

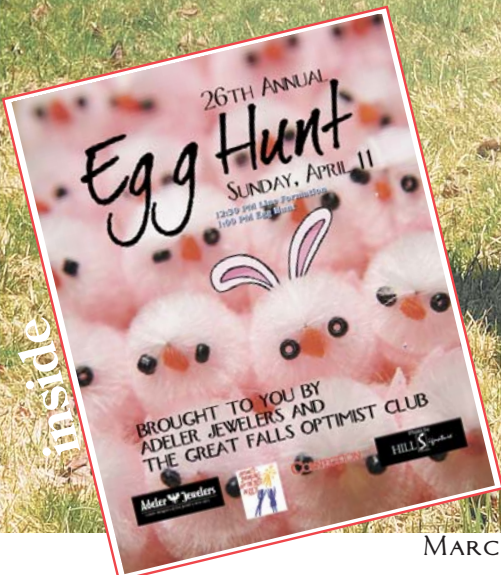
Great Falls CONNECTION

Spring Arts Festival Returns To Great Falls

NEWS, PAGE 3

At her farmhouse off Kentland Drive, weaver Vad Moskowitz shows off some of the special-occasion bags she makes on her loom. Her work, as well as work of 17 other Great Falls artists, will be on sale at the Fourth Annual Spring Arts Festival April 10 and 11 at the Historic Colvin Run Schoolhouse.

PHOTO BY AL REITAN
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Author Discusses 'Adventure Of Lifetime'

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SCHOOL NOTES

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

Langley High School choral department is holding a car wash on Saturday, April 10, at the Great Falls Exxon on Georgetown Pike from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. LHS choir students will wash your vehicle for a donation. The proceeds from the car wash will help to support the choral department's annual Spring Show, a song and dance gala of Broadway show

tunes that will be performed in early June.

Forestville Elementary School grades 3-6 will become international treasure hunters on Wednesday, April 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m. during the school's History Night. Students will travel through time as they imitate Indiana Jones solving puzzles of Ancient Greece and Egypt, re-enact a Revolutionary War battle scene, race against the clock to locate states and capitals, challenge their friends and

family to find out "Are you Smarter Than a 5th Grader?," experience the process of how a bill becomes a law and more. The school is at 1085 Utterback Store Road in Great Falls.

The 2009 Longfellow Middle yearbook has been featured in Jostens' Gotcha Covered Look Book, a gallery of yearbook creativity and coverage. Designed by student YeWon Shin, the cover was based on the theme Just Doodle It and was selected from

among 130 entries submitted by art students at Longfellow. School-based technology specialist Mary Reid is advisor to the yearbook. Submissions were judged on inclusiveness of all students, coverage, photography, and design.

Oakcrest School, announced the recipients of the Veritas Award, Mary Beth Beatty of Vienna and Sophia Buono of Arlington. The award is given to those who best display the qualities of an Oakcrest student including high academic

achievement, leadership and character. The Veritas Award consists of a \$7,500 tuition remission per year for four years at Oakcrest School for a maximum of two students. 703-790-5450.

Jason Weiss was named to the fall 2009 dean's list at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass.

Andrea Loulakis of Great Falls has been named to the Dean's List at Villanova School of Business, Villanova, Pa.

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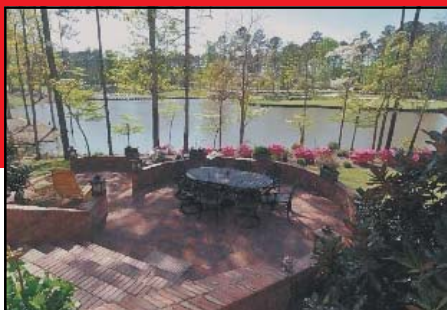


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Spring Arts Festival Returns to Great Falls

Great Falls artists to exhibit works for sale.

Weaver Vad Moskowitz, who creates special-occasion bags for women, is one of 18 Great Falls artists exhibiting at the Fourth Annual Spring Arts Festival, presented by the art group Great Falls Studios on April 10 and 11.

The festival, which features the sale of paintings, photography and high-end crafts all "Made in Great Falls," will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11, at the Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road. The venue is just down the road from Dante Restaurant.

"There are more than 85 working artists in Great Falls, and the festival is a great way to meet many of them and to buy locally made gifts of very high quality," says Linda Jones, a watercolor painter who organized the festival for Great Falls Studios. "You can get a sense at the event of the variety of art produced here in Great Falls, and if you are looking to purchase a piece of art that is truly unique, this is a place to visit."

MOSKOWITZ, who has lived in Great Falls since 1965, typifies the dedication shown by Great Falls artists to the creative process. "From the time I was four and had my first crayon, there was nothing I wanted to do than be an artist," she said.

Although trained in ceramics at one of the nation's premiere art schools, she is now a weaver and is highly regarded as one of the D.C. area's top artists in her field. For 12 years she taught weaving for the Waterford Foundation in Waterford, Va.

For the last two years, Moskowitz has been making small, hand-loomed purses that have been a hit in the world of high fashion locally. The process starts on a 48-inch loom in the weaving studio in her old farmhouse off Kentland Drive, where the fabric designs and colors emerge. The finished products, which come in various configurations and patterns, incorporate an antique or other unusual button plus a



PHOTOS BY AL REITAN

At a loom in her studio, Great Falls artist Vad Moskowitz weaves a black-and-white twill pattern. The resulting fabric will become an integral part of a high-fashion, special-occasion bag. She is one of 18 local artists who will be selling art 'Made in Great Falls' at the Fourth Annual Spring Arts Festival, April 10 and 11, at the Colvin Run Historic Schoolhouse.



Components of Vad Moskowitz's one-of-a-kind purses include antique buttons and various hand-woven fabric pieces, each of which will be incorporated into a bag no bigger than 12 inches high. The fashion accessories are suited to hold lipstick and other essentials at the fanciest of parties.

braided strap as major design elements. Each bag is unique and none is bigger than 12 inches. "I think of them as little sculptures," she said.

Moskowitz got the idea for these fashion accessories while walking down Madison Avenue in New York. Specialty shops would display a single special-occasion bag on a pedestal. "I thought I could make those," she says.

Moskowitz will be joined at the

festival by eight painters, a quilter, two potters, a jewelry designer, four photographers and a wood carver. The wood carver, Michael Long, is one of several new artists at the festival this year and makes walking sticks, among other designs.

ITEMS at the festival range in price from a few dollars for greeting cards to more than \$1,000 for some paintings. "You can discover beautifully designed and crafted pieces that you'd not find elsewhere, all in a price range suited to every budget," Jones says.

The sponsoring group, Great Falls Studios, was founded in 2003. It helps to promote local artists but also functions as a community service organization working to make Great Falls "a more artful place." Since its inception, Great Falls has gradually emerged as a major center in Northern Virginia for the creation of high-quality art. Great Falls artists now display their work in galleries as far away as New York.

This is the fourth year of the spring festival. The group also sponsors a holiday sale prior to Christmas and arranges for art displays throughout Great Falls at venues that include Katie's Coffee at the Old Brogue. Its signature event is an annual tour of home art studios, held each October. Last year, the 10,000th visitor came to a Great Falls art studio as part of this tour.



Brendan Kelly with his mom Maura.

Neighborhood's Hero

Great Falls neighbors celebrate one boy's courage.

