be assured will always exist. The farms that once dominated the area are gone, replaced by subdivisions, and several of our well known landmarks such as Buck's Store and Thelma's are gone, replaced by progress. But the river remains.

However, one structure exists, surely the largest structure in Great Falls and, to my way of thinking, the most majestic and most beautiful. I would guess that most of the residents of Great Falls have been to the park to see the falls and enjoy the views. But most of our residents have not seen the Mather Gorge and I am constantly amazed by how few have even heard of its name. Since the Gorge is not vis-



PHOTOS BY WALT LAWRENCE

Great Blue Heron, taken in September. This bird spent a great deal of time grooming him or herself in the warm morning sun. Every time it would flap its wings, a breeze would carry away a cloud of feathers.

ible from the three overlooks which were built to view the falls, most people who come for a visit leave without ever knowing that another spectacular scene lies just around the bend in the river.

The Gorge was named after the first director of the National Parks

Service, Stephen Mather, a wealthy industrialist who played a major role in the establishment of our National Parks. I believe we will learn more about him when the new Ken Burns film series on our National Parks debuts this September. I would also guess that more

of our residents have visited Mather Point on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon than have visited Mather George in our hometown.

My most favorite spot in the park is about a 20-25 minute hike to the far end of the Gorge, where there are several high rocky overlooks. I like to get into the park early, before dawn, and set up my camera and tripod on one of these overlooks, where I have an unobstructed view up the entire Gorge.

As I wait for the show to begin, the river may be angry, if we have just had a major rainstorm, or it may be placid, if the water level is down. Regardless, I can always count on it exhibiting some sort of attitude.

The sun starts its long trajectory and offers up lots of colors, silhouettes and shadows in its journey skyward, which is all raw meat for a photographer. Then the wildlife enters the scene, with fish jumping for their breakfast, deer bending down to the river for a drink or great blue herons or cormorants looking for fish. The place is serenely quiet and I can sit on a rock

and watch the dawn unfold and take photographs to my heart's content.

Once in a while Canada geese or ducks will come flying down the Gorge toward me and I can practically hear them before they come into view as the walls of the Gorge

channel the sound in my direction. In any season of the year, at any time of the day, this is my favorite spot in Great Falls. It is a place that I can always count on to provide me with a reason to return and I can always be assured that it will be waiting for my return.



Foggy Cliffs of Mather Gorge, taken in May. The fog-shrouded cliffs seem to be floating on the river.

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

SATURDAY/JULY 25

Donate Used Books. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun Trust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women will collect used books, CDs, tapes and software for the AAUW Used Book Sale in Sept. No records or textbooks. 202-337-2294 or www.mcleanaauw.org.
Big Tow, 8 p.m. at the Great Falls Tavern, 9835 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-4770.
McLean Orchestra's Kamerata Trio. 6-8 p.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.
Rock 4 Rescue Benefit Concert. 6:30 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/JULY 30

The Vineyard Wine and Beer Tasting for Singles. 6:30-9 p.m. at 1445 Laughlin Ave, McLean. \$20. More than twenty wines, a variety of beers and a sampling of cheeses and charcuterie. Reserve at jessica@thevineyardva.com.
"You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" by the St. Mark Theatre Ministry. 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. \$15 adults, \$12 students and seniors. Proceeds support outreach and mission projects. www.stmark.org or 703-938-5656.

NSO@Wolf Trap with Sarah Chang, violin, and Emil de Cou, conductor. 8:15 p.m. at the Filene Center. Tickets \$20-\$48. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.
Parents Can Fish With Children at Night. 6-7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. This section of the Potomac has bass, sunfish, and more. Boats, life jackets and bait provided; fishing rods available for rental. Maximum capacity is three people per boat; at least one person in each boat must be 16 years of age or older. \$20 per boat. Prepaid reservations required. 703-759-9018.

SUNDAY/JULY 26

The Adrian Duke Projek. 3 p.m. at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free. 703-790-0123.
Great Falls Summer Concerts 2009. Mr. Knick Knack, A Children's Concert, 6-7 p.m. and Tender Polman, A Concert for the entire family, 7-8 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre.

TUESDAY, JULY 28

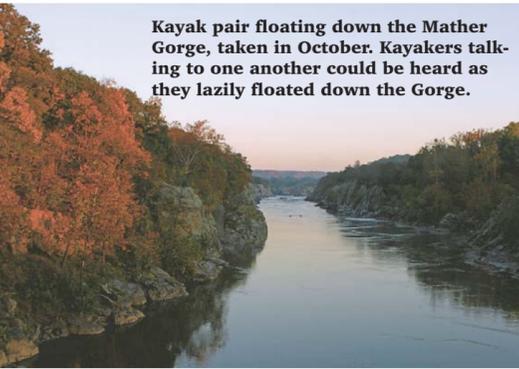
ABBA tribute band Waterloo. 8 p.m. at the Filene Center. \$38 in-house, \$25 lawn. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 29

Tom Jones. 8 p.m. at the Filene Center. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. Wolf Trap



Sunrise at the Mather Gorge, taken in November. As the sun rises from behind a cliff, the warm air hits the cold water to form a low level mist just on the water.



