

Molly the Pony Comes to Great Falls

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 16

Molly the Pony, a horse that survived Katrina and leg amputation, came to Great Falls on Sunday, Dec. 13. Both children and adults gathered around to pet Molly.

More Than
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By Wish List
NEWS, PAGE 12

Scouting
For Donations

NEWS, PAGE 7

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NEWS

Going Smoke Free?

Some restaurants have more flexibility to continue indoor smoking than others.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

When Ed Hearn moved to Herndon last year, he reveled in the fact that he could light up a cigarette in his local neighborhood bar again. He had recently lived in Frederick, Md. where all restaurants and bars had been smoke-free for at least two years. "It was an absolute pleasure to move down to Virginia. I enjoy smoking while I am drinking. I mean I am a smoker," said Hearn, perched on a barstool at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern in Herndon Nov. 29, two days before new smoking restrictions went into effect in Virginia.

Hearn, who said he had "lived through a smoking ban before," was nevertheless frustrated by the prospect of having fewer choices to enjoy his beer and cigarettes together.

The new Fairfax County resident had good reasons to think he had outrun the anti-smoking movement when he moved to Virginia. The commonwealth is historically tied to the tobacco industry and home to Philip Morris USA, the largest cigarette producer in the world.

The Virginia General Assembly, particularly the Republican Party caucus in the House of Delegates, had also stymied attempts to restrict smoking for years, including a push for statewide smoking ban by Gov. Tim Kaine in 2007.

BUT LAST SPRING, a compromise between Gov. Tim Kaine and the Republicans led to legislation that falls short of the nearly universal ban on restaurant and bar smoking enacted in Maryland and Washington D.C. Yet it still significantly tightens up the commonwealth's former regulations.

As of Dec. 1, Virginia establishments have to be smoke-free. Restaurants and bars that have space are able to accommodate smokers indoors in rooms that are closed off and separately ventilated from the non-smoking sections.

Both Maryland and the District make it much tougher for bars and restaurants to retain a smoking section indoors than the commonwealth.

In fact, for some local Fairfax businesses, creating a separate facility for smokers took little to no extra work. Other restaurants were happy to go smoke free, saying they thought it would improve business overall.

AT JACKSON'S, a large restaurant that is part of the Great American chain and located in the Reston Town Center, the management had to make very few, if any, changes to accommodate indoor smoking.

Jackson's, which has been open for a little over a year, already had two bars, including one that could accommodate smokers easily, since it is already enclosed and backs up onto an outdoor patio space.

Ned Devine's Irish Pub in Herndon is only undergoing some light renovations and construction to create a smoking room. The restaurant is installing a new door to separate a small bar and lounge from

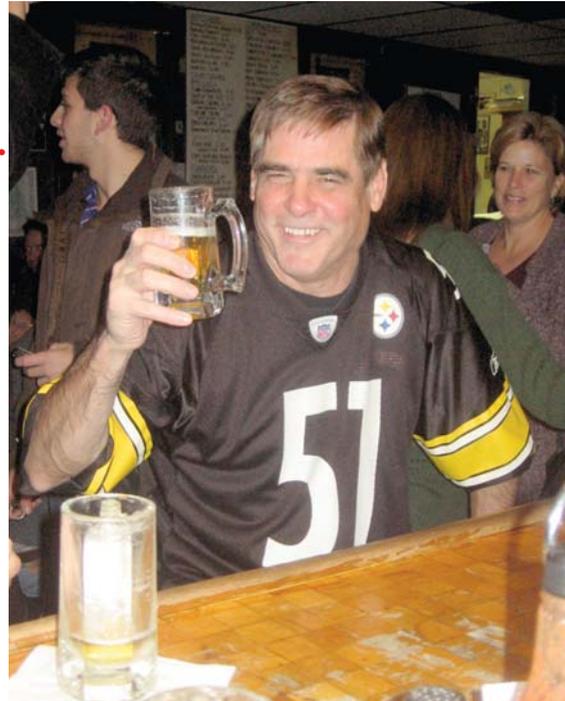


PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Local George John Paul enjoys a beer at the newly smoke-free Vienna Inn. Many local restaurants and bars banned smoking after new restrictions came into place Dec. 1.

the rest of the restaurant, according to Trina Medford, a bartender who works at the restaurant. Chic 'n Wings in Tysons Corner has enclosed an outdoor patio to accommodate people who want to smoke.

Several restaurants have also embraced the idea of going smoke free, even if they had previously allowed cigarettes.

Nearly all the people leaning up against the bar at The Old Brogue in Great Falls had a cigarette in hand just 48 hours before the new smoking restrictions took effect. But the restaurant's staff said most people seemed pleased about the Brogue's decision to ban smoking.

"I think most people are happy actually. A lot of people who smoke said it will give them a chance to quit," said bartender Greg Fabitta.

Setting aside an area for smoking was not feasible for some restaurants, including some who would prefer to keep a smoking section.

In several cases, building and design constraints, in particular, would have made it difficult to create an entirely separate smoker's lounge.

For example, two of the most successful local restaurant groups, Clyde's and Great American, made a separate decision about each of their individual restaurants, partly based on the layout at each location.

Great American, which owns Jackson's, will not have indoor smoking at Mike's in Springfield, Artie's in Fairfax and the Sweetwater Tavern location in Sterling, largely because the design of those facilities does not make it easy to separate out a smoking area.

Clyde's does not plan to offer smoking at its Tysons Corner facility, where the bar sits directly at the front entrance. But it will have smoking rooms at its Alexandria and Ashburn locations, where the layout is more flexible.

The advantages some businesses have over others

SEE SMOKING BAN, PAGE 15



Molly the Pony stands proud on all four legs.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

Molly the Pony Comes to Great Falls

A rescued horse tale inspires audiences to 'never give up.'

Molly the Pony graced Great Falls with her presence at the Lift Me Up! Therapeutic Riding Program on Sunday, Dec. 13.

After being rescued from abandonment after Hurricane Katrina, Molly was attacked by a pit bull terrier and nearly died.

With time and care from her owner Kaye Harris, Molly started to recover without serious infection in the bites. But

Harris noticed Molly's front right leg was dying. It hurt Molly so badly to walk on it that she taught herself to walk on her other three legs.

While some called it inhumane and experimenting, Harris had faith that Molly could survive the new surgery to amputate the bad leg and give her a prosthetic.

SEE MEETING MOLLY, PAGE 5



Molly, right, and her companion Doodle Bug stand in the ring while Harris tells her story.

Deer Hunt Proceeds in Colvin Run Park

Fairfax sponsors bow hunt for deer in Colvin Run Park.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

During the first week of the Colvin Run park bow and arrow hunt, Diane Hopkins saw more than one deer tear through her backyard in a panic. Another resident in her upscale Vienna neighborhood told Hopkins that the family planned to purchase orange hunting vests to wear so archers wouldn't accidentally shoot them when they are out raking leaves in the backyard.

"This is certainly not a place I expected to be in the middle of a deer hunt," said Hopkins, who lives on Carpers Farm Way off Leesburg Pike. Hopkins' development is surrounded on three sides by Colvin Run Park, where Fairfax County has sanctioned a bow and arrow hunt for deer.

Archers with Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia are scheduled to hunt deer in Colvin Run in one-to-two week spurts until Jan. 16, 2010. The hunters will break for the holidays, and the park will be closed for pedestrians and recreation when the hunt is active.

Suburban Whitetail Management says that the hunt will be safe, in part because hunters will shoot the deer from platforms at least 20 feet off the ground, meaning any arrows that miss the deer will go into the ground.

Fairfax County is sponsoring a similar event on parkland in the Lorton area. Another group, the Belvoir Bowhunters, started culling the deer population in the Laurel Hill Park Nov. 30.

Fairfax County staff and some residents said the deer hunts are needed to help control the animal's local population, which has grown too large because of a lack of natural predators like wolves or coyotes in the area.

Yet Hopkins and other residents said there are better methods for clamping down on the deer population than bow hunting.

