

Great Falls CONNECTION

Kenna O'Brien leads Max Hutman on a walk around the indoor arena during a Lift Me Up class in Great Falls July 21, followed by Jen Myers leading Tommy Wright. The program offers therapeutic riding classes for mentally and physically challenged children and adults.



PET CONNECTION

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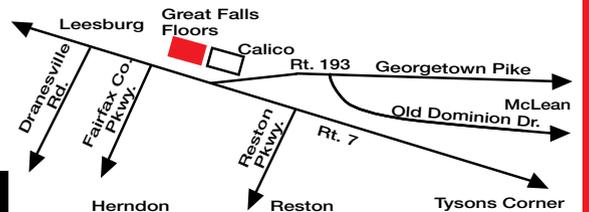
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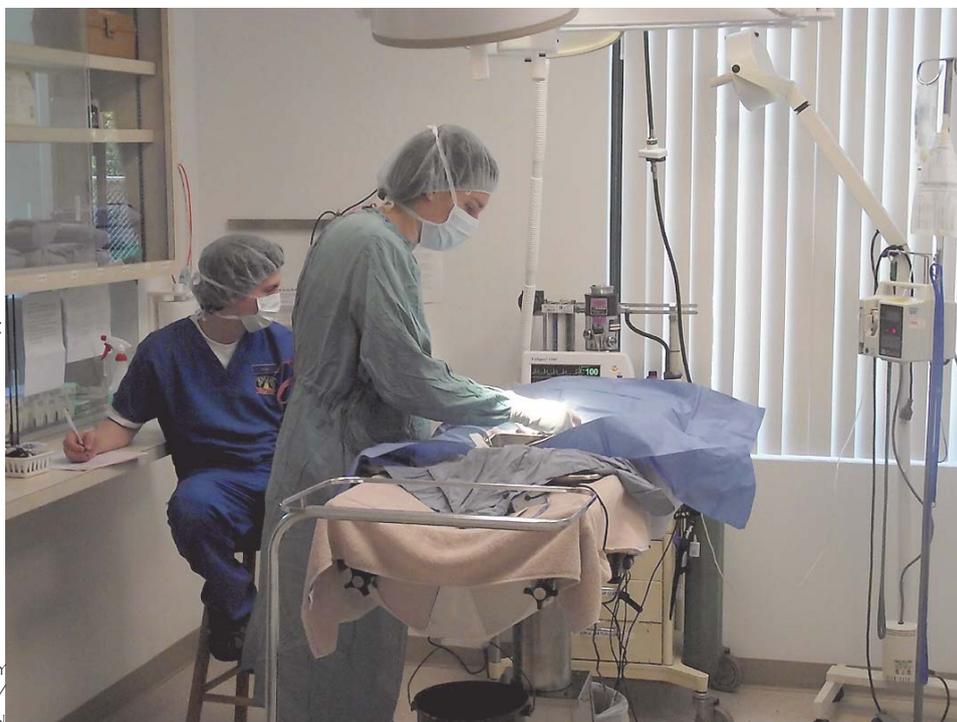
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PET CONNECTION



Dr. Katherine Pepelko performs a spay operation while assistant Ryan Mannix keeps an eye on the dog's vital signs.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH / THE CONNECTION

Keeping Pets Cared For

Businesses offer pet care facilities, home-based care.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Pets need care whether their owners are at home, at work or on vacation. While the realities of modern life mean that pet owners can't always be there to take care of them, there are many local businesses that can help ease the burden.

Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort and Spa in Great Falls offers pet care ranging from the life saving to the lifestyle, helping pets get and stay healthy. The goal at Seneca Hill is to make the facility "more like home," because that's what keeps pets relaxed.

The building, which Seneca Hill has been using for the past five years, houses the hospital on one end, the resort and spa at the other, and in between a shop featuring the latest in pet toys, training tools and healthy snacks.

The hospital area features an intensive care unit, dental clinic, ultrasound and X-ray equipment, lab facilities, a physical therapist and two surgical suites. The facility is capable of performing a standard spay or neuter service, basic repair of cuts and everything in between.

"We voluntarily adhere to American Animal Hospital Association standards for the pet hospital," said Heather Dallara, general manager at Seneca Hill. The hospital takes extra steps such as having separate laundries for animal surgical clothing in order to make sure the hospital meets the highest standards



Linda Looker, a supervisor of Seneca Hill's day care program, fills up a water bowl during playtime for several of the resort's 'guests.'

for cleanliness.