Kayak pair floating down the Mather Gorge, taken in October. Kayakers talking to one another could be heard as they lazily floated down the Gorge.



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Great Falls Business and Professional Association

The association advances community welfare by encouraging high business and professional ethics and practices, supporting patronage of local retail and professional services, and supporting Great Falls Children's Festival, A Taste of Great Falls, the Great Falls Freedom Memorial and other community developments and events. The association meets several times throughout the year at a local restaurant. Call Ralph Lazaro, president, at 703-759-3011 or Stephen Dulaney, membership chairman, at 703-759-4155.

Great Falls Citizens Association

This volunteer civic group exists to protect the scenic, historic and semi-rural quality of life in Great Falls, defined as the area west of Difficult Run stream valley, south of the Potomac River, east of the Loudoun County line and north of Route 7. Members who reside within those boundaries pay \$20 per person annually for newsletters and voting privileges, but the public is invited to attend meetings. The GFCA is governed by an executive board of 13 members elected from the membership, plus four officers. GFCA committees study planning and zoning issues, parks and trails, and transportation issues such as roads and traffic. GFCA is currently working with the National Wildlife Federation to certify Great Falls as a Wildlife Habitat Community. General membership meetings are the second Tuesday of every month except July and August, at 7:30 p.m. at the Grange on Georgetown Pike. Write GFCA, P.O. Box 27, Great Falls, VA 22066. Visit www.gfca.com.

Great Falls Ecumenical Council

The Great Falls Ecumenical Council has members from all the churches in Great Falls. The group supports Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, the Good Shepherd alliance housing for the homeless, Pedals for Progress in April, after-graduation parties for local high schools, Camp Fraser and a five-kilometer walk/run and blood drive on July 4. It also sponsors blood drives throughout the year. The council hosts ecumenical worship services on Thanksgiving and Good Friday, a sunrise service at Great Falls National Park on Easter Sunday and a January ecumenical service. Call Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church at 703-759-3509.

Great Falls Friends

GFF is a community group based on friendship that has three kinds of membership: individuals, businesses and community organizations. The organizing principle is that the Friends believes in giving back to the community. It sponsors the annual July 4 celebration and a fall festival at Halloween at Village Centre and Great Falls Shopping Center. Visit www.greatfallsfriends.org for meeting schedule. Write to GFF, P.O. Box 388, Great Falls, VA 22066.

The Great Falls Garden Club was launched in 1940 to improve the quality and character of gardens; study subjects pertaining to gardening; exchange experiences and information on gardening problems and to encourage the protection of natural resources, native plants, wildlife and scenery. The

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Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

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NEWS

River Bend Light Set for September

VDOT contractor has begun design for signal at River Bend and Georgetown Pike.

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has said it expects to have completely installed a traffic light at the intersection of River Bend Road and Georgetown Pike by the end of September, depending on the weather.

As of July 14, the department had received all the necessary paper work to begin construction of the signal, and the contractor had completed soil testing and was having the foundation designed, according to an e-mail from VDOT traffic engineer Hari Sripathi. A power link has been requested from Dominion Power, and a communication link from Verizon.

Local officials and VDOT began the process of getting the light built about a year ago, after residents living along River Bend Road had long complained that turning onto Georgetown Pike was frightening and dangerous.

The signal is to be suspended from a single pole on the southeast corner of the intersection, and the pole may be painted brown to make it as inconspicuous as possible.

