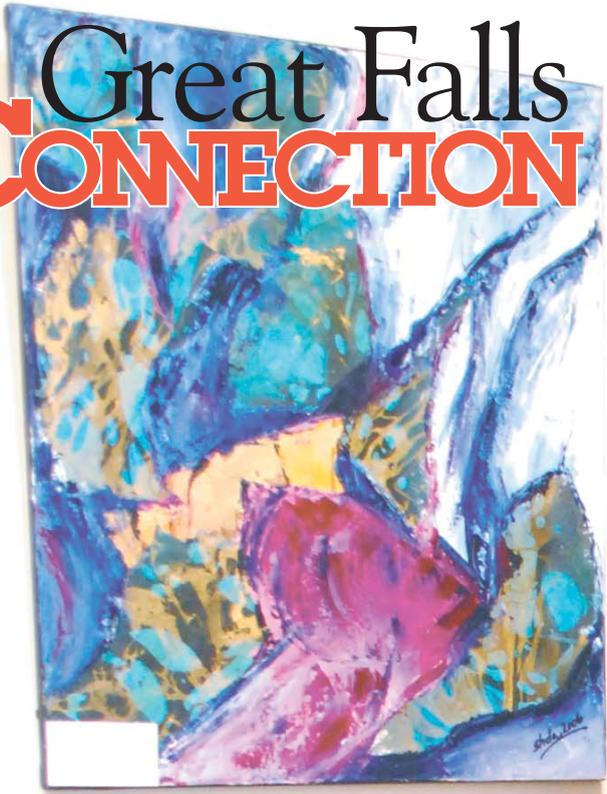


# Great Falls CONNECTION

The work of local artists Shela Qamer and Frank Barnako is currently on display in the two conference rooms at Great Falls Library. Here, Qamer displays a piece from her collection called 'Peace in Colors' titled 'Waterfalls,' and Barnako shows his photo titled 'Star Spangled Truck,' photographed while he was in Maine.



## Great Falls Library Promotes Art

NEWS, PAGE 10

## Holiday Help In a Time Of Need

NEWS, PAGE 3

## 'Going Green' At Nike Field

NEWS, PAGE 4

OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 17

PHOTO BY JENNA PUGRANT/THE CONNECTION

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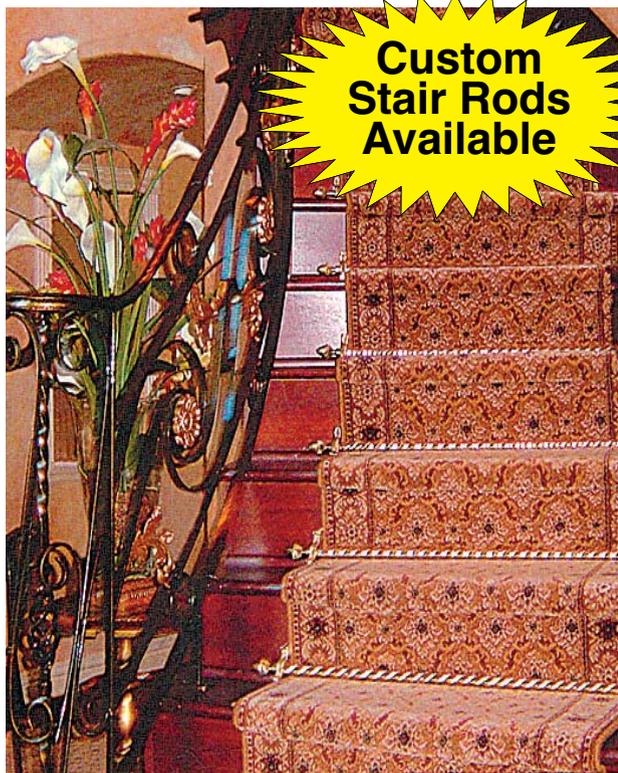
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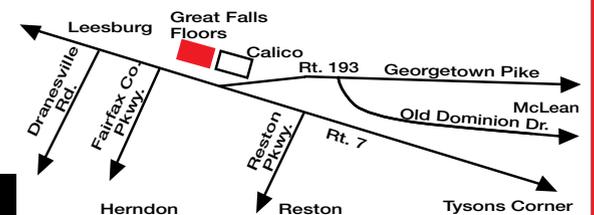




PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Workers at Jinny Beyer Studio pose with Cliff Barr and the quilt they made for him. From left are Barbara Hollinger, Diane Kirkhart, Cliff Barr, Jinny Beyer, Jane Allingham and Linda Marcinowski.

## Holiday Help in Time of Need

**Young Great Falls resident organizes community donation after UPS carrier's house destroyed.**

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n the afternoon of Dec. 9, Great Falls UPS deliveryman Cliff Barr and his holiday-season assistant, Great Falls resident Sean Aaron, were in the middle of their daily route. With Christmas about two weeks away, it was the busiest time of year for deliveries. "About 2:30, 2:45, I get a call from my son. He's in hysterics," Barr said.

His 18-year-old son had been the only person at Barr's home in Bealeton, Va. when an ember popped from the wood-burning stove and caught the couch on fire. He would soon be taken to the hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation. Now, he was calling to say the house was burning down. "Here I am at work and my house is on fire," Barr said.

By the time he had called his supervisor and made the 50-mile drive home, most of the fire trucks were gone and the house and its contents were destroyed. "What wasn't burned inside the house was so smoke-damaged it wasn't worth saving," he said.

"I felt absolutely terrible when he got the phone call, and I wanted to help out," Aaron said.

A sophomore at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., Aaron had decided the year before to assist with the UPS holiday rush as a way to make money while he

was back in town over winter break. "They ended up putting me with the driver on my route," he said, noting that the arrangement was convenient for all parties and that Barr had turned out to be "a great guy to be around."

"Cliff has a heart of gold. I could see that by the relationships he's formed," Aaron said. "Everybody's always happy to see him."

Barr has been delivering to the Great Falls area for about five years.

**THE NIGHT OF THE FIRE**, Aaron typed up a flier soliciting contributions from the community. Barr was off for the next two days, and Aaron used that time to distribute the flier to businesses on their route, and he posted a notice on the online Neighbors Network. The carrier who works the Great Falls route for FedEx also helped distribute fliers. Aaron didn't tell Barr about his efforts, hoping to surprise him with a Christmas gift from the community.

"Unbeknownst to me, he organized this whole thing," Barr said. "I wouldn't have condoned it by no means, but he just went ahead and did it."

At first, Aaron set a modest goal of about \$500. However, he said, "I was absolutely blown away by the response from the community. They reaffirmed my belief in people."

"We were all just devastated by his loss," said Jinny Beyer, who owns a quilt studio in the Great Falls Village

Centre. "You've got your UPS driver and you have a daily pickup and you get to know him pretty well." Not only did the shop take up a collection, but she and her staff also worked together to sew a quilt for Barr and his family. With a flannel backing, the quilt was intended for cozying up on a sofa, Beyer said. "Like when people are sick, you make them comfort

**"That speaks leaps and bounds for this community. They've got a big heart."**

— Cliff Barr, UPS deliveryman

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 9

## What Your Neighbors Want

**In their own words, locals speak out at Virginia General Assembly hearing.**

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**A**bout 60 people showed up to testify before the Fairfax County delegation to the Virginia General Assembly at a Jan. 9 hearing. The representatives, including state senators and delegates, headed to Richmond for the start of the legislative session on Jan. 13.

Virginia's budget is one of the top priorities for most state legislators in 2010. The General Assembly passes a new budget only once every two years and the current spending plan has a \$4 billion shortfall.

Former Gov. Tim Kaine (D) proposed closing Virginia's budget gap through a mix of tax increases and cuts in services before leaving office this month. Among other things,

**JACK BRUGGEMAN'S** sister Cathy, 47, cannot walk, feed or dress herself.

Though Bruggeman's parents cared for Cathy during the first 22 years of her life, she has spent the last 25 at Northern Virginia Training Center, a state-run facility on Braddock Road in Fairfax. Bruggeman, a board member of center's "parents and associates" group, could not be happier to have her there.

"Although [Northern Virginia Training Center] is a state-run facility, I have never thought of my sister as being in a state institution. ... Because of the care she receives there, Cathy has a full life," said Bruggeman, who credits the center's staff with discovering his sister's breast cancer last year while it was still treatable.

Bruggeman worries about the increasing pressure to close state institutions like the Northern Virginia Training Center, which he said suffer unfairly from negative stereotypes

Kaine's plan included a \$60 million reduction in Fairfax County Public Schools' state funding.

Unlike his predecessor, newly sworn-in Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) has said he would not raise taxes to balance the budget, which could mean deeper cuts to services than the ones proposed by Kaine.

About one-third of the people who took their Saturday morning off to speak to Fairfax County's senators and delegates had serious concerns about Virginia's budget impact on residents with disabilities who receive or are waiting to receive assistance from the commonwealth.

Other speakers addressed a range of topics including taxes, the local court system and state funding for Fairfax schools.

about government-run facilities.

Some other advocates for people with disabilities have called for the closing of state-run facilities like the Northern Virginia Training Center in favor of small settings, such as group homes or home health care. Group homes or personal aides not only provide a person with disabilities more in-

dependence but are also cheaper to run, according to these advocates.

Bruggeman doesn't disagree with those advocating for more group homes and other individualized settings for the most part. For many people with disabilities, those types of arrangements are more appropriate. But there is small set of people with disabilities, like his sister, that need the type of care only a fully-loaded facility, like the Northern Virginia Training Center, can provide, he said.

"It is more expensive to care for someone like my sister. Period," said Bruggeman.