"We try to stay as cutting edge as possible," she said.

THE RESORT AND SPA area features two levels of "rooms" for the dogs, and a few luxury suites as well. Soft music plays in the background, as well as color TVs should the dogs want extra stimulation.

The spa also features a therapy pool, for dogs recovering from surgery or owners who want their dog to get some exercise in the water.

The dogs usually get three or four walks per day, plus a session of "play time" where they are taken to one of the six different yards surrounding the building. Some areas have more room to run around in, some have a lot of trees that provide shade.

"The time outside mentally and physically relaxes

SEE PET SITTERS, PAGE 7



PHOTOS BY NIKKI CHESHIRE / THE CONNECTION

Caroline, Mary Katherine and Mark Drasbek with their dog Sista, a border collie.

Great Falls' Family's Petting Zoo

The Drasbeks have dogs, chicken, and goat.

BY NIKKI CHESHIRE
THE CONNECTION

In Great Falls, it's not unheard of to have horses, dogs and cats, and especially more than one. But one family goes beyond having just a few dogs. With a chicken coop and a goat standing in their yard, the Drasbeks have what could be considered their own petting zoo.

Four years ago, the Drasbeks' border collie, Meg, had four puppies. After quickly dubbing three of them Tubby, Freckles and Lightning — based on their physical characteristics and personalities — the three with names were sold to people around the area. The only puppy left went on to be named "Sista" because she was the "sister of the others" and the family "couldn't figure out what to call her" said Mary Katherine Drasbek, the oldest sister in the family. "My mom thought it was cute."

In addition to their dogs, the family also had chickens. "We

just wanted hens, but we accidentally got a rooster," said Mary Katherine Drasbek.

"We called him King Kong because he was huge, fat and mean," said younger sister Caroline Drasbek. "When I was like 6, I was outside and the chickens were just milling around, and King Kong started charging at me. I ran away, yelling 'I just want to eat him right now.'"

Living beside the chickens was their goat, Missy. Thinking she was lonely without other goats, the Drasbeks gave her away to a family that had other goats. "We got a call from the family a little while later," said Mary Katherine Drasbek.

"They said she seemed uncomfortable with the other goats. So we told them to put her with the chickens, and she apparently was happy," she said, with a laugh. "I think she thought she was a chicken."

Their younger brother, Mark, had pets of his own too. Two rats, Tar and Borat, lived in a large cage. "I went to Utah for

a while and told my Dad to watch them and put a weight over one of the wide slats in the cage," Mark Drasbek said. "But they got out. They lived in the wall for a year before we stopped hearing them in the walls. I think they got outside."



Sista, border collie

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 **PET CONNECTION**

**Kenna O'Brien leads
Max Hutman on a
walk around the ring
during a session of
Life Me Up July 21.**

PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION



Getting Back on the Horse

**Therapeutic riding
program helps
children and adults
with mental,
physical disabilities.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

For children and adults facing mental and physical disabilities, Great Falls charity Lift Me Up is helping them get back on the horse. They provide the opportunity for people with a myriad of conditions a chance to reap the benefits of therapeutic riding. The program has been around for more than 30 years, but it wasn't until their 2006 acquisition of a property and indoor arena off of Georgetown Pike that it really hit its stride.



Volunteers Jen Myers, left and Katie Metro assist Tommy Wright in a drill where riders guide the horses close to poles, so they can switch cups on top of the pole.

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 17



Dan Wolfe, 21, gets set atop Valentine, with the help of Lift Me Up program director Georgia Bay Corey.



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Robin Suomi, executive director Loudoun Small Development; Yenizel Gamez, Wachovia Great Falls store manager; and Joseph Prezioso, senior vice president district manager Fairfax County East and Loudoun County at the ribbon-cutting ceremony in Great Falls.

Wachovia Modernizes in Great Falls

Envelope-free machines accept stacks of cash or checks, sell postage stamps.

Wachovia Bank, N.A., a Wells Fargo Company (NYSE: WFC) is replacing Wachovia ATM machines with new technology developed by Wells Fargo that can accept stacks of cash or checks without envelopes and even sell postage stamps around the clock. "Envelope-Free ATMs will save our customers time and hassle," said Joe Prezioso, Greater Washington, D.C. district manager for Wachovia. "They don't need to write on an envelope, do any math, or key-in a deposit amount. The ATM does all the work." In addition, the new machines make it possible

for the bank to extend the cut-off time for same-day deposit credit. Customers making deposits in the new ATMs will receive immediate credit for cash deposits and same-day credit for check deposits until 8 p.m., after the banking store is closed.