— MIKE DICICCO

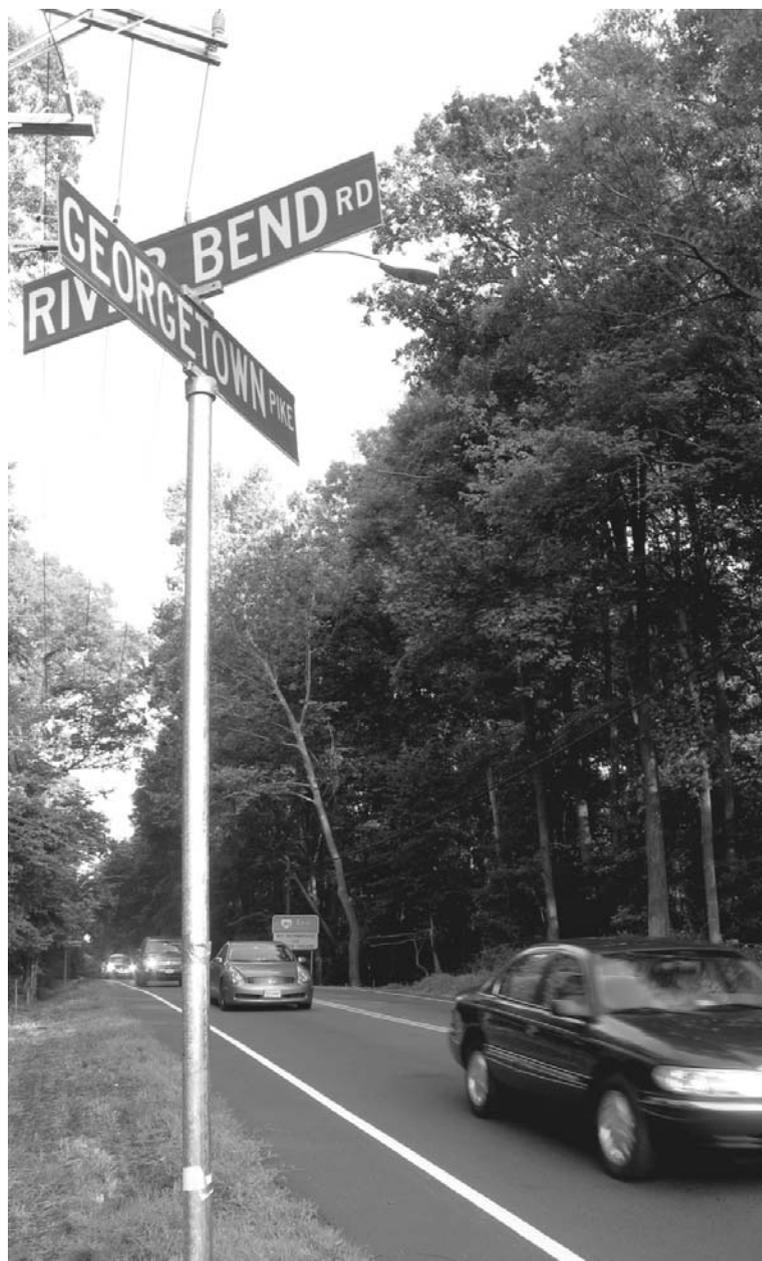


PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

The intersection of River Bend Road and Georgetown Pike should have a traffic signal by late September.

CLUBS

FROM PAGE 12

women-only club meets on the second Thursday of the month, September through June at 1 p.m. It has remained small so that meetings can be held at the home of a member. For more information, visit www.gfgardenclub.org

Great Falls Historical Society

The society researches and preserves the accuracy of the historical record of Great Falls as a community that was first known as Matildaville and, later, Forestville, before it was named Great Falls. It produces publications on local historical sites and holds varied social functions. Monthly meetings are held at the Great Falls Library. Membership is \$25 per family. Call Jacque Olin, President, at 703-759-3108. Write GFHS, P.O. Box 56, Great Falls, VA 22066. Visit www.gfhs.org.

Great Falls Horse Network

Not limited to Great Falls residents, the group works to foster equestrian sports in Fairfax County and develop equestrian facilities at the Turner Farm, including a riding arena and trails. No dues. Call Molly Hockman at 703-759-1952 or visit www.greatfallshorsenetwork.com.

Great Falls Lacrosse Association

Open to boys and girls, third through eighth grade, the association is not only for Great Falls residents. An instructional league takes place in the fall and competitive play begins in the spring. Visit www.greatfallslacrosse.com.

Great Falls Lions Club

The local chapter of the country's largest service organization has ongoing fund-raisers, including regular crab feasts and citrus sales at the Great Falls Fire Department and sales of a commemorative coverlet depicting Great Falls scenes. The Great Falls Lions Club provides crutches, wheelchairs, walkers and other items for those in need. The club awards two \$1,000 scholarships to Langley High School students and supports a long list of other charities. Dinner meetings convene at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike. Call the Lions hotline at 703-757-5361. Write GF Lions, P.O. Box 43, Great Falls, VA 22066.

Great Falls Optimist Club

The Great Falls Optimist Club is dedicated to meeting the needs of young people in the community; to supporting activities that contribute to a better future for children; to promoting an active interest in good government; to encouraging community service among young people; and developing optimism as a philosophy of life.

Each year, the Optimist Club organizes and staffs the Spring Festival and egg hunt; hosts a barn dance; and participates in the spooky Fall Festival run by Great Falls Friends. The club provides meals and holiday gifts to dozens of local families in need; funds classroom equipment for local schools serving children with emotional disabilities; organizes and funds projects such as the Great Falls Playground, and more. Whenever and wherever there are opportunities to "bring the best out in kids," you'll find Great Falls Optimists. The club meets on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Library. For more information, visit www.greatfallsoptimist.org.

The Great Falls Parkout, a community trash and recycling program,

SEE CLUBS, PAGE 15

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Jon Manasse, clarinet

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BEETHOVEN: Symphony No. 4

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Chu-Fang Huang, piano

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RAVEL: Piano Concerto in G
GINASTERA: *Estancia*

January 23, 2010

Augustin Hadelich, violin

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FAITH

A variety of religious organizations are active in the Great Falls area. To submit faith notes and announcements, or submit changes to this list, e-mail greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6449.

Bethel Regular Baptist Church: 1130 Towlston Road, Great Falls. 703-759-3028 or visit www.bethelchurch.us.

Christ the King Lutheran Church ELCA: 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 703-759-6068. Saturday service is at 6 p.m., and Sunday services are at 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday school is from 9:30-10:45 a.m. Youth groups meet monthly but not during the summer. Visit www.christ-the-king-lutheran.org.

