

# Great Falls CONNECTION

# Harvest Time At Farmers' Market

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## Experiences In Aging

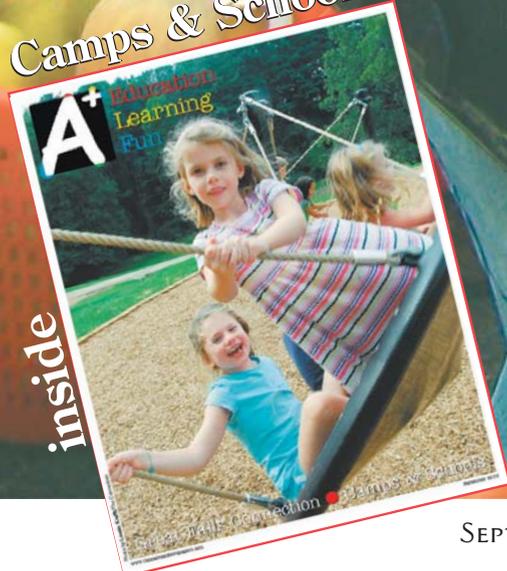
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## Defying Downturn and Having Fun

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**Sergio Izaguirre, a 19-year-old vendor at the Great Falls Farmers' Market at Village Centre traveled from Colonial Beach, Va. He said all of the produce he sells is from Penn Farm, a family farm.**

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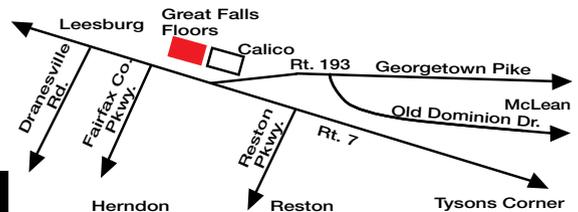
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**Sergio Izaguirre, a 19-year-old vendor at the Great Falls Farmers' Market at Village Centre traveled from Colonial Beach, Va. He said all of the produce he sells is from Penn Farm, a family farm.**



PHOTOS BY  
JANELLE L. PLUMMER/  
THE CONNECTION

## Harvest Time at Farmers' Market

Great Falls Farmers' Market open through Nov. 21.

BY JANELLE L. PLUMMER  
THE CONNECTION

It's harvest time, and a trip to the local farmers market can't hurt: The Farmers' Market at the Great Falls Village Centre opened in the spring and will close on Saturday, Nov. 21.

Sergio Izaguirre, a 19-year-old vendor at the Great Falls farmers' market at Village Centre, said during the fall season all sorts of green vegetables are in demand. He said he sells broccoli, corn, cabbage, squash, eggplant, bell peppers, green beans, radishes and other vegetables.

"A lot of people meet up [at farmers' market]," Izaguirre said. "It's a great place to meet friends. The produce is fresh from our farm. We grow everything. It's a lot of work."

Susan Lewis, another vendor at the farmers' market who travels from Frederick County Maryland from Dragonfly Farms, said the fruits start to come to an end in the fall.

Lewis said people can do all of their grocery shopping at a farmers' market. She said people can purchase not just vegetables but meats and baked goods as well.

"We have everything," Lewis said. "It's all fresh and local. Prices compare to what is in a grocery store. You're paying a little bit more and sometimes less."

Evelyn Hansen, a buyer at the Great Falls farmers' market and a nutritionist, said she travels from Bethesda, Md. to shop at the market because everything is healthy.

SEE MARKET, PAGE 6



**Lucy Dlhopsky, a Great Falls resident, visits the Farmers' Market at Village Centre on Saturday, Sept. 19.**



**Peter Falcone, owner of Jennifer's Pastries, LLC in Great Falls, sets out pastries at the Great Falls Farmers Market on Saturday, Sept. 19.**



**Jennifer Falcone, owner of Jennifer's Pastries, LLC in Great Falls, sets out pastries at her stand at the Farmers Market.**

### OBITUARY

## Rear. Adm. Alexander Malcolm Sinclair, 82, of Great Falls, Dies

Rear Adm. Alex Sinclair, U.S. Navy-retired, 82, of Great Falls, died on Sept. 14, at Arleigh Burke Nursing Center. He was born on Jan. 30, 1927 to the late Alexander M. and Dorothy Smith Sinclair. He was born and raised in Santa Cruz, Calif. where he graduated from Santa Cruz High School and enlisted in the Navy in 1944. He received fleet appointment to the United States Naval Academy and graduated with the class of 1951. While at the Academy, he was a member of the varsity football and track teams.



**Rear Adm. Alex Sinclair**

Upon graduation, his first assignment was aboard the USS Antietam (CV 36) operating as a unit of the Seventh Fleet in the Sea of Japan during the Korean War. His next two sea assignments, in succession, were aboard the USS Shangri La (CV 38) and the USS Yorktown (CV 10). While deployed to the Seventh Fleet on the USS Yorktown he was one of the first in his class to receive orders to command. As a lieutenant junior grade, he assumed command of the coastal minesweeper USS Firecrest (AMS 10) and did combat minesweeping operations in and around the Yellow Sea. The ship was homeported in Sasebo, Japan. He next attended Submarine School in New London, Conn., followed by sea assignments on the USS Rasher (SS 269) and USS Baya (SS 319). He became executive officer on the USS Piper (SS 409) followed by his assuming command of the USS Bang (SS 385). While in command of the USS Bang the submarine made a highly successful Special Operations Patrol in the Barents Sea off the Kola Inlet.

Following submarine command, Sinclair was assigned as executive officer on the Guided Missile Cruiser USS Dale (CG 19), which completed a Seventh Fleet Deployment including the Gulf of Tonkin operations during the Vietnam War. His next assignment was as commanding officer of the Destroyer Escort USS Edward McDonnell (DE 1043), deployed to the Sixth Fleet. Sinclair's next sea assignment was as commander of the Guided Missile Cruiser USS Leahy (CG 16). The ship made

a Sixth Fleet deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. During this cruise in 1975, the USS Leahy made a historic port of call at Saint Petersburg, a Soviet port. Thus the USS Leahy was the first U.S. Navy ship to visit the Soviet Union in over thirty years, or before the ending of WW II in 1945.

After Selection to Flag rank and several Pentagon tours, Sinclair's last sea assignment was commander Cruiser Destroyer Group Five in the Pacific Fleet. While in command of Group Five, he was deployed to the Seventh Fleet as a Battle Group Commander on his flagship USS Chicago (CG 9).

He retired from the Navy in 1982 after a very active 38 years of duty to the Navy and the country. After retirement, Sinclair attended American University Law School, became a member of the Washington, D.C. Bar and a practicing attorney. His practice consisted primarily of criminal defense work in the Criminal Division of the Washington D.C. court system.

Sinclair was a mentor to his children and grandchildren and to countless young people during private life, his career in the Navy and during his law practice in the juvenile court system in Washington, D.C. He had an extraordinary sense of humor and a generous spirit and will be greatly missed by his family and his friends. May the wind always fill his sails and the seas ahead be forever calm.

Sinclair was the beloved husband of 59 years of Ginny Sinclair, loving and devoted father of Amy Dahm and her husband Henry of Great Falls, and

SEE OBITUARY, PAGE 6

## Tim Wright, 54, of Great Falls, Dies

Tim Wright of Great Falls died on Sept. 10. He was 54. Wright was a loving husband to his wife Colleen, and a dedicated father to his four children, Tom, Britney, Molly and Will. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service and interment will be Saturday, Oct. 3 at 11 a.m., at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Colombia Pike, Annandale. A memorial celebration will take place Sunday, Oct. 4, at 2 p.m. at Meadowlark Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna.

A fund has been established to help Colleen with college expenses for her children.

Contributions can be made to "The Wright Children College Fund" and mailed c/o Lisa Hodge, 9800 Lindsey Blake Lane, Great Falls, VA 22066 or sent directly to "The Wright Children College Fund" c/o Bank of America, 748 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066. Those choosing this option may call Colleen for the account number.

## Lane Closing on Dulles Toll Road

Drivers using the eastbound Dulles Toll Road (Route 267) may experience delays beginning Tuesday, Sept 22. The eastbound right lane between Beulah and Trap Roads, just west of Wolf Trap Farm Park, will be closed.

The closing will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily for four to five days, weather permitting.

Construction crews will be installing barriers along the Dulles Toll Road near the site of future storm water detention ponds to be built in that area for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project.

Toll road users should be alert to this lane closure and use extreme caution in the area.

A 24/7 emergency hotline is available for construction related issues: 877-585-6789. For general Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project information: [www.dullesmetro.com](http://www.dullesmetro.com) or 703-572-0506.

## Starshine Enrolls Young Actors

Starshine Theater of Great Falls is now enrolling student actors ages 7 through 18 for its new stage show, "Zorro!" Rehearsals will take place at the School of Theatrical Dance in the Great Falls Village Center, and the show will be performed on a local theater stage in early February. High School students in the Cast may also serve as "Actor-Mentor" rehearsal assistants to the younger cast members.

Starshine's "Little Theater" play this semester is "The Tales of Beatrix Potter" for very young performers, ages 4-8. Each student receives a dramatic character role, as well as singing and dance/action opportunities. Rehearsals will be at The School of Theatrical Dance in Great Falls. To learn more, contact Patricia Budwig, creative director, 703.790.9050 or [StarshineTheater@aol.com](mailto:StarshineTheater@aol.com).

## SCC Awarded Continuation Grant

The Safe Community Coalition is one of the Drug-Free Community Coalitions awarded a continuation grant. R. Gil Kerlikowske, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, awarded \$60 million in Drug-Free Communities (DFC) Continuation Grants to 565 Drug-Free Communities coalitions and five DFC Mentor Continuation coalitions. These grants will assist local community coalitions as they work to prevent and reduce youth substance use.

