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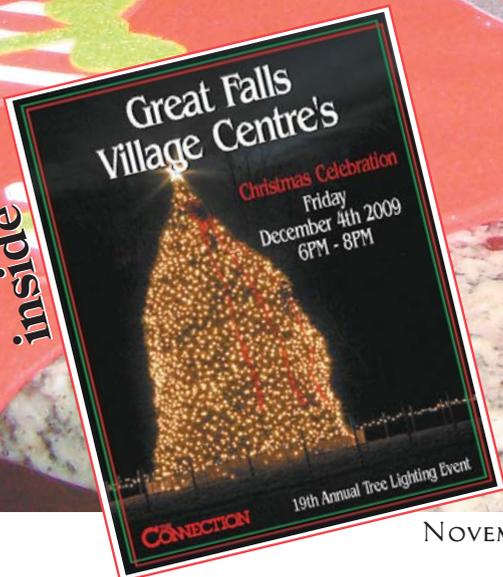
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PHOTO BY JANELLE L. PLUMMER/THE CONNECTION ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM OPINION, PAGE 8 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

Ginger Mahon, the organizer of the Wish List Project, prepares for the 10-year-Celebration and Drop-Off Event on Saturday, Nov. 21, at her home in Great Falls.

Wish List Celebrates 10th Anniversary

NEWS, PAGE 3



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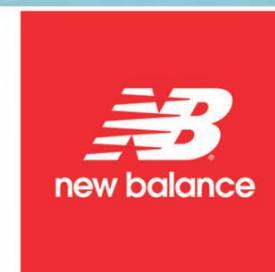
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PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

More than 150 people packed the Aldrin Elementary cafeteria, most of them to oppose an additional turn lane onto Georgetown Pike.

Residents Protest Additional Turn Lane

VDOT says dual left turn onto Georgetown Pike won't increase the road's traffic.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

Kathy Zimmerman said traffic on Georgetown Pike was already so heavy that her son's school bus had to pick him up half an hour earlier than scheduled, and she couldn't imagine why the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) was going to build an additional turn lane for drivers accessing the road from eastbound Route 7.

"Why on earth does it make sense to put that many cars onto a Virginia byway that twists and turns?" she asked VDOT program manager Bud Siegel at a meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

More than 150 people, most of them Great Falls residents, showed up for the meeting at Buzz Aldrin Elementary School in Reston, and they were not happy. However, the public comment period on the project closed six years ago, and it was approved in 2004. The purpose of the meeting was simply to explain that additional turn lane was necessary.

GEORGETOWN PIKE, the main road through Great Falls and into McLean, has become an alternative to Route 7 for many commuters traveling eastbound in the morning and west in the evening, and traffic on both roads is abysmal during rush hour. "The Pike," as it is known to Great Falls residents, is a winding, two-lane road for most of its length,

largely unchanged since it was first paved, and a designated scenic and historic byway. Meanwhile, Route 7 is six lanes wide in Loudoun County and Tysons Corner but narrows to four lanes in between, and VDOT plans to widen the road from Loudoun to just past Reston Avenue.

As part of the project, the left turn lane from eastbound Route 7 onto Georgetown Pike is to become a "dual left," with two lanes allowed to turn onto the smaller road, which then narrows to a single eastbound lane. The agency's representatives said the additional turn lane is not expected to channel more traffic onto Georgetown Pike and, in fact, would make Route 7 a more attractive option, a statement that drew laughter and criticism at last week's meeting.

Currently, drivers often wait through two cycles of the traffic signal before being able to turn left onto Georgetown Pike, and a single turn lane that would accommodate all of those motorists would have to be about a mile long, Doug Miller, another VDOT project manager, told the residents.

Siegel said drivers waiting to turn left have a tendency to give up and pull out into the leftmost through lane, causing a high rate of rear-end crashes. He said improving safety at the intersection and widening the road would encourage drivers to stay on Route 7, although residents noted that the road would still bottleneck just east of the intersection.

"The completion of Route 7 is what is needed, not making Georgetown Pike into a commuter road," said Great Falls Citizens Association President Ralph Apton.

Siegel said VDOT planned to widen Route 7 to Tysons Corner, but that project lacked funding and

SEE PLAN ALARMS RESIDENTS, PAGE 19

"They're proceeding as though it's a done deal, but it's our job to try to undo it."

— Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)



PHOTO BY JANELLE L. PLUMMER/THE CONNECTION

Ginger Mahon, the organizer of the Wish List Project, prepares for the 10-year-Celebration and Drop-Off Event on Saturday, Nov. 21, at her home in Great Falls.

Wish List Celebrates 10th Anniversary

Great Falls charity helps those in need.

BY JANELLE L. PLUMMER
THE CONNECTION

The Wish List Project began in 2000 during the Christmas holiday season and is still growing strong 10 years later.

Ginger Mahon, the organizer of the community outreach, said the Wish List Project helped more than 300 needy families during the holiday season in 2008.

"It can be rewarding and fun to think outside of your own family's Christmas," Mahon said.

Despite the recession, Mahon is still committed to serving families and children this year.

She said her goal is to inspire other people to do what she is doing, and every year the Wish List Project grows.

"Pick an organization and give back to the community," she said.

The Embry Rucker Community Shelter in Reston, a part of Reston Interfaith, is one of the organizations that will benefit from the holiday Wish List Project.

The Embry Rucker Community Shelter provides 70 beds each night for men, women and families, according to Reston Interfaith's Web site.

Amy McDowell, the director of communications at Reston Interfaith, said this is the first time in a long time that people have to make tough choices about how they will spend their money during the holiday.

"[The Wish List Project] is sticking with their commitment to giving," McDowell said. "We're extremely grateful for her ongoing commitment for 10 years."

Nevertheless, Mahon said she wants to be a tool that gives hope

Celebration on Dec. 12

The 10-year Celebration and Drop-off event will take place on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2009 from 1-4 p.m. at The Mahon Family Home, 11900 Holy Spring Drive in Great Falls. The event will include holiday music, food by Mama Lucia's on the hour, refreshments, Santa and other surprises. Donate a new item, gift card, or any amount of cash donation to help the cause. For further information contact Ginger Mahon at 703-404-8473.

to those in need and channels the generosity of donors.

"Let me help you help them," Mahon said. "When I heard about Emory Rucker, I was compelled. I get a lot out of it."

Sister Mary Bader, the director of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity home in Hyattsville, Md. said Mahon contacted her three years ago.

Bader said Mahon inquired about the organization and wanted to help.

"She has been quite a blessing," Bader said. "Last year, she was able to get new comforters for the kids."

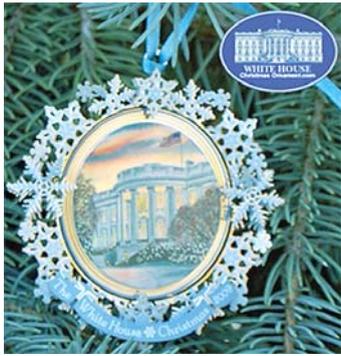
Bader said that while other groups assist with toys and other donated items, Mahon travels all the way from Virginia.

"She comes with some of the special times that kids want," Bader said.

The Wish List Project also addresses the needs of 75 teens in Fairfax County Foster Care, Katherine Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax, Shelter House in Falls Church and SHARE in McLean.

White House Ornaments on Sale

The Great Falls Woman's Club is again selling White House Ornaments to fund philanthropic activities. The 2009 White House Grover Cleveland Christmas Ornament honors Cleveland, the only person to serve two non-consecutive terms as President of the United States. The ornament features a view of the South Lawn and façade of the White House on a winter evening. The Christmas tree shines brightly because, in 1894, the Cleveland family were the first in the White House to celebrate Christmas with rare electric lights on their tree. One hundred multi-colored lights replaced candles for the first time.