Jack Bruggeman, Vienna



## Thinking of Those in War Zones

Over winter break, the Langley High School's boys varsity basketball team and their Coach Travis Hess performed a service project with Neighbors International in Great Falls to pack boxes of food and supplies for American troops in the war zones of Iraq and Afghanistan. They purchased the goods and packed more than 25 large boxes under the guidance of Neighbors' Sharon Rainey and Pam Gilbert.

### WEEK IN GRETA FALLS

## School Hosts Open House

Great Falls Village Green Day School will conduct the Admission Open House on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1- p.m. Childcare available. RSVP 703-759-4049. Snow date is Wednesday, Jan. 27.

## Lace & Grace Tea Tickets on Sale

The Episcopal Church Women of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in McLean will host a Lace & Grace Tea on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 2 p.m. A portion of the tea proceeds will benefit local women served by Alternative House in Vienna.

The event features a variety of tea delicacies and sweets created by Mary Lee's Desserts of Vienna. Local instrumentalists will provide salon music. A portion of the tea proceeds will benefit local women served by Alternative House in Vienna. The event is open to girlfriends, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, friends and 'tween-to-teen girls, and will take place at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Hudson Hall, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, near the intersection of Route 7 and Lewinsville Road.

Tickets priced \$30 per person will be available through Jan. 20. Contact St. Thomas Episcopal Church at 703-442-0330 to reserve tickets. Group sales are welcome.

## Correction

In the Jan. 6 article "2010 in Great Falls: Pike Debate Heats Up," the Great Falls Connection incorrectly stated that a project to narrow Walker Road on the south side of Georgetown Pike had received funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and was put out to bid in December. The funding approved over the summer is from the Fairfax County Department of Transportation, and the project has not yet been put out to bid.

## FAITH

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

**Antioch Christian Church**, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, is hosting guest speaker the Rev. Deborah Thompson for the church's Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday Celebration at 11 a.m. Sunday, Jan.17. The public is invited, and a reception will follow. [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org) or 703-938-6753.

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

**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](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Molly Moran has focused on the importance on recycling since doing a project on this in grade school.



Molly Moran, the Georgetown Visitation high school senior, is taking her passion of 'Go Green' to the local Great Falls Nike sports fields.

# 'Going Green' at Nike Field

**Great Falls high school senior sponsors sports recycle containers.**

Molly Moran, the Georgetown Visitation high school senior, is taking her passion of 'Go Green' to the local Great Falls Nike sports fields.

When it came time for her to earn the Girls Scouts highest honor — the Gold Award — it was an easy decision for a girl who has focused on the importance on recycling since doing a project on this in grade school. "I used to stuff my back pack full of papers and plastic bottles I found around the elementary school and bring them

home to recycle them in our home containers. I think I drove my mom a bit crazy for a few years, until the school purchased their own recycle containers" said Moran.

She and her three red-haired siblings have been a frequent sight on the Nike Sports Fields, playing baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse for the past 12 years. She was often upset that the fields had no recycle containers for plastic bottles and noticed that the trash containers were overflowing with recyclable products. Reverting back to her elementary school ways, she would load up the family car with as many of the items she could fit in the trunk and take them to her home containers.

Recently, Moran approached Julie Casso, the volunteer who runs the Snack Shack at Nike fields, and Jim Mraz, the head of Great Falls Little League, with her idea to allocate recycle containers for the Nike Fields. Realizing that

she had addressed an important community issue, The Great Falls Little League agreed to place the cost of recycling collection in its annual budget.

"I was so impressed with Molly's initiative and enthusiasm. She has managed to do something substantial and long-lasting for our community," said Casso. "Many people talk about changing the world, but Molly Moran has done it"

Recycling containers are already available at some of the Nike fields. Moran has estimated that it would take about 40 bins to cover all of the fields and keep them pristine.

She would like to solicit local sponsors to purchase a recycling container. Each bin costs about \$30.

Those interested in donating a bin can e-mail Julie Casso at [juliecasso@aol.com](mailto:juliecasso@aol.com) or call her at 703-444-1234.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/JAN. 14

**Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Board Installation Luncheon at Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar. 1960 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

### FRIDAY/JAN. 15

**Republican Club of Greater Reston Annual General Meeting and Election of Officers.** 7:30 p.m. Lake Anne Community Center. 703-406-9740.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 17

**NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting.** 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. [restonbell7@gmail.com](mailto:restonbell7@gmail.com).

### TUESDAY/JAN. 19

**Virginia Liberty Project Meeting with Walter Williams.** 6 p.m. The Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Free. Reserve at 703-286-5241.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 23

**League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area General Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. at Country Club of

Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. 'A New Tysons: Vision or Pipe Dream?' with Clark Tyler, Chairman of Tysons' Land Use Task Force. The discussion is free, reservations for lunch following are required. Reserve at [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org).

**Town Hall: Senator Janet Howell, Delegate Jim Scott, and Delegate Barbara Comstock.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Little Theatre at Longfellow Middle School, 2000 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. [DelJScott@house.state.va.us](mailto:DelJScott@house.state.va.us) or 804-698-1053.

**Town Hall: Senator Mary Margaret Whipple and Delegate Jim Scott.** 1-3 p.m. at Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls Street Falls Church. [DelJScott@house.state.va.us](mailto:DelJScott@house.state.va.us) or 804-698-1053.

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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.

**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.

**Jennifer E. Fulco** has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky. Fulco is a student at

George Mason University, and a 2007 graduate of James Madison High School. She is the daughter of Bruce R. and Judy A. Fulco of Podium Drive, Vienna.

**Jerard M. Paden** has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Paden is a student at Norwich University, Northfield, Vt., and is the grandson of Eleanor Clark of Carrhill Road, Vienna.

Air Force Airman **Kimberly J. Werman** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of

Frank Werman of Silverstone Court in Oakton, and sister of Kyle Werman of Plum Run Court in Fairfax. Werman is a 2005 graduate of James Madison High School.

Air Force Airman **Kristen N. Farmer** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Robert Farmer of Gosnell Road, Vienna, and Michelle Farmer of Fairview Heights, Ill.

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.



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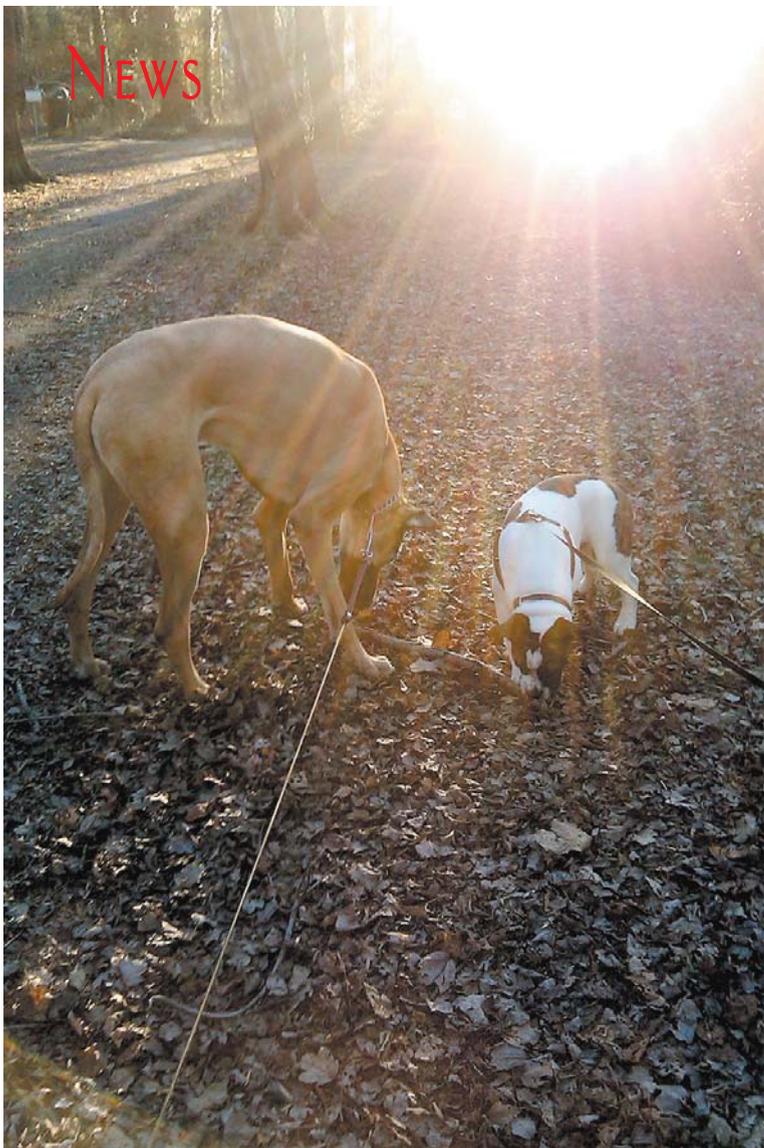
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Every day at 7:20 a.m., Chris Farrell crosses the Old Dominion Drive walking his two dogs.

# The Trio A story of the trio McLean commuters see daily at 7:20 a.m.

BY DONNA SOUTHWORTH

Every day, at exactly 7:20 a.m., heads turn, cars swerve and early morning drivers squint their tired eyes to take a closer look at what appears to be a man walking a deer across Old Dominion Drive at a busy intersection in McLean. On closer look, it's not a deer, but a Great

Dane — the exact size and color of a deer. Catch the sight on a misty morning, and one would swear it was a deer on a leash in this man's left hand. As if that's not enough, in stark contrast to this long, leggy beige figure on this man's left — to his right is a stocky, bowed-legged Olde English Bulldogge.

**THE DOGS**, affectionately known as Samson (Great Dane) and Bentley (Bulldogge), belong to Chris and Jill Farrell. Weighing in at 155 and 75 pounds respectively, or a combined 230 pounds, the dogs outweigh Chris Farrell, and these guys know it. They head out every morning for their 45-minute journey "Three-hundred-sixty-five,"

SEE TRIO, PAGE 7

Samson (Great Dane) and Bentley (Olde English Bulldogge) belong to Chris and Jill Farrell of McLean.