The Drug Free Communities program is directed by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) in partnership with the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The DFC program provides coalition matching grants of up to \$625,000 over five years to community

SEE WEEK, PAGE 6

## NEWS

# Experiences in Aging

## Reston elder care specialist discusses stays in retirement homes at Great Falls Library.

Great Falls resident Sondra Taylor, who recently opened a small senior living facility called Great Falls Manor, said she arranged for Steve Gurney of Reston to speak at the Great Falls Library next week because of his rare perspective on elder care. "I just thought it would be very helpful to the public to consider what a senior is actually faced with when going into a facility," Taylor said.

Although he is only 43, Gurney has a better idea than most of what it is like to check into a senior living facility, as does his 6-year-old son Asa. In February, the elder care expert spent a week in Paul Spring Assisted Living and Retirement Community in Alexandria. In late August, he checked himself and his young son into the Residences of Thomas Circle, a continuing care retirement community in downtown Washington, D.C., for another week.

Taylor said she thought it would be helpful for senior citizens and their families alike to learn more about how seniors' lives change when moving into a retirement community, what they give up and what they can take with them. She asked Gurney to give a presentation at the library Wednesday evening, Sept. 30.

**GURNEY** has been regarded as an elder-care expert since he published the "Guide to Retirement Living SourceBook" 20 years ago, while his grandfather was living in a retirement home. Since then, he has regularly given talks on the subject, and he estimates that he has visited more than 500 senior living communities to assist them in overcoming various challenges.

However, Gurney said, he realized a gap in his expertise when dropping his children off on the first day of school last year. They asked him about his first day of school. "They were very interested in what I had to say because it was very authentic," he said. Meanwhile, he realized, as an expert on senior living, he had never experienced a first day in a retirement community. "That didn't sit very well with me," he recalled.

A week later, he was at a meeting at the Paul Spring community and floated the idea of spending some time there. "They thought it was a great idea for me to experience what it was like to live in the community," he said. Arrangements were made.

Now, Gurney said that by living in retirement homes he "saw so many things I had missed as a quote-unquote expert." On his first stay, he realized how many people had moved into senior living because they couldn't or didn't want to drive, which, in the suburbs, had isolated them and disconnected them from their sense of purpose. So, when planning his second project, he decided on a facility in an urban, pedestrian-friendly environment.

Also during his week at Paul Spring, he said, "After living there a little while, I said, 'Man, I would love my kids to meet these people.'" Having heard many of their stories and history, he said, "It seems to me a crime that we've hidden these people away from the younger generation." He was also carrying the seed of an idea planted by a book he had read, called "Leisureville: Adventures in America's Retirement Utopias," whose author questioned the wisdom of separating the elderly from the rest of the popula-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Elder care expert and Reston resident Steve Gurney, 43, recently checked himself and his 6-year-old son Asa into a retirement community. He will share his experiences next week at Great Falls Library.**

## Drop In

Elder care expert Steve Gurney will speak of his experiences living in two different retirement communities on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 7:30 p.m., at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. For more information, call Sandra Taylor at 703-759-6204.

tion.

"Can we create an environment where we can take care of elders with all ages living under one roof?" Gurney asked. He considered moving his entire family into the Residences of Thomas Circle in August but decided to only bring his son with him. He said he

quickly realized that a 6-year-old is unfamiliar with the stigmas many Americans attach to old age, affording him a chance to see the community through his son's fresh eyes.

**BEFORE THE MOVE**, when Gurney asked Asa what a retirement community was, the boy said he thought it was a place for people who were lost, Gurney said. A few days into their stay, his son had edited the definition to, "a place you can go to live, where you meet a lot of people."

Gurney said he also found that the community was a place where he didn't have to worry about his son, as the residents were happy to look out for him. "It's sort of like an old-fashioned neighborhood," he said. "I've never visited a neighborhood where the neighbors care for each other as much as they did in these two communities." And he had worried that some residents might complain that they had moved to the facility to get away from children, "but the overwhelming response was, 'It's about time,'" he said.

Gurney came away with new ideas and recommendations for families. "There's been nothing I've done in my career that has been as powerful as these projects," he said. For example, he has begun recommending to some adult children that they spend the first night in the retirement home with their parents who would otherwise wake up the next day in a place where they didn't know anyone.

As for ways to integrate young and old, he said he hoped to at least open some dialogue. "I don't necessarily have all the answers, but I don't think we're going to get to the answers until more people start doing what I've been doing," Gurney said.

Taylor said she had never heard of anyone undertaking a project like Gurney's. "It's good to understand more about what's going on with residents as they make that huge change in their lives," she said.

SEE AGING, PAGE 6

# Exploring Alternatives to Failing Septic

For Great Falls commercial village, new technology, limited sewer to come under consideration.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

At its Monday night meeting, the board of the Great Falls Citizens Association unanimously authorized its newly re-formed Wastewater Committee to launch a comprehensive search for alternatives to the septic fields in the commercial area surrounding the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road.

The committee is to create two subgroups, one to look at alternate onsite solutions, such as new wastewater filtration and recycling technology, and the other to examine the options for and ramifications of a limited sewer line.

"What I'm concerned about is something Supervisor [John] Foust said," GFCA President Ralph Apton told the board and members of the Wastewater Committee. "He's not going to do anything unless the community is in back of it, and the community at this



A search has begun for alternate options for dealing with wastewater from Great Falls' central commercial district, where the septic fields could fail in 10 years.

time is divided, let's face it." Accordingly, he suggested that the group investigating onsite alternatives be given around six months to advertise for possible solutions and another half a year to evaluate those options, although the

committee had initially set a six-month target for its fact-finding mission.

And he said the group looking into the sewer option would have to answer the question, "How are they going to get restrictions that

will maintain what the community wants?"

Many Great Falls residents have long regarded a lack of sewer connections as key to maintaining low density in the community, as septic systems can only handle so much wastewater and require large septic fields, necessitating large lots.

In an earlier interview, Apton said GFCA members and business owners had met with county Public Works and Environmental Services employees over the summer to assess the state of the septic fields around Great Falls' central business district and get some idea of alternatives. He said they were told the fields would be "critical" within 10 years, and alternatives would take at least five years to be approved, designed and constructed. The county also told them there were options for limiting density in the event of sewer, including zoning and height limits, he said.

At the board meeting, Wastewater Committee Co-Chair and Old Brogue owner Mike Kearney, who manages the water for much of the commercial area, said he had been

asking the county about alternatives for some time and had been told that the only way the county would run a sewer line out from the Village Centre area would be through a "forced main" with only one inlet, preventing developments from tapping into it. The line would flow to the Colvin Run area. In the event of sewer, he said, the committee was considering the creation of a sewer district including the shopping centers around the intersection, as well as the fire station, the library, the Grange and Great Falls Elementary.

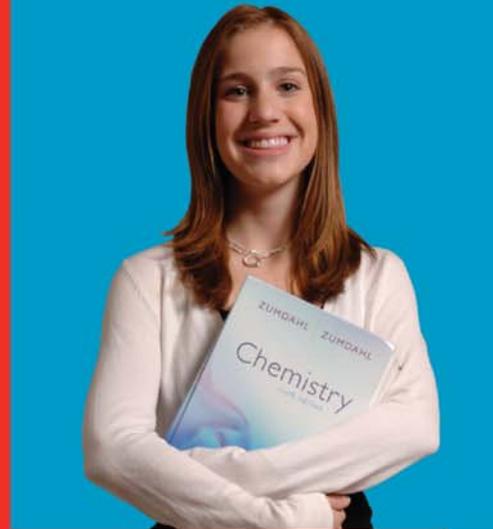
The committee's other co-chair, former GFCA President Jim Luce, announced that he had been a member of the Great Falls Business and Professional Association (BPA) but had recently stepped down in order to represent citizen interests on the committee.

"I am fully behind both appointments — they were fully thought out — for co-chairs of the committee," Apton assured.

Committee member and BPA President Ralph Lazaro went over the four-step process the group

SEE ALTERNATIVES, PAGE 7

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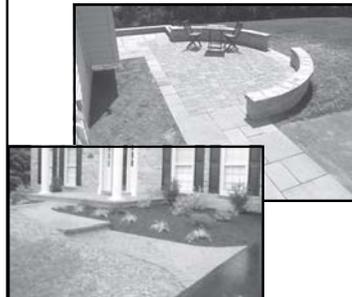
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## WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

FROM PAGE 4

organizations that facilitate civic participation in local drug prevention efforts.

The Safe Community Coalition was established in 1995 and serves both the McLean and Langley high school pyramids as well as private schools in our area. Since its inception, SCC has offered a variety of programs and resources to help parents and children in our community make responsible decisions in a safe, healthy and drug and alcohol free environment. Some of these programs include Project Safe Prom, Parents Who Host Lose the Most, and workshops on Stress, Depression, and Ethics. To learn more, visit [www.safecommunitycoalition.net](http://www.safecommunitycoalition.net).

## OBITUARY

FROM PAGE 3

Elizabeth Larson and her husband Willard of San Diego, Calif., proud grandfather of Alex Dahm and his wife Kerry, Nick Dahm, Tyler Larson, Zachary Larson and Katelynn Larson.

Funeral services took place Monday, Sept. 21 at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. Graveside services with full military honors will be Tuesday, Dec. 22, at 1 p.m., at Arlington National Cemetery. The family suggests that memorial contributions may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation of Parkinson's Research, Attn: Tribute Gifts, Church Street Station, P.O. Box 780, New York City, NY 10008-0780. Arrangements by Adams-Green Funeral Home, Herndon.

## Market

FROM PAGE 3

"I come here because the fruit and veggies taste good," Hansen said. "It's for nurturing your body, for health reasons. This market has fantastic good tasting food."