The ornament features a view of the South Lawn and façade of the White House on a winter evening.

Each ornament costs \$18. Checks should be made out to GFWC. The proceeds from the ornament sales will fund the philanthropic activities of the club including the women and children's shelter.

Contact Bootsie Humenansky at 703-444-3839 or bootsieh@aol.

The ornaments are also available at the Great Dogs of Great Falls store.

Great Falls Studios Presents Holiday Art Show and Sale

Great Falls Studios presents the Great Falls annual holiday Art Show and Sale, Dec. 12 and 13, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls.

The show includes paintings, pottery, traditional and digital photographs, jewelry, drawings, art quilts and hand pulled lithographic prints, plus artful gifts and cards. All of the artwork is created by Great Falls artists, most of whom work out of their home studios.

Two musicians present live music performances at 2:30 p.m. each day— Saturday, Mike McDermott, guitar, and Sunday, Jody Marshall, hammered dulcimer. A drawing for several \$50 "Art Bucks" door prizes will be held Saturday afternoon at 5 p.m. Admission is free. Call Linda Jones, 703-442-9251 for more information.



'Turbulence,' oil painting by Karen Bateman, 8 x 10 inches.

Children's Shopping At General Store

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site at 10017 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls will host Children's Holiday Shopping on Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 6, 12-4 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 7, 1-4 p.m.

Volunteers help children find the perfect gift for everyone on their lists. Free wrapping assures surprises for family and friends. Adults are requested to wait on site. Please call ahead for groups of six or more. For more information call 703-759-2771.



Lindsay Barnas, a dedicated Learning Resource Teacher for the Enhanced Autism Program, pictured in her classroom.

Inclusion Spells Success At Forestville Elementary

Creating an environment where 'everyone learns and benefits.'

Inclusion. It is a way of thinking, a mindset where teachers and staff take responsibility for the success of all students. This week is National Inclusive Schools Week, a time to note how well inclusion is working at Forestville Elementary School. "We have a very inclusive atmosphere at Forestville on both sides of the spectrum," said Kathleen Quigley, Assistant Principal.

Five years ago, Forestville introduced the Enhanced Autism Program (EAP) Today, five children on the autism spectrum are in this classroom.

"THE GOAL of this program has been to meet each child's academic, behavioral, emotional and social needs in our classroom, to enable them to use those skills outside the classroom and become inclusive with their peer group," said Lindsay Barnas, a Learning Resource Teacher for the program.

Charlie Colligan, a fourth grader at Forestville, has done just that. He has been in the EAP since kindergarten and now spends more than half of his day with his peer group. This inclusive model has enabled him to develop relationships with peers in his class. "We've been so pleased with the progress he's made," said Beth Colligan, Charlie's mother. "Ms. Barnas along with Charlie's general education teacher, Laura Stanley, have been so communicative. The interest and the dedication of the staff don't stop at 3:55 p.m. The relationship with his peer group is continuing to build his confidence and success."

Last year, Charlie performed with the rest of his social studies class in a rendition of "Virginia Colony." He enjoyed participating and the other children cheered him on. "When he had success, everyone in the classroom felt it and shared in it," said Patrick Mills, Charlie's third grade social studies teacher. "They were all working together. He was just an-



Kendall Raymond is shown here in her classroom with Meredith Keuchel.

other member of the class."

FOUR YEARS AGO, the Forestville brought the Academically Advanced Program (APP) into the school. This allowed the children in the program to be inclusive with their own community. "It was a dream of ours to send Kendall to an excellent school in our own community," said Rita Raymond, mother of Kendall, a fifth grader in the AAP. "We wanted to root ourselves in a local school, have her ride the bus and develop relationships within her community. She is getting an excellent education."

"One of our parent volunteers, a grandmother in her 70s, creates beautiful quilts," said Matt Harris, principal of Forestville. "Several hang in our school. An inclusive Forestville involving our whole community reminds me of these quilts in its richness of makeup and complexity. Inclusive school practices create an environment in which character, education, diversity of instruction and excellent life skills evolve beautifully. Everyone learns and benefits from these practices."

— KRISTINE NASH

SCHOOLS

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

Cara Murnan of Great Falls, a sophomore diver at Virginia Tech at Blacksburg has been named to the Women's All-ACC All-Academic Team for 2008-2009.

Christopher Martin of Great Falls, a junior majoring in physics in the College of Science, was chosen to be a resident advisor at Virginia Tech.

Julia Korzeniewski of Great Falls has been named to Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society at Muhlenberg College, Allentown, Pa. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Korzeniewski and a graduate of Flint Hill School.

The annual **McLean High School Band Fruit Sale** is currently underway. Boxes of fresh Florida oranges and grapefruits, fruit baskets, and jumbo pecan halves are on sale through Nov. 25. Visit <http://mcleanband.org/annual-fruit-sale.html> to place an order or to prepay via credit card

SEE SCHOOLS, PAGE 17

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Woman's Club of McLean Presents Holiday Homes Tour

The Woman's Club of McLean is presenting its 43rd annual fundraiser, the Holiday Homes Tour and Market Place of McLean, on Thursday, Dec. 3, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Honorary chairperson of this 43rd Tour is Dr. Marilyn Jerome Foust, wife of Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). Marilyn Jerome Foust is a practicing gynecologist and a contributing member of the Fairfax County community. The club is a non-profit, 501(C)(3) organization, and all proceeds from the Tour will be allocated to local charitable, educational and community projects.

Tickets for the Tour are \$20 in advance and \$25 on Dec. 3. They may be purchased by contacting the Club's Web site at www.mcleanwc.org, or at any of the following locations: Mesmeralda's of McLean, Karin's Florist of Vienna, Great Dogs of Great Falls, and Stifel and Capra of Falls Church.

Three homes in McLean have been selected. The club members have tastefully decorated each home.

First, is the Foust home. This five-bedroom house is decorated with Chinese accents throughout. It is a home that speaks of warmth for family and elegance for en-

tertaining. Its gardens feature a waterfall, swimming pool with hot tub and a view of surrounding nature.

The second selection is The Octagon House, home of Susan Cooper. This is one-of-a-kind house, which was completed in 2008. This eight-sided house is white with a red metal roof. It features a wrap around covered porch, also a large breezeway connecting to the two-story garage. The entranceway features an atrium and an elevator. Looking at the floor you see red tile spokes leading from a center point to each corner of the house. The living room features a large painting of Renoir's "The Luncheon of The Boating Party," with the party members depicted as Coopers family and friends. This home is made for entertaining.

Lastly, the contemporary home of Chuck and Sandy Sieber. This is the second home the couple has designed and had built in McLean. The house features Tennessee flagstone walkway, a two-story fireplace of Maryland stone, which also accents the front of the house, Chinese counter tops and Mexican tile in the kitchen, crystal chandelier from Italy. Asian décor in the media room contains gifts from her father who served in Vietnam. The collection and treasures in this house must be seen.

VIEWPOINTS

What are you most grateful for?

— JENNA PUGRANT



Andrew Vardell,
17,
senior, Langley High School:

"I am thankful that the college application process is almost over."



Brooke Van Beuren,
6,
first grade, Great Falls Elementary:

"I am thankful for my family and my dog, Beau. I am also thankful for my teacher and my house."



Josh Baker,
homebuilder,
BOWA:

"I am thankful for wonderful friends and family — and pecan pie."