"Now, if I see a deer around here, I am pretty much in a state of grief. I am hoping that they won't go into the park," said Hopkins.

THOUGH Some Residents may be upset about the bow hunting, Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council supports the government-sponsored hunts.

The group's 2009 report on Fairfax's environment states that the county has had a "serious overabundance" of deer for 10 years, leading to several health and envi-



Some residents are upset about bow and arrow hunts Fairfax County is sponsoring in Colvin Run Park and Laurel Hill Park.

ronmental problems in Fairfax.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries consider an ideal deer population to be approximately 15 to 20 deer per square mile and the local environmental council said other scientific information suggests that an even smaller population — about eight to 15 deer per square mile — is acceptable to protect other animals and plants species.

Many Fairfax parks have at least four and half times the most conservative deer population recommendation. Before the hunts started, gaming officials estimate that there were 213 deer per square mile in Great Falls' Riverbend Park and 90 to 115 deer per square mile in Vienna's Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

Almost all natural predators of deer — bobcats, black bears, wolves and mountain lions — no longer exist in Fairfax and the area saw a significant decline in hunting during the second half of the 20th century. Both factors contributed to an explosion in the local deer population, according to the environmental council.

There are concerns that local deer population is becoming too large even for its own good. State officials found only a few local deer in good or excellent health and labeled many more as being in "fair" or "poor" condition during a 10-year study of Fairfax County's herds.

"This is a no-win situation. I don't think anyone likes the idea of shooting animals. In a perfect world, we would have coyotes and wolves that would balance out the situation," said Stella Koch, a Great Falls resident who heads the environmental council.

THE OVERABUNDANCE of deer is also more than just a nuisance to Fairfax County's human population.

In some parts of the county, the deer population is so high that they have depleted normal food resources and will eat any landscaping or plants, even those planted specifically because they are considered to be "undesirable" to deer.

Virginia also has the seventh largest number of deer-vehicle collisions among the states in the country, according to the environmental council's report. From 1998 to 2002, the council estimates that there were approximately 18,000 to 22,500 deer-vehicle collisions. Among those reported to the Fairfax County Police Department during that time, the average amount of damage per vehicle from those crashes was \$2,300.

According to the environmental council report, humans reported injuries in 19 deer-vehicle collisions in 2007 and 14 such crashes in 2006. There have also been two fatal car crashes involving deer in the last decade.

SOME PEOPLE also believe deer could be contributing to the sharp increase of Lyme disease cases in Fairfax County since they are the primary "reservoir" of the ticks that cause Lyme disease.

"Think of the deer as a tick Metro system. It is better than the Metro system because the deer can take ticks all over the county," said health department staff member Jorge Arias in 2008.

Incidents of Lyme in Fairfax County nearly doubled from 2006 to 2008. In 2006, there

were just 102 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in Fairfax. By 2008, the number was up to 197, according to the environmental council report.

But the environmental council said it is not clear there is a direct correlation between the size of the deer population and the number of cases of Lyme.

In addition to deer, other animals, like rodents, can also carry ticks and a decline in the deer population may not necessarily reduce residents' exposure to Lyme if the ticks find other hosts, according to the environmental council report.

IN ADDITION to humans, the size of the current deer population also threatens the local ecosystem and several smaller animals that live locally, including some bird species.

"We have already begun to see a loss of biodiversity that will ultimately lead to a loss

of ecosystem stability, with far more widespread and serious effects than the shorter term effects of overabundant deer," stated the environmental council in its report.

"If you live in a place, you should have some say about what happens here."

—Vienna resident
Diane Hopkins

In several parts of the county, the deer have eaten nearly all of the plants and smaller trees within their reach, thereby thwarting woodland regeneration. Small animals are also unable to compete with deer for food and, in some areas, the number of bird species has significantly diminished, according to the environmental report.

"There are no baby trees to replace the big trees we have now that are going to die someday," said Koch.

PEOPLE opposed to the county-sponsored bow and arrow hunt acknowledge there is a deer management problem in Fairfax. They just feel there is a better way to manage the animal's population than bow hunting.

"I think the county is in a tough

SEE BOW HUNTING, PAGE 18

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NEWS

Molly's owner Kaye Harris personalized the books for sale.

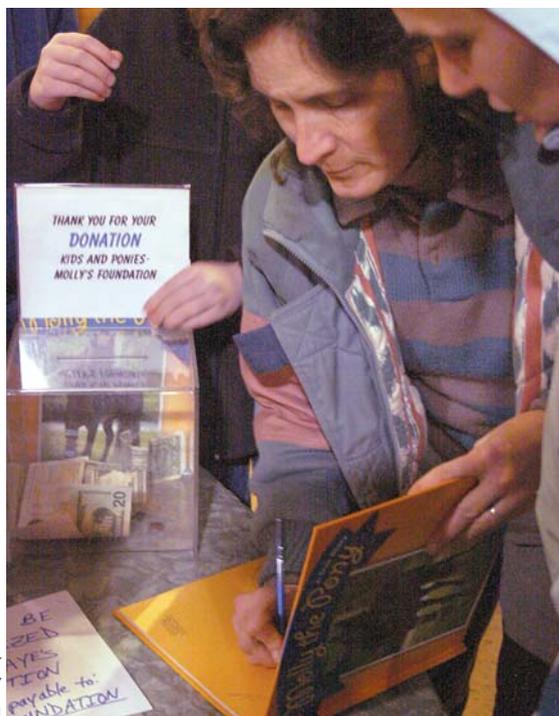


PHOTO BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/ THE CONNECTION

Meeting Molly the Pony

FROM PAGE 3

While it took time for Molly to get used to the prosthetic, Harris's strategy of "just letting her be a horse" proved successful.

While adjustments are continuously being made to it, Molly can now walk and run on her prosthetic leg. She travels with her companion Doodle Bug

and owner Harris, who shares Molly's inspirational tale and encourages audiences to never give up.

Molly's full story can be found in the book "Molly the Pony" by Pam Kaster. For more information on Molly, visit <http://www.mollythepony.com/>.

— STEPHANIE KNAPP

SCHOOL NOTES

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

The Oakcrest School Concert Chorus performed with the McLean Orchestra at their holiday concerts "Voices of Angels" on Dec. 12-13. Choral selections included two traditional German carols "Kommet, Ihr Hirten" and "Kling, Glockchen, Kling" arranged by Stephen Mager, and a carol by John Rutter entitled "Christmas Lullaby." Orchestral highlights, under the direction of conductor, Sylvia Alimena, included a performance of Leroy Anderson's "Bugler's Holiday" and several holiday favorites. The evening concluded with an audience sing-a-long. Oakcrest is an independent school for girls grades 6-12 guided by the teachings of the Catholic Church. Oakcrest is located at 850 Balls Hill Road IN McLean.

Langley High School Wind Symphony has accepted an invitation to perform at the Music for All National Festival, presented by Yamaha, in Indianapolis in March 2010. High school and middle school instrumental ensembles around the country audition for the festival via a taped audition sent to Music for All, one of the nation's largest and most influential organizations in support of active music making. The Langley High School Wind Symphony is under the direction of Andrew Gekoskie. Only sixteen high school concert bands were accepted into the 2010 festival, to be held March 4-6, 2010. The Music for All National Festival has taken place annually since 1992. Langley High School and other concert bands will perform at the professional concert venue, Clowes Memorial Hall, in Indianapolis. For more information, visit www.musicforall.org/programs/mfanf/.

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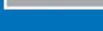


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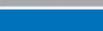


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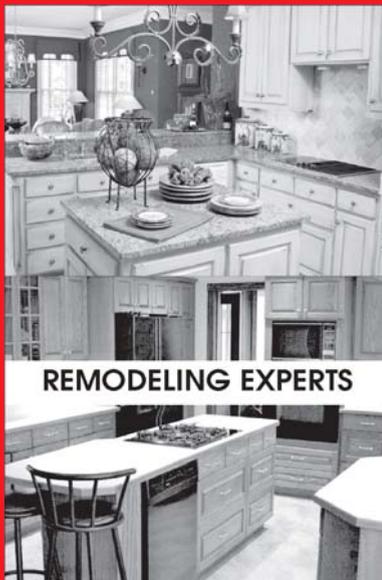
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SCHOOLS

PHOTOS BY KRISTINE NASH

Winter Art Projects at Forestville ES

The second graders in Renee Riddell's Art Class at Forestville Elementary are busy working on their winter art projects. From top to bottom are Lila Hampton, Vella Lowenthal and Grace Hetherington.