In unveiling the ATMs, the company also celebrated the importance of community involvement by presenting a contribution of \$10,000 to Robin Suomi, executive director of the Loudoun Small Business Development Center in Sterling. The grant will fund the seminars, training and counseling that the Center provides for small business entrepreneurs.

Jackie Taylor, president of Great Falls Citizens Association, also spoke at the ATM unveiling.

The new machines are the most visible sign of the conversion under way as a result of the merger of Wachovia and Wells Fargo on Dec. 31, 2008. Wachovia's Virginia, Washington, D.C. and Maryland stores will convert to Wells Fargo in 2011.

Shakespeare at Riverbend Park

Traveling Players Ensemble performs Shakespeare's comedy, "Love's Labour's Lost," at Riverbend Park on Friday, Aug. 6, at 7:30 p.m.

"Love's Labour's Lost" is one of Shakespeare's most dazzling comedies. King Ferdinand and his three friends have sworn not to speak to women, so that they may devote all their attention to their studies. But when the Princess of France and her three beautiful companions arrive in the kingdom for an extended visit, the friends begin to regret their oath.

Can the young men pursue their loves without violating their vows, and will the women respect them if they do? Fake Russians, ridiculous Spaniards, thwarted lovers and glorious word play all add up to a ravishing tale of love and (ir)responsibility.

Traveling Players Ensemble's mission is to bring great theater into the great outdoors. "Love's Labour's Lost" is presented by the camp's most advanced program: the Traveling Troupe. The group rehearses a full-length Shakespearean play for five weeks, then hits the road for a tour throughout Virginia, camping, hiking and performing outside for two straight weeks. Other stops on the tour include the Lime Kiln Theater and Colonial Williamsburg.

The Traveling Players Ensemble's Producing Artistic Director Jeanne Harrison directs the play, assisted by Jessica Lynn Rodriguez and Samantha Sheahan, with costumes by Jenny Bernson and set by Jessika Watson.



PHOTO BY JESSICA LYNN RODRIGUEZ

The play features the talents of Molly Adler (Alexandria), Kari Barclay (Bethesda, Md.), Katie Baughman (Great Falls), Ethan Carleton (Rockville, Md.), Garrett Jansen (Arlington), Emma Kemler (Alexandria), Naomi Miller (Chevy Chase, Md.), Sophie Miller (Chevy Chase, Md.), Gwen O'Brien (Oakton), Noah Pilchen (Arlington), Ellie Robb (Washington, D.C.), Patrick Smith (Germantown, Md.), Max Sparta (McLean), Kai Tshikosi (Rockville, Md.) and Susannah Wilson (Chevy Chase, Md.). The production is stage managed by Honor Zdravec (Sterling).

Traveling Players Ensemble is hosting several summer camps at The Madeira School in McLean. Throughout the school year, the group teaches weekend classes in classical acting, improvisation, mask and movement.

For more information, visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

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PET CONNECTION Cats, Dogs Find 'Place To Belong'

**Pet fostering:
A risk worth taking.**

BY JAYNE O'DONNELL

We share our McLean home with five cats and one dog. This was never the plan, of course.

Welcome to the world of pet fostering, where it's easy to get attached, but it's a risk is worth taking. Every new foster home is a chance for rescue groups to save a pet ready to be euthanized at a shelter or rescue them out of other risky situations. It also gives the groups a chance to learn more about the animals' health and behavior so they can best describe and match them with prospective adopters.

Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, which has a ranch in Sumerduck, Va., hosts five adoptions fairs a weekend at Petsmart locations in Northern Virginia and finds homes for dozens of pets a week. Christina Perez-Bass, the group's foster coordinator, says the group's 94 foster homes are critical to its success.

"It helps us socialize the dogs and find their real personality," says Perez-Bass. "And it's fantastic for the dogs to have another place to belong."

Three of our five cats are among the 30 or so we've fostered for 4Paws. 4Paws President Barbara Lipson said adopting a foster cat often makes it easier for foster families to give up kittens and cats when they get adopted. The group has about 30 foster homes and has placed about 6,500 kittens and cats in permanent homes since 1995.

"They always have that furry reminder of why they are volunteering for 4paws and of all the good they are doing by fostering," said Lipson.