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1104 UTTERBACK STORE RD	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$432,175	Detached	0.52	GREAT FALLS
1064 UTTERBACK STORE RD	3	1	1	GREAT FALLS	\$395,000	Detached	0.51	TIMBER LAKE ESTATES
10518 CAMBRIDGE CT	3	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$370,000	Detached	0.26	GREAT FALLS FOREST

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REAL ESTATE NOTES

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.

Yeonas and Shafran Real Estate announces the relocation of their corpo-

rate offices to 1309 Vincent Place in McLean. Yeonas and Shafran provides a complete range of real estate services including new home sales, residential resales, management and consulting. Founded in 2002 by principals Dean Yeonas and Jack Shafran, the firm was recently ranked #17 in the top residential real estate companies in the metro DC region by the Washington Business Journal (based on 2008 sales volume). For additional information, contact Yeonas and Shafran Real Estate at 703-790-3330 or visit their website at www.YeonasAndShafran.com.

Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors® announced that **Patricia Stack** of the Vienna office was recognized for industry successes in the month of August. Stack led the region for resale dollar volume.

Invite top neighborhood specialists in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer. They can be reached in Weichert's Vienna Office at (703) 938-6070 at 156 East Maple Avenue Vienna, VA.

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.

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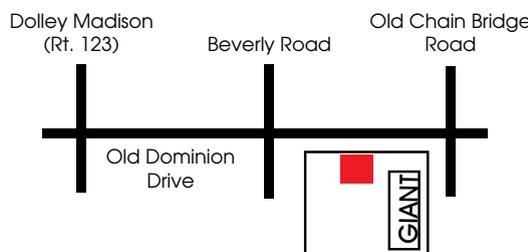
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OPINION

Give Locally

More local families in need right now than ever before; thankfully, most of us are in a position to help.

During 2008, more families across the country were without enough food during part of some months than at any time since 1995 when the U.S. Department of Agriculture began monitoring the extent and severity of food insecurity in U.S. households.

Last year, 17 million households in the United States were without enough food for some part of some months because they didn't have the money to buy

food, up from 13 million households in 2007. That's 49 million people, up from 36 million in 2007.

The numbers are almost certainly higher now, as 2009 draws to a close.

The ongoing recession and loss of jobs are driving an ongoing surge of families turning to food banks here in Northern Virginia. There are more unemployed people in Northern Virginia than in any other part of the state, according to the Virginia Employment Commission. While the employment rate is lower here as a percentage of the population, this area still has by far the largest number of people unemployed.

In August, there were 69,770 unemployed people in Northern Virginia, with an unemployment rate of 4.7 percent. The rate was down from 5.1 percent in July, but up from 3.3 percent in August, 2008.

People have lost their jobs, are unable to find new ones. In some cases people who own homes are stuck, unable to sell their houses because the homes are worth less than they paid for them, and are facing foreclosure as well.

EDITORIAL

Families have used up their safety net, spent their savings. They find themselves without being able to put food on the table, and they turn to local food banks, food pantries, churches and other charitable organizations for their most basic needs.

Food pantries around the area have launched additional food drives to try to meet the need. Many local charities also offer winter coats and holiday gifts, and are also turning to the community to meet the rising needs.

With the holiday season underway, it's time to help.

— MARY KIMM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Horrible Plan' Threatens Pike

To the Editor:

An open letter to the Transportation Commissioner David S. Ekern.

I attended the meeting conducted by Leonard (Bud) Siegel and other VDOT staff at Aldrin Elementary School in Reston. When Mr. Siegel was asked by other attendees who was in charge of this project, your name was given, Mr. Ekern, so I imagine mine is not the only e-mail you will be receiving in the next several days. At least, I hope not!

I have been opposing VDOT's plan to introduce two left-turn lanes from Route 7 onto Georgetown Pike in Great Falls ever since I first learned of it in 2003. And so has the Great Falls Citizens Association, of which I was an Executive Board member at that time. And so does the current Dranesville representative on the Board of Supervisors, John Foust, as well as hundreds of Great Falls residents. We were vociferous in 2003 and would have continued to be, except that the issue seemed to go away when funding was lost in 2004. Now that the funding is again available, the project is proceeding. After more than a four-year delay, people forgot about it; which is why it seems we are now faced with a "done deal," and little recourse.

There are many reasons I am adamantly opposed to this proposal, but the most important are:

1. There has been no Environmental Impact Study for this plan, and Mr. Siegel says one was not required. With Fairfax County's serious air and water pollution problems, you would think an EIS would be done; and I feel that without one, our environmental concerns in the area are being ignored and possibly circumvented.

2. There seems to be little regard for the fact that Georgetown Pike is an Historic Byway and should be protected as such. We have worked very hard in our community to prevent any changes to this historically-significant road, by, among other things, trying to limit widening, minimizing the number of traffic signs and signals, and lowering speed limits. The current traffic situation is deplorable. This plan would make it much worse.

3. Mr. Siegel himself admitted that no studies had been done to determine the impact of this project upon Georgetown Pike or the community of Great Falls. It appears the focus of any studies was the safety of drivers on Route 7 and how to keep traffic moving on that road. Mr. Siegel did not have any figures regarding the number of traffic accidents in Great Falls or any delays experienced by our emergency vehicles trying to navigate rush hour on Georgetown Pike during an emer-

gency. I would venture to guess that our safety would be further jeopardized by the increased traffic flow caused by this project. Your personnel were unable to tell us what the projected traffic figures would be for Georgetown Pike once a second left-turn lane was introduced and invited us to go to the VDOT Web site to get the information ourselves.

4. It was disheartening that each time Mr. Siegel was asked, he was unable to tell us if any alternatives had been considered or other methods tried, so I can only assume the answer was no. Sample questions posed were: Did you think about posting "No Left Turn" signs from Route 7 onto the Pike during morning rush hour and vice versa? Did you think about making no left turn at all? How about a curb at the left-turn lane to discourage lane jumping? Or traffic enforcement? It seems to me that this plan is an expedient, short-term solution to VDOT's problem, but not to Great Falls' problem; and that actually, Georgetown Pike and Great Falls are just the means to the end. Our concerns and our own safety and quality of life do not carry enough weight in the bigger Fairfax County, VDOT picture.

5. I found it disingenuous (and almost dishonest) for your agency to assert that this is all about safety, encouraging bicycle and pedestrian traffic and following the

Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan. These were the three main reasons given, besides moving traffic off of Route 7 that I could gather.

Firstly, it was only the safety of drivers on Route 7 that was discussed. Secondly, I cannot even fathom how this project will make it possible for anyone to safely walk or ride a bicycle in Great Falls. It isn't safe now, and will be less safe with more traffic funneled onto our narrow streets and roads. And since we have very little police presence in Great Falls, but lots and lots of drivers who break traffic laws, resident safety on the roads has always been an issue here. And to tell us that this project is part of the Comprehensive Plan, well. That was too much. A Fairfax County supervisor once told me that the Comprehensive Plan is a suggestion or a guide and is not cast in stone. There is a system of trails on the Comprehensive Plan, but for more than 20 years, dedicated people in Great Falls have been unable to get that system completely constructed. It took VDOT less than 10 years to push this road project through; and I would hesitate a guess that this specific plan, for two left-turn lanes onto Georgetown Pike, is not on the Comprehensive Plan, but I don't know. Let's be honest here. Anyone can spin facts and figures

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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♦ Committee for Helping Others (CHO), Vienna, 703-281-7614

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
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e-mail:
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Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mike DiCicco
Community Reporter
703-778-9441
mdicicco@connectionnewspapers.com

Julia O'Donoghue
Education & Politics
703-778-9436
jodonoghue@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Courts & Projects
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Rich Sanders
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Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editors
Michael O'Connell, Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft,
Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,
John Heinly, Wayne Shipp,
John Smith
Production Manager:
Jean Card

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Linda Pecquex
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

**CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,
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Peter Labovitz
President/CEO

Mary Kimm
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer
703-778-9433
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon
Executive Vice President
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Wesley DeBrosse
Controller

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

to make them say what they want and need. And I feel like this is exactly what VDOT is doing in this case. Project engineers are telling us about formulas and hypotheses, but I think their data is skewed because the focus is skewed. Not only was the human element disregarded, but the Georgetown Pike/Great Falls half was left out of the equation.