First Snow

Great Falls Elementary kindergartner Alex Rock enjoys first day of snow in Great Falls, 2009.

NEWS

Scouting for Donations

Boy Scout to collect donations for thrift store to benefit Northern Virginia Family Services.

On Tuesday, Dec. 29, many Great Falls residents can expect to receive a flyer informing them of a shortage of supplies at the Clock Tower Thrift Shop in Falls Church. That's when Brad Hodge of Great Falls, along with others, will canvass the area, advertising his collection of donations for the shop as part of his Eagle Scout project.

"Since we knew they were in need we decided to help them," Hodge said, noting that the thrift store was having a hard time keeping up with demand during the recession. Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS) runs the shop, and proceeds go to the nonprofit organization. "I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to lead my peers in helping someone in need," Hodge said.

Seventeen members of his scout troop have volunteered to help

Donate

Brad Hodge and others will be collecting donations near the Safeway on Sunday, Jan. 3, from 2-4 p.m. To arrange to have donations picked up, e-mail Hodge at tjhslox@gmail.com.

him canvass Great Falls on the Tuesday after Christmas, and Hodge said he hoped to recruit a total of at least 30 people to help him cover more ground. He has also received permission to drop his fliers at a number of restaurants in the community.

The collection will be on Sunday, Jan. 3, from 2-4 p.m., near the Great Falls Safeway, between CVS and Maison et Jardin. "We can only have so many scouts for so long on that day. It is the day before we go back to school," Hodge said.

He said he had met with an NVSF representative to discuss the store's needs. "They need a bunch



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Brad Hodge poses with some of the donations he has already collected for the Clock Tower Thrift Store.

of clothes, especially for women because he said most of their customers are women, and clothes for their children also," he said, adding that the thrift shop also needed household items like dishes and small appliances. The store is also accepting electronics, but none older than five years.

He said the goal was to draw at least 50 donors and collect at least enough to fill one of the NVFS trucks. He and other scouts will also pick up donations from residents who can't make it to the collection.

— MIKE DICICCO

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OPINION

Happy Holidays

A time to reflect,
a time to share.

For the observant of any faith, and even for the more secular among us, the close of the year brings ritual, magic, reflection and hope.

In events around the area, a sense of community has infused holiday parades, Christmas tree lightings, menorah lightings, choral performances, singing of carols, and other traditional events with warmth and joy.

In Great Falls, it was the 19th lighting of the Christmas tree, with holiday songs by the Langley Madrigals. In Reston, Santa arrived by boat across Lake Anne in a snow squall. In Alexandria, the Scottish Christmas Walk announced the beginning of the season despite the wet snow. In Clifton, the Christmas spirit was celebrated in a candlelight homes tour, among other events. In Fairfax, one congregation built a 7-foot-tall menorah out of Legos. And in every community, volunteers have come together to provide food, clothing and some holiday cheer for the needy. 2009 has been a challenging year for many fami-

lies, businesses, schools, charitable organizations. As the year comes to an end, we can count our blessings. Here in the Washington suburbs most of us have been spared the intense difficulties of the economic downtown. We'll all likely to welcome 2010 with optimism and relief.

Next week between Christmas and New Years, look for our annual Children's Connection, when we turn our entire paper over to the contributions of area students — artwork of many kinds, poetry and other writing. Our next regular edition will come out the week of Jan. 4, 2010.

From the all the staff here, we wish you a merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, joyful holidays and a wonderful beginning to the New Year.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Give Locally

Remember that more local families are in

need right now than ever before; thankfully, most of us are in a position to help. It's not too late to brighten the holidays for a needy family as many organizations are reporting record demand for holiday meals and help with providing children at least one present. The need will continue into the New Year as well.

Where to Donate

- ♦ Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston Serving Reston and Herndon 571-323-9555 www.restoninterfaith.org
- ♦ SHARE of McLean Food Pantry Located in the McLean Baptist Church 703-284-2179 www.SHAREofMcLean.org P.O. Box 210 McLean, VA 22101
- ♦ Herndon-Reston FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), 703-391-0105.
- ♦ Northern Virginia Family Service, Oakton, 703-385-3267
- ♦ Shelter House, www.shelterhouse.org, operates two homeless shelters in Fairfax County, in Centreville and Seven Corners. 571-522-6800
- ♦ Committee for Helping Others (CHO), Vienna, 703-281-7614.

PERSPECTIVES

Great Falls Traffic: A Way Forward?

Residents plead for serious consideration of the options.

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY

I am sure you are just as bewildered as I am to hear the story of the coming two turning lanes from Route 7, at the Loudoun County line, on Georgetown Pike at Seneca Road in Great Falls; the indifference of VDOT and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (excluding John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor, who is squarely with us) to the continuing over-clogging of Georgetown Pike, which is already at capacity; and the continuing pleas of residents of our community for some measure of serious consideration of the options.

Although this was the fourth meeting on the subject in more than six years, Great Falls residents continue to express the same (opposing) position in an articulate, analytical, professional, thought provoking — and, yes, even brilliant manner — suggesting viable alternatives worth serious consideration. We continue to be ignored.

Public roads are meant to serve all of the public. But does this mean that all of Northern Virginia must turn into asphalt? Are there no limits? Is there no rhyme or reason?

Certainly there must be a high road in all of this.

GEORGETOWN PIKE: Although VDOT has identified Georgetown Pike as a secondary arterial road, which means that if the demand gets huge enough, it could become a highway, that designation does not match the characterization of Georgetown Pike as noted throughout the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, a document developed through community consensus-building over many decades:

“Georgetown Pike should be maintained within its existing right-of-way. Center turn lanes and deceleration and acceleration lanes should be discouraged and curb cuts should not be allowed unless no other alternative exists. Georgetown Pike is commonly acknowledged to contain some traffic hazards. However, it is generally acceptable in its present condition to local residents. It has been designated a Virginia Byway. Major changes in alignment or widening the road would damage the scenic and historic character and the historic integrity of the Byway and have been strongly opposed by residents of adjacent areas. Planning efforts should focus on other means of dealing with traffic volume in order to maintain this Byway. As recently as this sum-

mer, additional language has been added. Georgetown Pike has received “Virginia Byway designation and eligibility for Virginia Landmark Register and National Register of Historic Places,” which will be added into the 2009 update of the Comprehensive Plan.

Great Falls is specifically planned as a “Low Density Residential Area,” located primarily north of Route 7, along the Potomac River shoreline. Including the areas around the Difficult Run Stream Valley and watershed in the eastern portion of the Upper Potomac Planning District, this markedly lower level of development is “due to the established low density character, the ecological significance, and environmental sensitivity of these areas.” Planning objectives in this area are to be limited so as to “have minimal impact on stable residential areas, village centers, and other centers that serve villages or neighborhoods.” In other words, we live in an area that requires our protection, and we have whole-heartedly bought into that role of protecting the fragile pastoral environment and the historic character of the roadway.

In summary, Georgetown Pike is a county, state and national treasure that warrants protection and preservation.