Church of Christ at Great Falls: Sunday morning Bible class, 10 a.m.; Sunday morning worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday evening worship, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Bible study, 7:30 p.m. 11309 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-430-1330. Visit <http://gfcfc.org>.

Great Falls United Methodist Church: 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 703-759-3705. Worship is at 10 a.m.; Sunday school is at 9 a.m.. Tuesday prayer meeting and 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible study – don't occur during summer. Visit www.greatfallsumc.org.

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church: 1020 Springvale Road, Great Falls, 703-759-4350. Mass is celebrated Monday through Friday at 9 a.m. and Saturday at 9 a.m.; Saturday vigils at 5:30 p.m.; Sunday mass is at 7:30, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. and 1p.m.

St. Francis Episcopal Church: 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 703-759-2082. Sunday worship from September to May is at 7:45, 9 and 11 a.m., with adult Bible study and Sunday school for all ages at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday healing service from September to May is at 11 a.m. Summer services (June 4 to Labor Day) are on Sundays at 7:45 and 10 a.m. Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in summer and 9 a.m. to noon in winter. Visit www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org.

Salem Baptist Church: Sunday worship service is at 11 a.m. 11414 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 703-404-8363.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church: 1125 Savile Lane, McLean, 703-356-3042. Worship services begin at 9 and 11:15 a.m. in the fall with only one service at 10 a.m. during the summer. Church School for all ages begins at 10:10 a.m. and does not occur in the summer. Visit www.ipcmclean.org.

Langley Hill Friends Meeting: 6410 Georgetown Pike, McLean, 703-442-8394. Sunday service is at 10 a.m., and on the second Sunday of the month it's at 9:30 a.m. Visit www.quaker.org/langleyhill.

McLean Bible Church: 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. P.O. Box 9300, McLean, VA 22102. 703-790-5590; 703-7702939 (TTY). Services are Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9 and 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. 10:45 a.m. services include sign interpretation. Frontline services by Todd Phillips are Sunday at 5:30 p.m., in the main auditorium and

with sign interpretation. The senior pastor is Lon Solomon. The church was established in 1965.

Chabad at Tysons: 2107 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner. Saturday morning service starts at 9:30 a.m., Torah discussion at 10:30 a.m., followed by a sit-down Kiddush. Call 703-356-3451, or e-mail ChabadTysons@aol.com. Visit www.chabadtysons.com.

Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation (Reform): Service on Friday, 8 p.m. and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. 703-437-7733, www.nvhcreston.org.

Temple Rodef Shalom: 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, 703-532-2217. Shabat evening service is Friday at 8 p.m. and 6:45 p.m.; 6:45 p.m. only from June through August. Saturday Torah study is at 9 a.m., and Monday play group is at 10 a.m. Visit www.templerodefshalom.org.

St. Luke's Catholic Church - 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean, 703-356-1255. Saturday Mass is at 5:30 p.m., and Sunday Masses are at 7:30, 9 and 11 a.m. Visit www.saintlukemclean.org.

St. John's Episcopal Church - 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101, 703-356-4902. Church school and adult education are at 10:15 a.m. Activities are as announced in the summer. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday at 9 a.m. and on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11:15 a.m. On the second and fourth Sundays, Holy Morning Prayer is celebrated at 11:15 a.m. Children's service at 9 a.m. each Sunday. Visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

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CLUBS

FROM PAGE 13

welcomes new participants in the program. Participants bring trash and recycling to Great Falls Elementary School each Saturday morning. This protects rural lanes from truck damage, and allows added security for property owners. Membership is required. For more information, contact DCTR at 9412 Brian Jac Ct, Great Falls, VA 22066, call 703-759-2590, or visit www.greatfallsparkout.com. The Great Falls Parkout is run by a non-profit corporation called Dranesville Community Trash and Recycling, Inc. It was established after Fairfax County terminated the trash pickup at Great Falls schools.

Great Falls Trailblazers

Trailblazers supports development and maintenance of trails, both stonedust and natural surface, in Great Falls. It monitors development to ensure compliance with the trails designated in Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan trails map and is actively working to complete trails on Georgetown Pike and Walker Road. It meets monthly at 7:30 p.m. on the first Thursday, except in August and December, at the Old Schoolhouse in Great Falls. Visit www.geocities.com/greatfallstrails.

Great Falls Woman's Club

This diverse group makes things happen in the community and looks to residents to join in. While they perform community service, raise money and award women's scholarships, members of the Great Falls Woman's Club and have programs that foster camaraderie within the club. Contact Barbara Slaybaugh, President, at P.O. Box 113, Great Falls, VA 22066 or call (703) 759-5027.

Newcomers of Great Falls

Newcomers of Great Falls is an organization which offers its members opportunities to get involved in the local community, expand their interests, and make new friends. Whether someone is new to the community or simply has more time for activities, Newcomers of Great Falls provides both philanthropic and social activities for its members. Newcomers holds monthly and hosts a variety of activities that appeal to a wide range of interests. Members of Newcomers also participate in community activities, including the community July 4th event, and Halloween House. In addition, we make donations of time and money to local charities. Membership is open to residents of Great Falls and to those who reside in the Langley pyramid school district. Visit www.greatfallsnewcomers.com.