I hope that VDOT will reconsider this portion of the plan and you will consider my arguments here, Mr. Ekern. I hope anyone and everyone who is in any position to do anything to change this plan will do the same. I am sending a copy of this e-mail to U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), Gov. Tim Kaine (D), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Del.-Elect Barbara Comstock (R-34), Del. Margi Vanderhye (D-34), the Great Falls Citizens Association, my neighbors and the local newspapers, and will hope for change. Someone, somewhere, who can actually do something to change this horrible plan has got to see things from this perspective. I am hoping that you, Mr. Ekern,

will be one of those somebodies, and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Jan T. McCarthy
Great Falls

A Case Against Public Option

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the opinion article entitled "Making a Case for the Public Option" in the Nov. 19, 2009 issue of the Great Falls Connection. The authors of this article suggest that now is the time to provide Americans a public option in health care. I could not disagree more. Our country's current economic condition as well as the way in which the legislation of this magnitude has been crammed through the Congress should be enough to give every American pause.

First, our current national economic state clearly demonstrates that now is not the time to be spending billions of dollars on a new entitlement program that few had the privilege to read before it was brought for a vote. Our unemployment rate has skyrocketed above 10 percent, higher than it's

been in a decade, the value of the U.S. dollar sinks almost every day, and the national debt is nearly \$12 trillion and growing at a rate we have not seen since World War II. We already have existing massive unfunded "promises" to guarantee future entitlement benefits that when added with liabilities like the debt, total nearly \$57 trillion.

We are headed towards a path where our government's only option to pay off its debt will be by printing money or raising taxes since fewer and fewer countries want to buy our bonds. I know proponents will argue that this health "reform" will be deficit neutral. I would love to believe that health care coverage could be expanded to all American citizens without increasing cost or sacrificing access and quality. However, I am reluctant to believe that such a utopia could be created by a government that can't even get the flu shot out in time.

More importantly, one only needs to look at the mismanagement and impending insolvency of the Medicare and Social Security Programs to see the fallacy of government efficiency and fiscal discipline.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 18

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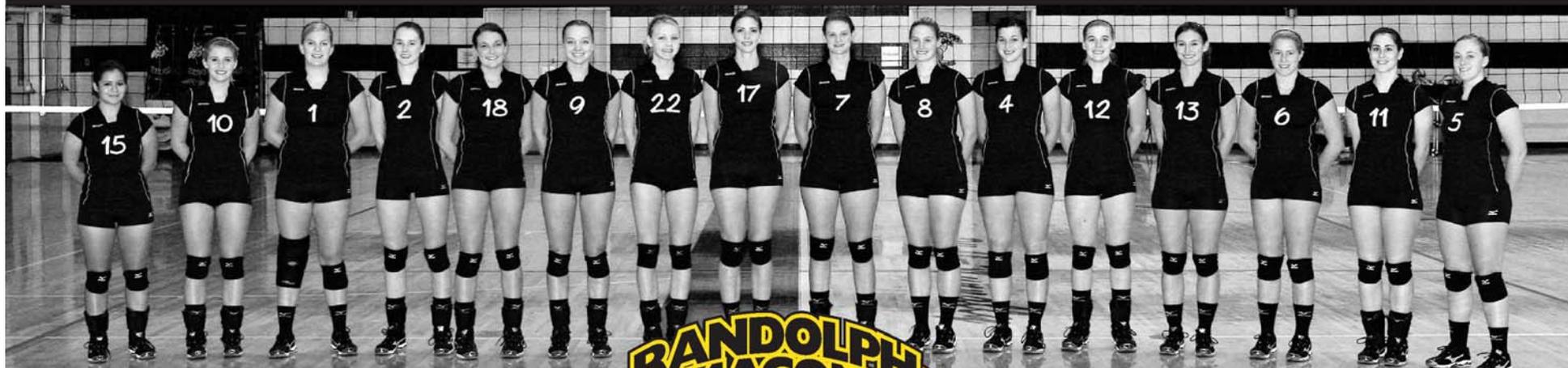


Every year between Christmas and New Year's, the Great Falls Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: PhotoM@connectionnews papers.com, or mail or deliver contributions by Dec. 4, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/NOV. 27

27th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans. Admission \$3. 703-560-4844 or www.nvhg.org.

Interactive Retelling of the Thanksgiving Story. 11 a.m. at the Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road. With Glee Mania's Sue Cournoyer. \$4. Pre-paid reservations required. 703-437-9101.

Shane Hines and the Trance. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

27th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans. Admission \$3. 703-560-4844 or www.nvhg.org.

Our Daily Bread Holiday Food Drive. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to Safeway at Courthouse Plaza, 10376 Willard Way, Fairfax City. Proceeds to benefit Fairfax United Methodist Church www.our-daily-bread.org.

A Chanticleer Christmas. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$24-\$48. Pre-Performance Discussion held 45 minutes prior to the performance. 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.



The Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls presents The Nutcracker at the Madiera School, 8328 Georgetown Pike on Saturday, Nov. 28, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 29, at 4 p.m.. Emily Ngau and Aleksey Kudrin are surrounded by lights during the snow scene.

The Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls: The Nutcracker. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-759-3366.

Boys Will Be Boys, I Saw A Ghost, Used Up, What A Night! and Light Up The Sky. 5:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/ \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Sick Damage Turkey Stomp with Viking, Young Enough, CJMilli and The Grenade. 10:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$5. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Lipizzaner Stallions 40th Anniversary Tour. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$24.50-\$32.50. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

The Grandsons. Roots rock. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$16. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 28

Jazz Pianist John Eaton. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 29

27th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans. Admission \$3. 703-560-4844 or www.nvhg.org.

Jody Marshall. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Reservations required. \$15. 703-759-3309 or www.jodymarshall.net.

Lipizzaner Stallions 40th Anniversary Tour. 2 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$24.50-\$32.50. Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT.

The Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls: The Nutcracker. 4 p.m. at the Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-759-3366.

MONDAY/NOV. 30

Marie Digby and Alpha Rev. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 1

Colvin Run Community Center Weekly Dance. 7 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$10. www.colvinrun.org.

Sloan. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

AIDS Quilt at GMU on World AIDS Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Mason University, Johnson Center's Dewberry Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. More than 100 panels from the AIDS Memorial Quilt will be displayed at GMU as part of World AIDS Day. Almost all of the 40,000 colorful panels that make up the Quilt memorialize the life of a person lost to AIDS. masonaidsquilt.com or 703-993-1094.

The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women Annual Holiday Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at the Riverbend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. With Henriette de Bruyn Kops, a researcher in the Dept. of Northern Baroque at the National Gallery and lecturer/ research associate at Georgetown University. \$28. 703-356-0529 or www.mcleanaauw.org. Nonperishable food, paper goods and toiletries will be collected to donate to Share, Inc.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 2

Line Dancing Classes for Active Seniors. 11 a.m. at the Vinson Dominion Hall, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Join a new community

program designed for age 55 and over. Free. Wear low heels and comfortable shoes. Registration required. 703-442-9075, TTY 711.