BY JAN STEWART CLARK

Great Falls resident, 12-year old Brendan Kelly, who underwent chemotherapy to treat his leukemia almost every day for the last two years, was greeted by a cheering crowd of friends as he arrived home from his final cancer treatment on Wednesday, March 24.

COMMUNITY

Congratulatory signs, balloons and loving neighbors and friends lined Springvale Road and Patrician Woods Court as Brendan and his mom, Maura, drove home from the final doctor's appointment. Following close behind him was a second car with his dad Frank, brother Joe, granddad Charles McCarthy and best friend Collin Guana grinning from ear to ear. Grandmom Susan McCarthy, the loudest cheerleader of all, said, "I don't think I see a dry eye on the street." The signs recognized Brendan's courage with messages such as "We Salute Brendan" and "Brendan is our Hero".

with the Kellys, the crowd headed to their home for celebration. But one neighbor noticed a billow of smoke rising from the mulch in one nearby yard. Attempts to quiet the smoke were unsuccessful, so the Great Falls fire department was called. This billowing

smoke turned out to be the coup de grace of the celebration. The Great Falls firefighters

resolved the mulch danger, climbed back into their fire engine and drove up the long lane to the Kelly home with siren and horn blazing. The crowd of people poured from the Kelly home to see the fire truck with radiant lights and three firemen waiting to greet Brendan. They assisted him as he climbed into the driver's seat and encouraged him to blast the horn.

Thanks to the local fire department, it was an amazing climax to a perfect celebration.

Brendan's two-year chemotherapy treatment was all too familiar to him and his family. He was treated for the same disease for three years from age

AFTER HUGS AND KISSES

SEE NEIGHBORS, PAGE 5



Neighbors welcome Brendan Kelly on his return home last Wednesday.

Listening Forum Set For Dranesville District

Area residents will have an opportunity to converse with members of the Park Authority Board and Park Authority Director John Dargle Jr., at the next Listening Forum scheduled for Thursday, April 15, in the Dranesville District. The conversation takes place at 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange.

For more information about this Listening Forum contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662. Visit us online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/listeningforums.htm to see topics from past forums.

New Store Opens in Village Centre

Following on the successful launch of its first retail location in Nantucket, Mass., tottieBEAN will open its second retail store April 1 in Great Falls. "These are both the type of communities tottieBEAN hopes to build long term roots in for years to come," said Bridget Pattee, CEO, tottieBEAN.

Founded in 2008, tottieBean offers a range of versatile wardrobe and gift solutions at approachable prices. "As we continue to expand our company to deliver our customers stylish, fun and affordable fashion and gifts, we are excited to open a store in the community we call home," said Barbara O'Donnell, President, tottieBEAN.

The Great Falls store is located in the Great Falls Village Centre and offers classic, affordable clothes, in a convenient, chic boutique. tottieBEAN strives to carry wardrobe staples including swim and beach wear, jewelry, denim leggings, great t-shirts, everyday dresses, classic dresses and pants, as well as a wide selection of accessories for every budget and style. The store will open its doors on March 29 with a grand opening celebration scheduled for April 9-11, 2010.

Volunteer Service Awards Nominees

Volunteer Fairfax and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will honor the spirit of service at the 18th annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards, Friday, April 23, at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church.

One hundred and forty-eight individuals and groups nominated will be honored for their work supporting such causes as mentoring children, the arts, environmental programs, job training, helping young mothers, animal rescue, homelessness and hunger. In Great Falls, the following residents have been nominated for a Fairfax County Volunteer Service Award:

- ❖ Fairfax Wings Chapter volunteered at Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia, and are nominated for the Youth Volunteer Group award.
- ❖ Karin Arnette volunteered at Homestretch, and is nominated for the Rising Star award and the Benchmark 250 award.
- ❖ Kathryn Baker volunteered at Fairfax Pets on Wheels, Inc., and is nominated for the Benchmark 250 award.

MPA Call for Entries For 'Fantastic Journeys'

Works inspired by the spirit of adventure, exploration or utopian visions are sought for the Fantastic Journeys exhibit jurored by Beatrice Gralton, the Evelyn S. Nef Assistant Curator of Contemporary Art at the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The exhibition will run from June 17 through July 31. Deadline for submission is April 12, 2010 at 5pm.

For the entry form and more information, visit www.mpaart.org or stop by McLean Project for the Arts located in the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Avenue in McLean.



CONTRIBUTED

Pictured from left: Great Falls Charitable Foundation directors Peter Garahan and Michael Kearney; Neighbors International Foundation directors Sharon Rainey, Jeff Rainey, Candyce Nail, Terry May, Michelle MortRanta, and Richard Kelly.

Lighting the Skies

The Great Falls Fireworks began in the 1950s by the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department. The Fourth of July Fireworks event was one of the highlights of the Fireman's Fair, the annual fundraising event for the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department.

The fair was originally located in the field across Georgetown Pike from the Great Falls Firehouse, where the new Great Falls Post office is now located. Over time, the newly constructed Great Falls Village Centre (1979) and the sale of the Follin Farm Hickory Vale (1983) to be developed as a housing subdivision squeezed out the fireworks for safety reasons. The skies remained dark from 1984 to 1997.

Mike Kearney Jr., owner of the Old Brogue Irish Pub & Restaurant and Katie's Coffee, after working on the Save the Turner Farm Committee, thought the best way to celebrate the opening of the Turner Farm and to keep the Great

Falls' small town feeling would be to bring back the Fourth of July Fireworks at The Turner Farm.

Kearney funded the fireworks display until 2000, when Brogue Charities, now known as the Great Falls Charitable Foundation, with support from Home Equity Builders, Falls Hardware, and others, covered the costs.

In 2004, the people of Great Falls united to keep the skies lit on the 4th of July by creating the Friends of the Fireworks, a permanent and dedicated organization to provide continuity and financial support over the years to come.

In 2010, Brogue Charities passed the Friends of the Fireworks torch to Neighbors International Foundation.

Also started in 2004, Neighbors International Foundation is a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization run by Sharon Rainey. Rainey started the foundation as an outcrop of her online community network, myNeighborsNetwork.com.

Her husband Jeff Rainey owns

Home Equity Builders, a local design/build remodeling firm. He spent his high school years in Great Falls. The couple moved back to Great Falls in 1991 to raise their family.

Kearney asked the Raineys if they would like to officially take over the Great Falls Fireworks for the future. When Rainey took the offer to the NIF Board of Directors, the vote was quick and unanimous to accept Kearney's offer.

"Jeff has helped Mike run the Friends of the Fireworks since 2004, but this is a big deal," Sharon Rainey said.

Her husband Jeff added, "We love July 4th in Great Falls; the fireworks are a celebration of everything good: family, friends, and community. For decades, Mike has given his heart and soul to Great Falls. It would be nice for him to actually spend a 4th of July enjoying the day with his own family."

Jeff and Sharon Rainey look forward to continuing the tradition as they light the skies each 4th of July.

Forestville Elementary Community Gets Together

Forestville ES parents and staff got together on Saturday, March 20 for their annual Adult Social. This year's theme was the Shamrock Soiree. The event was a big hit at the Fairfax Hunt Club. Mike Kearney, owner of The Old Brogue attended and reminded everyone about the upcoming Great Falls Charitable Foundation Golf Tournament to be held on June 7 at Hidden Creek Country Club. All proceeds from this event will be donated to Forestville Elementary School's Smart Boards and Great Falls Elementary School's Mobile Labs. Pictured, from left, are Kathy Cooker, Tim Burke, Mike Kearney and Lynn Conforti.