Despite being surrounded by pets, our 10-year old never stopped asking for a dog. So I convinced my husband to let us become a foster home for Lost Dog, as I knew it would help the dogs and might satisfy our daughter's desires. In our first weekend of fostering, my husband noted he would adopt the older, overweight beagle we were caring for "if we had more room." He casually noted that if we adopted the second, a 6-year-old terrier named Butterscotch, we'd have her through our daughter's high school years and "we wouldn't have to worry about boys."

I told him the idea was "ridiculous."

But by the time Sherlock, a peppy 1-year-old beagle/pug mix showed up, we were both starting to cave.

His name is now Mickey, and he's getting along fraternally with the cats.

"We call them 'foster failures,' but it's really a success," said Perez-Bass.



Cate Willing with Butter-Scotch, one of her family's former foster dogs.

PHOTO BY JAYNE O'DONNELL

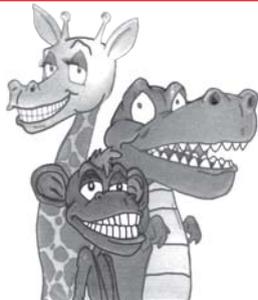


Ferne, the disabled foster kitten, the family adopted last year.

PHOTO BY CATE WILLING

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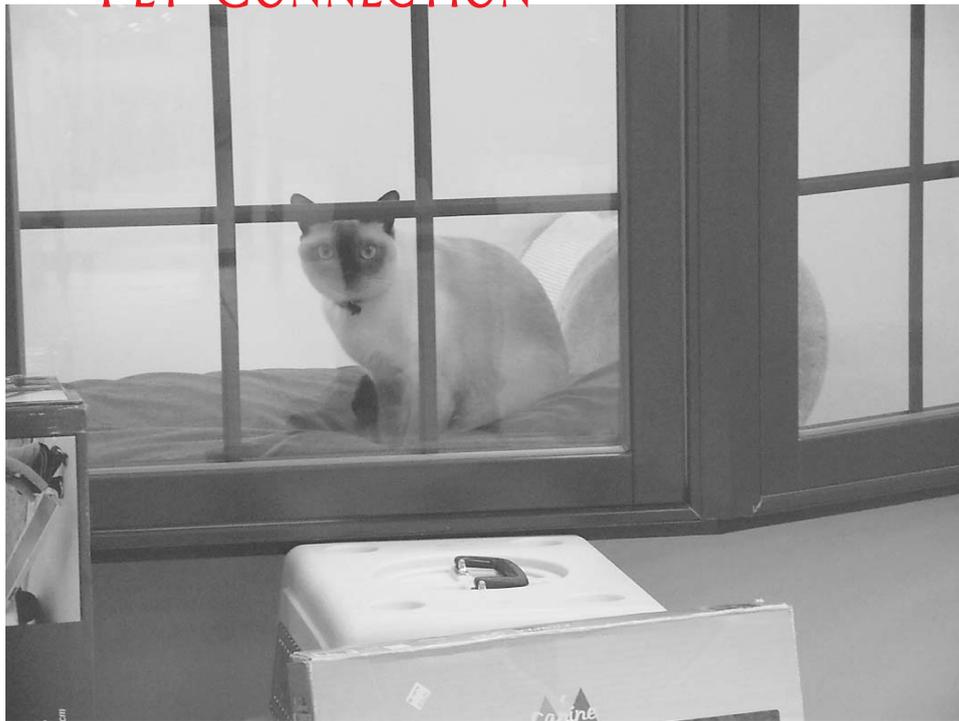
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PET CONNECTION



George, a cat staying in one of Seneca Hill's 'cat-o-miniums' keeps a watchful eye over the reception area from the cat playroom.

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



Jellybean, a mixed breed puppy, examines his surroundings during playtime at the Seneca Hill Pet Hospital, Resort and Spa.



Dogs enjoy their morning playtime at Seneca Hill Pet Hospital, Resort and Spa. 'Guests' at the resort are taken on walks four times a day, plus a session of playtime.

Pet Sitters Provide Comfort

FROM PAGE 3

them," said Linda Looker, a supervisor with the day care program, which lets owners drop their pets off for the day. "Some of our dogs aren't big into playing, but they like to be outside."

Looker said the class is helpful for dogs "because they're not just sitting at home, they're being stimulated."

According to staff members, part of the resort aspect comes with transparency, it's not one of those facilities where owner can't see where their pet goes. Staff is more than willing to give owners a tour of the facility anytime during their normal hours.

FOR THOSE who want to give their pet some stimulation, but can't bring the pets to a resort, pet sitting is a common trend in the area. Several big agencies serve the Northern Virginia area, and they offer pet care that can be done while the owners are at work during the week or even on vacation.