Brooke Waggoner, Adam Levy and Amber Rubarth. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 3

Great Falls Womens' Club 7th Annual Bridge Jamboree. 9:30 a.m. at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The proceeds will support the GFWC Scholarship Fund and gift cards for the Fairfax County Shelter for Abused Women and Children. \$40, including continental breakfast and lunch. Prizes will be awarded. Reserve with Karen Magley, 11608 Holly Briar Lane, Great Falls, VA 22066.

THURSDAY/DEC. 3

The McLean Art Society will hold a juried show with an opening reception. The exhibit continues through Friday, Jan. 8, 2010 at the Ramp Gallery at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Road, McLean. 703-790-0123.

James Madison High School Wind Symphony and Color Guard 30th Annual Tiny Tots Holiday Show. 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. in the James Madison High School Auditorium, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Costumed guests include Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman and more. Sing, clap and dance along with the band. \$5 per person. 703-319-8897 or tinytots@jmhband.org.

Luke Brindley, Peter Bradley Adams and Rosi Golan. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 4

James Madison High School Wind Symphony and Color Guard 30th Annual Tiny Tots Holiday Show. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the James Madison High School Auditorium, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. 703-319-8897 or tinytots@jmhband.org.

Graham Colton. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 advance/ \$15 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Memphis 59 "Ragged But Right" CD Release. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Epiphany United Methodist Church Annual Christmas Bazaar. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 1014 Country Club Drive N.E., Vienna. Silent auction, crafts, poinsettias, wreaths and center pieces, baked goods and lunch. 703-938-3494.

Preventing Diabetes. 10 a.m. at the Diabetes Center, Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, 3700 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Delay and even prevent Type 2 diabetes with healthier habits during the pre-diabetes stage. Two two-hour classes, in which Certified Diabetes Educators will provide information on physical activity, an improved diet and other positive lifestyle changes. \$50 Registration required. 703-750-8800 or www.inova.org/healthclasses

Our Daily Bread Holiday Food Drive. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. next to Safeway at Courthouse Plaza, 10376

Willard Way, Fairfax City. Proceeds to benefit Reston Bible Church www.our-daily-bread.org.

Person L, John Nolan and Brian Bonz. 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/ \$12 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Vienna Choral Society: Hallelujah! A Christmas Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road S.W., Vienna. Handel's Messiah Part I and seasonal favorites. \$18 adults, \$14 seniors and children. viennachoralsociety.org or 703-255-5508.

Flint Hill Elementary School Craft Fair. At 2444 Flint Hill Road. Professional crafters, Secret Santa Shop for children, bake sale, cake walk, and Crafty Kids Corner. Sandy.andrews@fcp.edu or 703-242-6100.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots. Line dance lessons 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance 8 p.m., open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. \$10 members, \$12 non-members, \$5 ages 16-20 with student ID. www.nvcwda.org.

Children's Holiday Shopping. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill General Store, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Volunteers help children find the perfect gift. Free wrapping. 703-759-2771 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

Colvin Run Ballroom Dance. At Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Live music by Arrow. Dance lesson 8 p.m., dancing 9-11:30 p.m. \$15 dance, \$5 lesson. 703-795-2003 or www.colvinrun.org.

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MILITARY NOTES

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

Air Force Maj. **Park D. Ashley** is returning to the U.S. after a deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Ashley, a security assistance officer with 18 years of military service, is normally assigned to the 82nd Aerial Target Squadron at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. He is the son of Clarence and Clara Sue Ashley of Beach Mill Road, Great Falls, a 1985 graduate of Langley High School, and a 1990 graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta.

Keith A. Tooley has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army after successfully completing the Army ROTC program and graduating with a bachelor's degree from West Virginia University. Tooley is the son of Jean D. Reimers of Donmore Drive, Great Falls and is a 2004 graduate of Langley High School.

Constance Lynne Solina was promoted to U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander on Sept. 3. Currently with the Functional Integration Management and Training Directorate for the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering, she previously served in Iraq with the 4th Naval Mobile Construction Battalion in 2007, earned a civil engineering degree from Purdue University and a masters of environmental engineering from the University of Texas, Austin. Solina is the daughter of Pamela Beck Danner and David L. Danner of McLean, and a 1996 graduate of Langley High School.

Air Force Lt. Col. Nicholas E. Russo participated in Proud Shield II/ Giant Sword II, a bombing, navigation, weapons loading, and security forces competition conducted by the Eighth Air Force to demonstrate the military's readiness and ability to project airpower around the world, set up a strategic deterrent to threats to American interests, and meet national defense objectives. Russo is director of operations assigned to the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, Bossier City, La., and has served in the military for 16 years. He is the son of Vincent and Reeta Russo of McLean; his brothers are Brian Russo and Mark Russo, also of McLean. Russo received a bachelor's degree in 1993 from Davidson College, N.C., and a master's degree in 2002 from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical College.

Army Pfc. **Eric Z. Reynolds**, a 2007 graduate of Oakton High School, has graduated from the Infantryman One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the son of James and Susan Reynolds of Oakton.

Michael Thompson, of Vienna is among 10 James Madison University students that trained for three days with Special Forces soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C., as part of the Army ROTC Ranger Group.

Coast Guard Seaman **Nicholas C. Pfautz**, son of Terry Pfautz of Warrenton and Richard Pfautz of McLean, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N. J.

Army 2nd Lt. Roman A. Terehoff has graduated from the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the son of Alex G. and Irina P. Terehoff of Borge St., Oakton, Va. Terehoff graduated in 2001 from Oakton High School, and received a bachelor's degree in 2008 from George Mason University.

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COMMUNITY

Caring Citizens Fund Bench at McLean Bus Stop

McLean residents Madeleine Hahn and husband Ed Clark led the effort last summer to build a much needed bus stop bench at the corner of Old Dominion Drive and Birch Road. Over a year ago, Hahn heard that a man had fainted at the bus stop. The man told paramedics that the incident might have been prevented if he had been able to sit on a bench while waiting. Bus riders often wait more than an hour for the next bus, especially on weekends. Hahn also observed "people in the rain sitting up on the roots of a tree and in the mud near the stop" and decided that something needed to be done.

According to Hahn, the Virginia Department of Transportation denied her request for a bench to be placed at the stop. Hahn and Clark decided to fund the building of the bench themselves and later worked with Bill Denk, president of the El Nido Civic Association, to gather donations to recover the costs. Zoey and William Hertz gave permission to have the bench placed on their land.

Rosario Ramirez works in the neighborhood and rides the bus nearly every day. "My job has very long hours and I wait for one hour on Sundays for the bus," she said. "I am very tired and in the cold and the rain [the bench] is good."

"I just kind of felt like that it would add a lot to our community and that it was our responsibility to do something for the people that caught the bus," Hahn said. "We'll probably pick up a little plaque and



PHOTO BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION

Rosario Ramirez, a woman who rides the bus nearly every day, sits on the bench funded by Ed Clark and Madeleine Hahn, back right and center. Bill Denk, right, president of the El Nido Civic Association, has helped Hahn and Clark cover part of the cost through donations from citizens.

stick it on here somewhere that says 'from the community.' It is just one of those community things that we do and I'm real happy with it. This is what we are. We are a community here and we want to help."

Residents of homes that are located within the area bounded by Kent Gardens Park, Old Dominion Drive, Kirby Road and

Westmoreland Street are members of the El Nido Civic Association. If you would like to make a contribution toward the building of the bench or future improvements to the community, go to <http://elnidoca.org/> to learn more.