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# The Trio

FROM PAGE 6

no matter what," he said. The repeat the journey in the evening. Both owners have full-time jobs, but, Chris Farrell said, "When you have these kinds of dogs, you can't ignore them."

To keep things "interesting," Chris Farrell varies the route. "We don't always pick the same paths, we mix it up, so there's a lot of sniffing around and the occasional squirrel they feel compelled to chase," Chris Farrell said. The boys do know some "regulars" at the park — Airedale Noah and Black Lab Liza — "so there's lots of sniffing and tail wagging," he said. And like commuters, the dogs don't care much for car rides although they adjust, both in their respective corners. Cars are necessary for weekend jaunts to battlefields, trails, and new adventures.

Samson, now 6 1/2-years old, is "extraordinarily well mannered, has two beds on two floors to choose from, each depending on his mood," Chris Farrell said. "He can bake in the sun on one floor or chill out on another floor, consumes six cups of food a day,

doesn't particularly care to walk in the rain and has free reign of the house."

Bentley, 18 months old, is "America's happiest dog, exuberant, and loves everyone, all the time, hard," he said. "So we're working on good manners right now."

After the morning hike, Chris Farrell often runs Bentley a couple of miles to "knock the wind out of his sails," so he's [Bentley] "wiped out" for the day. Still, he finds it easier to have two dogs "the older dog trains the younger dog, and the younger dog keeps the older dog company." While Samson has free roam, Bentley prefers the refuge of his crate, "the cave."

Chris Farrell swears the dogs never get on the furniture when he's not home. "They love to wrestle," he said. "To the uninitiated, it's horrifying. The growling, groaning, snarling, sounds like something horrible is going on, but they're just being knuckleheads together."

**DELIVERYMEN**, pizza guys and strangers don't make it past the

front door, but what particularly sets these two off is "the harmless Lhasa Apso" they encounter in the park, said Chris Farrell. "They sometimes go into defensive alert mode with very small dogs. It's really quite ridiculous when some little puffball yaps at them, and they react full speed ahead."

Aside from the Farrells, the dogs' third best friend is the FURminator, the 21st century de-shedding tool Chris uses to remove loose fur. In actuality, the guys are getting a full body "massage" and, of course, they know it. While it appears these two have it made, the receiving is equally on the other end.

"You can't have a dog and not laugh at least once a day," said Chris Farrell. "Like they say, 'Man's best friend.' I really love them. As Truman said, 'If you want a friend in D.C., get a dog.' I've got two of them. It's unconditional love. They're two sweet animals."

Donna M. Cedar-Southworth is a writer living in McLean. She served as speechwriter to the director, Office on Disabilities, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



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# OPINION

## Large Classes, Tough Choices

### Opening the doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

One reason for growth in the student population in public school systems in the area right now is the effect of the recession on family budgets. With more than 70,000 unemployed people in Northern Virginia, and thousands more underemployed, some families who did have children in private schools have switched to public school. Given the stellar reputations of the schools in question, it's a rational financial move.

But now growing enrollment and costs combined with stagnant budgets are forcing some local public school systems to rework their budget calculations as well, resulting in more than 30 students in many classes, more than 40 students in some classes.

This will no doubt send some parents back to the family budget drawing board, seeking a way to afford private school and smaller class sizes for their children.

#### EDITORIAL

Most parents don't care very much about the size of the average class, only the sizes of the classes in which their children are trying to learn.

Very large classes, especially classes with 30 or more students in them, are a detriment to learning. Students with any sort of challenges are particularly poorly served by large classes. Very large classes also make the

task of maintaining a civil school environment much more difficult.

Schools would do well to focus first on limiting very large classes, worrying a bit less about average class size.

It's also an excellent time to begin paving the way for charter schools in Virginia. What, in the middle of a financial crunch? If we start now to develop more encouraging guidelines for charter schools in the region, by the time the first schools are open, the economic climate will be vastly different.

Public schools cannot meet all the needs of all the students that come through the doors. Families deserve some well-constructed alternatives. Governor-elect Bob McDonnell, along with President Obama, is right to push to open the doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Preserving Community

To the Editor:  
I have heard lots of discussion and read several letters on these pages (mine included) regarding VDOT's proposal to funnel two lanes of traffic off of Route 7 onto Georgetown Pike at Seneca Road. It occurs to me that something very important seems to have been left out of the picture so far. I could be wrong, but I thought we were trying to establish a community here. When the Great Falls Citizens Association polled its members several years ago, much was said about traffic calming on the Pike and making it more pedestrian-friendly; about the new Great Falls Library, Santobello Park and Freedom Memorial; about gathering at the Village Center for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, the lighting of the Christmas Tree, the Fourth of July Fireworks and the concerts on the Village Green in the summer.

Local restaurants, businesses and artists have done much to engage residents and encourage them to shop and do business in Great Falls, and at one point there was even discussion about developing a senior center in town. The Turner Farm site was developed after many years of dedicated commitment by local community leaders and contributions of time and money by residents, and the Grange and School House have been cherished and preserved as the historical anchors they are to this community. Somehow, the idea of bumper-to-bumper and/or speeding traffic along the clogged artery that Georgetown Pike has become does not fit with this small

town picture.

Those people whom I have heard promoting VDOT's proposal have consistently accused Great Falls residents who oppose this project of being selfish and snobbish "NIMBYs." They say that Georgetown Pike is a public road, and as such, everyone has a right to traverse it. That part may be true, but does having a right to do something always make it the right thing to do? These "commuters" have alternatives. The Great Falls Village Center does not. Georgetown Pike runs right through our town and any events that are organized or held here.

So yes, I may be a NIMBY, but when I oppose this project, I am opposing it for our community. Not for myself and my commuting convenience. Not for the "rights" of others who do not live or work here, but are merely "passing through", often at a high rate of speed. (According to City Data.com, 18 percent of us commute, but 20 percent of us live and work here).

I would like for Great Falls to have a chance to achieve a sense of community — a place where people can meet and greet, walk, ride and drive, dine out, shop and enjoy the bucolic area with a modicum of peace and much less traffic. And maybe I'm being selfish to want that — after all, it's what I wanted when I moved here 16 years ago. That part has never changed.

And I also think a lot of good alternatives have been proposed, but I do not think VDOT is listening.

**Jan McCarthy**  
Great Falls

### Lifesaving Bill

To the Editor,  
As a two-time cancer survivor I was encouraged that the Senate passed its health care reform legislation before the Christmas holiday. It was an early gift for cancer patients, survivors and their families, who are closer than ever to reaping the benefits of historic legislation that will dramatically improve the health care system in this country.

The experiences of families affected by cancer highlight the major problems in our health care system. The difficult and complex road that begins with a diagnosis, cancer patients can encounter all of the major problems in the health care system today. They are often denied coverage because of preexisting condition exclusions or charged more than they can afford

for critical care simply because they have cancer.

If enacted, this bill could have immediate and lasting benefits for millions of people with cancer and other life-threatening chronic diseases. Getting a cancer diagnosis would no longer put families at risk of being denied or getting priced out of lifesaving coverage.

This is a critical point in the war against cancer. And I would like to thank Sens. Warner and Webb for putting patients before politics by voting in favor of this lifesaving bill.

Thank you Sen. Warner and Sen. Webb for standing up and looking out for cancer patients.

**Jim Radmore**  
American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action  
Network Volunteer  
Herndon

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)

## THE CONNECTION

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# Community With a 'Big Heart'

FROM PAGE 3

food. We kind of made this a comfort quilt."

In all, more than 20 businesses and individuals donated money, clothes and other gifts through Aaron, and he said a couple more had sent checks since he had returned to school.

On Christmas Eve, after Barr and Aaron made their last stop, they went to help another driver finish his route. Barr left for a while to assist a driver who had gotten stuck, but he still had Aaron's bag in the car and stopped by his house to drop it off. "He came out to greet me and he said, 'Here, I've got this little extra Christmas gift for you,'" Barr recounted. Along with the gifts and donations was a stack of cards with "words of wisdom and sympathy," he said.

"I was floored. I was really floored," Barr said.

**AARON HANDED HIM** more than \$2,000 in checks. Another woman had also made a quilt, and one of the girls from Beyer's studio had collected a sack of Beanie Bears for Barr's 9-year-old daughter. Adeler Jewelers had come up with about half a dozen bags of clothing for all three of his children, as well as a pair of earrings as a gift for his wife.

"That speaks leaps and bounds for this commu-

**"I was absolutely blown away by the response from the community. They reaffirmed my belief in people."**

— Sean Aaron



nity. They've got a big heart," Barr said. "I was just overwhelmed by their generosity."

Aaron noted that many of the individual donors hadn't even known Barr. "It was really something to see," he said.

Barr and his family are now staying in a rental house in Remington, not far from Bealeton. He said he was still in talks with his insurance company, but it looked as if the damages would be covered. The house, a total loss, will have to be torn down and rebuilt.

Of his wintertime assistant he said, "That young man needs to be commended for sure."

## OPEN HOUSES

Saturday & Sunday, Jan. 16 & 17

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



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### GREAT FALLS

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421 Walker Road.....\$2,199,000.....Sun 1-4.....Long and Foster.....Eileen Summers.....703-759-9190

**To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or [sgaibler@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sgaibler@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings are due by Monday at 3 p.m.**

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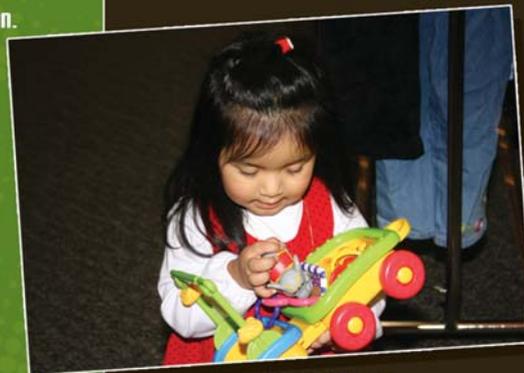
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Photographer Frank Barnako shot this photo titled 'Star Spangled Truck' in Maine when he spotted the truck on the way to a photography class sponsored by Maine Media Workshops. It was shot with a 'point-and-shoot' camera, emphasizing Barnako's ideology that photography is about the vision, not about the equipment used.