FORECASTS VS POSSIBLE

SCENARIOS: As the VDOT representative reported on several occasions during the evening, the computer model is reporting that there is a problem at the Route 7-Georgetown Pike intersection now and it will only increase (by 53 percent) by 2030, so we are gearing up to prepare for that future traffic. What's the problem with this? It lacks strategic thinking and scenario planning. What are some of the intervening factors that could possibly change the projection? The impact of the arrival of the Metro on local traffic counts in originating locations? Alternative means of transportation such as bike, walk, bus, trolley, car sharing, solar carriages, etc. begin to dominate the landscape? Constructing an alternative route into Loudoun County (a bridge somewhere else), taking the burden of traffic away from GTP? The rise in functionality of Route 7 as the best route to get to Washington, D.C. or Maryland, thanks to its additional lanes? A dramatic breakthrough in teleconferencing that enables more robust telecommuting? Local senior citizens that prefer to live their lives locally? A dramatic transition to doing business locally, focusing on local customers, creating local jobs? Great Falls residents pur

SEE SOLUTION, PAGE 9

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newspaper delivered
to homes and businesses.

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OPINION

Town Status As a Solution?

FROM PAGE 8

chase Georgetown Pike, resulting in local control and supervision of traffic — maybe even a toll? Georgetown Pike is closed to cut-through traffic unless the traffic is HOV? Great Falls becomes a “car-free village?” Great Falls becomes a town? Great Falls is traffic-free from 3-5 p.m. and then has rush hour traffic from 5-7 p.m. only? Any of these intervening factors, while just out-of-the-box ideas at this time, could become plausible, impacting, and potentially dramatically altering the data spun out by the VDOT computer models.

GETTING THE PLATFORM RIGHT:

We can be certain that simply waiting for the next public hearing will not make a single bit of difference. Doing nothing will get us more of the same. More disregard. More indifference. More people seeing Great Falls residents as snobs who want to travel in other people’s neighborhoods, but don’t want anyone in theirs.

Things need to be changed now. Some alternatives were discussed at the meeting last week: March on Richmond, work with our rep-

resentatives in Richmond, unite under the umbrella of the GF Citizens Association, etc. Since the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors supports this project and is even funding a portion of it, we are without local support, except for Supervisor Foust, who is the one voice that continues to speak on our behalf. We appreciate his efforts to work this issue and raise its importance to all that will listen throughout the various levels of government.

Perhaps it is time for some serious strategic thinking on our part. What, exactly, is not working? And what needs to change to obtain a more viable role in determining our destiny? Is this simply an issue that needs some lobbying and lawyers? Or is this a more profound and fundamental principle that we share that is being violated? Do we need a different structure and chain of authority to gain control of the outcomes going forward? Perhaps Great Falls needs to give serious consideration to becoming a town so that we can sit at the table with all the parties to such decisions from a level playing field.



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Betty Ganley Wins Vienna Arts Society Award

Every year since its inception 40 years ago, the Vienna Arts Society (VAS) has featured the best of regional artists in a juried "Treasury of Art Show." To celebrate its 40th anniversary this year, VAS threw a three-day gala at the Vienna Community Center at which the exhibits were augmented by music and hors d'oeuvres.

First place award at the show went to Betty Ganley of Great Falls for her "The Tented Lady" painting. A sailboat sits at low tide docked at a wharf in Maine, images reflected on the water.

Vienna artist Jean Johnston was voted Artist of the Year by the Treasury of Art committee and the executive committee of VAS.

— DONNA MANZ



Betty Ganley of Great Falls won first place for 'The Tented Lady.' Her mother, Margaret Kenney, holds her award.

Jo Fleming To Exhibit in Reston

Great Falls Artist Jo Fleming presents a solo exhibition of abstract paintings reflecting the renewal of life at Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston, Jan. 3-Feb. 7.

Looking closely at the seasonal rhythms of the landscape — birth, growth, decline followed by rebirth — the artworks included in the January exhibition at UUCR portray nature's ongoing visual demonstration of hope and renewal.

Fleming has found inspiration in the landscape. The random pattern and robust chaotic abundance of weeds and woodland has been, for this artist, a more captivating subject than her own attempts at a cultivated garden.



Jo Fleming stands with painting entitled 'Pollen Count' to be shown at Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston, Jan. 3-Feb. 7.

Hungry white-tailed deer have provided a constant reminder of the need to surrender control and enjoy the beauty of the natural wild places surrounding her home. Unitarian Universalist Church

Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave. Opening Reception: Sunday, Jan 3, 12:30-3 p.m. Free and open to the public. For more information and to view a portfolio of Fleming's work visit www.jofleming.com.

CALENDAR

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Yosi and the Super Dads: Rockin' Hanukkah Concert. 2 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Age 3 and up. 703-790-0123.

1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

It's A Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play. 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and students. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleancleanplayers.org.

Model Train Display. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Site, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Gauge trains run through a miniature western town in the Colvin Run Barn. Free. 703-759-2771 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

Rocknocoeros Holiday Show and Sing-a-long at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 for everyone one and older. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The D.R.A.M.A Kings at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Breakfast with Santa. 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$10 per person for McLean district residents, \$15 per person for all others. Age 2 or younger are free. Advance registration required, no walk-ins permitted. www.mcleancenter.org or 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

Colvin Run Christmas Ball. 9-11:30 p.m. at the Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Music by The Helmut Licht band. \$12 dance, no lesson. 703-795-2003 or www.colvinrun.org.

A Rockapella Holiday. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$21-\$42. Youth through grade 12 half price. Pre-Performance Discussion held 45 minutes prior to the performance. 703-993-8794.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

SUNDAY/DEC. 20

1-2-3 Imagine! with Elmo & Friends. 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot

Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Folk Music. 1-2:30 p.m. at the Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St., N.E., Vienna. The exhibit "Vienna Remembers World War II" is also featured. 703-938-5187.

Model Train Display. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Colvin Run Historic Site, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Gauge trains run through a miniature town. Free. 703-759-2771 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm.

Live Nativity. 4-7 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolly Madison Blvd, McLean. Live animals, hot cider, caroling, cookies and more.

Eric Hutchinson. 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$25. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

McLean Symphony in Concert: Deck the Halls. 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Piano soloists, the Symphony Festival Singers and the McLean Symphony under the direction of Dingwall Fleary. Adults \$25, seniors \$20, age 18 and under \$12. Tickets available at the Alden box office, 703-790-9223, or TicketMaster, 703-573-7328. 222.mcleansymphony.org.

MONDAY DEC. 21

Open Mic Showcase hosted by Ron Goad. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Time for Twos. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Stories, music, fingerplays and activities. Age 2-35 months with adult. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/DEC. 22

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

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

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 23

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.

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 24

Good for the Jews featuring Rob Tannenbaum and David Fagin. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 25

A Day to Play at the 'J'. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Center opens its doors to the community for a day of play. www.jccnv.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 26

Hotspur. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/\$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

SUNDAY/DEC. 27

Dana Wells CD Release and Dream Dirt (Justin and Mark from Jonasa). 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

MONDAY/DEC. 28

Bliss FM and DJ M.A.F. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 29

Harlem Globetrotters. 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center. Tickets are \$22-\$26.50, available through all Ticketmaster outlets including the venue box offices, online at www.ticketmaster.com and via phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.patriotcenter.com.

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

Poor Man's Lobster and The Arctic Groove. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 30

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.

THURSDAY DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Capital Hospice Benefit. 8:30 p.m. at The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Food, open bar, live entertainment and a silent auction. \$110 per person. All proceeds benefit nonprofit Capital Hospice. Reserve at 703-531-6209 or www.capitalhospice.org.

Robbie-nocoeros New Years Eve Party for Kids. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 for everyone over one and older. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

New Year's Eve Party with Shane Hines, The Blackjacks, Crash Boom Bang and Billy Woodward

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



Ashley Schneider, Jeanne Faubell and Lee Schneider strike a pose from the flamenco style of dance.

Just Flamenco To Open in McLean

Lee Schneider launches her own dance studio.

BY CHRISTY STEELE
THE CONNECTION

January 2010 will mark the opening of a new dance studio in McLean.

Just Flamenco will offer beginner flamenco classes for adults and will be run by Lee Schneider from the dance studio in her home in McLean. Schneider was born in South Africa and began dancing when she was 5. She started studying flamenco in her early teens. After moving to the United States, she began teaching flamenco with a dance company in Houston, Texas. After moving to Virginia in 2003, she began teaching for Joy of Motion, and occasionally substitute taught classes at Furia Flamenca.