Neighbors Celebrate Brendan's Courage

FROM PAGE 3

3 to 6. Brendan was too ill to attend school during the last two years, but his classmates never let him feel too lonely. Over 100 Great Falls Elementary students showed up at his front door singing carols of warm cheer on Christmas. Their visits and cards provided consolation when Brendan was confined to the hospital.

HIS PARENTS, Maura and Frank, ensured Brendan the best of medical care provided by Dr. Marianna Horn of the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders of Northern Virginia and the staff at Fairfax Inova Hospital. His sister Mollie and brother Joseph were at his side every possible moment.

At every medical procedure, Brendan offered his pain to God asking God to help a friend with

his or her illness or problem. This selflessness is just one of Brendan's unusual traits. He has an uncanny ability to sense other's needs and help them to see the beauty in life. His internal strength and courage have inspired everyone who has had the good fortune to cross his path.

"This celebration is our recognition of the love and inspiration Brendan has provided to us. He is a gift to us all," said one neighbor.

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Hostess Janet al-Hussaini demonstrates the preparation of Middle Eastern food.



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Sierra Club Discusses True Cost of Food

The event promotes 'sustainable choices.'

Steeping tea with a smaller teapot atop another captivated the attention of 24 attendants at a recent True Cost of Food (TCOF) event at the home of Janet Al-Hussaini and co-presented by Diana Artemis, both members of the Sierra Club.

The goal of TCOF is to promote sustainable choices, those that assure a healthy relationship between the supply and demand for food. To change behavior individuals must recognize transformations that have taken place in the food system. Showing the animated film "TCOF" illustrated challenges of the hidden costs of food. Artemis led discussion of how varying costs accrue during the production, distribution, processing and marketing of food due to the cost/risks of genetically modified organisms, lack of bio-diversity with mono-cultural cropping, pollution of waterways from pesticides, carbon and water footprints and social marketing. Hidden costs between industrialized farms and local farmers place the latter at a competitive disadvantage. It creates the illusion that the latter charges higher prices however, when hidden costs

are factored in, the opposite is more accurate.

Al-Hussaini demonstrated the preparation of Middle Eastern food. While several individuals volunteered to make Kubbat Haleb, a rice dough stuffed with cooked ground meat, onions, pine nuts and spices, Al-Hussaini discussed values of traditional preparation of food. She gave examples of how women in Mosul, Iraq, where she lived long ago, worked cooperatively in extended families to prepare daily meals making not only the process enjoyable and efficient, but produced the nutritional meals of fresh tasty vegetables, fruits, and grains that are recommended by food authorities in the U.S. today.

By necessity they used meat sparingly, in stews or fillings, more as a flavoring than as a main course, much like Michael Pollan advises, in his latest book, "Food Rules." These customs are much like those found in many other earlier traditions.

As everyone joined together to share an array of Middle Eastern dishes, Al-Hussaini added that eating is much more than food. It defines cultural traditions, is the center of holidays, is where major announcements and decisions are made and it gives health and energy and enables individual and national productivity.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Simple vegetables, fruits and grains, with only the smallest portions of meat, can be transformed into a virtual feast.

NEWS

Leigh Mill Road Bridge to be Replaced

Road will be closed for approximately two months over summer.



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Leigh Mill Road will be closed for approximately two months this summer while the bridge over Difficult Run is replaced.

Eric Knudsen, co-chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association's Transportation Committee, said all the residents with whom he had spoken about the coming replacement of the bridge on Leigh Mill Road were pleased with the project, even though it will require a two-month road closure.

"The community liked what they were going to do when they suggested it," Knudsen said, noting that the current bridge was not sturdy enough for the Fire Department to drive a water tanker over it, presenting a public safety concern. "The people at Leigh Mill Road are all happy about it." He said residents were also pleased that the new bridge would still have only one lane. "Some of these bridges are part of our traffic calm-

ing," he said. The numerous one-lane bridges in Great Falls slow drivers by forcing them to yield.

The 34-year-old bridge over Difficult Run is to be replaced this summer, over the course of two months beginning in June, according to a press release from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). Traffic is to be rerouted onto Towlston, Bellview and Walker roads. The new structure will be two feet wider than the

existing bridge, with a width of 15 feet, to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. Like the existing bridge, it will be made of wood.

VDOT said the bridge was being replaced because it was in poor condition. Knudsen said a number of bridges in Great Falls were slated to be replaced, although some of the projects were still in the design phase.

— MIKE DICICCO

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OPINION

Poetry in April

April is National Poetry Month according to the Academy of American Poets, and we invite our local poets to send submissions for us to print.

The National Poet Laureate serves as consultant to the Library of Congress and “seeks to raise the national consciousness to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry.”

Virginia also has a poet laureate, a position established by the General Assembly and appointed by the governor from nominees submitted by the Poetry Society of Virginia. The current poet laureate of Virginia is Claudia Emerson, claudiaemerson.org.

Emerson won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Poetry for her collection “Late Wife.” She is a professor of English and Poetry at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg.

But some residents are lucky enough to have local poetry as well.

On April 10, 2007, the Alexandria City Council named Mary McElveen as the city’s poet laureate for a three-year term; her replacement for the next three years is set to be announced shortly.

Arlington sponsors poetry competition, one open to all, one for Arlington public school stu-

Poem a Day for April

Go to www.poets.org to sign up to receive a poem emailed daily.

Moving Words

READ AND RIDE

Launched in 1999 during National Poetry Month, MOVING WORDS makes poetry a part of daily life for commuters in Northern Virginia and promotes the work of local writers. The poems of six local poets selected through an annual competition are displayed on Northern Virginia Metro buses and viewed by approximately 1.3 million Metro bus riders every month. The poems are exhibited in Metro buses that traverse Arlington County, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax County, and Fairfax City. Read the poems of the six winners and seven finalists at <http://www.arlingtonarts.org/cultural-affairs/moving-words/moving-words-2010.aspx>

MOVING WORDS POETRY READING

Winners of the 2010 Poetry Competition featured at IOTA Club & Cafe’s “Second Sundays Poetry and Art Hang,” Sunday, April 11, 8:15 pm., IOTA Club & Cafe www.iotaclubandcafe.com, 2832 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington.

dents, culminating in the display of winning poems (all limited in length) on Northern Virginia Metro busses.

This is one service local government could expand even in these economic times; Fairfax, Arlington counties, the City of Fairfax, the towns of Herndon and Vienna could consider appointing their own poets laureate.

The Alexandria Poet Laureate will promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, encourage creative writing and reading of all

forms of literature, and promote literacy through poetry.

Are you a poet? The Connection will print poetry submitted by readers this spring and occasionally throughout the year. We welcome student poetry as well, please list the student’s age, grade and school on the submission.

Send poems to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM.
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘A Sense of Place’ Of Utmost Importance

To the Editor:

I am responding to Glen Sjoblom’s second letter [“No Need for New Taxes,” Great Falls Connection, March 10-16, 2010] in which he lays out his reasons why a Special Tax District for Great Falls should be opposed. First, I appreciate Glen’s vast 35 years as a resident, his leadership contribution to the history of this community and his willingness to articulate his view so that we may all come to understand each other and formulate positions that are sensitive to each other’s views of the world. From his comments, however, I can see that there are background facts that need to be restated.