— CHRISTY STEELE

Praise for the Station That Prays



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I imagine it's a bit more than a coincidence under my present health circumstances (God works in mysterious ways, it is said), that after pressing the "seek" button on my car's radio, the radio will regularly (it doesn't feel random anymore) advance itself and stop on "Praise 104.1," an "inspirational" Gospel music station, (and not one of my "pre-sets"). And for the first time in my life, other than occasionally watching Joel Osteen with my recently deceased mother on Sunday mornings, and/or watching the Christmas/Easter services broadcast from Rome, with my wife, Dina's, Italian grandmother, Filomena (also recently deceased), I am now stopping and listening again; definitely to the music and sometimes even to the words.

As for the songs I hear, which are not really distinguishable to me as yet, I don't know if it's the arrangement, the production/engineering, the music, the musicians, the lyrics, the singer, the choir, but together, it all sounds wonderful. It "taps my toes" and lifts my spirit. Moreover, it's so upbeat and positive and full of life and enthusiasm that it almost makes me feel like dancing (and that's saying/doing something), and I feel better just listening (not healthier, yet; let's be realistic). Maybe, even, a little hopeful, though. But I'm not quite committed, emotionally. Nor have I reprogrammed my car radio's "pre-sets." And I don't know any of the D.J.'s/"personalities" or the formats that may differ from hour to hour, day to day, either. At present, I would describe myself as a casual/inadvertent listener but one whose interest has been piqued.

So what next? Do I change one of my "pre-sets" on my car's FM radio and become a regular listener? Do I call in and inquire about getting on the station's email/web site list (if they have one)? Do I join their frequent listener club (if they have one)? How involved do I want to be? Dare I ask, will whatever that level of involvement becomes, will it/could it positively affect my life; and if someone, anyone, says it might, shouldn't I, given the seriousness of my underlying medical condition, embrace any and all options that might offer a way through this most arduous journey in which I find myself entangled?

Maybe there's an interim step I could hesitatingly take?

Maybe I should first listen better when the radio "seeks" and finds "Praise 104.1," and pay closer attention to more of what's broadcast, specifically the lyrics in the songs, what the D.J.'s say, the station's promotions/advertisements, in general, the overall flow and feeling, the vibe. Maybe it's not as much of a match as I think it is? I've only heard bits and pieces of parts of songs, minimal D.J./broadcaster involvement and so far, very little proselytizing. On balance, so far what I've heard has been good, but it's been so infrequent and irregular, that I haven't focused my attention yet and really listened to hear what I might learn and determine if in fact, this station's content is what I want/need to hear.

And if it turns out that it's not where I'm comfortable being, I think I'll be better off having reached out, so to speak, to make that assessment. As much as this cancer thing may have closed me, somehow I need to find ways to stay open. Who's to say, or who knows, what really helps? Probably, it all does. Who knows which way to turn/how best to proceed? Certainly not me.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MONDAY/NOV. 30

Open Season Workshop for Federal Employees and Retirees, with Congressman Gerry Connolly. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Featuring OPM's Dean Schleicher, the project leader for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program annual Open Season, and Walt Francis, author of Consumer CHECKBOOK's Guide to Health Plans for Federal Employees. FEHB plan representatives will be on hand to answer questions and help participants. Call Congressman Connolly's District Office at 703-256-3071.

TUESDAY/DEC. 1

Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Holiday Mixer. 5:30 p.m. at Navigator Wealth Management, LLC, 7601 Lewinsville Road, Suite 205, McLean. Members \$20, non-members \$25. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 2

Great Falls Friends hosts their Annual Holiday Breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Great Falls Library - Stop by for Food, Friends and Networking.

TUESDAY/DEC. 8

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. 7:45 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., Vienna. Contact Ann, 703-938-7304. www.lwv-fairfax.org.

FAITH

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

St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean will hold a Thanksgiving Day service of Holy Eucharist on Nov. 26 at 10 a.m. The Thanksgiving Offering will support SHARE, a non-profit organization founded in 1969 to meet emergency needs in McLean, Great Falls, Pimmit Hills, and surrounding areas. All are welcome. St. John's Church is located in McLean at 6715 Georgetown Pike. For more information, call 703-356-4902, or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

The Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna, is announcing the installation of their new minister, Rev. Randy Beeman. Rev. Beeman has most recently served as the Sr. Pastor of First Christian Church of Lawrence, Kan. and the Chaplain/Character Coach of the University of Kansas Men's Basketball team. Pastor Beeman and his wife Linda have four children. The guest speaker for the Installation service is the Rev. Lari Grubbs, Regional Minister of the Christian Church Capital Area. The message by Rev. Grubbs is "Setting Examples in the Church." The Installation Worship service begins at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29. A reception hour will follow the Installation worship service. The community is invited to participate and child care is provided.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. Contact Gary Axelrod, 301-610-8309 or gaxelrod@jssa.org.

or www.jssa.org.

Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, Vienna, is celebrating the 400th birthday of Baptists. Sunday service is at 11 a.m.; Sunday Bible Study, 9:30 a.m. 703-281-4400 or www.vbc-va.org.

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. Services are at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11 a.m. Sunday School classes and an adult forum series are at 10:15 a.m. 703-759-2082 or www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org. Fall events include:

- Voice recital at 7 p.m. on Sept. 20, with music from the British Isles.
- Choral Evensong for All Saints, 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 1.
- Country Fair, Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Blessing of the Animals, Sunday, Oct. 4 at the 9 a.m. service.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed, strength is gained, and friendships are formed. Mondays 9:15 a.m. and Fridays 9:45 a.m. Childcare is free for registered students. E-mail bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org for more information.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

Great Falls United Methodist Church at 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705 offers "All Things New," an ecumenical worship service, every Wednesday at 6 p.m. Based on the Beatitudes of Jesus, for people affected by anger, fear, stress, dealing with rejection, credit abuse, drug/alcohol abuse, physical/sexual addiction or eating disorders.

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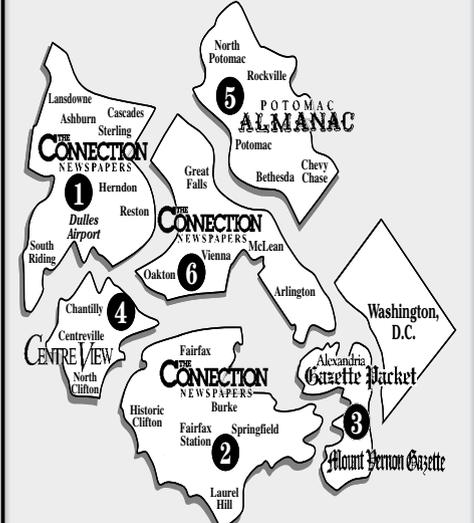
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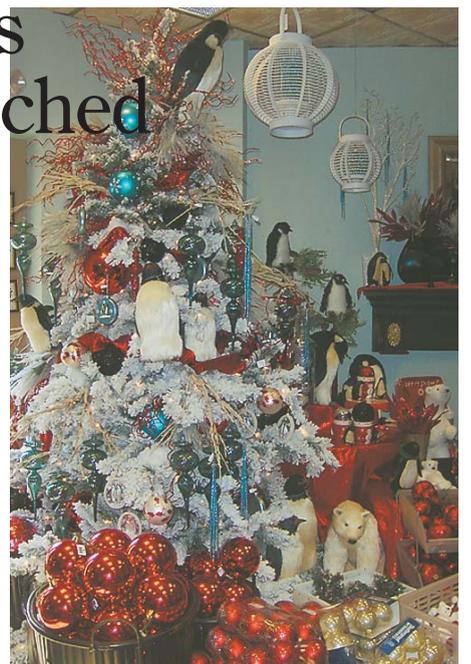
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Shop Great Falls Campaign Launched

The Great Falls Business and Professional Association has launched "Shop Great Falls," a community wide campaign designed to promote local businesses and stimulate sales during the holiday shopping season. Calling on residents to "Think Locally, Act Locally and Shop Great Falls," the GFBPA is seeking to raise the profile of local retailers and other businesses within the community and encourage holiday shopping closer to home.