After teaching three semesters of flamenco at the McLean Community Center, Schneider decided it was time to build her own studio. She had a sprung dance floor and a floor-to-ceiling mirror installed in the largest room in her basement, and has been preparing since then to open her business.

Schneider's daughter, Ashley, has also been a dancer since she was very young and has occasionally assisted her mother during large classes by giving individual attention to students.

"[Schneider] is a very good teacher because she breaks it down into the elements and one element gets built upon another," said Jeanne Faubell, one of Schneider's students at the McLean Community Center. "Then she will gradually work them together one at a time so you're not overwhelmed. So even if you have never danced before, it is something that you feel you can do without getting unduly frustrated. And it's fun. We just laughed so much. I just felt such a joy when we left. I felt invigorated."

"I love teaching new students like Jeanne who didn't know anything about flamenco before," said Schneider. "I teach them the basics and I love seeing their progress over 10 weeks from having no knowledge of the dance form to being competent dancers."

Classes will be scheduled on weekdays and Saturdays, and a Web site will be up shortly. In the meantime, contact Lee Schneider via email or phone at leesflamenco@gmail.com or 703-790-3354 to enroll for upcoming classes.

Winter Break Camps

Half-Day Camp
For ages 4-6.
\$40 per day/\$30 McLean district residents

Activity No.	Day and Date	Time
8101.290	Monday, Dec. 2	9 a.m.-Noon
8102.290	Tuesday, Dec. 2	9 a.m.-Noon
8103.290	Wednesday, Dec. 30	9 a.m.-Noon

Full-Day Camp
For ages 5-9.
\$60 per day/\$50 McLean district residents

Activity No.	Day and Date	Time
8105.290	Monday, Dec. 28	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
8106.290	Tuesday, Dec. 29	9 a.m.-4 p.m.
8107.290	Wednesday, Dec. 30	9 a.m.-4 p.m.

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123; TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org/special-events

Winter Break Trips

For 5th-8th graders
During the FCPS Winter Break, 5th-8th graders can join in on one of these fun-filled trips! Registration is required.

National Aquarium in Baltimore
Monday, Dec. 28
9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
\$45/\$40 McLean district residents

Ajax Amusements
Tuesday, Dec. 29
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
\$40/\$35 McLean district residents

Shadowland
Wednesday, Dec. 30
10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
\$35/\$30 McLean district residents

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123; TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org/special-events

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VIRGINIA MARKER HISTORY
VOLUME II
Northern Virginia Region

Postage Donations Get Packages to Troops

Neighbors International seeks help in shipping 150 care packages to soldiers in Middle East.

Neighbors International Foundation, a Great Falls-based nonprofit organization, is seeking financial donations to fund care packages for troops stationed overseas.

The foundation, established in 2004, has sent care packages, Girl Scout Cookies, Halloween candy and basic food items to military personnel in Afghanistan and Iraq for the last five years. This holiday season, the organization has

received enough donations of care package items such as protein bars, coffee, batteries and snacks to be able to fill more than 150 boxes.

Following President Obama's announcement of additional

troops deployed to Afghanistan, the foundation is trying to increase its total number of packages sent. Donations from the community to cover postage ensure that these packages reach the soldiers in a timely fashion.

Donations of any size are accepted, either by mail, in person or by donating online at www.nifoundation.org. Neighbors International Foundation is located at 1146-D Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066.

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Ginger Mahon poses with just a few of the gifts donated to the needy through her Wish List Project.



PHOTO BY
MIKE DICICCO/
THE CONNECTION

More Than 300 Served by Wish List

This year's Wish List Project nets thousands of dollars worth of gifts.

Great Falls resident and Wish List Project founder Ginger Mahon estimated that this year's drop-off at her home on Saturday, Dec. 12 netted at least \$15,000 worth of gifts for four area shelters, as well as teens in foster care and McLean-based charity Share Inc.

Participants also donated a total of \$3,445 in gift cards and

gave \$1,655 worth of checks to the Wounded Warrior Project. Each organization received an envelope with \$325 or more in assorted gift cards to use as needed.

Around 115 donors brought the holiday spirit to more than 300 individuals in need, many of which will receive multiple gifts, Mahon said.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

and the Senders. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$30. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

Colvin Run Citizens Assoc. New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. 7:30 p.m. at the Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Dancing to The Family Band, including traditional ballroom and latin. \$75 through Dec. 15, \$85 afterwards. For reservations contact Ed Cottrell, 703-435-5620 or edcottrell@macp.org.

SATURDAY JAN. 2

The Independent CD Release and The OK Corral. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance/ \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students.

Frank Barnako Photography Exhibit Opening. At the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The show will continue through March. 703-229-9111.

SUNDAY JAN. 3

Autism Awareness Matinee with The Kindness Of Strangers, Youth In Asia and Public Saxophone. 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$8. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Prisoner of Zenda. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$25 adults, \$15 students. www.1stStageSpringHill.org/zenda.

Luke Mitchem. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna, VA \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. www.myspace.com/lukemitchem or www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY JAN. 4

Open Mic Showcase hosted by Ron Goad. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 5

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

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6

Flight from Extinction: Helping Whooping Cranes Survive. 7 p.m. at U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Dr. John French on the journey of survival that begins before whooping crane chicks are even hatched, ending with flight behind an ultralight plane along the migratory route. Federal facility, photo Id required. www.usgs.gov/public_lecture_series

THURSDAY JAN. 7

Asylum Street Spankers. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$17. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY JAN. 8

An Evening with SGGL. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$25. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

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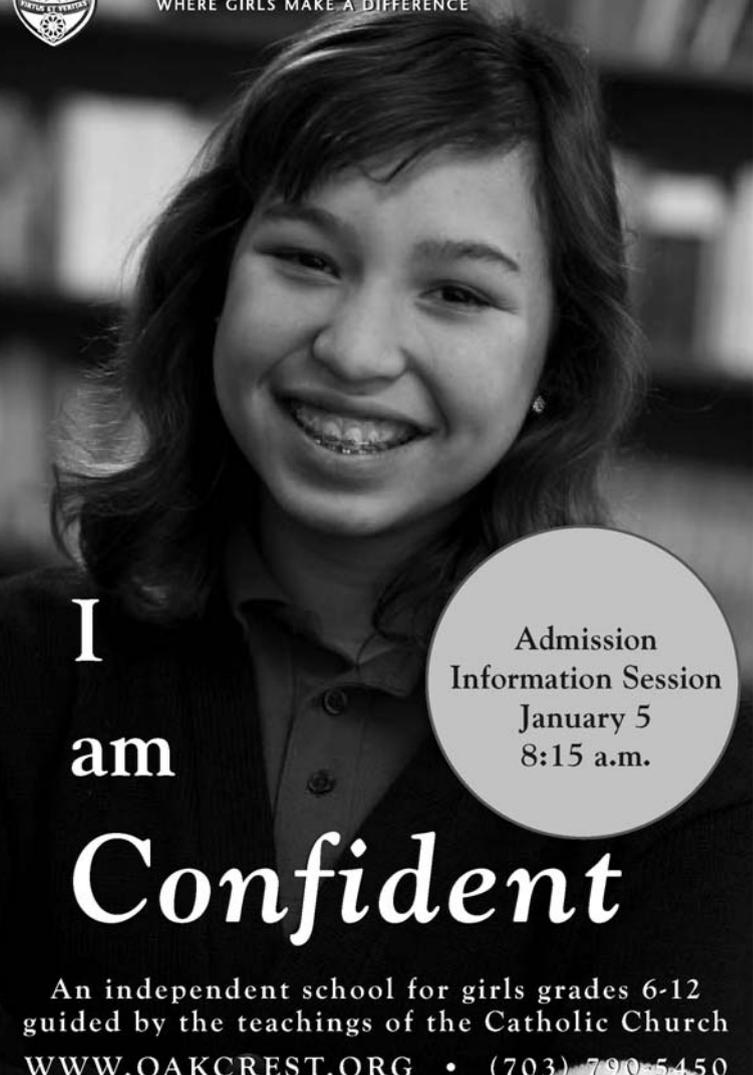
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SPORTS

McLean Boys Determined To Make District Noise

Bouchard, Fitzgerald give basketball team a solid foundation.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The first watershed moment every year for the McLean High boys' basketball team is its pre-Christmas game against local rival Langley. Highlander players and fans always look forward to the Liberty District matchup against the Saxons. Whether the contest is played at McLean or at Langley, the gymnasium is filled to capacity and the energy level is sky high.