"A large amount of our customers are away at work during the day, but the pet still needs to be walked," said Mike Lausten, general manager of Business Ventures, which owns the Virginia Pet Sitting Group, based in Great Falls.

Owners will call the group, who will set up an interview between the dog-walker and client. With so many issues arising from the walker being able to get into the owner's house, the larger pet-sitting companies are better able to deal with them.

"It's definitely a trust issue, basically the pet owner is giving us the access to their house while they're at work, or on vacation," Lausten said. "We have an extensive process that includes background checks, to vet our sitters, and that's something you might not get with the kid down the block."

Any type of pet can be cared for. Lausten said that his company most often deals with dogs and cats, but birds, lizards and even snakes also need care while the owner is away.

THE SITTERS do the job because they love animals, and it's a way to be around them as much as possible.

"I love dogs, and I also like to be outside a lot, so this is a great job because it's a combination of that," said Candy Mallon who walks dogs herself as well as supervises a network of dog walkers. "I've gotten pretty close with a lot of clients, my family always laughs because I have photos of other people's pets on my phone."

Mallon said she enjoys the connection that she has made with her clients through the simple act of caring for their pets.

"Most of my clients are very committed to their pets, but they just can't be home all the time," Mallon said. "Convenience is the big thing, there's no drop-off and pick-up."

Geoff Wilson, one of Mallon's clients, always walked his 180-pound Saint Bernard, until back surgery last year left him unable to do so.

"My doctor forbid me from walking the dog, so I got in contact with a dog-walker," he said. "She still walks our dog. At the end of the day, it's about doing what's right as a pet owner, and it was very important for us to get our dog exercise, and I can't tell you how happy we've been with the experience."

Lausten said his business caters to the dedicated pet owner who also has to deal with the reality of keeping a job.

"There are a lot of benefits to having a pet-sitter. It's usually less money than a kennel, and it's much less stress for the pet, they're in their own environment, and there's no transport," Lausten said. "The common thread in our clients is that they

all love their pets, they think of them as members of the family and they want them taken care of."

"There are a lot of benefits to having a pet-sitter."

— Mike Lausten



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Welcome to the Pet Connection

It would be easy, based on some measures, to say that some areas love their dogs more than others, although we are quite confident that most families love their dogs and other pets in a way that defies quantification.

Nevertheless, we will point out that the City of Alexandria, with a population of more than 150,000 and more than 70,000 households, is also home to 17 different dog parks, including both fenced and unfenced areas for dogs to run free of their leashes and play with other dogs. (Nationally, 39 percent of households average 1.7 dogs, so even assuming a normal level of dog ownership in Alexandria (we suspect it exceeds national numbers), there are likely more than 46,000 dogs. That's one dog park for every 2,700.

In Fairfax County, with a population of about 1,038,000 people and more than 393,000 households, statistics would predict at least 260,000 dogs, but only eight dog parks. That's one dog park for every 32,000 dogs or so ...

In Arlington, 217,000 people live in about 103,000 households, and a statistically likely 68,000 dogs also has eight dog parks, or one dog park for about every 8,500 dogs.

In Montgomery County, Md., about 970,000 people live in about 364,000 households, and so probably about 240,000 dogs, and just five dog parks, so more than 48,000 dogs per dog park.

EDITORIAL

Fortunately, we found no evidence of overcrowded dog parks in any of our areas, just happy dogs and owners enjoying one of the amenities of this area. And lots of dog parks mean less likelihood of dog owners running their dogs off their leashes in other less appropriate parks. In fact, the growing numbers of dog parks are just one more indicator of how important pets and animals are to us.

A third of local households are likely homes to cats, with the average household with cats having 2.4 cats, but there are not cat parks ... Most "cat people" agree that cats are safer indoors, although we all know exceptions.

Of all these animals, 19 percent of dogs and 22 percent of cats are adopted from animal shelters. Most pets (75 percent of dogs, 87 percent of cats) are spayed or neutered. There are so many pets that need homes, it's a local and national crisis. If you are considering adding a pet to your family, please consider the humane society, the shelter or a rescue organization.

In the pages of our Pet Connection this week, you'll find stories of many families and their pets, plus information on how and where to adopt dogs, cats, birds, small animals and even horses that desperately need homes.

For much more information, look online at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, and click on Pet Connection.

If you'd like to share information about other pet resources, or about your pet, we still look forward to hearing from you.