"The interaction with people is the synergy, the spice of life," Hansen said.

## Aging

FROM PAGE 4

Having been in the elder care industry for a couple of years, Taylor, who just opened the doors to Great Falls Manor to up to eight residents about a month ago, said she had heard Gurney speak of his first retirement-home stay and been intrigued. "He is a compelling presenter. He really speaks from the heart. And he's someone who knows a lot about the field," she said. "He's seen it now from a whole different point of view."

— MIKE DiCICCO

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# NEWS

## Alternatives Studied

FROM PAGE 5

had laid out, with the first step being a consensus from the GFCA board as to whether or not there was a problem to be addressed. The second phase was to be the "discovery" period when the two subcommittees would research alternatives, but the board also left the question of whether there was a problem to the discovery work. Once the research has been assembled, Lazaro said, the committee would engage in outreach to the community. "That would be the time to have some town hall meetings, to go out to the community and say, 'This is what we found.'" Then, after hearing residents' input, and examining the committee's work, it would be up to the citizens association to choose a course of action, he said.

At the Wastewater Committee's first meeting the previous Thursday evening, Kearney pointed out that the business district dumped about 40,000 gallons of wastewater into the ground every day except, possibly, Sundays. Of that, he said, about 26,000 gallons came from the two main shopping areas, Village Centre and Great Falls Shopping Center. If no changes were made and the septic fields failed, resulting in county trucks having to haul the wastewater off, he said, "That's seven trips a day to keep the two going."

"Our goal is to create a healthy community," Kearney said, noting that he had no plans to build another restaurant in the area. He said he wanted to see more water-using merchants be allowed to move into the centers.

"If we find a good system, what could this town look like?" wondered committee member Wayne Foley.

At Monday's board meeting, held in the Executive Suites in the Village Centre, Kearney told the board, "Our shopping center here is at 70 percent capacity," meaning it was dumping 70 percent of the maximum amount of wastewater its system had a permit for. "The shopping center across the street is at 100 percent capacity. I'd love to see a Japanese restaurant over there, but they can't do it."

And, as Foley pointed out at the committee meeting Thursday, "The best thing for the business community would be if they could find an alternative that's cost-effective and not have to go through the political hassle over sewer."

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# OPINION

## On Political Signs

Candidates for public office uniformly define themselves as law-abiding citizens with the public good at heart.

So why then does virtually every candidate allow or encourage their campaign workers to violate the law by posting hundreds of signs in the public right-of-way in the medians of major roads?

Political signs on private property, homes and businesses, are part of good political discourse. The person who owns the home or business is endorsing a candidate in a powerful way.

Political signs which are not on private property are almost all illegal.

Political signs in roadway medians simply scream that the candidate in question has enough money to print signs and pay staff members to put them up. Certainly some signs are put in medians by enthusiastic volunteers.

Meanwhile it is not OK for a citizen to take down political signs even if they are illegally in the public right-of-way.

A little local enforcement, citing candidates for violations with an accompanying press release while removing the illegal signs, would go a long way towards curbing this unsightly practice.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## What Do I Want From a Candidate?

To the Editor:

After reading the article "Battle for 34th District" [Great Falls Connection, Sept. 9-15] I asked myself "What do I really want from a candidate?"

The most important thing is to trust the candidate with solving the most urgent problems facing our local community. In early July, Barbara Comstock knocked on my door, but I knew very little about her at that time. During our lengthy conversation, I had the privilege to ask what she stands for and she listened with a great interest to my concerns. I came to the U.S in 1991 from a former communist country. My journey to America was driven by the ambition to live in a free country, where free market-driven economy thrives. It is based on competition and is adopted worldwide. Even China is slowly accepting this market. I also brought up another important issue to Barbara, education. Higher level of education allows us social mobility and the ability to become better-qualified employees. Again, I ask myself, what do I want from a candidate? A candidate who is in touch with his or her constituents. A candidate who listens to the issues that we

care about the most, but also lets us inquire about his or her priorities. We all know that the #1 problem that needs to be solved for our community is economy. Barbara put improving the economy as her #1 priority. Why does Margi Vanderhye choose to focus on transportation when economy requires higher priorities?

Secondly, a candidate who brings forward policies at the state level based on best practices rather than academic experiments. We heard that cash for clunker was a successful program. Was it indeed? Cash for clunker was a selective "tax rebate" targeted to a specific group of people. It indeed aided the auto manufacturers and auto-related industry, but it created higher debt-to-income ratio for the participants that really didn't need a car. Another example is Mr. Bernanke's academic experiment is to sell debt to finance lending trillions of dollars to banks where banks make deposits rather than lend to businesses. Why would a business be willing to borrow during uncertain times, high unemployment, when the whole market stagnates? When a small business honors services or goods, they will like to keep most of the proceeds during this time. They would rather not take more debt for future services or goods that are liable not to sell. During the financial crisis, creating more debt for future generations is not the an-

swer. Money needs to circulate to produce value. Providing non-selective tax cuts helps businesses make decisions that are suitable for them. What do I want from a candidate? A candidate that is a proponent and applies best practices at the state level.

Barbara Comstock stands strong for the economy and education that are the most critical matters in our lives.

**Gigel Marinescu**  
Great Falls

## Effective Leadership

To the Editor

Thank you for featuring the "Battle for Virginia's 34th [House of Delegates] District" in the Sept. 15 issue. Del. Margi Vanderhye (D-34) and her challenger, Barbara Comstock, were asked the same questions, giving voters a chance to compare their priorities and strengths. But one question you didn't ask, and voters would like to have answered, is how the candidates plan to legislate. Will they cross the aisle and seek consensus to find solutions for Virginia, or will they cling to their party and refuse to work with the other side? Comstock has no record to review, but her campaign suggests an answer. For her keynote speaker at a major fund raiser, she chose Karl

## Register, Vote

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 3 election is Monday, Oct. 5. To register to vote, download a form from:

[www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Forms\\_Publications/Index.html](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Forms_Publications/Index.html)

Fill it out and mail it to your local elections office, along with a copy of a photo identification or current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows your name and address.

You can also register in person at the elections office during business hours or at the DMV, or you pick up a form in a library or other public places.

After you register, you will receive confirmation and a voting card in the mail. You can call the elections office to verify that you are registered.

To find your polling place, go to [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov) and click on "voter information." Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day, Tuesday, Nov. 3. Check with your local elections office for information on absentee voting.

A little local enforcement would go a long way.

## Absentee Voting

Virtually any Virginia voter can vote ahead of time in person or by mail if for any reason you expect to be away from home, including commuting to your job, on election day. You can mail in an application for an absentee ballot by downloading it at [www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Forms\\_Publications/Index.html](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Forms_Publications/Index.html). A ballot will be mailed to you for you to fill out and mail back.

Or you can vote early in person at the local elections office and some satellite locations. Call the registrar or check the Web site for hours.

### IN FAIRFAX COUNTY:

Fairfax County Office of Elections  
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323

Fairfax, VA 22035-0081  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/)  
703-222-0776 phone  
703-324-2205 fax  
703-324-4700 for 24-hour recorded information

Rove, a Republican strategist known for his divisive, take-no-prisoners approach to politics.

Vanderhye, in contrast, has been effective because she is ready to work with legislators from both sides of the aisle. Her bills to expand cancer treatment for low-income women, to promote using agricultural wastes to generate electricity, and to streamline state support for the technology industry were passed with votes from both parties. She respects good leadership, regardless of party, listing in one of her Connection answers Republican Brent Scowcroft as a hero. Margi has earned the respect of both parties in the General Assembly, and we need to reelect her as our delegate because she knows our district, knows our needs, and knows how to be an effective legislator.

**Linda Burchfiel**  
McLean

## Helpful Guides

To the Editor:

Thank you for running the profiles on the two candidates for delegate from the 34th District. They were helpful guides to their likely performance in the job.

The article confirmed my support for the incumbent Margi Vanderhye (D) both based on her

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

**THE CONNECTION**

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# HOME SALES

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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
10500 SPRINGVALE FOREST CT	5	6	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,955,000	Detached	1.75		SPRINGVALE FOREST
800 LEIGH MILL RD	6	4	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,795,000	Detached	3.37		FORESTVILLE
11144 RICH MEADOW DR	6	7	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,600,000	Detached	1.74		RICHLAND MEADOWS
939 SENECA RD	6	6	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,529,000	Detached	1.00		SENECA HILLS
311 CLUB VIEW DR	4	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,375,000	Detached	1.82		SHAFER ESTATES
1017 CHESKA CT	5	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,350,000	Detached	0.89		ESTATES AT LONGWOOD
10713 FALLS POINTE DR	6	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,350,000	Detached	1.77		FALLS POINTE
821 SENECA RD	4	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,210,000	Detached	2.58		VALLEY STREAM
1114 TOWLSTON RD	5	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,189,900	Detached	2.33		CARRIE KNOLLS
1208 STONE FALLS WAY	5	4	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.83		COLVIN MILL RUN
511 ARNON LAKE DR	4	2	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,000,000	Detached	2.00		ARNON LAKE
11296 LANDY LN	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$955,000	Detached	0.59		TIMBERLAKE ESTATES SOUTH
11266 INGLISH MILL DR	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$910,000	Detached	1.63		OLD MILL ESTATES
1014 WILHELM DR	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$905,000	Detached	0.98		HICKORY CREEK
1050 HARRIMAN ST	4	2	2		GREAT FALLS	\$880,000	Detached	0.69		OLD MILL EST SHOTWELLS
9627 LOCUST HILL DR	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$775,000	Detached	0.48		HAVER HILL ALL
1087 LORAN CT	5	3	0		GREAT FALLS	\$680,000	Detached	1.05		TIMBERLAKE ESTATES
913 HOLLY BLOSSOM CT	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$670,000	Detached	0.51		HOLLY KNOLL
1166 KETTLE POND LN	4	2	1		GREAT FALLS	\$650,000	Detached	0.55		LOCKMEADE
912 CONSTELLATION DR	3	2	0		GREAT FALLS	\$538,000	Detached	0.51		OLIVER ESTATES
931 UTTERBACK STORE RD	2	1	0		GREAT FALLS	\$425,000	Detached	0.88		SPRINGVALE

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To search for a home online, visit [www.HomesDatabase.com](http://www.HomesDatabase.com).