## Great Falls Library Promotes Art

Two local artists display their work.

By JENNA PUGRANT  
THE CONNECTION

Early Saturday morning, Jan. 9, Stacie Northrup from Falls Church was hard at work in the conference room of the Great Falls Library. She was making a quilt to donate to charity with about a dozen other women from Quilter's Unlimited, a non-profit organization for the Northern Virginia area that makes quilts for charity organizations. The conference room was covered with the artwork of Shela Qamer, a local artist from Great Falls, and Northrup's quilt, constructed with fabric of different shades of rich blue colors, resembled one of the art pieces on the wall titled "Waterfalls."

"That blue piece is my favorite," said Stacie Northrup, as she pointed to the painting across the room. "I've been staring at it all morning and it obviously inspired me — my quilt looks exactly like it."



**Shela Qamer and her painting titled 'Bismillah' in the main conference room at the Great Falls Library. The piece was made using handmade paper and paint and features Arabic script. Many of Qamer's pieces featured in the month-long exhibit were inspired by the architecture seen in her recent trips to Morocco and Spain. A public reception takes place Saturday, Jan. 23, from 2-6 p.m. to showcase Qamer's work.**

**THE ARTWORK** on the walls was part of the art exhibit program that the library has hosted since May 2003. "The program has created a partnership between the library and Great Falls residents to provide them a place to display their work," said Library Branch Manager Daniela Dixon.

Great Falls resident and Great Falls Studio member Donna Barnako were in charge of organizing and scheduling the exhibits that adorn the two conference areas in the library. Barnako is a local jewelry maker

and often conducts classes for area residents to teach them the art of her metal jewelry making. Artists that want to display their work at the library must contact Donna Barnako to discuss the arrangements, though the rooms are already booked until 2011. All art featured in the two conference rooms are for sale, and approximately 10 percent of the profit from the painting will go towards the Friends of Great Falls Library organization.

Currently, the large conference room of the library featured the artwork of Great Falls Studio member Shela Qamer, an artist who uses

paint and handmade paper to create her pieces. Qamer began her art in her native Pakistan under the guidance of an artist there, but she got married and moved to the U.S. She picked it back up again in recent years and became a part of Great Falls Studios. "It's great to be part of an organization of artists who have the same goals and can help me exhibit my work. It motivates me to do more art," said Qamer. Her current exhibit is her first solo exhibition and is titled "Peace Through Colors," which will be featured until the end of January.

**IN THE ROOM** adjacent to the main conference room, photographer Frank Barnako's collection titled, "Maine, Frankly," was on display. This was Frank Barnako's first show and the majority of his work consists of photographs that he took while in Maine. Frank Barnako received his formal training from the Maine Media Workshop programs, though he is not a photographer who gets hung up on the type of equipment he uses. "In my opinion, it's not about the camera, it's about the vision." Some works in the exhibit, including the piece titled "pumpkin boy," was taken with a simple "point-and-shoot" camera. Frank Barnako's work will be displayed in the small conference room until March 31.

While the library is a community-friendly and secure venue in which to display the work of local artists, the issue currently facing the organization is having enough public space to display the work of all of the local artists. The Brogue and Seneca Hill Animal Hospital display some work, though a high demand for more public venue space exists. Plans are underway to establish an art center sometime in the future "Our goal is to eventually have our own center for the arts in Great Falls to act as a place where we can have programs and display artwork," said Donna Barnako. Frank Barnako, who is her husband, also emphasized the need for an art center. "Artists need more than just one public place to display their work," he said. "Unlike some jobs, artists can't simply put their art away at night and call it a day. They need space to share their work with the public."



The Capitol Steps will be performing at Langley High School on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.

## Capitol Steps Come To Langley High

The Capitol Steps will be performing at Langley High School on Sunday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. Tickets for this annual performance are \$30 and proceeds support the June 17 All Night Graduation Party for the Class of 2010.

The Capitol Steps began as a group of Senate staffers who set out to satirize the people and places that employed them. Since they began, the Capitol Steps have recorded 29 albums, including their latest, "Barackin' Around the Christmas Tree," and "Obama Mia!" Their material is updated constantly. Current examples include the media's love affair with the Nation's 44th President Barack Obama ("Obamamia") and Illinois Gov. Blagojevich's attempted sale of the Senate seat ("Come Buy With Me.") The Capitol Steps tackle international issues as well. They produced the only show to feature North Korean leader Kim Jong Il singing show tunes ("How

### Ticket Information

To order tickets, download the order form from the PTSA Web site: [www.langleypta.org](http://www.langleypta.org), or contact Mollie Vardell: [molliev@verizon.net](mailto:molliev@verizon.net) or Andrea Sotter: [andrea4@cox.net](mailto:andrea4@cox.net). Tickets ordered before Jan. 18 will be mailed, tickets ordered after Jan. 18 will be available for pickup at the "Will-Call" desk on the night of the performance.

Do You Solve a Problem Like Korea?") and Vladimir Putin showing his "soul" in "Midnight Raid to Georgia." No matter who's in the headlines, the Capitol Steps are equal opportunity offenders promising an evening full of bipartisan lampooning. Among dozens of other radio and television shows the Capitol Steps have appeared on "Good Morning America," the "Today Show," "20/20," "Entertainment Tonight," "Nightline," and CNN's "Inside Politics."

For any questions, contact Mollie Vardell: [molliev@verizon.net](mailto:molliev@verizon.net) or Andrea Sotter: [andrea4@cox.net](mailto:andrea4@cox.net).



The Capitol Steps tackle the hot issues of the day, including the airport security.

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

## CALENDAR

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

### THURSDAY/JAN. 14

**The Grandsons.** At The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 7:30 beginner lesson, 8-10 p.m. live music. \$10. 703-424-1745 or [www.headoverheelsdance.com](http://www.headoverheelsdance.com).

**Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle II.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Recollections of McLean and Great Falls.** 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Historical Society, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Carole Herrick. Free. [schulm@erols.com](mailto:schulm@erols.com) or 703-442-9370.

**Financial Planning During Separation and Divorce.** 7 p.m. at the Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. \$45 non-members, \$35 members. [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 15

**Capitol Steps.** 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

**U.S. Navy Band's 33rd International Saxophone Symposium.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With clinics, recitals and vendor displays, 3-7 p.m. 202-433-2525 or [www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium](http://www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium).

**Chelsea Lee.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Sonos.** 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Daedalus Quartet.** 8 p.m. at The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org) or 703-938-2404.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 16

**Gizmo Guys Juggling.** 2 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$14 non-residents, \$10 district residents. There will also be a Tennis Ball Juggling Workshop for ages 9-adult at 3:30 p.m.; the cost is \$10 per person. 703-790-9223.

**Capitol Steps.** 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

**U.S. Navy Band's 33rd International Saxophone Symposium.** 8 p.m. at George

Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With clinics, recitals and vendor displays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 202-433-2525 or [www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium](http://www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium).

**Learn Tai Chi.** 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The ancient art of movement, energy awareness and mental concentration. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. 703-757-8560.

**So You Think You Can Dance Fairfax County Competition for Teens Audition Rounds.** 3-5 p.m. All contestants will need to fill out a Team Registration Entry Form prior to the audition, at any teen center or at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec); go to Teen Services. Audition locations include: \*Reston Teen Center, 12196 Sunset Hills Drive, Reston.

**Northern Virginia Model Railroaders Open House.** 1-5 p.m. at the W&OD Depot (along bike trail), 231 Dominion Rd., Vienna. Operating HO scale display depicting the Western North Carolina Railroad, a portion of the Southern Railway. Free, donations accepted. [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org) or 703-938-5157

**Sonrise.** 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Bluegrass. \$12. 703-435-8377.

**Chelsea Lee.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**John Eddie (full band).** 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Ballroom dancing with The Family Band.** Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Jitterbug lesson at 8 p.m., \$5; dancing 9-11:30 p.m., \$12. 703-795-2003 or [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

**John Jennings & Friends.** 8 p.m. at The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org) or 703-938-2404.

### SUNDAY/JAN 17

**Martin Luther King Celebration.** 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Joseph Schwantner's New Morning for the World, the Washington Symphony Brass and more. \$25, students under 18 free. 866-962-7277 or [www.wsbrass.com](http://www.wsbrass.com).

**McLean Community Center Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration.** 3-5 p.m. at MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Michael Hill's Blues Mob and the Rev. Robert Cheeks of Shiloh Baptist Church. The architect of the Dr. King D.C. Memorial, Dr. Ed Jackson, Jr. will

give a project update. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Hungry For Music Benefit.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**MONDAY/JAN. 18**

**Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day.** 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Dewberry Hall in the Johnson Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Volunteer for multiple nonprofit agencies at one central location. Service projects will benefit populations served by FACETS, Fairfax 4-H, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and the Orphan Foundation of America. Pre-registration encouraged at [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org). Contact 703-246-3826 or [swatson@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:swatson@volunteerfairfax.org).

**Open Mic Showcase hosted by Ron Goid.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

### TUESDAY/JAN. 19

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

**Book Discussion.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

**Chris Merritt (full band), Gills and Wings, Greg Holden and Ian Axel.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Building and Maintaining Credit and Debt Management.** 7 p.m. at the Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Free. Registration required at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657 ext. 266.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

**Todd Fickley Organ Recital.** 1 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Free. 703-356-0670 or [www.musicinmcleanc.org](http://www.musicinmcleanc.org).