The idea for a Community Center for Great Falls, contrary to Glen’s impression, is not something I thought up alone. The idea has evolved over the last 3-1/2 years as follows:

❖ A Community Center for Great Falls was mentioned repeatedly in focus groups leading up to the preparation of the 2020 survey (2006-2007)

❖ The 2020 survey asked about the kind of Community Center we would like to see in Great Falls by the year 2020 (2007)

❖ Supervisor Foust asked the President of GFCA to invite me to represent Great Falls on the Dranesville APR Task Force so as to bring the wishes of the community as expressed in the 2020 Survey forward for consideration at the county level. It has been an honor to serve at the pleasure of Supervisor Foust who has the sincere interests of our community at heart

❖ A nomination to consider a Community Center for Great Falls was discussed and approved at the GFCA Long-Range Planning Committee meeting, which I chaired, moving the nomination along to the GFCA Board (2007-08)

❖ The GFCA Board considered, discussed and approved the nomination to consider a Community Center for Great Falls, permitting it to become a GFCA nomination when submitted to the North County Area Plan Review (APR). I volunteered to be the nominator. (2008)

❖ The nomination was presented to the Dranesville APR Task Force and was approved as submitted (2009)

❖ The nomination was presented to the Fairfax County Planning Commission and was approved as submitted (2009)

❖ The nomination was presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and was approved as submitted (2009)

❖ The nomination, as submit-

ted, has been entered into the Comprehensive Plan for Fairfax County, in compliance with the requirements of the Commonwealth of Virginia. (2009)

While it is true, there are three potential Community Center structures in Great Falls now — the Great Falls Grange, the Old School House and the Great Falls Library — they are totally inadequate to meet the needs of our community today. The Great Falls Grange and the Old School House belong to Fairfax County and are being rented out to the public for personal events at the rate of \$250 per hour. They are the largest revenue-generators in the county. Although they used to be available to community groups free-of-charge that is no longer the case. A non-profit local group must now rent the Grange for \$90 per hour. The Great Falls Library provides an outstanding meeting room, but there is only one room and reservations can only be made within the month. Thus, it is not possible to set up a calendar of meetings for a non-profit group more than one month ahead. There is often a waiting list to obtain space within a given month. At one point in 2007, we had discussed the possibility of conducting a satellite senior program in the Grange for local seniors, but found that handicap modifications have not been made to the Grange.

At the presentation of our nomi-

nation to the Dranesville APR Task Force, Great Falls residents expressed their views:

❖ The Optimist Club stated that teens did not have a place to gather within Great Falls and running a program in the Library or local Elementary School was not attractive to the youth groups they serve

❖ Local artists, musicians, dancers and theater groups explained that the fees associated with the Fairfax County facilities prohibited them from rehearsing and performing locally

❖ A local grandmother and local parents expressed their concern that teens are socializing in luxury basements of friends, without the watchful eye of loving neighbors in public places because there is no where to go when you don’t have money to spend

❖ Local club presidents expressed their frustration that there was no longer a free place to conduct meetings in Great Falls.

The concept of a Special Tax District is not a new idea. It has been kicked around in Great Falls for the last three years:

❖ The need to have some financial resources to achieve the goals of our community was voiced repeatedly in focus groups in preparation for the development of the 2020 Survey (2006-07)

❖ A question about interest in a Special Tax District was incorpo-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 19

THE CONNECTION

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26TH ANNUAL
Egg Hunt
SUNDAY, APRIL 11

12:30 PM Line Formation
1:00 PM Egg Hunt



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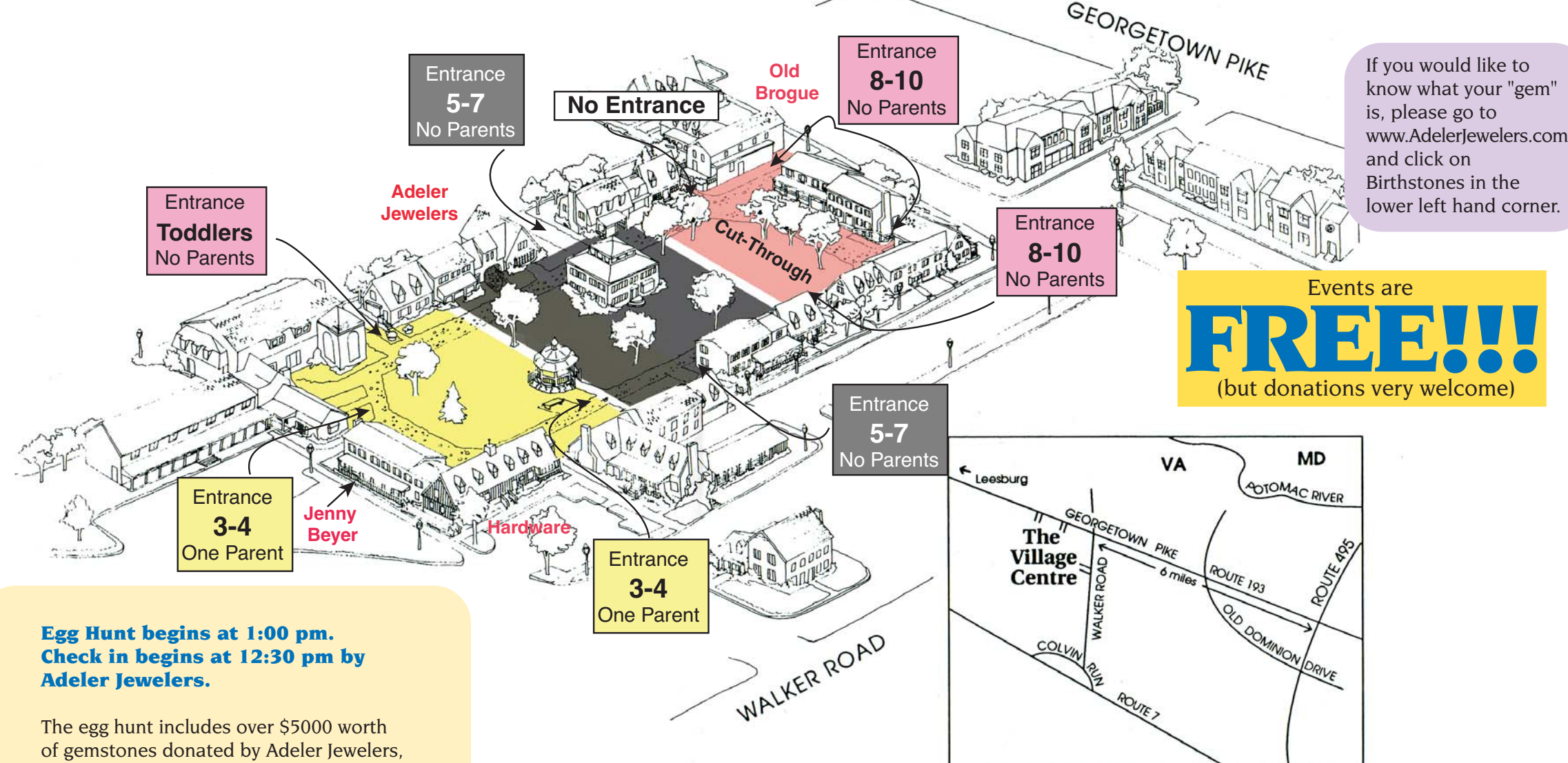
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26th Annual Egg Hunt brought to you by Adeler Jewelers and the Great Falls Optimists Club at the Village Centre



If you would like to know what your "gem" is, please go to www.Adelerjewelers.com and click on Birthstones in the lower left hand corner.