## REAL ESTATE NOTES

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

**Karen Briscoe** with the Huckaby Briscoe Group, Keller Williams Realty in McLean has earned the Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist designation in recognition of her experience, knowledge and expertise in the luxury home market. "Karen is an example of a real estate professional who has worked to develop market knowledge and the special skills and competencies necessary to provide exceptional service in the fine homes and estates marketplace," said Institute President Laurie Moore-Moore, upon announcing Briscoe's designation.

Briscoe is an award-winning real estate professional who has gone through special training and met performance standards in the upper tier market. She has been in real estate since 1983. She specializes in the McLean, Great Falls, Arlington, Falls Church, Vienna, and Alexandria markets.

For current information on the local market, contact Karen Briscoe at the Huckaby Briscoe Group at (703) 734-0192 or e-mail [Homes@HBGroup.us](mailto:Homes@HBGroup.us).

**McLean -based RE/MAX Allegiance**, the world's #1 RE/MAX brokerage, has entered into an exclusive partnership with the Fort Lauderdale-based Foreclosure Response Team (FRT) to serve as the exclusive Broker

Affiliate representing the Virginia, Maryland and Washington, D.C. areas. The FRT is a national Realtor network with advanced short sale technology, training and loss mitigation services. The firm expedites the sale of residential and commercial properties facing foreclosure, with a specialization in Short Sale transactions. RE/MAX Allegiance will present the FRT program exclusively as a viable and system-wide solution to the processing of Short Sale transactions to their 750 real estate agents, in an effort to offer the resources necessary to help homeowners facing foreclosure, and ultimately close as many short sales as possible.

SEE REAL ESTATE, PAGE 15

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Teen dancers from Herndon's Rhythm Street Dance Center show energy and pizzazz.

# Children's Festival Draws More Than 8,000

Two-day arts festival features local, international performers.

For two days, under the most sparkling of clear blue skies, families took part in the 39th Annual Wolf Trap International Children's Festival. On Sept. 19 and 20, local performers, international performers, and activity centers spread throughout the meadow, showcased the dance and music of American and foreign cultures. Spanish dancers in native dress, Chinese children from Fairfax County celebrating their heritage, performers in folk dress from Georgia, Serbia and Ireland were among those who danced on Wolf Trap's six stages scattered throughout the national park.

As guests passed through the gates early Sunday morning, a juggling mime greeted them. Roving entertainers showed skills and posed for photos.

Children clapped their hands to music, posed with performers and, frequently, danced along to the sounds. Begun in 1971, the International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts was founded to introduce new cultures, and to teach the global role of the arts in the lives of man, to children and their families.

"We're an international family and we want to expose Grace to international cultures," said Kara McCarty of Vienna. Kara and 2-



Artists from the Vienna Arts Society, Patrick Conte, Vivian Arttmeyer and VAS director Teresa Ahmad talk to guests about their organization. Conte says, 'you're never too young to learn about the arts.'

year-old daughter Grace accompanied by Kara's mother, Joann Lowell of Raleigh, N.C., clapped and swayed as the Alte Kamaraden German band played German folk music and polkas.

Eighty-six local groups and artists, and three international troupes from Spain, Georgia and Serbia — more than 400 participants — engaged more than 8,000 ticket holders over the course of the weekend festival. Spain, Serbia and Georgia hosted crafts tents, as did local visual artists.

The youngsters of the Fairfax Chinese Dance Troupe were born in China and study dance of their native culture at the Vienna Community Center. Garbed in glowing yellow and red, the children performed traditional dance on Sunday afternoon.

The Rhythm Street Dance Center from Herndon featured danc-

ers from grade-schoolers through teens. "It's important to interest kids," said Jordyn Disher of Herndon. "This shows them they can get fit and stay healthy through dance. It really works your abs and thighs." Disher's dance team member Mary DePriest of Great Falls called the festival a "fun day, doing what we really like to do."

Artists from the Vienna Arts Society presented artwork and talked to guests about art and their organization. "It's important that children be exposed to the arts, all the arts, performance and visual," said Patrick Conte of Vienna, who spearheaded the local effort. "And we're here to welcome people to join our organization." To a 13-month-old, Conte said, "you're never too young to learn about the arts."

— DONNA MANZ

## St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls To Host Country Fair

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls will host its annual Country Fair on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The event is free.

St. Francis has hosted the fair, rain or shine, for 30 years. This year's event will feature booths and activities for all ages, including:

- ♦ Quilt show — This year's exhibit, "Celebrating Religion and Culture," will feature quilts by some of the region's best-known quiltmakers;
- ♦ Quilt raffle—St. Francis quilters will raffle off a queen-sized quilt entitled "Celebration Baskets;"
- ♦ Children's games and activities — including the "Balloon Typhoon," the "Giant Slingshot," hayrides, and a petting zoo (petting zoo from 12:30-1:30 p.m.);
- ♦ Musical Performance — by the Difficult Run Jazz Band (beginning at 10 a.m.);
- ♦ Youth Talent Show — in the Big Tent (1-3 p.m.);

### CALENDAR

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

#### THURSDAY/SEPT. 24

**Alzheimer's Family Day Center's 25th Anniversary Garden Party.** 6-9 p.m. at The Atrium at Meadowlark Botanical Garden, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. \$25. Fine food and drink, live music and a silent auction. Visit the event website to see the list of auction items. All proceeds will benefit the center's therapeutic programming. 703-204-4664 or [afdc@alzheimersfdc.org](mailto:afdc@alzheimersfdc.org). [www.alzheimersfdc.org/25th.htm](http://www.alzheimersfdc.org/25th.htm).

**High Tea and Passion for "ChariTea" Raffle.** 2-4 p.m. at River Bend Golf and Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. Auction proceeds will benefit the Artemis House, Happy Hugs, Camp Frasier, Lift Me Up, Volunteer Emergency Families for Children and more. \$28. Send checks made out to GFWC to Debby Bailine, 9901 Blackmore Vale Way, Great Falls, VA 22066. 703-757-2244 or 703-759-2077.

**Dean Fields, The Brilliant Inventions, Cleus & Lori and Ellen Cherry.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Ronald Kessler** to sign in the President's Secret Service: Behind the Scenes with Agents in the Line of Fire and the Presidents They Protect. 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 7851 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. 703-506-2937.

#### FRIDAY/SEPT. 25

**McLean Community Players' "The Importance of Being Earnest,"** 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$15 adults



This year's Quilt Show, 'Celebrating Religion and Culture,' will feature quilts by some of the region's best-known quiltmakers.

- ♦ Karaoke — singing in the Big Tent (3 p.m.);
- ♦ Silent Auction — with opportunities to bid on tickets to sporting events, restaurant gift certificates, spa services and many other items;
- ♦ Treasure Trove — a flea market featuring great bargains;
- ♦ Book Sale — with books, CDs, and other items;
- ♦ English Tombola — an old-fashioned tombola jar booth, with lots of surprises;
- ♦ Children's Ups and Downs — gently used clothing and Hallow-

een costumes;

- ♦ Plant Sale — featuring plants, flowers, and garden accessories;
- ♦ Bake Sale — with cakes, cookies, and homemade frozen entrees;
- ♦ Food Tent — with burgers, hot dogs, and more (lunch served beginning at 11:30 a.m.)

St. Francis Episcopal Church is located at 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, near the intersection of Georgetown and River Bend roads. Plenty of parking is available on site. For more information, visit [www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org](http://www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org) or call the church at 703-759-2082.

and \$13 for students and seniors, available at the box office, by phone at 703-790-9223 or through Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT, or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). [www.mcleanplayers.org](http://www.mcleanplayers.org).

**Game of Love and Chance.** 8 p.m. at First Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. [www.1stStageSpringHill.org/game](http://www.1stStageSpringHill.org/game).

**The Beach Boys - Twisted!** at 6:30 p.m. and **BetaRaz Presents: Powerhouse** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 26**

**NOVACO 10th Anniversary Dinner and Auction.** Seated dinner, silent and live auction at the Westwood Country Club. Support NOVACO's mission to assist victims of domestic abuse. Tickets \$85. [www.novaco.org/tickets.html](http://www.novaco.org/tickets.html)

**Derek Webb with Sandra McCracken,** 6 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Game of Love and Chance.** 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. at First Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. [www.1stStageSpringHill.org/game](http://www.1stStageSpringHill.org/game).

**The Beach Boys - Twisted!** at 1:30 p.m., **Derek Webb CD Release and Sandra McCracken** at 6 p.m. and **Allmanact** at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**The Rick Thompson Jazz Quartet.** 4-6 p.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

**Kay Egyhazy's artist's reception.** 6-9 p.m. at Applegate Gallery & Custom Framing, 101 Church St. N.W. Suite C, Vienna. Drinks and food will be served. The exhibit will run from Sept. 26-Oct. 28.

**McLean Community Players' "The Importance of Being Earnest,"** 8

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

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# Harvest Happenings!

**Saturday, Sept. 26, 2009**  
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\$5 per person; free for children age 2 and younger. Register in advance or pay at the door.

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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

**Fall Class Registration**  
Ongoing

Open a world of new possibilities! MCC is offering a wide variety of exciting classes this fall—one of them is sure to be perfect for you!