Between Nov. 16 and Dec. 24, shoppers can visit any participating business and enter to win one of three Great Falls Gift Baskets, each containing hundreds of dollars in merchandise, gift certificates and free services exclusively from local providers. Most participants will also be offering special Shop Great Falls incentives and other limited-time opportunities during the campaign.

"We felt it was important in these difficult economic times for the GFBPA to get out front and actively promote the individual small businesses that serve our community," said Ralph Lozaro, GFBPA president. "People are looking for value, now more than ever, and we wanted to give local businesses a platform to spotlight the



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selection and savings available right here at home."

"Even if many residents feel they already know the local businesses," said Lozaro, "we wanted to give them reason to visit again and experience anew what their hometown business community has to offer."

For more information, contact Mark von Keszycki at 571-294-5972 or visit the GFBPA Web site at www.greatfallsbpa.com.

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SPORTS

McColgan Commits to Play Softball at GMU

Hanna Longwell will play women's lacrosse at Colgate.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

McLean High softball coach Maurice Tawil announced that senior shortstop **Lauren McColgan** has signed a National Letter of Intent to play softball at Div. 1 George Mason University. McColgan will play her senior season at McLean this spring. She has been the Highlanders' starting shortstop since her arrival in 2007 and will be a team captain for a second year in a row.

Over her first three years at McLean, McColgan accumulated numerous recognition awards. Specifically, as a junior in the spring season of 2009, McColgan's outstanding performance was rewarded as she was named Liberty District Player of the Year, First Team All-Northern Region, and All-State. She led the Highlanders with a .494 batting average, .578 on-base percentage and 23 stolen bases out of 24 attempts.

During the recruiting process, Coach Tawil told GMU head coach Joe Verbanic, "I hope Lauren McColgan does for your program what she has done for our program."

McColgan started playing ball when she was 8. She played for McLean Little League from 2000-04. In 2004, she was on the All-Star team that made it to the World Series in Portland, Ore. for the first time in McLean history. In the fall 2004, McColgan joined the Vienna Stars travel team. For the past five years, while playing for the Stars, McColgan has played in many high profile tournaments and has done some extensive traveling. Her travels include tournaments in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Colorado, Oregon and Illinois.

McColgan, also known as "Mac," currently plays on the 18-under Vienna Stars Gold team, coached by Tony Rollins.



McLean High softball shortstop Lauren McColgan has signed a national letter of intent to play the sport at George Mason University.

Other schools that were interested in McColgan included Bucknell University, LaSalle, Fairleigh Dickenson, Longwood, Coastal Carolina and Providence.

McLean High's Hanna Longwell will play women's lacrosse at Colgate University. The Colgate Raiders are the reigning 2009 Patriot League Women's Lacrosse Champions.

"I am so excited to have committed to Colgate University," said Longwell. "I love the coaches and the welcoming atmosphere on campus and can't wait to be part of the team. I feel really lucky to have the opportunity to make a contribution at a school with such excellent academics and such an extremely competitive lacrosse program, and I am thankful for all the support that I have gotten from my high school and club coaches during the recruiting process."

Anne Inzerello, McLean's head varsity lacrosse coach, is impressed with Longwell's efforts and ability.

"When I first met Hanna her freshman year at tryouts, she shook my hand and introduced herself," said Inzerello. "At that

moment, I knew two things. First, she was one of the smallest goalies I had ever seen. And second, that she was tough. As I got to know Hanna better throughout that first season and the years to follow, I learned many more things about her. Not only is she both tiny and tough, she is tenacious as well."

Longwell has given her best to continue to improve as a player and as a teammate.

"Hanna works hard and accepts nothing less than perfection," said her coach. "As a result, she is very goal-driven. But she doesn't give her goals lip service alone, she practices and plays to achieve them. She constantly tries to improve herself and encourage teammates. She inspires and motivates those around her with her words and example and gives them the support they need to accomplish their own goals. She has a positive attitude that is contagious. She can buoy her defense and cement and motivate a team in disheartening circumstances. Hanna seeks challenges and loves nothing more than great competition. She exudes a supreme confidence on the field, but is never cocky. She just simply doesn't know how to be intimidated. Hanna's achievements and merit have been recognized by many and in various venues over the years. As the starting goalie on varsity since her freshman year, she has been watched and admired by many during her high school career."

Longwell's lacrosse achievements include: First Team All-Liberty District every year; team MVP as a sophomore; and All-Northern Region Goalie of the Year as a junior.

"As coaches, we feel very lucky to have had Hanna play for us and we are looking forward to her final season as a senior," said Inzerello. "We are excited for the next chapter in her lacrosse career and know that Colgate is very lucky to have her. Congratulations, Hanna."

Longwell is a captain of both the varsity lacrosse and cheer teams, and has competed as a member of the gymnastics team. She is currently on target to earn 13 varsity letters during her high school career, qualifying her for McLean's prestigious Angus Award. McLean Director of Activities Tom Herman believes that this may be a school

record for the most varsity letters earned.

Hanna has devoted an enormous amount of time to lacrosse training, practices, camps and tournaments. In addition to high school lacrosse, she has played for Capital Lacrosse, M&D Lacrosse, Potomac Power, McLean Magic and Stars Lacrosse, at one point playing on four travel teams simultaneously.

Crediting McLean Youth Lacrosse Coach Bucky Morris for sparking her interest in lacrosse in the third grade, Longwell received excellent instruction and began honing her skills early. As an 11-year old, she was selected to the U-13 National Festival Team, and to the U-15 National Festival Team as a 12-year old. She was goalkeeper for Morris' undefeated 2006 NVYLL McLean Youth League U-15A Champions during their 11-0 season. Over each of the past three years, Longwell has earned a spot on the U.S. Lacrosse Women's Division National High School Team for the Mid-Atlantic Region.

The Longwell are keeping it all in the family. Hanna will join her sister, Alexis, at Colgate. A 2009 graduate of McLean, Alexis Longwell is currently a soccer goalkeeper for the Colgate Raiders. Younger brother, Robert, is a freshman at McLean.

Sean Fitzgerald, a McLean High senior, recently signed to play college baseball at Notre Dame. Last spring, Fitzgerald was named the Liberty District Pitcher of the Year. He earned both First Team All-Liberty District and Northern Region accolades, while also earning Honorable Mention All-State honors.

A year earlier, as a sophomore, Fitzgerald was named both First Team All-District and Second Team All-Region as a utility player. And as a freshman in 2007, he made Second Team All-District utility.

Fitzgerald is McLean's all-time career leader in wins entering his senior year with 19.

McLean High senior Chris Russo recently signed to play college baseball at the Virginia Military Institute. Russo, as a junior last spring, earned First Team All-Liberty District recognition as a second baseman, and was Honorable Mention All-Region. In 2008, as a sophomore, he was named Second Team All-District (utility).

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Edric Wung (McLean) finished in a second place tie in the boys' 12-13 age group division of the recent MAPGA Junior Turkey Two-Day golf event at Fauquier Springs Country Club. Ian Hildebrand of Purcellville finished first. Wung had a two-day total of 164, tying him with Errol Clarke (Mitchellville, Md.).

In the overall girls' division, **Shabril Brewer** (Oak Hill) broke away from the field and won by eight shots over April Nimjareansuk (Alexandria). Brewer started the

day with birdies at holes one, two, and seven. She fired a 5-over 77 to finish the event at 11-over par. Brewer, a Westfield High student, was part of the Bulldogs' team that captured the state AAA golf title a few weeks ago.