**International Guitar Night.** 8 p.m. at The Barns, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Lulo Reinhardt, Itamar Erez, Stephen Bennett & Brian Gore. \$24. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Book Discussion.** 6:45 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

**Avoiding Divorce Court: How To Negotiate a Property Settlement Agreement.** 7 p.m. at The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna.

**SUNDAY/JAN. 17**

**NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting.** 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. [restonbell7@gmail.com](mailto:restonbell7@gmail.com).

**TUESDAY/JAN. 19**

**Virginia Liberty Project Meeting with Walter Williams.** 6 p.m. The Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Free. Reserve at 703-286-5241.

**SATURDAY/JAN. 23**

**League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area General Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. at Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. \*A New Tysons: Vision or Pipe

Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group is planning an event for June 26, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the beginning of McLean. Contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

**Mental Health and Mental Illness Planning Session.** 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, 6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. With the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Northern Virginia Chapter. 703-535-1577 or [ioov-nova@nami.org](mailto:ioov-nova@nami.org).

**TUESDAY/JAN. 26**

**Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce.** 5:30 p.m. Chamber 101 and Monthly Mixer at Chima Brazilian Steakhouse, 8010 Towers Crescent Drive, Vienna. [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

**THURSDAY/JAN. 21**

**Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc. Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Challenges of Women Serving in the Modern U.S. Military, with speaker Kayla Williams, former army Arabic linguist of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Iraq War veteran, author of "Love My Rifle More Than You: Young and Female in the U.S. Army." All invited. Free. 703-255-0353 or [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

**Peter Mulvey and Jeffrey Foucault.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Washington Ballet Artistic Director Septime Webre.** 7:30 p.m. at Langley School, 1411 Balls Hill Road McLean. Weber will discuss how a strong education in the arts prepares children to excel, and will share strategies for parents to help build 'performing arts intelligence,' in their children, encouraging them to develop a lifelong appreciation of all performing arts. Free, reservations suggested. 703-356-1920 or [www.langleyschool.org](http://www.langleyschool.org).

**FRIDAY/JAN. 22**

**English Conversation.** 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Group for adult non-native English speakers of all levels. Call for details. 703-938-0405.

**Pokemon League.** 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

**Enter the Haggis and Adam Ezra Group.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**American Legion Post 270 Citrus Sale.** 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at American Legion Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Honeybells, seedless grapefruit, navel oranges, Murcot tangerines and maple syrup. Proceeds support local community youth, patriotic activities and veteran needs. 703-356-8259.

**SATURDAY/JAN. 23**

**Violinist Augustin Hadelich and the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. 7 p.m. pre-concert lecture free to ticketed patrons. Tickets \$25-\$55, available at 1-888-945-2468 or [Tickets.com](http://Tickets.com).

**Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.** The group is planning an event for June 26, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the beginning of McLean. Contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

**Mental Health and Mental Illness Planning Session.** 7 p.m. at First Christian Church, 6165 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. With the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Northern Virginia Chapter. 703-535-1577 or [ioov-nova@nami.org](mailto:ioov-nova@nami.org).

**TUESDAY/JAN. 26**

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# COUNTY LINE

## The Push for Charter Schools

McDonnell hopes to make Virginia more friendly for public education alternatives.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Shortly after the opening of its first set of classrooms for Houston, Texas middle school students 16 years ago, the Knowledge Is Power Program, better known as KIPP, became the poster child for the charter school movement and modern education reform.

The organization, which now operates charter schools in 19 states and Washington D.C., has had large-scale success in sending children from the United States' most at-risk student populations to college, an educational goal that most of the nation's traditional public school districts have failed to achieve.

Approximately 90 percent of KIPP's 20,000 students nationwide are African American or Latino and 80 percent of the pupils come from low-income households. Despite these demographics, 80 percent of KIPP alumni have enrolled in college after completing high school.

National statistics show that for every 100 African American and Latino students enrolled in the ninth grade across the United States, only about 20 will enroll in college.

Even in Fairfax County Public Schools, considered to be one of the best school systems in the country, students who resemble the average KIPP student profile struggle.

For example, nearly half of all the county's public school students who drop out before high school graduation are Latino, even though the group only accounts for 18 percent of the overall student body.

**THE ALLURE** of KIPP and other charter school programs is one reason Governor-elect Bob McDonnell (R) intends to push for more charter schools in Virginia.

Virginia has had a charter school law on the books for several years,



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

**Governor-Elect Bob McDonnell (R), pictured above in the City of Alexandria last August, wants to encourage more public charter schools to open in Virginia.**

but still lags far behind most other states. Only four charters are currently open in Virginia, while nearly 40 percent of public school students in Washington D.C. currently attend a charter school.

U.S. President Barack Obama has also come out in strong support of charter schools.

McDonnell intends to pursue federal funding Obama and U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan, an Arlington resident, have set aside specifically to help promote charter school creation across the country.

But even with federal funding, McDonnell will face other barriers in attracting charter schools to Virginia. KIPP officials have already told McDonnell they consider Virginia's current charter school law to be too restrictive. The charter school organization said it could not consider opening schools in the commonwealth unless drastic changes were made to current regulations.

**CHARTER SCHOOL** advocates said it is a misconception that alternatives to traditional public education are only needed in poor urban and rural areas where the school districts are not performing.

Approximately 22 percent of charter schools nationwide operate in suburban school districts. Colorado's robust charter school movement took hold in its high-achieving suburban school districts first, when some decided they wanted a broader range of curriculum options, said Todd Ziebarth, of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools.

"The response of Fairfax County — that they got it covered, that they don't need a charter school program — is not uncommon for well-regarded school districts. But there are still some people who inevitably fall through the cracks and parents in all circumstances want options," said Ziebarth.

Chris Braunlich, a former Fairfax County School Board member for the Lee District, added that local school districts in Northern Virginia do not excel in all areas of student performance, particularly among at-risk and minority populations.

"Certainly there are students in Fairfax County who are not reading on grade level and not doing math on grade level. There are special education students who could benefit from a charter school. ... I would hope [elected

officials] would not try to make the case that there are not students who would benefit from a quality charter school that live here," said Braunlich, vice president of the Thomas Jefferson Institute, a conservative think tank that focuses on state public policy in Virginia.

**UNDER VIRGINIA'S** current charter school law, local school boards would have considerably more control over charter school operations than school boards do in most other states, according to Ziebarth.

The local school board has control over the hiring and firing of teachers and staff at charter schools, he said.

KIPP is particularly concerned that a local school board might interfere with the organization's unusual school calendar and daily schedule if they tried to open schools in Virginia. Students attending KIPP academies go to school nine hours per day and are required to participate in academic sessions held in the summer and on Saturdays. Students are also mandated to participate in music and athletic programs, which means KIPP teachers tend to work longer hours than their peers at traditional public schools.

In addition to staffing, local school boards also have control over the amount of money an individual charter receives for construction and maintenance of its school facility. With no guarantee of financial backing for a school construction, KIPP and other charter organizations said opening in Virginia would be a big financial risk.

Charter school advocates may complain about Virginia's law being "inflexible" but others say the commonwealth is trying to provide financial oversight to prevent the mismanagement of public funds by charter schools, which has been seen in other state with more lax regulations.

"We have one of the strongest charter school laws in the country in terms of accountability," said Fairfax County School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill.)

**THE VIRGINIA** charter law gives local school boards the final say on whether a particular charter school can open in their area.

Charter school advocates call this type of "charter authorization" system flawed, since traditional school boards tend to be hostile to charter schools.

**"Parents in all circumstances want options."**

— Todd Ziebarth,  
National Alliance  
For Public Charter Schools

The school board members have a vested interest in the success of the existing local school system and are reluctant to introduce a competitor into the marketplace, said charter school supporters.

"Right now Virginia's charter law works like this: If you are Pepsi, you have to go to the Coca-Cola's board of directors to get your new product approved. That kind of system is destined to fail," said state Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37), who will take over as Virginia's Attorney General this month.

Several members of the Fairfax County School Board disagreed with Cuccinelli's characterization of the situation and they would be willing to approve a charter school proposal in certain situations.

"If someone can come up with something better than what we have, this is one board member who would be willing to support that," said Fairfax County School Board member Dan Storck.

Staff for McDonnell's transition team said he is likely to push for the addition of more charter school authorizers, so that people with charter school proposals would not have to rely solely on a local school district to approve their plan.

"Fairfax is a very dynamic community and we have at least two universities, George Mason and Northern Virginia Community College, that would be excellent authorizers," said Cuccinelli.

**STILL**, the small number of charter schools in Virginia could reflect a general feeling of satisfaction with the commonwealth's public school systems overall, said some elected officials.

Virginia school districts generally outperform other systems around the country. Local communities may not have developed as strong of an interest in charter schools if they are satisfied with the traditional public school options, said local elected officials.

"The delay [in charter school creation] is caused by people thinking they are getting a quality education from our schools. I think we offer an excellent, broad range of services. It is almost impossible for anyone to do better," said Storck.

# NEWS

CONTRIBUTED  
**Standing, back row, from left, Christin Sangjin Yi, Samantha Lee Hodges and Sara Marie Forster; front row, Holly Elizabeth Schulz, Amanda Askari and Marisa Rae Sheffield; and seated, April Evangeline McGinness. Not pictured are Lauren Elizabeth Catalano and Catherine Faye Mahoney.**



## 2010 Debutantes Honored at Holiday Tea

### More than 100 attend Old Dominion Cotillion Holiday Tea.

The Old Dominion Cotillion annual Holiday Tea was held on Dec. 13 at the home of Mrs. R. Richard Soper in Clifton. More than 100 women and young ladies attended this afternoon tea, including Pages, Future Debs, Debutantes, Post Debs, Alumnae and Patrons. Centered around a silver tea service and conducted in an ornate and festooned holiday setting, this affair also featured finger foods, traditional Christmas cakes and cookies and an array of international holiday desserts, delicate pastries, and delectable confections.