Friends of Turner Farm

The Friends of Turner Farm are volunteers who raise money and public support for Turner Farm, a public park that was once a dairy farm at Georgetown Pike and Springvale Road. Friends of Turner Farm works closely with the Fairfax County Park Authority to plan and build the park's facilities: a picnic pavilion, a tot lot, equestrian riding rings and a celestial observatory. Visit the park's Web site at fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turnerfarm. To join the Friends, call Molly Hockman at 703-759-1952 or mhockman@cox.net.

Mothers First — Great Falls

This support group for women who have chosen to alter careers to raise children at home has meetings, lectures, field trips, moms night out and more. The Great Falls group meets the first Tuesday of the month, 10 a.m. at the Great Falls Library. Call 703-827-5922 or visit www.mothersfirst.org.

PUBLIC SAFETY

POLICE

Great Falls is served by the Reston district of the Fairfax County police department.

Emergency: 911

Fairfax County Police

Department, non-emergency: 703-691-2131
Chief of Police: David Rohrer, 703-246-2195

Reston Substation: 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston, 703-478-0904

Station Commander: Deborah Burnett

Fairfax County Crime Solvers: 703-691-8888

Animal Control and Animal Shelter: 703-830-1100

Virginia State Police: 9801 Braddock Road, Fairfax, 703-323-4500, or 1-800-572-4510, toll-free

FIRE

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency: 703-691-2131

Volunteer: 703-385-7877

Fairfax County Fire

Department: 703-246-2126
Great Falls, Company 12: 703-759-2300, station captain Michael Smith, 9916 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls

CRISIS HOT LINES

AIDS (National Hotline): 800-342-2437

Adult Protective Services: 703-324-7450

Child Abuse Complaints: 703-324-7400

Victim Assistance Network (24-hour assistance for rape/spouse abuse): 703-360-7273

Women's Shelter: 703-435-4940
Alcohol and drug services: 703-359-7040

Narcotics Anonymous: 800-777-1515

Alcoholics Anonymous: 703-876-6166

Al-Anon/Alateen: 703-764-0476

Northern Virginia Family Service: 703-689-0208, 703-385-3267

Missing Children: 800-822-4453

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The Fairfax County library system includes local community libraries and larger regional libraries. Book clubs for adults are available at most branches, as are activities for children by age group from toddlers through high school students. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/ for general information as well as links to individual branches and the library calendar.

Great Falls Library

9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.;

Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sunday. Book drop open 24 hours.

Branch Manager: Linden Renner
Great Falls Library opened in October 2000. It houses more than 50,000 books and employs about 20 staff members and about 50 volunteers. Activities include a story hour for preschoolers, most Mondays at 10:30, a sing-along and a family movie night, each according to schedule, and two monthly adult book-discussion groups, one of which is held in the evening. There are roughly 25 children and adult programs in the summer. Call 703-757-8560.

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Defying Perceived Odds

Improbable title runs define local high school sports scene.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

Generally speaking, sports at any level break down into just a few different storylines. There are the magical underdog stories that draw comparisons to David beating Goliath. Or the opposite, more predictable result, in which a favored side wins just like it was supposed to.

But a third and compelling tale in sports has come to define the high school sports scene of the McLean, Great Falls and Vienna areas this past school year. Part David, part Goliath, it is the team that claims “Nobody believed in us” and uses that perceived slight to come together for a championship season.

Heading into their perspective seasons, the Oakton football team, the Langley boys’ lacrosse team and the Oakton girls’ basketball team embodied this statement, the notion that outsiders considered them inferior. It is a belief that defined their runs to Northern Region championships.

Oakton Football, Fall 2008

As the beginning of the 2008 Northern Virginia football season dawned last fall, Oakton football coach Joe Thompson was at a crossroads. The end of the 2007 season had been an ugly one, with the Cougars losing their final regular season game in a one-point loss to Herndon that knocked them out of the playoffs.

Thirteen wins and a Virginia AAA Northern Region title — Oakton’s first since 2005 — it’s safe to say the Cougars used the past season’s disappointments to their advantage. The highlight of the year came in the regional finals against Concorde District rival Chantilly.

Chantilly had given Oakton its lone regular-season loss, a 17-15 defeat, earlier in the year, but the Cougars would leave no doubt in the title game. Oakton stormed to an early lead and cruised to a 52-14 victory.

“When I started this season with my coaching goals and my coaching staff, we said that wins and losses don’t matter. We just wanted our program back,” said head coach Joe Thompson. Oakton lost



The Langley boys’ lacrosse team celebrates the program’s first-ever state championship.

in the AAA state semifinals to Oscar Smith High School. “We just wanted the season to be one of pride and one of commitment where you play with passion and heart.”

The team was led on offense by star quarterback Chris Coyer and senior captain and linebacker Jack Tyler on the defensive side of the ball.