Events are **FREE!!!**
(but donations very welcome)

Egg Hunt begins at 1:00 pm. Check in begins at 12:30 pm by Adeler Jewelers.

The egg hunt includes over \$5000 worth of gemstones donated by Adeler Jewelers, mixed with candy and stuffed into 5,000 plastic eggs that will be scattered around the Village Centre for children ages 1-10 to find.

Important Information
*** PLEASE NOTE: Candy in the Egg Hunt may contain nuts! We do our best to avoid this, but we cannot guarantee it because even nut-free candy MAY HAVE BEEN MADE on machines that previously processed candy that did contain nuts.
NO RAIN DATE: Due to the size of this ever-popular event, and to scheduling requirements for the Village

Centre and volunteer staff, we are unable to provide a rain date for the egg hunt. Please call 703-759-4076 after 9:00 am on April 11 to verify the status of the event if you are concerned about cancellation due to inclement weather.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We can always use more volunteers to help with a range of jobs, including

staffing an entrance, helping with set up and clean up the day of the hunt, and other activities. If you are interested in helping with this fun, family-friendly event, please contact Julie Casso at 703-759-3132 or mcasso@msn.com. This is a terrific opportunity for Scout troops and students looking for community service opportunities!

Letter from the President

The Great Falls Optimist Club extends a warm welcome to the 26th Annual Great Falls Egg Hunt, brought to you by the Club and Adeler Jewelers, which we hope you'll enjoy as always.

The egg hunt is but one of the many activities and programs that the Great Falls Optimist Club sponsors throughout the year to benefit children. I am proud to note that this is our 28th year of service to our community, and we expect to be around for many more.

Adeler Jewelers began this tradition 26 years ago as a free "gift" to the community, and a few years later they began partnering with the Great Falls Optimist Club, donating proceeds to the Club's Youth Fund. Mindful of the economic times we find ourselves in, we are going back to our roots and again bringing this to our community at no charge. (Of course, donations are always welcome!)

Many people who look forward to bringing their children to this terrific event every year have no idea who puts it on, who does all the work behind the scenes, why Adeler Jewelers donates so many gems, or where the money goes that we raise through this event. We hope that by learning more about our mission, you discover a second reason to participate – helping children in our community. We also hope that by learning more about the Great Falls Optimist Club, you will be motivated to join this dedicated organization and support our work through donations and membership. A small group of individuals has accomplished a great deal these many years, and we look forward to welcoming more members of our growing community.

Sincerely,

Joda Coolidge, President

Great Falls Optimist Club

There are many worthy causes to support while meeting your neighbors and enjoying the camaraderie of good friends. There are lots of ways to have a good time while doing good. One organization to consider supporting right here in your backyard is the Great Falls Optimist Club. A small club with big ambitions, the Optimist Club is dedicated to meeting the needs of young people in our community; to supporting activities that contribute to a better future for our children; to promoting an active interest in good government; to encouraging community service among young people; and developing optimism as a philosophy of life. Whenever and wherever there are opportunities to "bring the out best in kids," you'll find Great Falls Optimists.

The more people involved, the more we can accomplish. We have quarterly membership meetings at the library. Won't you join us?

For more information, contact Membership Chair Mindy Mitchell at 703-304-2337, mindy@bigplanet.com or visit our website at www.greatfallsoptimist.org.

Yes, I'd love to join the Great Falls Optimist Club. Please contact me:

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FAITH

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

First Baptist Church of Vienna, 450 Orchard St. N.W., announces the third annual production of *The Living Easter Story* on Thursday, April 1 at 7 p.m. and Friday, April 2, at 7 p.m. The production includes live actors in the tableau vivant format and a few live animals for authenticity. The scenes will portray three of the events leading up to the death of Jesus Christ: the Last Supper, the Trial, and the Crucifixion. The production is open to all and admission is free.

Easter Sunrise Service at Great Falls National Park, 6:30 a.m., sponsored by the Great Falls Ecumenical Churches. Rev. David J. Zuchelli of Smith Chapel UMC will preach. Special music will be provided. Members of the Great Falls Ecumenical Council will participate in this service. Boy Scout Troop 55 will serve as ushers.

Oakton United Methodist Church on Chain Bridge Road will be open three evenings for its members and the community to think, meditate, and speak quietly to God during Easter Holy Week. This year's vigil starts on Maundy Thursday, April 1, and ends on Holy

Saturday, April 3. According to Pastor H. Donald Hawks, this experience is an opportunity to open your heart to God's healing presence during Easter Holy Week.

The sanctuary will be open from 5 to 9 p.m. on Maundy Thursday, April 1; from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Good Friday, April 2; and from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Holy Saturday, April 3 for quiet prayer, meditation, and communion. The labyrinth, Stations of the Cross, and Stations of the Light will be available during these same times. There will be a special service from noon to 3 p.m. in the sanctuary on Good Friday with six area ministers reflecting on the passion narrative of the Gospel of John.

Oakton UMC is located at 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton. For additional information about the Easter Prayer Vigil, see the church's web site www.oaktonumc.org

Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road, Oakton, invites the public to its annual Good Friday Services, 12 p.m. on April 2. Preachers for the day, in order of service are: Rev. Michael Southall-Vess; Rev. Marable Southall-Vess; Rev. Dr. Edward Bauman; Rev. Dr. James Hoffman; Rev. Donna Johnson; Rev. H. Donald Hawks. 703-938-1234 or www.oaktonumc.org.

Korean United Methodist Church in McLean, Lewinsville Road at Swings Mill Road, is performing the drama "I am Judas Iscariot," with 70 chorus members and 25 orchestra members on April 2 at 8 p.m. The church is inviting the public to attend the performance; the dialog will be shown on screen in English. Music includes Highlight of Mozart Requiem (4 selection) and Dubois "Last 7 words at Cross" (3 selection).

The Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, will have a special week of celebration leading to Easter Sunday. The public is invited to all events, child care is provided. www.antiochdoc.org

❖**6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 1.** A traditional Seder Meal in the church Fellowship hall. The Passover meal is known as the Seder, which means "order," because the meal and service are done in a prescribed sequence.

❖**7:30 a.m. Friday, April 2.** Good Friday worship service and remembrance of the death of Christ.

❖**7:30 a.m. Sunday, April 4.** Community Easter Sunrise Service in the Groves adjacent to the church. Dress is casual, bring lawn chairs. Breakfast will follow. Traditional Easter Celebration services will be held in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. Children's church will include special events for children.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean, will have special music and liturgy at both Friday, April 2 services. The 12 p.m. service will include meditations on The Seven Last Words of Christ the Reverend Edward O. Miller Jr. and 'A Service of Darkness' sung by the St. John's Choir. The 7:30 p.m. service begins with a brief Good Friday Liturgy, and will include excerpts from the 'St. Matthew Passion' by Bach in English translation, with vocal soloists and The Sunrise String Quartet, oboe, flute, English horn, and organ. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

The Guyasamaja Buddhist Center will host Glenn Mullin, an author, poet, translator, and teacher of Tibetan Buddhism. On Sunday, April 11, Mullin will teach two classes open to all—from beginners in Buddhist practice to advanced practitioners. 1-5 p.m. Location: The Unitarian/Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston VA 20190. Suggested donation: one class \$10; both \$15.