The two teams were scheduled to meet on Friday night, Dec. 18 at Langley as part of a girls'-boys', double-header evening of basketball. The girls' game was to be played first, followed by the boys' contest.

"In the beginning of the season, that's what the kids can really point to on the schedule," said McLean boys' head coach Kevin Roller, of his team's first of two regular season meetings against the locals from Great Falls. "That's sort of a great way to end the first month of the season."

The coach said he has talked to his team during practices about how to best handle the high decibel crowd noise when his team takes the floor against Langley. It is often difficult for players on both teams to hear and talk with their own teammates because of the loud cheers or jeers.

"We've already talked to them about how we're going to communicate with 1,800 [people in the stands] screaming," said Roller, who said Langley coach Travis Hess always has the Saxons ready to play at a high level of basketball. "It's a game I really look forward to as a coach."

Last season in the first pre-New Year's game between the McLean and Langley boys, the visiting Saxons defeated McLean in a thrilling, double-overtime affair, 50-47.

"When you play McLean, it's going to be a great game every single time," said Hess, the Langley coach who led the Saxons to their second consecutive district title last year. "Kevin [Roller] does



McLean coach Kevin Roller said the Highlanders always look forward to their early season meeting against local rival Langley.

a great job changing defenses and their offense is very good. It will be a close game. Anything can happen when McLean-Langley play."

THIS YEAR'S MCLEAN team is one of the physically smaller and less experienced squads in the district. Just two players — senior forwards Phil Bouchard (6-foot 3-inches) and Sean Fitzgerald (6-1) — received quality playing time last winter. The two are the Highlanders' top players this season.

"We only returned two players who had significant playing time [last year]," said Roller. "Both of them are playing well."

Going into its Dec. 18 game against Langley, McLean stood at 2-2 with the wins coming over Battlefield High (Haymarket) of the Northwest Region and Northern Region opponent Falls Church. The losses have come to Northern Region foes Westfield and Yorktown.

The games against Battlefield and Westfield were part of the Langley Tip-Off Tournament, the Saxons' early season, four-team round robin tourney.

Bouchard scored 20 points with nine rebounds, along with two blocked shots and five steals, in the win over Battlefield, and he tallied 12 points and eight boards in McLean's victory over non-district opponent Falls Church. Against Westfield, the Highlander standout had 12 points and five rebounds.

"He combines height, speed and strength and is probably the best athlete we have," said Roller, of Bouchard. "He put a lot of time [into the game] this summer."

Bouchard usually matches up

against bigger opponents at his forward position. Defensively, he more than holds his own against talented frontcourt players. On offense, he utilizes his quickness to drive past defenders. He also has developed a better outside shot.

Fitzgerald, meanwhile, is another solid, go-to player for McLean. He is a good all-around basketball player, but his best sport is baseball. Fitzgerald recently earned a scholarship to play baseball at Notre Dame.

"He's a big-time athlete and a big-time baseball player," said Roller, of Fitzgerald. "He's been a steady influence for us."

Two sophomores have handled the point guard duties for the Highlanders over the first part of the season — Gordon Rogo, a varsity back-up player last year, and Sango Amolo, who ran the McLean JV team's offense last winter.

"We have two point-guards in the rotation and they are both maturing," said the coach.

Amolo scored nine points in the loss to Yorktown, while Rogo contributed six.

Roller said his team has had both good and bad stretches of play.

"We've had some very good flashes in our first four games, and at other times our lack of varsity experience has shown up," he said. "We need to consistently play 32 minutes of varsity basketball, which should happen when guys [better] learn their roles."

McLean will participate in the Wootton High Holiday Tournament after Christmas. The Highlanders will meet Rockville High in their first tournament game on Dec. 29.

Local Wrestlers' Classic Success

Early season wrestling event officially kicks off new season.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Northern Region Classic Wrestling Tournament took place Dec. 11-12 at Westfield High School. The annual, early season showcase event brings together top teams from the Northern Region and other areas of the state.

This year's team champion was host school Westfield (302 points), which finished well ahead of second place finisher Fairfax High (162). Rounding out the top five were third place Woodbridge (153), fourth place Annandale (143) and fifth place Potomac Falls of Sterling (142). In all, 32 teams competed at the two-day mat bonanza.

Local teams to finish well included seventh place Marshall High (126.5), ninth place Herndon (97.5), 15th place South Lakes (81.5) and 16th place Madison (80). McLean High finished 22nd overall and Oakton was 29th.

From Marshall, Andrew Embree captured the championship in the 215-weight class. He was a finals winner by second round pin over South Lakes' Reed Dismuke. Also for the Statesmen, Mark Bergenholtz (189) earned a third place finish, heavyweight Matt Crawford took fifth place, Connor Driscoll (103) finished seventh and Daniel Picado (145) was eighth.

Herndon High had several place finishers, including two Hornet wrestlers who gained second place medals in Matt Olem (135) and Josh Pike (125). Also for the Hornets, Gabe Pike (103) garnered fifth place, Justin Magerer (145) was seventh and Ramon Reyes (112) finished eighth.

From South Lakes, Reed Dismuke was second in the 215-weight class. Also for the Seahawks, Ryan Forrest (135) earned a third place medal while Alex Stanley (189) took sixth place.

For the Madison Warhawks, Albert Schultz (119) earned third place honors, while teammate Robert Dooley (112) battled for a fourth place standing. Daniel Feldman (103) finished sixth, Alex McSween (130) was seventh and Andrew Reinhard (heavyweight) was eighth.

From McLean, Marvin Garcia (130) and Andy Chung (119) both took sixth place in their respective weight divisions, while Highlander wrestlers Billy Dvorkin (189) and Ethan Arkin (135) both finished eighth.

Oakton's Wade Kostkan (152) took seventh place.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton High Girls Win First Five Games

Caroline Coyer (5) and the Oakton High Cougars, shown here at last year's state AAA girls' basketball tournament, won their first five games of the new season, including a 69-30 home win over Jefferson on Dec. 15. Coyer, a standout sophomore point guard, scored 17 points in the win. The Cougars' leading scorer in the game was Zora Stephenson, who scored 20 points.

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Smoking Ban Expands

FROM PAGE 3

because of their facilities irks Jimmy Cirrito, the owner of Jimmy's in Herndon. He is concerned he will lose business to other local bars that can offer a lounge or a nice outdoor patio to smokers.

"My situation is unfair because I don't have a convenient way to let people smoke. Carpool has a patio. Ned Devine's has a patio," said Cirrito, whose restaurant has very little outdoor space.

The owner, who does not smoke, was opposed to the new smoking regulations in general, he said. But given a choice, he might have preferred something closer to the stricter bans in Maryland or D.C. over the more lax regulations in Virginia.

If the ban was more universal, and no separately ventilated smoking rooms were allowed in general, bars like his would not be at a disadvantage when it came to smoking customers, he said.

CIRRITO was not the only one to worry about what his competitors were doing in response to the smoking ban.

Tyler Hudgins, a bartender at the Clyde's Tysons Corner location, said she was put more at ease when she heard other restaurants in the area like hers—including J. Gilbert's in McLean and the nearby Morton's location — were not moving ahead with plans to add smoking rooms. Had that happened, she might have lost some of her "scotch and cigar" patrons to those places.

"It is universal so it is not like we are going to lose business," she said.