**Jammin' Juniors Concerts**  
Wednesdays, Sept. 23-Oct. 7, 12:30 p.m.  
McLean Central Park

Free lunchtime concerts for preschoolers. Bring your lunch and listen to some tunes.

**Harvest Happenings**  
Saturday, Sept. 26, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
\$5 per person; free for children age 2 and younger

This indoor-outdoor festival features face painting, arts and crafts, fun games a performance by Rocknoceros.

**Pushcart Players presents Cinderella**  
Saturday, Oct. 10, 2p.m.  
\$14/\$10 McLean district residents

A musical adaptation of the classic tale that takes us on a magical journey, fueled by inner beauty, courage and kindness as the characters triumph over greed, arrogance and bully behavior.

**Yellowstone Film**  
Wednesday, Oct. 14, 8 p.m.  
\$10/\$8 McLean district residents

Trails and tales with Sandy Mortimer.

**Monster Mash**  
Friday, Oct. 30, 7-9 p.m.  
\$30/\$20 McLean district residents

The 5th and 6th-grader parties include music, dancing, games, snacks, videos, and much more.

**The McLean Community Center**  
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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE II

### MONDAY/SEPT. 28

**The Lost Fingers.** 8 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Moon Madness.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Explore the moon through activities, make moon pie craters and discover how the moon changes phases. Age 6-12. 703-757-8560.

**Northern Virginia Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Monthly Speaker Meeting.** 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, 6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Speaker will be Trudy Harsh on the Brain Foundation, Laura's House, and Housing for People with Mental Illness. Call Joe Lipari at 703-256-2908.

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 29

**Tyrone Wells (intimate and acoustic), Matt Hires and Keaton Simons.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Book Talk for Book Lovers.** 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

**Book discussion.** "The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court" by Jeffrey Toobin. Adults. 703-790-8088.

**Colvin Run Community Center Weekly Dance.** 7 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$10. [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 30

**Tyrone Wells, The Myriad and Matt Hires.** 8 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Creepy Crawly Friends.** 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Find bugs in stories. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-356-0770.

**Personalized Microsoft Office Training.** 7:15 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.

A 45-minute one-on-one Microsoft Office training session with a technology volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-790-8088.

**One-man Band Peter McCory.** 12:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

### THURSDAY/OCT. 1

**Charlotte Martin and Matt Duke.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**DiG PiNK National Breast Cancer Awareness Rally.** Oakton High School Volleyball Team will be hosting DiG PiNK match against the Centreville Wildcats beginning with the freshman match at 5 p.m. followed by the JV match at 6 p.m. and the varsity match at 7 p.m. All attendees are encouraged to make a statement by wearing pink to the match. Oakton High School Gymnasium.

### FRIDAY/OCT. 2

**Game of Love and Chance.** 8 p.m. at First Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. [www.1stStageSpringHill.org/game](http://www.1stStageSpringHill.org/game).

**Kim Richey and Will Kimbrough** at 7 p.m. and **Betaraz Entertainment Presents: VA Strong** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**McLean Community Players' "The Importance of Being Earnest,"** 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$15 adults and \$13 for students and seniors, available at the box office, by phone at 703-790-9223 or through Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT, or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). [www.mcleanplayers.org](http://www.mcleanplayers.org).

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# BULLETIN BOARD

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

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 29

**VTRCC Annual Joint Mixer, with the Greater McLean Chamber.** 5:30 p.m. at Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road McLean. Celebrate the end of summer. Info@VTRCC.org.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 3

**Volunteers for Change Orientation.** 2-3 p.m. at Volunteer Fairfax, 10530 Page Ave. Fairfax. 703-246-3460 or [VolsRUs@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:VolsRUs@volunteerfairfax.org).

## SUNDAY/OCT. 4

**The Ostomy Support Group of Northern Virginia LLC Monthly Meeting.** 1:30 p.m. at Physicians Conference Center, INOVA Fairfax Hospital, 3300 Gallows Rd. Falls Church. Martha Hammond WOCN discusses skin care, Q&A. 703-802-3457 or [www.ostomysupportofnova.org](http://www.ostomysupportofnova.org).

**Volunteers for Change Orientation.** 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Fairfax, 10530 Page Ave. Fairfax. 703-246-3460 or [VolsRUs@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:VolsRUs@volunteerfairfax.org).

## MONDAY/OCT. 5

**Sierra Club and the 2009 Election.** 7:30-9 p.m. Review Club endorsements in the races for Governor, other statewide officers and the House of Delegates, and discuss the impact of the election on the environment with speakers from the campaigns. Free. [Bob\\_Pearson@cox.net](mailto:Bob_Pearson@cox.net)

## TUESDAY /OCT. 6

**McLean Citizens Association Candidates Night.** 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Barbara Comstock (R) and Margi Vanderhye (D) running in the 34<sup>th</sup> District and Chris Merola (R) and Jim Scott (D) in the 53<sup>rd</sup> District of the Virginia House of Delegates. 703-556-9160 or 703-442-6601.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 13

**National Association Active and Retired Federal Employees Monthly Meeting.** 1:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Congressman Gerry Connolly, Democratic candidate Mark Keam and Republican candidate Jim Hyland will speak. A Blue Cross Blue Shield representative will provide benefit information. 703-205-9041 or 703-698-1838.

## ONGOING

**Join Volunteers for Change,** a program for adults which offers more than 50 weekend and evening volunteer opportunities per month. Visit Volunteer Fairfax for orientation dates, at [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).

**The Oakton High School Dance Team** is offering a Dance Camp for students entering grades 1-9. This year, the camp will be held July 28-30 at Oakton High School. For more information, go to [www.oaktonathletics.org](http://www.oaktonathletics.org)

**Great Falls Soccer League** is looking for girls interested in Division 1 soccer, with ODSL as a U-14. Players must have a birthdate of 8/1/1994 or later. Call head coach Krisztian Mikoczi, 703-969-4335, or asst. coach Tom Klein, 703-915-0115.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Lillian Chreky** of Great Falls graduated from the 2009 Governor's School of Agriculture held at Virginia Tech on June 28 to July 25. Chreky, a senior from Langley High School, was one of 96 rising junior and senior high school students from across the commonwealth selected to participate in the month-long summer residential program for gifted students interested in agriculture and natural resources.

**Eric B. Caine** of McLean has been awarded highest honors at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, N. H. The eleventh grade student is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Caine of McLean.

**Brigid Donovan** of McLean has been named to the third trimester honors list at Saint James School in St. James, Md. The tenth grader is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Donovan of McLean.

McLean residents **Lee Betancourt**, a senior, **Catharine Comstock**, a junior, and **Caitlin-Marie Ward**, a sophomore, have been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa.

**Cara Roddy** of McLean has been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt. Roddy is the daughter of Diana and Timothy Roddy of McLean.

**Erin Ellis** of McLean has been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Ct. Ellis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn I. Ellis of McLean.

# St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls To Host Country Fair

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls will host its annual Country Fair on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The event is free.

St. Francis has hosted the fair, rain or shine, for 30 years. This year's event will feature booths and activities for all ages, including:

- ❖ Quilt show — This year's exhibit, "Celebrating Religion and Culture," will feature quilts by some of the region's best-known quiltmakers;

- ❖ Quilt raffle—St. Francis quilters will raffle off a queen-sized quilt entitled "Celebration Baskets;"

- ❖ Children's games and activities — including the "Balloon Typhoon," the "Giant Slingshot," hayrides, and a petting zoo (petting zoo from 12:30-1:30 p.m.);

- ❖ Musical Performance — by the Difficult Run Jazz Band (beginning at 10 a.m.);

- ❖ Youth Talent Show — in the Big Tent (1-3 p.m.);

- ❖ Karaoke — singing in the Big Tent (3 p.m.);

- ❖ Silent Auction — with opportunities to bid on tickets to



CONTRIBUTED

**This year's Quilt Show, 'Celebrating Religion and Culture,' will feature quilts by some of the region's best-known quiltmakers.**

sporting events, restaurant gift certificates, spa services and many other items;

- ❖ Treasure Trove — a flea market featuring great bargains;

- ❖ Book Sale — with books, CDs, and other items;

- ❖ English Tombola — an old-fashioned tombola jar booth, with lots of surprises;

- ❖ Children's Ups and Downs — gently used clothing and Halloween costumes;

- ❖ Plant Sale — featuring plants, flowers, and garden accessories;

- ❖ Bake Sale — with cakes, cookies, and homemade frozen entrees;

- ❖ Food Tent — with burgers, hot dogs, and more (lunch served beginning at 11:30 a.m.)

St. Francis Episcopal Church is located at 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, near the intersection of Georgetown and River Bend roads. Plenty of parking is available on site. For more information, visit [www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org](http://www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org) or call the church at 703-759-2082.

## Visit These Houses of Worship Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

- |  |   |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Assembly of God</b><br>Vienna Assembly of God ... 703-938-7736<br>Washington Christian Church...703-938-7720<br>Cristo Es Mi Refugio...703-938-7727 | <b>Carterville Baptist Church</b> ... 703-255-7075<br>Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-585-8516<br>First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525<br>The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877<br>Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400<br>New Union Baptist Church ... 703-281-2556 | <b>Church of the Brethren</b><br>Oakton Church of the Brethren ... 703-281-4411  | <b>Charismatic</b><br>Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777  | Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594<br>Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680<br>Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700                               | <b>Quaker</b><br>Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394   |
| <b>Baha'i</b><br>Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ... 703-821-3345   | <b>Catholic</b><br>Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877<br>Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828<br>St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555<br>St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100   | <b>Catholic</b><br>Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828<br>St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555<br>St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100 | <b>Church of Christ</b><br>Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7400   | <b>Non-Denominational</b><br>Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777  | <b>Seventh-Day Adventist</b><br>Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001<br>Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-938-8383 |
| <b>Baptist</b><br>Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877<br>Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462<br>Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ... 703-757-8134  | <b>Buddhist</b><br>Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122  | <b>Disciples of Christ</b><br>Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753  | <b>Episcopal</b><br>Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521<br>Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991<br>St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082 | <b>Presbyterian</b><br>Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ... 703-560-6336<br>Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577<br>Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050 | <b>Unitarian Universalist</b><br>Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230   |

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Maison du Vin House of Wine had its first anniversary celebration in Great Falls on Saturday, Sept. 19.