According to Cotillion tradition, this event was hosted by the Pages and Future Debs to introduce the Debutantes who will be presented at the annual ball in July. The 2010 Debutantes are Amanda Askari, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hossain Askari of Oak Hill; Lauren Elizabeth Catalano, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Catalano of Clifton; Sara Marie Forster, daughter of Dr. David and Dr. Carol Forster of Oak Hill; Samantha Lee Hodges, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Walter James Hodges Jr. of Oakton; Catherine Faye Mahoney, daughter of Dr. David and Dr. Karen Mahoney of Oakton; April Evangeline McGinness, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James McGinness of Fairfax; Holly Elizabeth Schulz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Schulz of Arlington; Marisa Rae Sheffield, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. J. Steven Sheffield; and Christin Sangjin Yi,

daughter of Dr. and Mrs. John Yi of Fairfax.

Established in 1991, the Old Dominion Cotillion is an organization created to grow young ladies into women of confidence and poise as they face a challenging, ever-changing world. One of the foremost objectives of the ODC is to educate young women in the classically elegant social graces through enrichment activities such as seminars and social and philanthropic service, so that they flourish as they engage their families, their communities and accept social responsibility.

Old Dominion Cotillion welcomes all young ladies and their families regardless of race, religion or creed. To learn more about The Old Dominion Cotillion, contact Mrs. Charles Gallagher, director, at 703-476-9576 or at [flgallagher@cox.net](mailto:flgallagher@cox.net). Also, visit [www.olddominioncotillion.org](http://www.olddominioncotillion.org).

## Mark Seamon Wins Holiday Art Contest

Mark Seamon, 10, of Herndon, is the winner of Burke & Herbert Bank's third annual Kids' Holiday Art Contest. Mark's illustration on the "Holiday Fun" was selected from more than 150 entries submitted by children area-wide. The entries were judged with the assistance of representatives of The Art League.

The winning artist's illustration is featured both on the bank's Web site [[www.burkeandherbert.com](http://www.burkeandherbert.com)] and in Burke & Herbert Bank's official holiday advertisement in local community newspapers. Mark was awarded a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

"We wish to congratulate Mark and all of the children who participated. This has become a fun tradition for Burke & Herbert Bank



PHOTO BY JENNY RULEY  
**Mark Seamon poses with Burke & Hebert Bank President Scott McSween, left, and CEO Hunt Burke.**

and we look forward to it every year," said E. Hunt Burke, CEO of Burke & Herbert Bank. He added that several of the entries are on display at Burke & Herbert Bank's main office at 100 S. Fairfax St. in Alexandria.

The bank operates more than 20 branches in Northern Virginia along with its e-Branch that enables customers to open a checking or CD account online. Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company, Member FDIC.

7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**McLean Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration**

**Embrace the Dream**  
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**3-5 p.m.**  
 In the Alden Theatre

**General Admission:**  
**Adults:** \$5  
**Children:** \$3  
 (age 10 and younger), includes reception.

We've got barbecue and the blues!  
 Program features the Original New York Style Blues of Michael Hill's Blues Mob. Hill has been called one of modern blues most talented songwriters and guitarists by Living Blues Magazine. This is highly energetic music with a soulful consciousness.  
 ([www.michaelhillsbluesmob.com](http://www.michaelhillsbluesmob.com))

Keynote Speaker, Dr. Ed Jackson, Jr., Executive Architect D.C. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Project Foundation, Inc. Come hear the latest on this memorial project.

Community BBQ Buffet Reception catered by the Tender Rib of Temple Hills, MD

Presented in cooperation with the DC Blues Society

**The McLean Community Center**  
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 703.790.0123/TTY: 711  
[www.mcleancenter.org/special-events](http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events)

Tickets are available at the Alden Theatre Box Office, online or by telephone (703-573-SEAT) through Ticketmaster, or by mail-in order form.

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**The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra**  
 invites you to attend the  
**2010 Valentine Pops Gala and Silent Auction**

*Amore!*

Friday, February 5, 2010  
 Hilton McLean Tysons Corner

6:30 pm – Silent Auction and Cocktail Reception  
 8:00 pm – Dinner  
 9:30 pm – Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in concert, featuring Robert Petillo, tenor, and Jeanine Thames, soprano

Tables of 10 available for \$3,000, \$5,000 and \$7,500.  
 Individual tickets available for \$300 each.

R.S.V.P. by January 22, 2010 • Black Tie Optional  
[info@fairfaxsymphony.org](mailto:info@fairfaxsymphony.org)

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors  
 and the 2010 Valentine Pops Gala Committee

# Plan to Build School Withdrawn

In November, the Brookfield Montessori School of McLean withdrew its application to build what would have been the first school in the Great Falls area.

In early 2009, Brookfield founder Mary Anne Duffus approached the Great Falls Citizens Association with plans to build a school on a five-acre plot that is currently an unused plant nursery near the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive, on the border of McLean and Great Falls.

However, the school withdrew its application for a special exception to build the school due to opposition from neighbors and difficulties posed by the economic downturn, Duffus said. Residents had protested against the school tapping into the nearby sewer line and had also raised concerns about the traffic it might generate she said, noting that this opposition made it difficult to enroll would-be students in the planned school. "I think it's hard for people to write a check when there's community opposition to what you're trying to do," she said.

The existing Brookfield

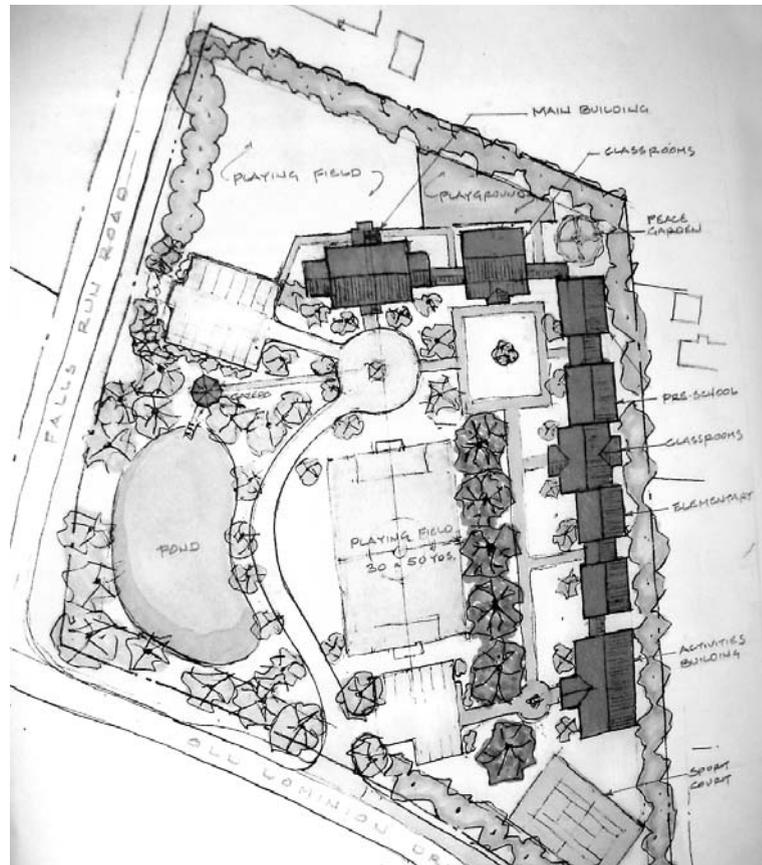


PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

An early draft of a site plan for the proposed school showed the buildings as a series of cottages in attempt to match the residential character of the neighborhood.

Montessori School on Kirby Road in McLean enrolls about 90 students in preschool through third grade, and Duffus said parents had requested that more grade levels be offered. The proposed school was to have 200 students, from toddlers through sixth grade.

The school was to be housed in a series of cottages, accompanied by a tennis court and a soccer field — smaller than regulation size — and the natural, spring-fed pond on the site was to serve as an outdoor classroom for science lessons and kayaking, Duffus said. Classes currently make trips to Lake Fairfax in Reston for outdoor education. The pond was also to be used for irrigation, helping the school obtain LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Duffus said such sites are not easy to find, but the school has resumed its search. She said the school was seeking another property in the area, of roughly the same size and capable of supporting 25,000 to 30,000 square feet of development. Ideally, the new school would be located in a woodland setting.

— MIKE DICICCO

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

**Colin Sheldon**, son of Ray and Sharon Sheldon of Great Falls, TJHSST Class 2000, Brown University Class of 2004, received his PHD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Technology from UCSB, June 2009. He will continue his research as a Senior Scientist at Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab.

**The Langley School** will host its first-ever Distinguished Speaker Series featuring Septime Webre, artistic director of The Washington Ballet. This free event is open to the public and will be held in Langley's Jeffrey J. Sherman Arts Center at 1411 Balls Hill Road in McLean on Thursday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. During his talk — titled "Learned Leadership Skills Through Performing Arts Education" — Webre will discuss how a strong education in the arts prepares children to excel on any "stage" they pursue in life, whether on the athletic field, in the courtroom, or in the boardroom. Webre will also share strategies for parents to help build "performing arts intelligence" in their children, encouraging them to develop a lifelong appreciation of all performing arts. While this event is free and tickets are not required, attendees are encouraged to RSVP at [www.langleyschool.org](http://www.langleyschool.org). Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Phone: (703) 356-1920

**Great Falls Village Green Day School Admission Open House.** 1-3 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 20. at 790 Walker Road, Great Falls. Childcare Available. 703-759-4049.