Still, Clyde's and Chics 'n Wings are some of the only Tysons bars open until 1:30 a.m. regularly and Hudgins said it was possible that some patrons would chose to go to the latter because of the indoor smoking.

In general, the bartender and McLean resident said she was pleased that Clyde's was going smoke free.

"I don't like when it becomes smoky in here, even though I smoke when I go out drinking. ... And it will be nice not to get bronchitis this year," she said.

AMERICAN LEGION POSTS, Veterans of Foreign Wars locations and country clubs, as private clubs, are exempt from the new rules.

In fact, Hearn's planned to start patronizing his local American Legion hall bar when Jimmy's officially went smoke free at the beginning of the month.

"If I am allowed to smoke in the [American Legion] bars, I will go there. But I will not come back to Jimmy's. I will never come back to this bar again, which is sad because this is a great bar," said Hearn's.

Still, smokers may not be safe at the American Legion for long. A group of members at Post 180 in Vienna have already started a campaign to get their bar to comply with state regulations.

Even though it doesn't have to, the Vienna Post decided to go smoke-free at the main bar and only allow cigarettes in a smaller game room as of Dec. 1.

"Some of our older members are very anti-smoking. This smoking ban, they saw it as a opportunity to push no smoking here," said Rick Hodgins, who sat with a pack of menthol cigarettes and an ashtray at the American Legion's bar Dec. 1.



FAITH

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, will have several holiday season services. From Dec. 20-March 28, Sunday services will be at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The adult forum and Sunday School will be at 9 a.m. Contact 703-759-2082 or www.stfranciscgreatfalls.org.

❖ Sunday/Dec. 20. 10 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Pageant during the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. Following the pageant, crafts from the Holy Land will be available for sale.

❖ Sunday/Dec. 20. 5 p.m. Zion Rise! Words and Music for a Winter's Night. Celebrating Advent, Christmas, and the Winter Solstice. Free and open to the public.

❖ Thursday/Dec. 24. 3:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Abbreviated Eucharists with carols and a brief homily, suitable for children.

❖ Thursday/Dec. 24. 8 p.m. Christmas Eve service with the St. Francis adult choir.

❖ Thursday/Dec. 24. 11 p.m. Midnight Mass of the Nativity with the St. Francis adult choir and a professional string quartet.

❖ Friday/Dec. 25. 11 a.m. Worship service with Eucharist and carols.

❖ Sunday/Dec. 27. 10 a.m. Christmastide baptism with carols.

❖ Wednesday/Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m. Lessons and Carols service.

Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, is hosting a Live Nativity on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. There are three acts that will begin every 20 minutes. 703-759-5949.

St. John's Episcopal Church at 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean, will hold Christmas worship services. Contact 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

❖ Sunday, Dec. 20. 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Lessons will be read by parishioners and seasonal anthems sung by the choirs.

❖ Thursday, Dec. 24. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 4 p.m., following Christmas music at 3:30, for families with young children. At 7 p.m. a traditional service of Holy Eucharist includes carols led by the St. John's Quartet. At 10 p.m., Holy Eucharist follows Christmas music at 9:30 p.m. The Senior Choir with organ and woodwind accompaniment will lead the congregation in singing carols.

❖ Friday, Dec. 25. 10 a.m. Christmas morning Holy Eucharist.



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Tibetan History and Music Come to Brookfield School

BY CATHERINE PASCHAL
THE CONNECTION

Students at Brookfield School had reason to dance Monday morning, Dec. 14, and it wasn't Miley Cyrus that got them moving, but snippets of a Tibetan Opera performed by a native musician who paid a visit to the McLean school.

The school's Anthropology Express Program, with its focus on Tibet this year, hosted guests Tencho Gyatso, special assistant for advocacy for the International Campaign for Tibet, and Tibetan musician Karma Gyaltzen.

Bringing Tibet's culture, architecture and people to life through photographs, Gyatso related the attachment nomads feel for their colorfully adorned yaks and explained that, although a herd might consist of 50 to 60 of the animals, nomads know them all by name and can tell instantly if one is missing.

The conversation also turned to the Chinese invasion and the origins of the conflict that drove Tibetans into exile, with Gyatso noting that her people were unprepared for the unprovoked attack of their

country 60 years ago.

"You can't fight with stones against guns," she said.

Today, 130,000 Tibetans are living in exile worldwide with between 7,000 and 8,000 living in the United States and a small community of approximately 200 in Northern Virginia. Brookfield students learned that Tibetan children in the U.S. attend schools that teach them the language and culture of their native country.

Professional musician Karma Gyaltzen had the students and staff on their feet and dancing as he demonstrated instruments native to Tibet and explained the musical and dance customs of his country. He performed a fraction of an eight-hour-long Tibetan opera noting that such performances in Tibet are interactive and interwoven with symbols of the culture.

Brookfield's Upper School students then performed for their guests, led by Performing Arts Specialist Sandra Kammann. Kammann decided to make Tibet the focus of this year's Anthropology Express Program after partaking in an international delegation of women who visited India and Nepal to work with the Tibetan Buddhist commu-



CONTRIBUTED

Professional musician Karma Gyaltzen demonstrated instruments native to Tibet and explained the musical and dance customs of his country.

nity-in-exile.

"Students are exploring traditional nomadic life among yak herders and the twin challenges of a desolate landscape and harsh weather conditions," Kammann said.

"Through stories, geographical maps and group discussions, students have come to understand the movement of many Tibetans across the borders into India and Nepal." The class will culminate with a performance this May at Brookfield.

Updated, But Still Sweet

Sweet Stuff owners open Sweetleaf downtown, emphasizing 'green' and fresh.

After McLean resident Sherry Matini's son and daughter finished college, they decided they wanted to stay in their family's restaurant business. So, while the Matinis still own their Sweet Stuff carry-out restaurant at Old Dominion Drive and Spring Hill Road, they relinquished the restaurant's operations and, earlier this year, opened Sweetleaf at the old Moorenko's location in downtown McLean.

"The difference in the menu is just the way the food is prepared," said Matini's son, Andre, noting that salads are now made to order, rather than prepackaged, and sandwiches are available hot. This was his idea, and he summed up the sandwich and salad concept on the staff's T-shirts: "Guys like it hot, girls like it fresh."

MINOR DIFFERENCES include the addition of cupcakes to the menu and a change in yogurt flavor. "You can get anything you want, healthy or unhealthy," Andre Matini said.

The restaurant opened in early June. Primarily a lunchtime establishment, Sweetleaf's menu also includes soups, frozen yogurt, smoothies, pastries, a variety of coffees and 15 flavors of ice cream. The food is made fresh from scratch each day and the produce comes from local growers.

The family also embraced a "green" concept for the new restaurant, springing a little

extra for wind power and recycling diligently. The cups and flatware, however don't need to be recycled. They're made from corn and are biodegradable. "Everybody's trying to be a little more environmentally friendly, but we didn't want it to cost too much to operate," Andre Matini said, noting that the family had not wanted to make the operation so "overly green" as to drive up prices.

"We wanted to stay in the neighborhood because my mom knows a lot of people here," he said, adding that he knew about half the new restaurant's customers from Sweet Stuff. To support the community, Sweetleaf entertains the chorus from neighboring McLean Baptist Church on the church's chorus nights, and students get free wireless access between 3-6 p.m. during the week. And if they're studying, they get free coffee. "We had a couple of kids bring it up and we thought it would be a great idea," Andre Matini said.

His sister, Arita, took care of the interior design for the new eatery, which uses earth tones and lets interior beams and ducts remain exposed. Seating, indoor and outdoor, consists of tables with chairs or benches. There are no booths. She said she wanted to create a homey, country feel.

MCLEAN RESIDENT Sarah Richmond Reid said she had been familiar with Sweet



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

McLean residents and Sweet Stuff owners Sherry, Andre and Arita Matini recently opened the Sweetleaf eatery in downtown McLean.