Oakton Girls’ Basketball, Winter 2009

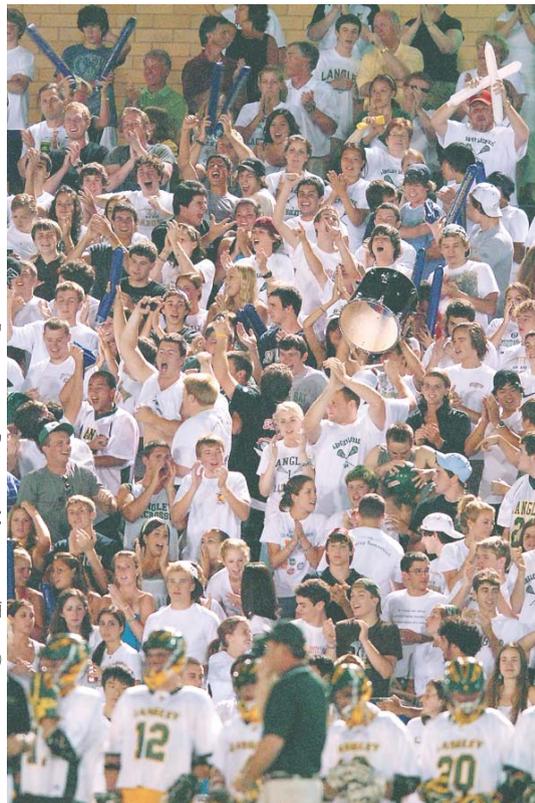
It wasn’t as if coach Fred Priester and the Oakton girls’ basketball program were nobodies on the Northern Region



Oakton’s Erin McGartland takes it to the hoop during a state quarterfinal game against Atlee this past winter.

girls’ basketball circuit heading into this season. Priester, the all-Connection coach of the year this past winter, had led the Cougars to two regional titles in the previous eight seasons, including a state title game appearance in 2001.

But with this year’s team relying on two freshmen and two sophomores to be key contributors and a lineup devoid of anybody



The filled-to-the-brim Langley crowd cheers on the Saxon boys’ lacrosse team during their state title game.

6-feet or taller, there’s little doubt few gave Oakton much of a chance.

And yet, when March rolled around, the Cougars were playing for a state championship and a perfect 31-0 season. Led by senior captain Erin McGartland, sophomore sharpshooter Zora Stephenson and emerging freshman Caroline Coyer, the Cougars showed the doubters that whatever they lacked in athleticism could be made up for with a knack for getting hot from behind the 3-point line and a lot of heart.

Oakton’s season ended with a 71-61 loss in the state finals to Princess Anne, but not before ending the year with a remarkable 30-1 record and a third region title for Priester. With most of their key contributors back again next year, the Cougars could be just as good next year.

“Everybody doubted them except themselves and me,” said Priester, of the region rumblings throughout the season that the Cougars were

bound to fall back to earth as the wins kept piling up. People said we’re too small and too slow, but we’re 30-1 and people should remember that.”

Langley Boys’ Lacrosse

It took Langley boys’ lacrosse coach Earl Brewer seven tries to finally win a AAA Northern Region lacrosse title, so once he accomplished the feat this past spring, he made sure to take full advantage of it.

The Saxons took home the AAA state title, defeating defending state champ Chantilly, 4-3, in overtime. Langley (21-1) completed a picture-perfect 10-0 postseason, winning the Liberty District tournament finals over Madison, a team that, during the regular season, had handed the Saxons their only defeat, before eventually capturing the program’s first region title with a championship game win over Robinson.

A spectacular on field Saxon celebration followed the score, which gave Langley its first-ever state crown at the expense of the defending state champion Chantilly team.

“I love these players and I love this team,” said Brewer, who was hoisted onto the shoulders of Saxon defenders Thomas Robinson and Trevor Shafran during the emotional, post-game celebration. “I can’t say enough about them. They’re just great kids and understand what [this accomplishment] means.”

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Seven Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates from the class of 2009 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

❖ Joseph Huchette of Herndon High School (engineering), National Merit Rice University Scholarship.

❖ Athreya Tata of McLean High School (neurosurgery), National Merit Oberlin College Scholarship.

❖ Brian Pang of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (economics), National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.

❖ Rishi Iyengar of TJHSST (medical research), National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.

❖ Debjani Saha of TJHSST (neuroscience), National Merit New York University Scholarship.

❖ Michael Sanders of TJHSST (military service), National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.

❖ Rutger Schneider of TJHSST (computer science), National Merit Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Scholarship.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 8,300 students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2009.

Laura Anne Bell of Vienna received an Outstanding Student Award in educational administration as The University of Scranton recognized the academic achievement of master's degree and doctoral graduates at its post-baccalaureate commencement ceremony held on campus.