Bruce Hall, a wine consultant at Maison du Vin, and Lisa Plemons, a partner of Cass Wines, at Maison du Vin House of Wine first anniversary celebration.

# Defying Downturn and Having Fun

## Maison du Vin House of Wine celebrates anniversary.

BY JANELLE L. PLUMMER  
THE CONNECTION

Virginia is wine country, and Maison du Vin House of Wine celebrated its first year anniversary with five tasting tables showcasing some their favorite wines on Saturday, Sept. 19.

The anniversary celebration included hors d'oeuvres from Dante Ristorante, discounts throughout the store and \$100 gift certificates and food and wine pairing tickets for two to Maison du Vin.

Vital Hiek, the owner of Maison du Vin, said he's delighted he made it through one year, despite the economic downturn.

"It's a lot of obstacles, you go through in a year," Hiek said. "The economy turned around. We are well positioned to do much bet-

ter." Hiek said Maison du Vin is a different kind of store, with a private tasting room. He said all of the wines are under \$20.

"We do many exciting events. We are truly having fun."

Al McCosh, a Great Falls resident and a wine distributor of Nice Legs, LLC, said Maison du Vin has been very supportive in the community.

"Maison du Vin has brought a great selection of boutique wines to Great Falls," McCosh said.

Bruce Hall, a wine consultant who works in the store, said Maison du Vin tastes all the wines in the store before selling them.

"We speak from first hand knowledge," Hall said.

In the end, Hiek said Great Falls still has a lot more room to tap into. He said he still needs to do



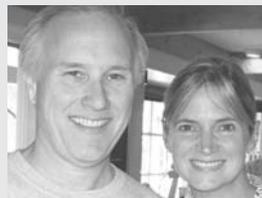
Maison du Vin hosted five tasting tables showcasing some of their favorite wines on Saturday, Sept. 19, to mark the store's first anniversary.



Vital Hiek, the owner of Maison du Vin, at the store's first year anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 19.

### VIEWPOINTS

## What do you think is Maison du Vin's contribution to the community life?



Todd and Kristi Shaw, Great Falls

**Todd:** "They're very friendly people. They have a lot of interesting wines that are inexpensive for under \$20."

**Kristi:** "We've also done a lot of tasting. [Maison du Vin] have good wines to try."

Janis Patella, quality assurance manager, Chantilly

"I think this is a great place. Everything they do is great. Every time I come, I learn more and more."



Lisa Spoden, owner of a Healthcare Consulting Firm, Great Falls

"It's another touch of class. It's wonderful having resources like this."

Mike Gower, government Worker, Great Falls

"When it first opened up it was appealing. It really appeals to the eye. The staff is friendly. They know [me] by name. [I'm] one of their biggest supporters."



David Berry, student/wine distributor, Tysons Corner

"It provides a place where people like to go and meet each other, where wine enthusiasts can enjoy themselves."

— JANELLE L. PLUMMER

### FAITH NOTES

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

**The Northern Virginia Ethical Society.** Sunday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m., at 225 Nutley St., NW, Vienna. Fred Edwards, leader of The United Coalition of Reason, developing coalitions of local humanist, freethought, atheist, Humanistic Jewish, and Ethical Culture organizations. Free. [www.noves.org](http://www.noves.org) or 703-437-3161.

**Faith and Public Policy Discussion.** 8:30 a.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free continental breakfast. Presentation by Ali Faruk, an analyst from the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, followed by an open discussion. 703-556-0123 or [martinrs@aol.com](mailto:martinrs@aol.com).

**Great Falls United Methodist Church Fall Bazaar.** Saturday, Oct. 4 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Food, handmade arts and crafts, jewelry, used books and a silent auction. 703-582-1640.

**Aging and Wellness Conference and Expo 2009** at McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. With resources including community resources, housing, finance, health and wellness, and county government services for caregivers and their families, and a Speaker's Forum where professionals in their fields will speak on issues such as handling medication, dementia, and end-of-life issues. Free; refreshments provided. [wayne.thompson@mcleanbible.org](mailto:wayne.thompson@mcleanbible.org) or contact the church at 703-639-2000.

**The Community Rabbi Foundation Services for the High Holidays** of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur will be at the Baha'i Community Center, 21415 Cardinal Glen Circle, Sterling. Free; those who attend are asked to contribute to a charity of their choice. [www.communtiyrabbi.com](http://www.communtiyrabbi.com) or 571-277-2611.

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church Pumpkin Sale.** Oct. 11 through Halloween at the church, near the corner of Rt. 7 and Lewinsville Road, McLean. All proceeds benefit local charities.

**Emmaus United Church of Christ offers a grief series on Healing with Loss,** 7 p.m. at 900 Maple Ave., Vienna. 703-938-1555 or [www.emmausucc.org](http://www.emmausucc.org).

❖ Sept. 21: The Importance of Sharing Your Stories of Grief and Loss.

❖ Sept. 28: Coping with Holidays, Anniversaries, Birthdays and Special Days.

❖ Oct. 5: Dealing with Role Change, Stress and Caring for Yourself.

# REAL ESTATE

FROM PAGE 9

**Seminar to Help First-Time Homebuyers.** To help prospective first-time buyers understand the advantages of the \$8,000 tax credit and capitalize on this financial incentive before it expires, Weichert Realtors® will host a seminar on Saturday, Sept. 26 in each of its approximately 500 company owned and franchised offices nationwide. Through the seminar, Weichert, Realtors, along with its affiliate companies, Weichert Financial Services and Weichert Real Estate Affiliates, Inc., will educate first-time homebuyers on the specifics of the tax

credit created by Congress and the other benefits of buying a home in the current market.

This free, no-obligation seminar, beginning will include a brief presentation followed by a question and answer session. To reserve your seat or to learn more about the time and location of the seminar nearest you, call your local Weichert office. For a directory of Weichert locations, visit Weichert.com.

**P. Wesley Foster, Jr.**, chairman and chief executive officer of The Long & Foster® Companies, announced that Barry S. Redler has been selected to serve as chief marketing officer, a newly

created position within the organization. Redler is an experienced marketing leader having worked with both Fortune 10 and privately held corporations. Prior to joining The Long & Foster Companies, he oversaw marketing and sales as a vice president for the Stanley Martin Companies, a privately held regional homebuilder. Redler also worked for The Ford Motor Company for over 20 years in various senior level marketing and sales positions. Redler resides in Northern Virginia with his wife and two children.

**Beth Putman** was the top producer and the top lister at the Great Falls Long

& Foster office. Michelina Queri was the agent with the most new listings (seven) and Ali Saghafi was the top seller.

**Mark Ackermann**, Branch Vice President of Coldwell Banker

Residential Brokerage in Vienna, recently announced the office's top producers for the month of July: Sylvia Davis Thompson - Top Sales Agent and Top Producer, Susie Carpenter - Top Listing Agent, Sylvia Jurek/Lisa Moffett - Top Sales Team, Top Producing Team and Top Listing Team.

For more information about buying or selling a home in Fairfax County and its surroundings, contact Coldwell Banker

in Vienna at 703-938-5600. To view listings, visit [www.cbmove.com/Vienna](http://www.cbmove.com/Vienna).

**Karen Kaufman** was the top producer with a sales volume of \$4.4 million at the Falls Church Long & Foster office. She was also the top Lister and the agent with the most new listings (seven). John Nguyen was the top seller.

**Luis A. Lama**, CRS, GRI of Long & Foster Real Estate in Falls Church was awarded the eighth annual Virginia Housing Development Authority "Service to Virginia Award" at the Virginia Association of REALTORS Legislative and Education Conference in Richmond.

## OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 26th & 27th



When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Great Falls (22066)					
9721 Mill Run Dr	\$1,997,000	Sun 1-4	Pamela Yerks	Ttr Sothebys	703-862-2135
639 Nalls Farm Way	\$2,299,999	Sun 1-4	Carol Ellickson	Weichert	703-862-2135
Falls Church (22043)					
2343 Brittany Parc Dr	\$849,000	Sun 1-4	Laura Nunley	Weichert	703-795-8667
McLean (22101, 22102)					
8350 Greensboro Dr #404	\$299,000	Sun 1-4	Elizabeth Jessup	Weichert	202-251-6076
5918 Chesterbrook Road	\$1,124,900	Sun 1-4	Jane Price	Weichert	703-628-0470
1303 Capulet Ct	\$1,149,500	Sun 1-4	Amanda Saul	Re/Max	703-622-3783
1527 Brookhaven Dr	\$1,649,000	Sun 1-4	Mark Mcfadden	Coldwell Banker	703-216-1333
8718 Woodside Ct	\$1,800,000	Sat 12-1	Erin Mendenhall	Weichert	703-919-4003
Vienna (22180, 22181, 22182)					
2713 Baronhurst Dr	\$650,000	Sun 1-4	Bettina Dee	Premiere	571-246-6888
1714 Burning Tree Dr	\$650,000	Sun 1-4	Anna-Marie Termini	Long & Foster	703-505-3031
1997 Barkham Ln	\$715,000	Sun 12-4	Carlos Myers	Coldwell Banker	703-401-0526

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact:  
 In Great Falls, Salome, 703-778-9421, or [salome@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:salome@connectionnewspapers.com)  
 In Vienna, Don, 703-778-9420, or [donpark@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:donpark@connectionnewspapers.com)  
 In McLean, Trisha, 703-778-9419, or [thamilton@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:thamilton@connectionnewspapers.com)  
 All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.