**Eric Childress**, son of Rev. Nancy Childress, pastor of the Great Falls United Methodist Church and Edwin Childress of Remington, Va, made the Dean's List for the Fall 2009 semester at the Ferum College in Historic Virginia.

**Tips on Trips and Camps Fair.** Saturday, Jan. 30 at The Potomac School, 1301 Potomac School Road, McLean. Camp Fair 1 p.m.; Panel Discussion on Foreign Language Programs 12:30 p.m. Summer overnight camps, travel, language or cultural immersion programs, community service, internships and more for children 8-18. Directors of various programs will attend. 703-345-0722 or [meg@tipsontripsandcamps.com](mailto:meg@tipsontripsandcamps.com).

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# Student Orchestra Takes the Stage

BY WILLIAM SCOTT MARTIN  
THE CONNECTION

It's hard enough to organize and synchronize almost three dozen people. It's even more difficult with something as sensitive as music. But to conductor Matthew Martz and the about three dozen musicians in the Student Symphonic Orchestra, success is determined by passion and love for music.

The students had been rehearsing the pieces for five months, only set back by the recent snowstorm and by the holidays. "We've had a bit of a struggle because we missed rehearsals here and there," said Martz. The music includes pieces from John Williams to theme songs from TV shows to even video game music. The students chose all of the music. "It's music. ... I love it, so it's a fantastic thing," said Martz.

The musicians of the Student Symphonic Orchestra put in a great deal of practice and artistry, and Martz is often seen urging, sometimes playfully, the students to strive to be better.

"I'm trying to compliment you, guys," said Martz to the orchestra during a rehearsal.

Some of the families drive half-hour distances to practice. Even students who were reluctant at first, like flautist Ellen Upsal, warmed up to it. "My mom kind of made me," she said. "At first, I didn't like it, but now I like it."

For many of the students, this Saturday will be their first performance. They will be performing selections from the "Phantom of the Opera" at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean, beginning at 7 p.m. For many parents, it will also be the first time they see their children on stage.

**MARTZ, WHO** was a senior at Marshall High, founded the orchestra, beginning with only a handful of students. "It started off with about 12 players that were all just my friends," said Martz. "I had purchased some music. I just started telling about it my friends who played stringed instruments and wind instruments and it started growing." Since Martz graduated, the orchestra now boasts 35 members.

"Originally, it was mostly kids from Marshall High School," said Nick Kemp, orchestra member. "But I was one of the first ones that was outside the general group of the first year, and now we're recruiting from different schools more than just Marshall. I've recruited several players. ... It's just



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SCOTT MARTIN/THE CONNECTION

**The Student Symphonic Orchestra's brass section during the rehearsal at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean.**



**The woodwind section from the Student Symphonic Orchestra, playing during a rehearsal.**

a good way to connect."

Martz attributed the rapid growth and success of the orchestra to several things. First, the orchestra does not charge the students to be able to play, unlike other major youth orchestras. Many of these organizations must buy their music and these fees are transferred to orchestra members. The orchestra also doesn't use auditions. "I pretty much want players to play at a reasonable level and we work with the rest," said Martz.

Finally, Martz insists that students pick out their own music, even if it may not be traditional. "In high school, you play whatever the director wants you to play," Martz said. "A lot of that is the traditional band music, and there's so much more out there."

The musicians come from middle and high schools from all over Fairfax. Most of them already knew Martz and joined the orchestra at his request. Others heard about it from another friend or were told about it at church. The students drive the entire organization. They are the ones who de-

cide what and where they want to play. "There's no parental direction," said Katherine Culbertson, mother of orchestra member Lizzie Culbertson. "We're just here as support for them."

**FOR PLAYERS** like pianist Bobby McKay, the enjoyment comes from something that is ultimately simple. "It's a good way to play music with people I don't know and I get to meet people from all over the county," he said. McKay attended school with Martz and has been playing the piano for six years.

Already, the Student Symphonic Orchestra has been attracting attention. "We work with Wolftrap, the Kennedy Center, National Theater, the NSO, and the National Philharmonic," said Martz. Their Saturday concert will include cellist David Cho, and a professor from Shenandoah University will be performing a pre-show.

The Student Symphonic Orchestra performs Saturday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road in McLean. Concert is open to the public with no charge.



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# Saxons Find Rhythm in Girls' Basketball

Langley, under new head coach, is 3-1 in Liberty District play.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

For Tim Anderson, coaching basketball has been a way of life over the years. He has coached both males and females at most all levels — youth, intermediate school, high school and collegiate. A few years ago, he even led a team of troubled delinquents to several state titles. His past coaching experiences have been in North Carolina.

But the past couple of years, Anderson has resided in Northern Virginia, where he has continued to coach youngsters on the hardwood. Last year, he worked as an assistant girls' basketball coach at Yorktown High School. This season, he is the head coach for the Langley High girls' team. Thus far, he has loved his time as a member of the Saxons' program.

"Coaching at Langley is great," said Anderson, who was hired last spring after former longtime Saxon head coach Cheryl Buffo elected to step down. "The parents, administration and staff are supportive. The students are excellent kids. We're trying to make the girls better one game at a time."

Coming off last year when it finished 15-10 and reached the Liberty District tournament finals



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Kristen Kody, a senior co-captain, scored a team-high 13 points in the Saxons' Liberty District home win over Marshall on Thursday night, Jan. 7.**

under Buffo, Langley is slowly gaining momentum this winter. Following a 0-4 start, similar to the 2-6 beginning to last year's season, the Saxons had won four of their last six games going into this week's action.

On Thursday, Jan. 7, Langley improved to 4-6 overall and 3-1 in the Liberty District with a 46-31 district home win over Marshall. The Saxons' leading scorers in the victory were senior co-captains Kristen Kody and Alexis Doherty, who scored 13 and 11 points, respectively. The team's next leading points contributor was Catherine Plunkett with six.

It was a nice turnaround win for Langley, following a tough 60-36 district road loss at Stone Bridge

on Jan. 4. In that contest versus the Bulldogs of Ashburn, Langley jumped out to a 15-9 lead following one quarter of play before Stone Bridge outscored its guests, 41-13, over the next two quarters to take a commanding 50-28 lead going into the final quarter. Plunkett, a junior, scored eight points to lead the Saxons.

At 3-1 in district play, the Saxons were in a four-way, first place tie in the district standings with several other teams — Stone Bridge, South Lakes and defending district champion Madison. Langley's district wins thus far have come over Fairfax, McLean and the Statesmen, all of the district triumphs coming on the Saxons' home floor.

"We play a lot better at home," said Anderson, whose team's lone home setback came against non-district opponent Edison on Dec. 11.

**ANDERSON** said his squad, like most teams around the Northern Region, has had stretches of both good and bad play over the first half of the season. At times, he said, the team's energy levels are down.

"Some games, it's like a deer [staring] in the head lights," said Anderson. "No one is diving on the floor, no one is setting screens."

On other occasions, Langley displays spells where everything is clicking.

"When we're playing well, the shots are falling, we're boxing out

and getting rebounds, and we're pushing the ball up [the floor]," he said.

"I think our team is coming along," said the coach. "We're definitely a work in progress. The bottom line is we need to play hard, play smart and play together with great passion."

Anderson said his team played with the fire he likes to see in the win over Marshall. Doherty, a post player, played well on both offense and defense. Kody, meanwhile, led the team in scoring and also rebounded well. Both players have made recent commitments to play the sport at the collegiate level next school year, Doherty at Division 3 New York University and Kody at the University of Pennsylvania.

Langley showed excellent hustle overall in the game with Marshall. In particular, coach Anderson liked the hard, all out play of juniors Plunkett and Sarah Kleinknecht (five points). Mary Riley Pembroke, a senior post player, and Brooke Gallagher, a senior perimeter player who excels as a defensive player, both contributed four points in the win over Marshall, while Whitney Wolaver had three points.

"We have to rely on all of our players," said Anderson, who during practices stresses defensive and rebounding fundamentals, as well as good ball movement on offense.

Langley, which over the holidays competed at the four-team Falls Church Christmas Classic where the Saxons defeated Lee and lost to Marshall, was scheduled to play district road games this week at Jefferson on Tuesday, Jan. 12 and at Madison on Friday, Jan. 15.

## Expanded Softball Opportunities for Local Girls

Girls in the Reston area, ages 6-16, who want to play Little League regulation softball with full rights and privileges to championship play, are invited to participate in the newly expanded Great Falls Little League Softball program, which is based at the Nike Park complex on Route 7 and Utterback Store Road, adjacent to Forestville Elementary School.

Through agreements with local Little League organizations which are not using their softball charters, the Great Falls

Little League Softball program welcomes girls to come and learn the sport, develop their skills, and take part in age-appropriate, competitive softball. All levels of play are covered: Coach Pitch (ages 5-7), AA (7-9), AAA (9-10), Majors (10-12), and Seniors (13-16). No previous experience is required, and girls of all skill levels are encouraged to participate.

In 2008, Great Falls Little League Softball 10-11 All Star team won the District 4 championship and went on to play at the Virginia State Little League Championship in Bristol, Va., taking third place. Since then, the Great

Falls softball program has grown in number, capability and competitiveness, and now provides to all registered players free, professionally-run, weekly clinics for pitching, catching, and batting as a supplement to the practices and games during the season. The mission of the program is to provide girls with the opportunity to grow as athletes on and off the field, while playing a game they can enjoy through and beyond high school.

The Nike Park complex contains several baseball diamonds, soccer/lacrosse fields, and a regulation softball field (No. 6), which is the

home of the approximately 110 girls currently enrolled in the program. The program also has partial use of the Grange field on Georgetown Pike, adjacent to the Great Falls Library, during the spring season, and may also use some Reston fields in the coming spring.