Charles Wesley and Chesterbrook United Methodist Churches invite the community to a 20-minute weekly service of prayer and Holy Communion in the Charles Wesley sanctuary, 6817 Dean Drive in McLean, at 12 p.m. Thursdays. At the conclusion

of the service, there is a time of individual blessing, anointing and healing prayer. Contact Charles Wesley UMC's office, 703-356-6336.

Epiphany United Methodist Preschool, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3-4-year-old students for the 2010/2011 school year. Contact 703-938-2391 or www.epiphanypreschool.com.

Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, will re-launch its ministry called "All Things New" beginning Sunday, April 18 at 5 p.m. The service will be a 45-minute contemporary-style service that includes praise music, prayer, and biblically-based messages supported by related multi-media programs.

The service is geared to help the church fulfill its role as Christ's healing agent, and help people re-order their lives by putting Christ first. 703-759-3705 or www.greatfallsumc.org.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. Rev. Kathleene Card, Pastor. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

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Baptist
Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ... 703-757-8134
Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075
Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516
First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525
The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

Buddhist
Vajrayogini Buddhist Center...202-331-2122

Church of the Brethern
Oakton Church of the Brethern ... 703-281-4411

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7:30 p.m. Eucharist*

FRIDAY, APRIL 2
GOOD FRIDAY
12:10 p.m. Way of the Cross*
7:30 p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday*

SATURDAY, APRIL 3
HOLY SATURDAY
9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Saturday
8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 4
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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Damian Caracciola (right), the football commissioner of the Southwestern Youth Association, was the recipient of the Gene Nelson Commissioner's Award at last Saturday's annual Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame banquet in McLean. He is pictured with the U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly.

Three Added to Local Hall of Fame

Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame inducts Jason Witten, Nick Hilgert and Richard Herman during ceremony.

BY REED S. ALBERS
CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

Dallas Cowboy Jason Witten might one day be immortalized in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, but his first hall of fame honor is Fairfax's to claim.

On March 14 at the McLean Hilton, the Fairfax County Football Hall of Fame inducted the six-time, Pro Bowl tight end and former Vienna Youth linebacker to its roster of local football legends.

"There's no question that the experiences I had [at Vienna Youth] helped me reach my dreams," Witten said. "Thank you for helping make my dreams come true."

Witten was unable to attend the ceremony due to duties with the NFL Players Association and its yearly meeting in Hawaii, but his award will be held in Fairfax until next year's ceremony and he vowed to claim it in person.

Former Robinson Secondary School head football coach Nick Hilgert joined Witten as one of the three 2010 inductees to the Hall of Fame.



Mickey Thompson was named the Div. 5 high school football Coach of the Year.

Hilgert, who served as head coach from 1983 to 1996, was the first Robinson head coach to take the Rams to the state football finals in 1988. Hilgert also worked as an assistant coach at Hammond High School and Marshall High School.

Known for being a likeable coach and teacher, Hilgert used his time at the podium to remind the student-athletes in attendance to strive for excellence in everyday life.

"There's a lot more to [sports] than winning and losing...you don't just go out for sports to be

winners," he said. "Always do your best. If you do your best, then you're not a loser. Learn more, study more, work hard, and don't be satisfied with average."

Richard Herman of Fort Belvoir Sports also was inducted into the Hall of Fame for his decades of service to area youth sports. In 1993, he founded a select basketball program, and in 2000 founded a youth track club.

He currently is the Fort Belvoir youth football commissioner.

"I appreciate this award and I'm very humbled," he said.

In addition to the Hall of Fame inductions, various service and player of the year awards also were handed out.

❖ Josh Hogan (W.T. Woodson), Kevin Samson (Madison), Anton McCallum (Hayfield), Brian Laiti (Robinson), Hunter Debutts (Episcopal) and Bo Revell (Battlefield) were named the High School Players of the Year.

❖ Jim Poythress (Lake Braddock) and Mickey Thompson (Stone Bridge) were named High School Coaches of the Year.

❖ Solomon Thompson Jr. won the Karl Davey Memorial Award. John Page won Official of the Year and Joe Swarm, director of student activities at Marshall High School, won the Tom Davis Meritorious Service Award.

❖ Damian Caracciola, Southwestern Youth Association youth football commissioner, won the Gene Nelson Commissioner's Award.



PHOTO/KENT ARNOLD-HERO MOMENT IMAGING

Bridget Smith (left), a sophomore member of the McLean High girls' lacrosse team, battles a Yorktown player for the ball during a game versus the Patriots on March 18 in Arlington. The Highlanders, who have two wins this season, are set to play again next Monday, April 5 at Marshall.

The Langley High boys' tennis team won a Liberty District match at Madison, 6-3, last Thursday, March 25. The Saxons, under coach Jack Porter, improved to 3-0 on the young season. Langley singles winners in the match versus the Warhawks were: junior Vincent Ning (No. 2 singles), senior Evan Berner (No. 3), junior Josh Cooper (No. 4), sophomore Jimmy Fang (No. 5) and sophomore Jeff Small (No. 6). Langley's No. 2 doubles team of Ning and Cooper was victorious. The Saxons will travel to Marshall next Monday afternoon, April 5 for a district match versus the Statesmen at 3.

The McLean High girls' softball team defeated Thomas Jefferson, 15-1, in a Liberty District road game played last Thursday, March 25. Highlander junior pitcher Jamie Bell took the win for McLean (2-0). She struck out 10, allowed two hits and walked two. McLean's offense accumulated 14 hits for the night. Junior third baseman Jessie Straub led the Highlanders with four hits, including three doubles, and four RBIs.

Bell had three base hits, including a double. McLean, which was spending spring break week competing in Myrtle Beach, will play its home opener next Tuesday evening, April 6 at 6:30 against South Lakes.

Melissa Downey scored the lone goal in McLean's 1-0, non-district girls' soccer win over visiting Centreville High on March 25. Downey, a junior midfielder/forward, scored the goal in the second half. Logan Tapscott, the Highlanders' senior goalkeeper, had eight saves in the win as McLean, coached by Tiffani Washington, and improved its early season record to 3-1.

Two days earlier in an outing at Marshall, McLean handled the Statesmen, 6-0. It was the Liberty District opener for the Highlanders, who received three goals from Andie Romness, two from Downey and one from Katie Yensen. Assists came from Rose Sommovigo and Mary D'Alesandro. McLean's next game will be at Hayfield High on Tuesday, April 6.

CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 1

Benjy Davis Project CD Release, Matt Duke and Seth Glier. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The Holmes Brothers. 8 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Roots, R&B, gospel and country influenced music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org

FRIDAY/APRIL 2

Tango Band Cuidado. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Dewberry Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Music and dance from a contemporary tango ensemble. Pre-performance discussion at 7 p.m. \$10, tickets available night of performance only at theater box office. 703-993-1380 or www.pgtagoconnection.com.

Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

I am Judas Iscariot. 8 p.m. at the Korean United Methodist Church in McLean, Lewinsville Road at Swings Mill Road. A drama with 70 chorus members and 25 orchestra members; music includes Highlight of Mozart Requiem and Dubois "Last 7 words at Cross."

Humble Boy. 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy about broken vows and bee-

keeping. \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/humble.
Old-fashioned Cooking for Kids. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at Cherry Hill farmhouse, 312 Park Ave., Falls Church. Ages 8 and up can grind corn, bake bread and churn butter. \$8. Call 703-248-5171.

Christine Lavin. 8 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk artist. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 3

Pianist Lang Lang with the Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra. 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Under Maestro Christoph Eschenbach, the orchestra performs Beethoven's Symphony No. 7 and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 1. Lang Lang solos with the orchestra on Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 3. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$30-\$60. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

Bunny Tales. 11 a.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. www.mcleancenter.org.

Willie Nile. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Popa Chubby CD Release Show and Moreland & Arbuckle. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Humble Boy. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy about broken vows and bee-keeping. \$25 adults, \$15

students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/humble.

LeAnn Kalita Show and Reception. 6 p.m. at Applegate Gallery, 101 Church St. NW, Suite C, Vienna. Exhibition opening for local watercolorist. info@applegateframing.com.

Jonathan Edwards. 7:30 p.m. At Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

Colvin Run Schoolhouse Dance. 9 p.m. at the Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Traditional ballroom, latin and swing music with the Helmut Licht Band. 8 p.m. rhumba dance lesson \$5; dancing \$12 per person. 703-795-2003 or www.colvinrun.org.

Easter Egg Hunt. At Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Join the Nottoway Bunny and hunt for Easter goodies. For ages 1-9 years old. \$7 per child. Walk-in registration opens at 10 a.m. and the Egg Hunt at 11 a.m. Bring your own basket. All proceeds donated to Nottoway Park improvements. 703-324-8566.

SUNDAY/APRIL 4

In Alcatraz 1962, Life After Hours, Kodiak, A Gentleman Calling, Villiska and more. 4:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Humble Boy. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy about broken vows and bee-keeping. \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16



Jill Banks, 'Pizza and Pesce,' Oil on Linen, 8 X 10.

Great Falls Artists Exhibit 'Landscape Escapes'

First Friday opening reception for "Landscape Escapes," a show featuring works by the 16 members of the Artists' Atelier. April 2, 7-9 p.m. at the Great Falls Foundation for the Arts Gallery. Meet the artists and other art enthusiasts. Show continues through April. Similar events are held in the Gallery on the first Friday evening of each month. The Atelier and Gallery are also open 12-4 p.m. Saturdays, whenever an artist is working, or by appointment. 1144-D and 1144-G Walker Road, in Leigh Corners, Great Falls. www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

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Author Discusses 'Adventure of Lifetime'

Author and Great Falls resident David Morine, also known as Bugsy, shared the story of his adventure that inspired him to write "Two Coots in a Canoe" at Great Falls Library on Saturday, March 20.

"Two Coots in a Canoe" is a true story of Morine and his long-time friend, Ramsay Peard, traveling in a canoe for a month, 410 miles, down the Connecticut River. Even though they had not spoken for nearly 20 years before they decided to take this trip, they set out on the adventure of a lifetime.

Deciding they were too old for camping, they survived only by the kindness of others. They stayed at the homes of strangers they met in towns along the river. "It's like a necklace," Morine said. "The people are the pearls and the river is the string."

Morine listed the four main themes in this book as the river itself, conservation of it, the strangers they met and his part-



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

Author David 'Bugsy' Morine signing a book for Great Falls business owner Alison de Wit.



David 'Bugsy' Morine being introduced by Great Falls Library manager Daniela Dixon

ner on the trip, Ramsay. With an ending no one, including Morine, saw coming, the book is, as the title states, an "unusual tale of friendship."

"Two Coots in a Canoe," along with Morine's other books, can be purchased online.

— STEPHANIE KNAPP

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 15
www.1stStageTysons.org/humble.

MONDAY/APRIL 5

The Heavy Pets. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 6

DC101's Last Band Standing. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

What's All That Jazz About? 6 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Saxophonist Shenole Latimer educates young people on the art of listening to and appreciating jazz tunes. Age 10 and up. 703-938-0405.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 7

Making Life Easier: Gadgets, Gizmos and Home Modifications. 1 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Home modifications and inexpensive devices that can help maintain independence. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices.

Author Jamie MacVicar. 7:30 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Author of The Advance Man: A Journey into the World of the Circus. Free. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-242-4020.

The Spring Standards. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 8

William M. Ferraro on 'George Washington's Mind, or, A General's Genius.' 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Historical Society, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Ferraro is an assistant professor and assistant editor with the Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia. schulm@erols.com.

Swing Dance with Natty Beaux. 7:30 at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

Shane Hines (acoustic), Scott Simons and Bleu. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Time Strategies for Life & Work. 7 p.m. at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. \$35 nonmembers, \$25 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

FRIDAY/APRIL 9

David L. Chewning Book Signing. 1 p.m. at Vinson Hall Retirement Community, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. 89-year-old Chewning, a retired Air Force major, has just published his second novel, "A Life Worth Living", with the help of 'History Matters' project volunteers. 703-506-2133.

Yu Wei Chinese Dance Collection. 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Chinese dance, costumes and film. Rescheduled from Feb. 5-7. 703-790-9223.

Rocknocos Family Happy Hour.

7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10, age 1-under free. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

bob CD Release Show, The 5 L's and The Franchise Players. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Humble Boy. 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy about broken vows and bee-keeping. \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/humble.

Friends of the Great Falls Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Used book sale. 703-757-8560.

SATURDAY/APRIL 10

Mad 5K Run and One Mile Walk. 9 a.m. at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. The race will benefit the James Madison track team, Awards will be presented to the top 3 male and female finishers, as well as age group awards. T-shirts and refreshments will be available. \$15 students, \$20 adults at www.active.com/framed/event or craig.chasse@fcps.edu.

bob CD Release Show, Almost Kings and Feed God Cabbage. 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Humble Boy. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A comedy about broken vows and bee-keeping. \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or www.1stStageTysons.org/humble.

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-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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October 10, 1931 - March 21, 2010
City of current residence: Winona, Minnesota

Esther Louise Thronson, 78, of Winona, MN, died Sunday, March 21, 2010, at her Saint Anne's home with family by her side. She was born at home on October 10, 1931, in Todd County, MN, daughter of Elvin and Lillie (Dahl) Klukken. She attended District 101 grade school and graduated from Osakis High School in 1948. She started teaching at the age of 16 in a one room schoolhouse - District 23, Todd County, MN. She taught 25 students, grades one through eight, until 1951. Her teaching responsibilities also included building a fire and pumping water to fill the ceramic water crock, all for 40 dollars a month. Board member Gray pushed for an increased salary which doubled her monthly earnings. A former student, Carolyn Thimmesh, shared that Miss Klukken "inspired us!" She attended Teacher Training School, Fergus Falls, MN and graduated from Luther College in 1952. While at Luther, she was a member of the Nordic Choir. On June 6, 1954, she was united in marriage to Carmen Thronson at Osakis Lutheran Church. They were married for 53 years until his death in 2008.