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# SPORTS

## Does Langley Volleyball Have Enough Offensive Firepower?

Saxons looking for another big hitter to complement Caine.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**ime will tell whether or not the Langley High girls' volleyball team develops the offensive punch needed to be a true contender this season.

The Saxons are a talented defensive team and they pass the ball well on offense, according to veteran head coach Susan Shifflett. The key will be Langley's ability to finish off points. If a few more big hitters emerge in the Saxons' line-up, they could well be on their way to another successful autumn.

"I love their hustle and their defense," said Shifflett. "We're a very good defensive team and a great passing team. We just have to finish [off points]. If we can finish and get a couple of hitters on board, I think we have good potential."

This team, like last year's squad, remains fairly young with just three seniors on the 12-member varsity roster. Two years ago, a seasoned Langley squad captured the Northern Region title. But a less experienced Saxons' team took the floor last year. Even so, Langley put together an impressive 17-7 record in 2008. The only downer for Shifflett's team last year was that it did not fare well in the postseason. The Saxons lost to Stone Bridge in the Liberty District tournament finals after being ahead two games to none, then were swept by Herndon in a second-round, region-playoff encounter.

Shifflett said her team struggled with postseason nerves in 2008. The Saxons had shown improvement and growth as a team over the course of that season, but were unable to put things all together at season's end.

While this year's Langley team remains somewhat young, Shifflett believes it has potential for success.

"We're still a young team this year," she said. "We're right there. We can't quite grasp that last ledge to pull ourselves over."

But it's still early yet and there is plenty of time for the pieces to come together for the Saxons, who earlier this month started the season off slowly with four losses to no wins at the Showcase Tournament in Richmond. Since then, Langley has won two of three region matches. Going into this week, the Saxons, not counting the four matches in Richmond, were 3-1. The wins have come over Centreville (season-opener on Sept. 1), Fairfax and, most recently, Jefferson on Sept. 16. The loss came in four games at Westfield on Sept. 14.

Shifflett said her team went

up against some solid teams at the tournament in Richmond, which took place over the Labor Day weekend. The Saxons could not quite do enough to pull out any wins.

"It's a very good tournament with some of the best teams in the state," said Shifflett. "We weren't terrible. We lost to Ocean Lakes [of Virginia Beach] in give [games]. We lost to good teams down there, but could have easily gone 4-0."

**LANGLEY'S TOP TWO** players are senior Elyse Richardson and junior Kathryn Caine.

Richardson, who played libero position (defensive specialist) last year, has played at setter this fall. But Shifflett said her standout player could go back to her old position soon. Richardson plans to play the sport in college next year, but is still in the process of determining where she wants to go. Rice University, the University of Colorado and William & Mary have each expressed interest in Richardson becoming a part of their schools and volleyball programs.

"She's the heart and soul of our team," said Shifflett, of Richardson. "She's energetic and comes out and leads our team."

Caine, a year younger, plays middle hitter for the Saxons.

"She is strong, fast and hits the ball hard," said Shifflett, of her one, true finisher on offense. "If we can get her the ball we can score."

Another key member of the Saxons includes sophomore setter Nikki Hero.

Langley was set to have a busy week with home matches against region opponent South County on Tuesday and non-region foe Loudoun Valley on Thursday. Then, this Saturday, the Saxons are scheduled to take part in the three-team Big Pink Invitational at Robinson Secondary School. The tournament proceeds will benefit the fight against breast cancer. In the morning's first match, Langley will face the host Rams. Later, at around noon, the Saxons will meet Heritage High (Leesburg).

All the teams, Shifflett said, will be attired in pink.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Both the Langley High boys' and girls' cross country teams will be competing at Saturday morning, Sept. 26's Oatlands Invitational meet in Leesburg. The annual showcase event is one of the biggest meets of the high school season and encompasses teams from all across Virginia and outside the state as well.**

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**Doug Stupay (McLean) and William Ruppe (Great Falls)**

are members of the Trinity College (Conn.) men's soccer team this fall. Stupay, a junior defender, is a returning starter who was part of a 2008 Trinity team that allowed less than one goal per game. Ruppe, a sophomore, also plays on defense. Trinity, coached by Michael Pilger, was 11-5 last year and advanced to the New England Small College Athletic Conference semifinals.

**The 2009 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics**

opened on Sept. 13 and were scheduled to continue through Sept. 23. Gold medals in bowling, racquetball, backgammon and team line dance were awarded on Sept. 14. Bowling took place at Bowl America (Shirley, Alexandria). Bowling winners included Vienna's Sandra Ballinger in the women's ages 70-74 division.

Robert McArthur (men's 60-64 age group), also of Vienna, earned a gold medal in racquetball.

For more information on the Senior Olympics, call 703-228-4721 or check the Web site at [novaseniolympics.com](http://novaseniolympics.com)

**Jimmy Lange (30-3-2, 21 knockouts)**

will return to the ring on Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Patriot Center in Fairfax to defend his World Boxing Council (WBC) U.S. National Boxing Championship. Lange, in a 154-pound title fight, will go up against his former teammate from "The Contender," Jonathan Reid (34-11, 19 KOs), in a 12-round main event. Tickets are on sale and available for purchase through the Patriot Center box office and all area Ticketmaster outlets.

Lange, of Great Falls, is currently ranked No. 11 by the

NABF and No. 34 in the world by the WBC at 154 pounds.

**Patrick Fish**, who resides in

Great Falls, was recently named Academic-All American by USA Water Polo. Patrick is a goalie for the Gonzaga College High School varsity water polo team. He also plays for the Naval Academy Aquatics Club. This summer he was chosen as one of two goalies to represent the Northeast Zone at an Olympic Development Program, held in San Juan Capistrano, Calif. He also represented the Naval Academy AC in Junior Olympics, as well as at the U.S. Nationals.

**The Inaugural Capital Cup Golf Tournament**

took place recently at Woodmont Country Club. The event was sponsored by the Mid Atlantic Professional Golf Association (MAPGA). In the competition format similar to the Ryder Cup, a team from Virginia competed against one from Maryland. Chas Bassing of Great Falls was a member of the Virginia Team. Bassing, in a prior tournament, finished first in the ages 14-15 division at the Nordlinger Cup on Aug. 11. At the Bob Riley Junior Open at Bellhaven Country Club on Aug. 4 in Alexandria, he finished a strong second place.

**Our Daily Bread, Inc.**, a

Fairfax-based non-profit organization, invites golf enthusiasts of all skill levels to enjoy a great afternoon of golf to help struggling families in Fairfax County. Our Daily Bread's Charity Golf Tournament is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 16 at the South Riding Golf Club. For information on registration, sponsorship and donating goods, visit [www.our-daily-bread.org](http://www.our-daily-bread.org), call 703-273-8829 or e-mail Mike Kledzik at [develop@ODBfairfax.org](mailto:develop@ODBfairfax.org).



PHOTO COURTESY/OUR DAILY BREAD

**The 'Our Daily Bread' Charity Golf Tournament will take place Friday, Oct. 16 at South Riding Country Club. Pictured are, from left, Willy Lutz, South Riding Country Club Golf Pro; Our Daily Bread Development Manager Mike Kledzik; Vienna's Ernie Castro, title sponsor; and James Tarry, member of Our Daily Bread's volunteer Board of Directors.**

## SCHOOLS

# Record Number Of National Merit Semifinalists

A record number of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students –219– from 22 high schools have been named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) for 2010. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST), which also serves as the Governor's Regional School for Northern Virginia, has 149 semifinalists.

All semifinalists are eligible to compete for 8,200 National Merit Scholarship awards worth \$36 million, to be awarded in spring 2010.

FCPS National Merit semifinalists from our area include:

♦ **Langley High School:** Michael Alexander, Christine Campbell, Hannah Haught, Hyunjun Kim, Ryan Lu, Joshua Pan, and Jonathan Park.

♦ **Madison High School:** Erin Blakley, Jacob Eder, Paul Fredericks, William Hayward, Allison Rogers, Timothy Schroeder, Kelly Williams, and Julie Yee.

♦ **Madison High School:** Erin Blakley, Jacob Eder, Paul Fredericks, William Hayward, Allison Rogers, Timothy Schroeder, Kelly Williams, and Julie Yee.

♦ **Marshall High School:** Conor Dinan, Jonathan Giles, Rebecca Groisser, Kelsey Kolbe, and Ann O'Brien.

♦ **McLean High School:** Libi Baehr, David Berk, Annika Lichtenbaum, Natalie Mabile, Katherine Peck, Charles Tenney, and Fifi Wang.

♦ **Oakton High School:** Sheen Justin, Alice Li, Yuanzhe Li, Laura Lyons, Natalie Nysetvold, Katie Smith, and Zachary Stair.