Shannon Brooks (Vienna) cruised to a victory in the Girls 12-14 division with a two-day total of 166. Her second round 81 was a two-day low for her division. Julie Luo (Herndon) finished nine shots back with 175.

The Marshall High Boosters will once again be sponsoring the Christmas Tree Lot in front of the school. Trees in a variety of types and sizes, wreaths and fresh garland can all be purchased. Need a stocking stuffer? How about some Marshall Spirit wear or the White House ornament? The tree lot will be open seven days a week until all trees are sold. Hours of operation are Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Mondays-Fridays from 5:30-8 p.m. All proceeds from the tree lot will go directly

into the Marshall students' activities account, which sponsors 21 teams and a variety of clubs with the purchase of uniforms and equipment, field maintenance, capital improvements and travel needs to competitions. In addition, the purchase of White House Christmas Ornaments will directly support Marshall's All Night Graduation Celebration. Contact Christmas Tree Chair Ellen Loszynski at ejloszynski@msn.com for any further information.

The McLean High Athletic Boosters' Golf Classic fund-raising event took place Oct. 23 at the Reston National Golf Course. The day of golf featured a best ball team format, awards, gift bag, lunch and appetizers after the tournament. Funds raised will go towards upgrades to McLean High athletic facilities, such as improvements to the stadium entrance, an asphalt walkway between the baseball and softball fields, re-surfacing of the tennis courts and the purchase of new scoreboards.

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 5

(PayPal). Payment and pick up day is Saturday, Dec. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at McLean High School. Payments on December 12th must be by cash or check.

Byron Van Nort Hughey of McLean has been awarded a bachelor of arts in English from Denison University of Granville, Ohio. Hughey received the Alumni Endowed Scholarship and studied abroad with the Goldsmiths program in England.

Duncan H. Hardock of McLean has been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Hardock, a graduate of McLean High School, is the son of Randolph and Anne Hardock.

Rebecca Ellen Berenson and **Alaura Rose Maglio**, both of McLean, have been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at the University of Wisconsin College of Letters and Sciences.

Julia Christine Glasgow of McLean has graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. Glasgow is the daughter of James A. and Alice H. Glasgow.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 9

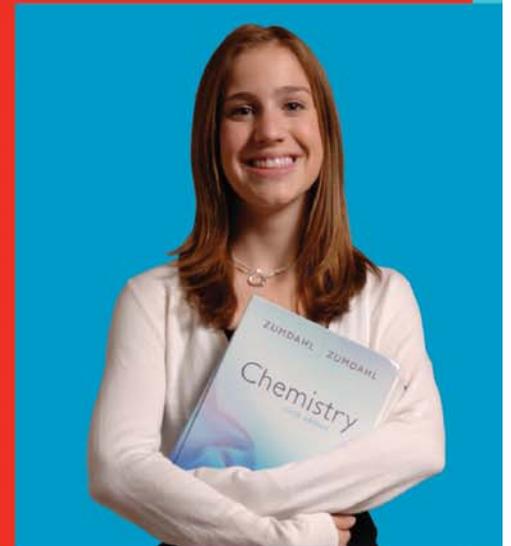
There is also the recent Congressional Budget Office's scoring of Sen. Reid's plan. The CBO numbers start scoring the plan at the time the legislation would take effect, in 2013. However, the CBO score does not account for the fact that the legislation calls for taxes to be raised immediately. This essentially would be like giving a car dealer \$30,000 for a new car today, but driving the car off the lot three or four years later!

The suggestion was made that having a public option alongside private options would be very much like having the choice to go to Disneyland or a national park for vacation. This analogy is not accurate since, in the health care example, the government or public option, would have access to endless streams of our tax dollars while the private plans would be subject to normal rules of expense and revenue. The government option could use its ability to tax individuals to increase their revenue streams and would eventually, over time, drive all private sector plans out of business. Why in the world would we attempt to copy the failing models of England and Canada?

Second, we need to scrutinize the closed door, non-transparent, dead-of-night way the House rammed their bill through the legislative process. If this is such an excellent bill, why did Speaker Pelosi and the House majority draft it behind closed doors, virtually locking Republicans and the American public out of the process? Why was the 2,000+-page bill made available to read only 24 hours before it was brought to the House floor for a vote? Where is the transparency promised by this Administration? If the House Bill is so wonderful, why does it threaten citizens who fail to purchase health insurance with a fine of 2.5 percent of their income, up to \$250,000, with failure to pay the fine leading to jail time? This is simply un-American if not unconstitutional. If this legislation is so profound and good for the country, why was it so narrowly passed in the House, requiring a \$1.2 billion buy off in TARP money for U.S. Rep. Cao from Louisiana? This is not good governance. This is reckless fiscal irresponsibility. With our country struggling to emerge from a severe recession, the time to tighten our belts, not spend more, is at hand.

Gina Ryan
Great Falls

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The project is also to widen Route 7 from Loudoun to just past Reston Avenue.

Plan Alarms Residents

FROM PAGE 3

remained unscheduled. Carla Lanzara wondered whether safety and accident rates at intersections along Georgetown Pike had been taken into consideration. "Do not use a person's community as a short-term solution that endangers people," she said. "We are extremely tired of being treated in such a callous, indifferent way."

ERIC KNUDSEN, co-chair of the citizens association's Transportation Committee, said Great Falls residents had consistently turned out to oppose the dual turn lanes since at least 2000 and had repeatedly asked what alternatives were being considered and how the change was projected to affect traffic on Georgetown Pike. "You're taking a metropolitan-area formula and applying it to our road," Knudsen said, adding that planners seemed to think the two-lane nature of the road would prevent additional traffic.

"We are not changing forecasted volumes on Georgetown Pike," Siegel said. In a later interview, he said the road was projected to reach capacity at about 1,700 vehicles per hour sometime about 20 years from now, regardless of whether the additional turn lane was created. He told the crowd that engineers had explored the options of extending the single lane, changing the timing of the traffic signal and various reconfigurations of the intersection.

Lou Kriso asked whether they had considered building a single extended lane set apart from the road by a curb to keep drivers from pulling back into traffic.

Siegel said the mile-long turn lane would cause confusion and

the curb would present a hazard to drivers.

A number of other alternatives were floated, including closing the left turn altogether, turning Georgetown Pike back into a toll road, as it was in the 19th century, and spending a small fraction of the total project's \$36.6 million price tag to hire officers to monitor the intersection.

SUPERVISOR John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Del.-Elect Barbara Comstock (R-34) were in attendance at the meeting, and Foust said he would continue to oppose the project, while Comstock vowed to take up the fight upon taking office. When Foust asked if anyone in the audience supported the project, one person raised a hand, although two would ultimately speak in support of it. He said he thought the dual turn lanes were only approved in 2004 because they were planned to be part of the widening of Route 7 all the way to Tysons Corner.

Comstock noted that the opposition cut across the political spectrum. "There's been nothing I heard tonight that made much sense," she said.

Asked whether the project was "a done deal," Foust said, "They're proceeding as though it's a done deal, but it's our job to try to undo it."

Reston resident Rob Whitfield said he supported the project because it would improve traffic on Route 7, and with increased development coming to Tysons Corner, he said, more drivers fed up with traffic on Route 7 would use the toll road.

Construction on the project is expected to begin in summer of 2012, and VDOT plans to have it completed about two years later.

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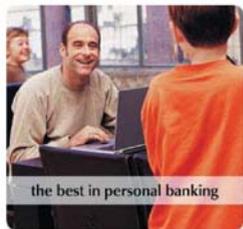
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