Esther made a home for her family in every community they lived including Mt. Sterling, WI (1955-56) and Roundup, MT (1957-1960). She taught elementary school in Adams, Hastings and Circle Pines, MN; DeSoto, WI (1960-1965); Adams-Friendship, WI (1965-1968); Orfordville, WI (1968-1979). She was a life-long learner and continued her own education, receiving her B.A. from Univ. of Wisconsin Stevens Point and her Masters from Univ. of Wisconsin Whitewater.

She was Executive Director of Southern Lakes United Educators (SLUE) Teachers Union serving school districts in Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, WI from 1979 until her retirement in 1997. She served as the United Staff Union (USU) Employees Union President, 1984-86. Beyond her work, she was always passionate about social justice and helping people who couldn't find their own voice. She volunteered her time to mediate for fair wages and equal treatment for all workers. She was recognized for Farmers Mediation Training.

Esther will be sadly missed by her 5 children: Kristin (Robert) Steingreaber of Keosauqua, IA; Kate (Jeff) Seitz of Racine, WI; Mark (Anna) Thronson of McLean, VA; Carl (Krupa Srinivasan) Thronson of Los Altos Hills, CA, and Karen (Jason) Mott of Winona, MN; and 9 grandchildren: William and Anne Steingreaber; Audrey Seitz; Margo, Lauren, and Eric Thronson; Neel and Jason Thronson; and Jonathan Carmen Mott.

Esther is also survived by her sisters: Marilyn Klukken, Dorothy Olson, and Joyce (Ted) Herbert; brother, Dan (Sue) Klukken; brother-in-laws, David (Betty) Thronson; sister-in-law, Solveigh (Ken) Engh and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; her parents-in-law (Carmen and Borghild); her stepmother, Mabel (Ormsen); and her brother-in-law, Bruce Olson.

A funeral service for Esther will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 25, 2010 at CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WINONA, MN, with Rev. Michelle Rem officiating. Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery, Winona. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the CHURCH on Thursday.

Memorials are preferred to Saint Anne, 1347 W. Broadway; Winona, MN 55987. Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com. Services entrusted to Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home and Cremation Services; 1476 W. Broadway; Winona, MN 55987.

The family thanks the staff at Saint Anne's for their compassionate care. Esther was an advocate for students and teachers and will be remembered as making a difference.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

rated into the 2020 Survey (2007)

Steve Gray made an excellent presentation to the Great Falls Citizens Association General Session, educating the community about the law governing special tax districts, their benefits, functioning, potential (2007)

When the Fairfax County Planning Commission considered the nomination to consider a Community Center for Great Falls, the Chairman specifically asked if Great Falls would establish a Special Tax District to operate its Community Center. My response was, "It has been discussed." (2009) From that specific question, it is my impression that Fairfax County looks very favorably on the role of the Special Tax District in making the McLean and Reston Community Centers the successes they are today and considers it an essential tool for achieving a notable and significant community center going forward.

I disagree with Glen's opinion that a Special Tax District would override and negate the talents of the people of Great Falls, making volunteers unnecessary. The Special Tax District in McLean does not eliminate the need for the Citizens Association. But it has enabled the formation and development of a rich and viable program that honors, develops and enhances the talents of individual residents, while deeply enriching and nourishing the life of the McLean community. Once there is some basic capital formation, it follows that the entity — The Great Falls Community Center — would become eligible for grants and donations, making a Foundation in order, as McLean has done. Individuals and communities evolve as needs are met, from basic security and wellbeing, to affiliation, self-esteem and finally through self-actualization (Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs). A community that offers an infrastructure that welcomes the expression of talent and uniqueness thrives. We are blessed to be surrounded by citizens, young and old, who have had the best music and dance lessons,

the best art classes, the best sports training, the best command of language and geometry, the best way with animals and gardens and this all needs to be brought forward into abundant expression and enthusiastic applause. A Community Center can take on the unique character and design of its constituents and evolve over time as that community develops and refines. We can draw our center as simple or as complex as our consensus takes us. But failing to bring a sense of place to fruition within Great Falls would be a loss for generations to come.

The structure and charter of a Special Tax District would be very important to securing a "Sense of Place" for our residents. A Special Tax District is not a renegade entity, but a legal structure that is voted and approved by the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County and chartered by the County to follow specific laws of governance. The Board of Supervisors appoints the director. However, by structuring a Great Falls Community Center Board that is composed of all the various stakeholders within our community, a sense of equitable stewardship toward our community vision can be achieved. The GFCA can hold one seat at the table among other stakeholder groups in the interest of possibly requisitioning funding for research on specific issues, program development and/or education and communication in so far as that funding for specific activities are in appropriate alignment with our community vision. But a Special Tax District is not intended to take over or replace the GFCA. The intention is to contribute a modest sum to a community core so that a shared community experience may be realized in our way in our time. Our community is too abundantly talented to postpone or delay the realization of "our place" — our "white board" for all the many talents of our residents from very young to very old — any longer. This is an initiative whose time has come.

Kathleen Murphy
Great Falls

Storm Handled as Well as It Could Be

To the Editor:

As you may know the Fairfax County Supervisors have been looking for input on citizens feelings about the handling of recent record snowstorm. Mine follows:

Dear Supervisor Foust:

I spent the first 25 years (one-third to date) of my life in Michigan where storms like the one we received were not frequent but happened every winter and winter lasted from October to April. Life did not stop as it does here and there were few expectations that life should be normal during times of bad weather.

I lived in a rural community where the local school seldom closed although sometimes the buses did not arrive until 10 a.m. So my perspective is different.

Our power was out for 40 hours and we could not get out of our garage until Sunday around noon.

The Dominion people are taking unwarranted abuse as they did a tremendous job

on the restoration of power. The thing that people should be up in arms about is the infrastructure of our utilities. Maybe there is no practical way of changing this, but that is the problem and I doubt that Dominion could have done much better.

As far as snow removal is concerned, we made it to church on Sunday and out to lunch until the electricity came on later that day. How can anyone believe that government should be equipped to handle all of the "out of scope" conditions that are to come up? We can't afford it. I could not believe U.S. Rep. Gerry Connelly (D-11) trying to blame Metro for not getting people to their government jobs. They couldn't even get out of their neighborhoods.

John, my opinion is that things were done as well as they could be for this monumental storm, that people who don't know how to drive in bad weather should stay off the roads and that expectations were much too high. We can't afford perfect for any and every event that takes place in our society to include Katrina, healthcare and many others.

Richard Kane
Great Falls

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Ashley O'Banion and Florian Rouiller in "Sunrise" from June 2009 performance of "A Pig's Tale", an original production based on Charlotte's Web.

Photo by
VIHAO PHAM



Leah McSteen, Lauren Megrue, Katherine Boruff, Ashley O'Banion, Kristen Beckwith, Kate Fitzgerald and Bridget Hott in performance of Christmas Eve at the Nutcracker Club, 2009



SOTD Modern dancers in "The Web", Choreography Theresa D'Alessandro, June 2009 performance of "A Pig's Tale" at the Alden Theater: (l-r) Dana deLaski, Charlee Vasiliadis, Kelsey Albanese, Lauren Megrue, Bridget Hott, Leah McSteen, Joanie Vasiliadis, Stormy Budwig.

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Our website is: www.theatricaldance.com

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