♦ **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology:** Nader Al-Naji, Paul Anderson, Nicole Bailey, Luke Bean, Kristina Brant, Samuel Brinton, Logan Buckley, Alexander Burch, James Byrne, Matthew Callahan, Liam Carter-Condon, Matthew Chan, Jack Chen, Luke Cheng, Dahan Choi, Hannah Clark, James Clark, Spencer Clark, Connor Cotton, Anne Creighton, Aviv Cukierman, Robert Culhane, Elisabeth Cundiff, Xuerong Dai, Eric Dale, Temple Douglas, Simone Dozier, Kelsey Dressing, Jeanette Du, William Dubishar, Elliott Eggan, David Ensey, Megan Falls, Maretta Fan, Marie French, Nora Gayer, Thomas Georgiou, Avnish Goel, Alicia Goertel, Patrick Gould, Lance Guthrie, Brian Hamrick, Joel Heck, Jeremy Ho, Salini Hota, Julie Hsia, Danley Hsu, Jonathan Hsu, Victor Hsu, Xiaonan Hu, Andrew Imm, Keturah James, James Janopaul-Naylor, Daniel Johnson, Tristan Jones, Minsjk Jun, Kyurhee Kang, Kamna Kathuria, Aryan Khojandi, Christopher Kilgore, Byong Han Kim, Luke Knepper, Colleen Knight, Allison Koenecke, Aaron Koenig, Jason Koenig, Seth Kolker, Candice Kremer, Vandana Kumar, Mariet Kurtz, Lee Kussmann, Andrew Lam, Matthew Lamb, Joseph Latta, Alice Lee, Christine Lee, Madeleine Lemann, Andrew Lending, Nathan Levine, Greyson Lewis, Alicia Li, Daniel Li, George Li, Xianhao Mai, Stuart Maier, William Manaker, Helena Manguerra, Kathryn Martinez, David Mazzocco, Alexander McGlothlin, Alexandra Mellis, Alyssa-Claire Mendoza, Jennifer Mercado, Zachary Michaelov, Andrew Mittereder, Anirudh Mohan, Kathryn Moore, Kimberly Moore, Adam Mounts, Lisa Nam, Cara Newlon, Sarah Notis, Christine O'Donnell, Matthew Palko, Juyeon Park, Samantha Payne, Kevin Place, Courtney Prothero, Ashwin Raja, Daniel Ranard, Timothy Rauen, Samuel Rush, Amy Ruskin, Megan Sagurton, Christine Shen, Victor Shepardson, Vivaek Shivakumar, Neelesh Shrivastava, Anne Silverman, Nihaar Sinha, Hugh Smith, Karl Sofinowski, Samuel Speers, Alexander Stabile, John Sullivan, Julie Ta, Meg Tetlow, Juliana Thatcher, William Troppe, Ming-Yee Tsang, Daniel Wang, Dennis Wang, Grace Wang, Sarah Watson, Quantum Wei, Kathryn Williamson, Akshar Wunnava, Cheng Xu, Hanwen Xu, Amy Yang, Sharon Yin, Renjie You, Andrea Yun, Dmitriy Zaslavskiy, Christopher Zeng, Judy Zeng, Biqi Zhang, Honghou Zhou, and Sherie Zhou.

Merit Scholarship winners will be announced in spring 2010.

## "Obit" More Than Usual



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not having grown up in the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, I have never been inclined to regularly review the Obituary Sections of the major daily newspapers looking for former friends, classmates, long lost cousins, etc., with whom I've shared some pre-college (and long ago) associations. My thinking was, and continues to be, that it's unlikely that I'll ever see anyone I knew/knew. However, my circumstances have changed, specifically my health. And so, more often than ever before, I find myself stopping at the Obituary Section; examining the pictures, perusing some of the agate type, reading a few of the featured obituaries/articles. I'm still not looking for anybody I know/knew. Nevertheless, I'm drawn to its content.

I suppose if I had to characterize my interest, I might call it, morbid curiosity. I'm not exactly looking at ages or causes of death. Nor am I that interested in how the lives of the recently deceased have been summarized. And I'm certainly not reading and reviewing to see how I might stack up, posthumously speaking. Still, I am reading and reviewing regularly. It's almost as if I don't want to miss something (or maybe it's that I don't have anything better to do). But for what purpose, exactly? It's not like I'm reporting my findings to anyone. It's seems rather pointless.

I imagine that this kind of mental meandering is normal for people whose life expectancy has been unexpectedly reduced from 30 years to 30 months, approximately. (I know, everybody's different, yada, yada, yada.) And I also know that predicting/projecting one's life expectancy is tricky business and hardly an exact science (I don't know if it's a science at all). If truth be told, and my oncologist continues to be honestly truthful: it's a calculation he's wrong about all the time, admittedly so. Sure, there are studies and case histories that seem to indicate that time is not exactly on my side but those case histories are not me and unless they are, they're not relevant. As George Costanza advised Jerry Seinfeld in response to Jerry's question about how Jerry could beat a Lie Detector test: "It's only true if you believe it." I choose not to believe it. As such, normal has taken on a whole new meaning. In fact, normal has left the building. As a consequence, my priorities – and patience – have been completely rearranged and in some cases, completely re-categorized as well.

However, as I stumble and bumble (after all, it is college football season; Keith Jackson, wherever you are) through these most unexpected of health circumstances, I find myself less concerned with who I was and more concerned with who I've become (and what I have to do, at the end of the day). And my reading/reviewing the Obituary Section is merely another example of my rolling with the emotional punches and finding ways to mentally cope – and hope.

Oddly enough, reading about people who have predeceased me seems to be having an unintended effect. Rather than feeling, there by the grace of God I soon will be going (a more spiritual version of woe is me), and this is what life will be like after I'm gone, instead I'm feeling; hey, this is what life is like because I'm still alive, reading obituaries that make no mention of yours truly. And you know, I can live with that. Hopefully for a long time. But if not, I can't worry too much about why I do things. I just have to do them.

Life is too short – or so I've been told.

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

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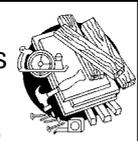


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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

isolation that would benefit our area. They would not, for example, even let us tax ourselves extra to pay for transportation.

Finally, Ms. Comstock's long history as a national Republican Party operative and her choice of role models in your article, suggests she is likely to vote the party line in Richmond rather than for what is best for our Fairfax County district.

In sum, I think this profile makes clear why we should keep Ms Vanderhye as our delegate.

**Amanda Murphy**  
McLean

record and Barbara Comstock's (R) lack of a record in state politics.

Margi Vanderhye's years of service to our community as well as her record of success as our delegate provide convincing reasons to support her re-election.

Also, although she is a Republican, Ms. Comstock seemed to argue the need for keeping a Democrat in the seat by noting that "Northern Virginia (is) constantly getting shortchanged by Richmond." How true. Over and over again the Republican controlled House of Delegates has blocked leg-

## Some 'Uninsured' Want It That Way

To the Editor:

While I appreciate some of the encouraging statistics you provided in your recent editorial ["Labor Day," Connection, Sept. 9-15] about Northern Virginia's low unemployment rate (compared to the rest of the country), I am doubtful that the statistics you provided about the percentage of Fairfax County residents who are "uninsured," represent a true picture of the "need" for health insurance support. As you pointed out in your editorial, the 149,642 people without health insurance were from all income levels. My understanding would be that many who can afford health insurance decide not to carry it for reasons of their own. It is a known fact that a number of "young professionals" opt out of insurance plans because they don't feel the need to carry a policy and pay the premiums. Whatever the reason, I would suggest that in many cases, those who are "uninsured" had a choice to purchase health insurance.

You go on to state in your editorial that "... these are people who will be unlikely to get seasonal flu shots or swine flu vaccinations." Why? Because they don't have health

insurance? My local grocery store is offering flu shots for \$30. I have seen local announcements for free flu shots. Since when did not having health insurance prevent someone from paying a nominal fee to get a flu shot for protection?

I find it troubling that you suggest a federal bail out for the Commonwealth of Virginia is the answer. Yes, Virginia does have a budget shortfall and budget cuts will impact some of the programs that the state currently supports. But what about personal accountability? It is time for people to stop looking to something or someone to "bail them out."

Our school children were recently addressed by the President and were encouraged to "be responsible." Why don't we, as taxpaying citizens, focus on what we can do to be responsible and take the necessary steps to seek out information and put effort forth to find solutions for our problems instead of looking to the government to take care of our needs?

**Lori Shafran**  
Great Falls

## GT Centers Help Students Excel

To the Editor:

I very much appreciate your thoughtful article about gifted education ["More Families Choose Local 'Gifted' Classes"]. I agree that lower student-to-teacher ratios can lead to more individualized teaching. This is particularly true in the area of humanities, where smaller groups allow for more in-depth discussions and enhanced writing assignments. Moreover, because private schools do not need to prepare for the Virginia SOL (Standards of Learning) tests, they have additional time to advance further in subject matter curricula.

It may be helpful to your readers to note, however, that there are subject areas where a couple of Fairfax County public schools exceed many of the highest-priced private schools. For example, the gifted and talented (GT) center at Haycock Elementary School allows its most advanced math students to take Algebra I at Longfellow Middle School for first period in the morning and then return to Haycock for the rest of the day. The most advanced math students at Longfellow Middle School's GT center complete Algebra II/Trigonometry by the end of Eighth Grade. Moreover, because these schools have a critical mass of

gifted students, they are also able to offer enrichment opportunities not available at many private schools and smaller GT centers. For example, Haycock offers robotics competitions, a highly successful Science Olympiad program, a wider variety of math contests, and one of the best local chess teams.

It is important for the county to continue to offer these successful programs. This summer, the Fairfax County School Board decided to keep GT centers in elementary schools and asked staff to clarify the differences between GT centers and other advanced academics offered at base elementary schools. By contrast, the School Board seems to be looking into whether GT centers should be eliminated in middle schools, which would result in gifted students being dispersed throughout the county.

If any of your readers have questions about advanced academics, I encourage them to join the free Yahoo group sponsored by the Fairfax County Association of the Gifted at [www.fcag.org](http://www.fcag.org).

**Grace Chung Becker**  
President  
Fairfax County Association of the Gifted

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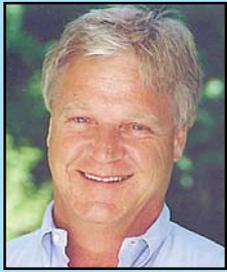
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