In addition to the expansion of the program to Reston area girls, the district boundaries for girls living in the 22066 Zip code (Great Falls) have been adjusted with McLean Little League Softball to allow all girls residing in Great Falls to play within the Great Falls Little League Softball program.

Previously, an area of southeast Great Falls (Difficult Run/Route 7/Towlston Road) had been assigned to play in the McLean program. This boundary has been fixed to allow girls to play within their school pyramid boundaries.

Registration is open as of Jan. 1 at <http://gflittleleague.org>. Tryouts for AA/AAA/Majors/Seniors will be Saturday, March 6 at Diamond Sports Training in Sterling. For additional information on the Great Falls softball program, including additional information on tryouts, see <http://www.gflsoftball.org>.

# REAL ESTATE

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

**Bruce Green**, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors announced Joyce Becker of the McLean-Old Dominion office was recognized for industry success in December. A neighborhood specialist, Becker led the region for new home dollar volume. The region comprises offices located throughout Virginia. Weichert, Realtors' neighborhood specialists can be reached in Weichert's McLean-Old Dominion office at (703) 821-8300 at 6257 Old Dominion Drive.



**Joyce Becker**

Green also announced J.D. Callander of the McLean/Dolley Madison office was recognized for industry successes in December. A neighborhood specialist, Callander led the region for resale dollar volume. The region is comprised of offices located throughout Virginia. Weichert, Realtors' McLean/Dolley Madison branch specialists can be reached at (703) 760-8880, located at 1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard.



**J.D. Callander**

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

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

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

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# CSI: Burtonsville



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I think I've been watching "CSI" and "NCIS" (along with spin offs CSI: Miami, CSI: NY and NCIS: Los Angeles) too long. After an unknown neighbor cleaned 18 inches of snow off my second car (I had cleaned off our primary car myself; it was closer to the road), in an attempt to determine who unselfishly "unsnowed" my buried car and shoveled all around it as well (to provide easy access, should I be so inclined), I looked first for physical evidence of this extremely good deed and noticed boot prints in the snow. (Determining directionality was impossible given the number of intersecting boot prints.) I only wish I would have had the same materials the CSIs have on television (presumably in real life, too) in order to secure the evidence for further inside consideration and avoid any degradation. Said consideration would have included having the appropriate materials on hand to make a plaster cast of the boot print which I then could scan and run through the boot-tread software to determine a size and hopefully find a brand/tread-pattern match.

Once having learned the brand and the size, I could then call the manufacturer to inquire what stores locally carried that brand - and size - of boot. With that information, I could then contact the stores directly (in person or over the phone) to see if the specific matching size and brand had been sold recently. If any matches were found, I could ask for sales receipts to see how payment had been made. If any payments had been made with a credit card, it would enable me to quickly identify the non-guilty but so far, anonymous party. If payments had been made with cash, I could then visit the stores myself and bring pictures of my neighbors to show to whomever had sold the matching brand and size boot to further corroborate the non-D.N.A. evidence and hopefully make a positive I.D. If one of my neighbors was picked out of the photo array, I believe I would then have sufficient evidence/information to confirm who was responsible for this non-random act of kindness.

Or I could just ask.  
Nevertheless, no good deed of such caring and unselfish concern - and sensitivity to another person's less than ideal medical situation (my stage IV lung cancer diagnosis, with which the neighborhood is keenly aware) - should go unacknowledged. As such, I want to give/express my heartfelt gratitude to my neighbor/neighbors who gave so selflessly of themselves and their time to do for me what I was not so inclined/able to do for myself. And even though the "act" performed here this snow-bound Sunday was no crime, I think its commission would make Gil Grissom, Horatio "H." Caine, Mac Taylor, Leroy "Jethro" Gibbs and "C" Callen proud of their fellow man. I sure am. And lucky as well, to be living amongst such kind and considerate individuals.

It makes my future, with all its uncertainty, less uncertain. And if there's one thing, other than love and positive vibrations that a cancer patient can't have enough of, it's certainty. Of that, I'm certain.

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

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Michael Dalakis and Tammy Dalakis, dated August 10, 2007, and recorded August 13, 2007, in Deed Book 19510 at page 1433 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

**Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.**

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

Lot 6, CHAPEL, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 1123 at page 56 and Outlot A of a subdivision of Lots 1, 2 and 3 and a residue of the Hicks land, CHAPEL HILL, as per Deed of Resubdivision recorded in Deed Book 1783 at page 491, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 1634 Hicks Drive, Vienna, Virginia 22182.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of \$60,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 7.75 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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

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

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

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

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

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

DAVID N. PRENSKY  
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
David N. Prenskey  
Chasen & Chasen  
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500  
Washington, D.C. 20015  
(202) 244-4000

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OBITUARY

**Roger Jacob Chavez** passed away on December 29th at his home in Millwood, Virginia surrounded by his loved ones.

There are no immediate plans for a service. We will gather in the spring to celebrate Roger's life. As for now, raise your glass to a printer, a tinkerer, a farmer, a dreamer, a visionary in Clarke County who made his dream real.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Clarke County Historical Association, P.O. Box 306, Berryville, VA 22611.

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

### LEGAL NOTICE

AT&T intends to file an application to construct a cellular telecommunications tower at 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna, Fairfax County, Virginia 22180. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Maple Avenue" will consist of the construction of a new telecommunications compound which includes the installation of a 115-foot tall monopine on which 12 telecommunications antennas will be mounted, AT&T and T-Mobile equipment areas on raised platforms, and a ground level mesa cabinet and power back board. An 8'x 115'x 35' wood fence and landscaping will surround the compound. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or michael.wolf@atcassociates.com

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# NEWS

## Area Families Will Feel School Budget Crunch

### County schools facing a projected shortfall of \$166 million in the 2010-2011 school year.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Superintendent Jack Dale wants to ask the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for an additional \$57.8 million in funding to help meet Fairfax County Public Schools budget needs next year, according to a presentation he made to the school board Jan. 7.

Fairfax already allocates the school system approximately \$1.7 billion annually, or about 53 percent of the county's overall revenue. But Dale said the schools are facing a projected shortfall of \$166 million in the 2010-2011 school year, in part due to rising costs that are out of the system's control.

The additional money equates to an increase of three-cents per \$100 of assessed land value in the Fairfax County real estate property tax rate. Fairfax schools draw approximately 75 percent of their funding from the local county government, which in turn, almost exclusively relies on real estate taxes for revenue.

In addition to requesting more money from the county, Dale has suggested \$108.2 million in spending cuts to assist in closing the schools system's projected funding gap for next year.

The superintendent added that the quality of Fairfax County public education system will suffer as a result of the cuts.

"We spend the same amount of money on schools as Montgomery County, Md. but we have 30,000 more students than they do," said Dale, referencing Fairfax's largest public education rival in the region.

Dale does not ultimately make the decision about the Fairfax schools' budget. The school board - largely relying on the superintendent's budget proposal as a template - will make its formal request for funding from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors next month.

In late April, the supervisors will pass an annual countywide budget and announce how much they intend to allocate to Fairfax schools overall next year.

Some school board members have already indicated that they would like to ask the county for funding above and beyond what Dale has suggested.

"Let's just say \$57.8 million is not my favorite number," said School Board member Brad Center (Lee).

### New Fees For Families

To make up for the budget shortfall, Dale is proposing \$3.4 million in new fees for

families and students, such as:

- ❖ a \$75 charge for any Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam a student takes
- ❖ a \$100 student fee for participating on a sports team

### Proposed programs for elimination

Dale has proposed the elimination of the following services:

- ❖ "behind the wheel" drivers education. Fairfax students would now have to depend on the private sector for such training.
- ❖ bus service to "gifted and talented" centers if a base school has "gifted and talented" equivalent classes available.

❖ bus service to academy programs if there are fewer than five students enrolled in the program from a high school.

❖ freshman athletics, indoor track and winter cheerleading

❖ foreign language in the elementary schools (not including immersion programs)

❖ elementary "focus" programs (currently present at Riverside, Fort Hunt, Hollin Meadows, Woodley Hills elementary schools in Mount Vernon;

Lake Anne and Forest Edge elementary schools in Reston; Kent Gardens Elementary School in McLean; Daniels Run Elementary School in Fairfax)

❖ Pimmit Hills Alternative High School in Falls Church

❖ Modified School Calendar (currently present at Dogwood Elementary School in Reston, Franconia Elementary School in the Springfield area, and Timber Lane Elementary School in the McLean area)

❖ Project Excel (currently present at Bucknell, Hollin Meadows, Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon Woods, Riverside, Woodlawn, Woodley Hills and Fort Belvoir elementary schools in the Mount Vernon area; Dogwood Elementary School in Reston; Hutchinson Elementary School in Herndon; Halley Elementary School in Fairfax Station; and London Towne Elementary School in Centreville)

❖ Most traditional summer school programs

### Other Budget Actions

Dale has also proposed the following:

- ❖ To increase class size by one student per teacher for all classes except special education.

❖ To freeze employees salaries and not give school system staff a "cost of living" increase in the next year.

**"We spend the same amount of money on schools as Montgomery County, Md. but we have 30,000 more students than they do."**

— Jack Dale

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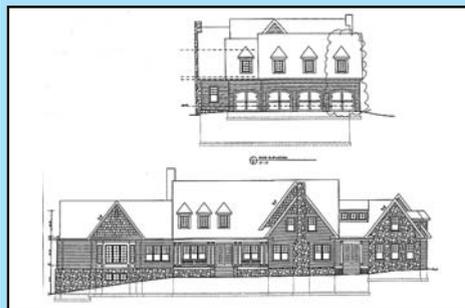
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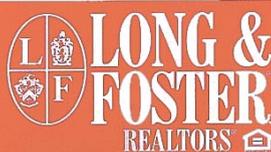
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