Lauren Taggart Wasson, daughter of Chip and Ginny Taggart of McLean and a 1996 graduate of McLean High School, was awarded Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons on May 20. She was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society and the Gold Humanism Society, and she received the Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Award for women graduating in the top 10% of their class, the Drs. Robert A. Savitt and George H. McCormack Award for medical skill, consideration, understanding, and compassion, and the Edward T. Bello, M.D. Listening Award for the art of listening to patients, colleagues and self in practicing medicine. In 2004, Lauren was awarded a Masters in Public Health (M.P.H.) degree from Johns Hopkins University. She and her husband, Baxter Wasson, will continue to reside in Manhattan where he is a Director in the Global Markets Structuring group at Deutsche Bank and she is a Resident in the Department of Medicine at New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center.

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Time I Now Have



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

The way I've come to rationalize it, I received some unexpected – and good – health news the other day. One day after my normal two-days-before-chemo blood work, I received a call from my oncology nurse, Holly, to tell me that due to a (not totally unexpected) low white blood cell count (chemotherapy kills them along with anything else in its intravenous path), my oncologist wanted to delay my sixth and final chemotherapy one week. The logic is, they don't want to zap a good man when his white blood cell count is down, it can lead to other complications (as if stage IV lung cancer isn't complicating enough), and given the fact that my health is somewhat the issue, I really couldn't take issue with their precaution.

However, I was disappointed. I had already booked two post-chemotherapy medical appointments (per doctor's orders) and in my mind, I was sort of finished with what I hoped to be the most difficult and challenging part of my treatment. Now I had to reschedule my post chemo CT Scan and my every-three-week-post-chemo appointment with my oncologist as well. Instead of being "finished" on July 14, I am now not "finished" until July 31 (the next available appointment with my oncologist), 17 days after the original appointment was scheduled; an appointment during which my post chemo future would be discussed, as would my potential participation in a study and all manner of other words to the wise.

I didn't (I don't) want to wait an extra day, let alone an extra 17 days for the process to go forward. But as much as I pleaded to keep things on their original schedule (pointing out that I had already made these other doctor-ordered appointments), once again, my health, so far as the potential harmful effects of chemotherapy on a cancer patient whose immune system was already compromised was concerned, was their primary consideration and ultimately, I had no choice in the matter.

And for that matter, neither did my emotions have any choice; for the rest of the day, I was extremely disappointed, depressed even, over the delay. But by the next day, after an average night's sleep (good is rare, bad is typical, average is not bad), I came to a rationalization: I just got two and one half weeks of extra life that I might not have had, had the originally scheduled appointments been kept. Now, whatever life expectancy I have (and it's certainly not an exact medical science) starts from my next/new appointment with my oncologist when he reviews my scan, evaluates my lab work and examines me in person. I feel like I've actually received a reprieve of sorts, a few extra weeks which, (not that I'm counting the days, mind you, but I'm certainly not counting the years), might add up to time that is more quality, certainly more quantity than was previously anticipated.

At least that's my hope, irrationally speaking.

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

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VIEWPOINTS

What is the best part of living in Great Falls?

— JORDAN CLARK

Randy Custer, veterinarian at Georgetown Pike Veterinarian Clinic, business owner in Great Falls for 25 Years



"I really have enjoyed the small town atmosphere that this community has to offer. You're always meeting new people or see someone you know everyday just walking around. The semi-rural character of the community is what has truly captivated me. The people in Great Falls have become truly has to offer for you and your families."

very supportive of the local business. I myself have followed Dante's Restaurant since I've worked here in Great Falls. I feel as if this community is one of the safest here because everyone watches out for everyone else, which is something you wouldn't get anywhere else. To the newcomers, meet your neighbors, get involved with the Great Falls Citizen Association and become aware of what this town

Francois Haeringer, founder of L'Auberge Chez François a French country restaurant, resident since 1975



"I personally feel as if I'm responsible for putting Great Falls on the map. When I first arrived here in Great Falls, there were two gas stations and one small store. No Safeway, no banks, it was pure country when I first arrived. I believe that the small town country atmosphere is what has made Great Falls such a grown up and matured community. Although I am not able to participate in many things in Great Falls, my restaurant hosts meetings for many

groups in Great Falls, and those groups just get larger and larger each year. Along with holding meetings here, we have had the joy of seeing community members get married here and have held many private parties, which has allowed us to get to know the people here in this town. Great Falls has become a nice community, and each person needs a nice community to build a family, which is what Great Falls has to offer. My one true girlfriend however is my restaurant. I raised my three children here and they have all become part of this place, which is why I love Great Falls."

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Connection will publish back-to-school articles in the weeks before school begins this fall. Open houses, as well as basic staff information and school facts, are listed below. Visit the Fairfax County Public Schools Web site at www.fcps.edu for more information, as well as links to individual school Web sites.

The schools that Great Falls students attend are in cluster 1 and the Langley High School pyramid.

FORESTVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grades: K-6
First opened: 1980
Enrollment: 782
Principal: Matt C. Harris
PTA president: Malia Kishore
Special programs: gifted and talented, special education.
Web site: www.fcps.edu/ForestvilleES
Address: 1085 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls
Phone number: 703-404-6000

GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grades: K-6.
Enrollment: 580
Principal: Earnest Leighty
PTA president: Karen Collazo
Web site: www.fcps.edu/GreatFallsES
Address: 701 Walker Road, Great Falls
Phone number: 703-757-2100

COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Grades: K-6
First opened: 2003
Enrollment: 854
Principal: Stephen Hockett

PTO president: Mary Jane Novak
Special programs: gifted and talented program, special education, preschool program.
Web site: www.fcps.edu/colvinrunes
Address: 1400 Trap Road, Vienna
Phone number: 703-757-3000

COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Grades: 7-8
First opened: 1962
Enrollment: 946
Principal: Arlene Randall
PTA president: Betsy Shomaker
Special programs: Japanese immersion, autism program, honors instead of gifted and talented.
Web site: www.fcps.edu/CooperMS
Address: 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean
Phone number: 703-442-5800
Guidance: 703-442-5812

LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL

Grades: 9-12
First opened: 1965
Enrollment: 2100
Principal: Matt Ragone
PTSA presidents: Andrea Sotter
Special programs: business/school partnership with PRC/Litton Corp.; peer tutoring program; block scheduling two days per week; education and cultural exchange program with Russia, Germany and England (Oxford University); autism program; ESOL; special education.
Web site: www.fcps.edu/LangleyHS, www.langleyptsa.org
Address: 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean
Phone number: 703-287-2700

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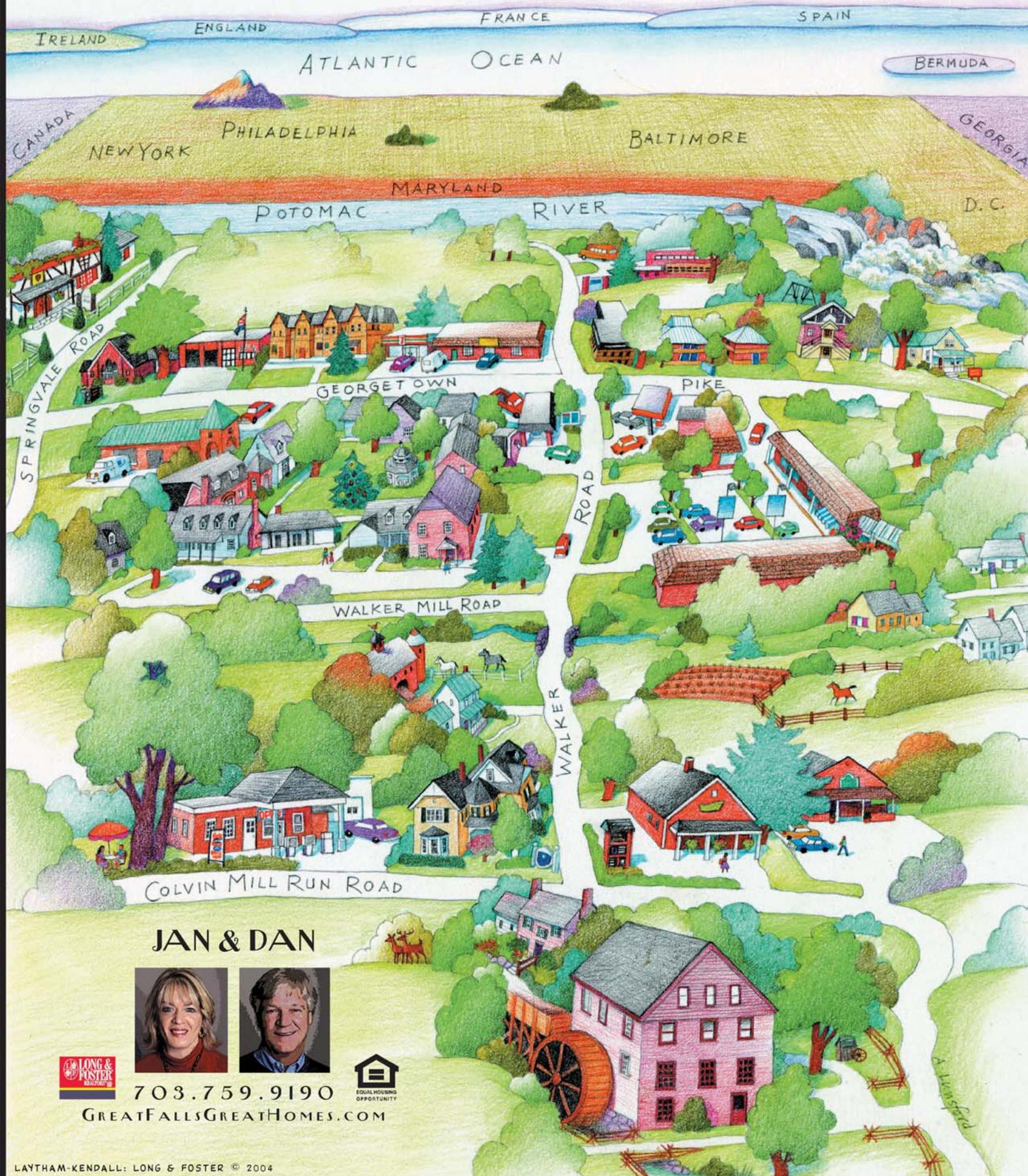
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