Stuff but had become a regular at Sweetleaf since it opened. "I'm so ecstatic that we finally have a restaurant that has healthy food and is delicious," she said, adding that her favorite dishes were the yogurt — loaded with raspberries — and the chicken pesto sandwich. She said the restaurant's location, reasonable prices, attitude toward the environment and friendly, personal atmosphere made it a favorite for her and her family. She noted that the owners even knew her dog by name.

"Rarely a day goes by that one of my family members is not going to Sweetleaf, and usually, it's me," Reid said.

— MIKE DICICCO

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'Tis the Season...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

To be thankful. Let's be realistic; I'm a stage IV lung cancer patient/survivor, eight months into a treatment protocol with a life expectancy initially projected out to between 13 months and two years, so jolly isn't really in the discussion – or in my vocabulary any more. Still, I'm not complaining, just providing a little context for the rest of this column.

It's post-Thanksgiving Sunday and now that the food and festivities are mostly finished (and work looms tomorrow, Monday, for many), reality has once again reared its ugly head. Life goes on (for me, Thank God!) but to not be thankful every day for the "above average"/relative good medical fortune I've experienced (since receiving my quite unexpected diagnosis last March) would be disrespectful to those very Gods who likely control my fate.

Whatever mental exercises in futility I employ to defeat these death-defying cancer demons, I do so without their expressed written consent. It is a battle royal every day (more so the nights) and no doubt it will be a battle to the end, or at least that's my intention. And one of my unique weapons in this war against attrition is my attitude. Inherited from my parents, I guess, programmed somehow into my DNA, I can fight this fight with positive – and realistic optimism, good humor and good sense. But "jolly" I can no longer be, regardless of the season. Thankful though, at every opportunity, I can and will be this holiday season.

And not that I think this "holiday season" will be my last. Hardly. But as a cancer patient, one of the attitudes you are encouraged to embrace is "today." I can still remember Team Lourie's first meeting with my oncologist (how can I forget?) when, after listening to the doctor's reading/reviewing of all my medical reports/scans and biopsy, ending in the diagnosis with which many of you regular readers are intimately familiar, I replied, "Wow, it doesn't sound like I should be working any more;" to which the doctor added, "And you might want to consider taking that vacation you've always wanted to." ("WHAT!?", in my head.) From that moment (the beginning, if you will), it was communicated to me/us (my wife, my brother and me) that tomorrow (the future) has now left the building. At that point, the word "jolly" also left and went right out of my brain for evermore.

But it's eight months later, almost nine in fact, much has transpired in my treatment. I have "tolerated" (a semi medical term commonly used, in my experience, anyway, to describe the body's reaction to whatever the doctor/medication is doing to it) extremely, maybe even exceptionally well, all that my oncologist has "protooled." What happens next? What scenario might play out? It depends on everything that it is dependent upon. Meaning, death and taxes – as they say, are all that's guaranteed, as opposed to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. One is a declaration, the other is a decree, almost.

Every day presents new challenges, mentally and physically. My attitude remains good, great even. "Jolly" it will never be, though. Thankful, it most certainly is.

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

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Bow Hunting Disputed

FROM PAGE 4

position because it has to do something. ... But people are asking questions that I think are reasonable," said Kimberly Sisco, a Great Falls resident and volunteer with the local Wildlife Rescue League.

The rescue league receives 5,000 calls for help with animals in Fairfax County per year. Since Sisco handles most of the cases that involve deer, she is well aware of what types of conflict the animals find themselves in with humans.

"I go out if someone has a deer with an arrow in it on their property, if a deer hit their car, if a deer is eating their flowers," said Sisco in a phone interview.

The Great Falls resident said there are several non-lethal strategies that Fairfax County could use to try and minimize deer management problems.

They could plant flowers and other vegetation that deer enjoy in areas away from roadways, which would minimize car accidents. There have also been experiments with deer birth control that could help control the population, said Sisco.

"I think the optimum situation would be to revisit the deer management plan. There are a tremendous amount of non-lethal methods," she said.

Still, in its annual report, Fairfax's environmental council dismissed both deer management methods suggested by Sisco.

Fairfax's deer population is so large that it is unlikely appealing flowers and other plants aimed at steering deer away from car traffic would actually last an entire season. Plus, the approach does nothing to address the excess number of deer already living in the county, said the council in its report.

The council also stated that most birth control programs had proven to be costly and only marginally effective at controlling deer populations.

IF THE COUNTY is determined it needed to kill off some deer in order to manage the population, Sisco would prefer they use sharp shooters to bow hunters. Using snipers is more effective and more humane because deer tend to die quickly from bullet wounds, she said.

By contrast, Sisco has seen several deer in the county who have died slowly over days or weeks after being struck by an arrow.

"It is not an unusual occurrence to see a live animal with an arrow through it on someone's property," said Sisco, who added that parents have a particularly hard time explaining such situations to young children.

FAIRFAX has used sharp shooting and bow hunting to control the local deer population for most of the past 10 years. Officials decided to move exclusively to bow hunting this year, in part because of cost.

Sharp shooters, typically Fairfax County police officers, are paid for their services. Bow hunters, on the other hand, are typi-

cally willing to cull deer for free, said Eric Huppert, founder and president of Suburban Whitetail Management of Northern Virginia.

During the 2007-2008 season, sharp shooters took out 119 deer, at a cost of approximately \$30 per animal. By contrast, the government has actually made money off of bow hunting because permit fees typically exceed the program's costs. For example, in 2003, bow hunting brought in approximately \$77 per animal killed in Fairfax.

In the past, Huppert's organization has worked with private property owners, homeowners associations and developers who were concerned about the local deer population. The Colvin Run hunt will be the group's first event on government property, he said.

Huppert said most of the people who consider bow hunting less humane than sharp shooting are ill informed. They cite studies of deer hunting that are decades old and don't account for the advances in bow hunting equipment made recently.

The archer also said his organization has very high standards for the people it accepts. People who want to join the Suburban Whitetail Management must take a bow hunting safety and ethics class, pass a shooting test and go through an interview process to make sure they are a good fit for the organization.

"You have to have something that sets you apart from the average hunter to be a part of this," said Huppert.

RESIDENTS are still irritated that Fairfax County did not ask for public opinion when it came to transitioning from sharp shooting to bow and arrow hunting exclusively. The only public notice about the change in program was sent to a very select group of citizens who live directly around the parks where the hunts are taking place, said critics.

"With one million people in Fairfax County, they sent out 275 letters to the people who live directly around the park and they did not ask for input from those residents either," said Jeff Synder, a wildlife rescue volunteer and Reston resident.

Hopkins, who lived close enough to deer hunt to receive notice, said she was first informed of the county's plans in Colvin Run on Oct. 26 through a letter. But many of her neighbors didn't realize the hunt was taking place until it was already underway, either because they did not receive a letter or they overlooked it.

"I had one neighbor who told me she had gone walking with her dog in the park on the first day of the hunt," said Hopkins.

She added that it was distressing the Fairfax County park staff did not appear to be concerned when she and several other neighbors were uncomfortable with the bow hunt.

"If you live in a place, you should have some say about what happens here," said Hopkins.

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OBITUARY

Christal Ann Sudduth, 77, of Oceanside, CA passed away on November 25, 2009. Mrs. Sudduth was born on July 1, 1932 in Los Angeles, CA. She earned a Bachelor's degree from UCLA in 1954 and later taught pre-school for many years. Christal married then-Lt. JG Roger Sudduth on June 5, 1954. They travelled the world together, both in the Navy and as civilians, with Roger retiring as a Captain in 1977.

She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Roger of Oceanside, CA; daughter, Lesley Barnard of San Diego, CA; son, Lawrence Sudduth of Arlington, VA; sister, Joy Denman of Washington D.C.; grandchildren, Devin Elliott of Ft. Myers, FL, Allyssa Sudduth and Robert Sudduth both of Marlborough, CT. She was preceded in death by a son, Darryl Sudduth, in 2001.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated at 5:00pm, on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church on Balboa Island, CA. The Committal will be held on Tuesday, April 13 at 11:00am at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, VA. Arrangements are by Poway-Bernardo Mortuary.

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