Statistics from U.S. Census and the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association 2009-2010 National Pet Owners Survey.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping Our Eye on the Prize

To the Editor:

A number of community groups, newspapers, and local politicians have criticized, often in strident tones, some recent decisions of the Fairfax County School Board. The decision to close Clifton Elementary School is one such example. According to the critics, members of the Board supposedly ignored the "wishes of the community," and relied too heavily on the Superintendent and his professional staff. One editorial accused the Board of depriving the citizens of information, and adopting a "we know what's best" attitude. By ignoring the unprecedented amount of information the School Board makes available and the open nature of the Board's processes, the critics miss the mark.

The voters of Fairfax County elected the School Board – not single issue or self-appointed "community watchdog" groups – to exercise responsible stewardship over the education of our children. This means it is our job to work harder, study more, and exercise sound judgment about what works best for all of Fairfax County and the children we serve. It means that the loudest, most persistent voices do not always carry the day, the supposed opinion of a "majority" of community members is not always right, and what may be the best decision for some community advocates is not always the best decision for all the children.

When former School Board Chair Bob Frye used to say we must always "listen to the silence," he was reminding us to take account of the voices of those in our County who do not organize e-mail and petition drives, who do not hold mass rallies, and who have never written a letter to the editor or a check to a candidate for School Board. As a result, we sometimes make decisions that, as one Clifton resident wrote to a Board member, "offend the rich and powerful." That comes with the territory.

What should not come with the territory, however, are disrespectful personal attacks on individual Board members and their integrity, whether from community members or other elected officials. And yet angry Clifton residents have sent hate mail to the homes of School Board members and called some Board members names that cannot be printed in the newspaper. One so-called community group has questioned not only the integrity of the Board, but also the competence of the Superintendent and everyone who works for him. That group – which has yet to offer any support for the Board, its budget, or any of its decisions – apparently believes that recent gains in student achievement all happened by magic. A member of the Virginia House of Delegates accused one School Board member of "throwing Clifton children under the bus." Still another official threatened political retaliation against a member of the School Board. We would never tolerate

this behavior from our own children. We should not tolerate it from adults.

Even though we have to make decisions about many things, the Board must always focus on one thing: student achievement. By all measures, we are succeeding. More children are achieving greater success than ever before. Achievement gaps are steadily shrinking. In some schools they have disappeared altogether. We have achieved our successes by working together with parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff. That is how we should be working.

At the end of the day, we must make decisions that focus on supporting our mission to "inspire, enable, and empower students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship." When we start trying to please or pander to vocal, well-organized groups of single-issue advocates, or elected officials trying to make political hay, we will have lost sight of our goal. And when some Board members and the public treat the professional staff as adversaries, not as partners, student achievement will suffer. No one can afford that.

Stuart D. Gibson

Member,
Fairfax County School Board
Hunter Mill District

Tessie Wilson

Member,
Fairfax County School Board
Braddock District

Decisions First, 'Dialogue' Later

To the Editor:

Re: Kathy Smith's letter [School Board Welcomes Dialogue, Connection, July 21-27, 2010].

The process the School Board has used to reach every important decision has been flawed, because in each case the outcome was predetermined by how the board framed the questions and restricted the discussion. Hosting "community dialogs" in which the scope of the discussion is limited only to the answers the School Board wants to hear is a sham. That was the case with redistricting, and it was the case with the bell schedule discussion. The only options provided were "bad" and "worse," with the board nudging people toward retaining the current bad schedule. They said at the time that other alternatives, made possible through more efficient bus scheduling were not possible. Then, only months later when the budget crunch hit, they miraculously found new bus schedule efficiencies that permitted them to save money by making adjustments to some school's bell schedules.

The fact is that this School Board routinely predetermines its decisions and then structures false debates to create the appearance of engagement and support for those predetermined decisions.

Dan Carney
Herndon

NEWS

Comstock to Hold Town Meeting

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) is holding a Town Hall Meeting on July 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Library. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Virginia Department of Transportation's current plan to construct dual left-turn lanes at the intersection of Route 7 and Georgetown Pike. Del. Comstock, along with U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R10), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and state Senator are all opposed to VDOT's current plan. Along with Rep. Wolf, Delegate Comstock recently sent letters to Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, and Sean

Connaughton, Secretary of the Virginia Department of Transportation, expressing opposition to the plan and highlighting the recent resolutions from the Great Falls Citizens Association as well as the McLean Citizens Association, opposing the dual lane turn proposal. You can view both letters on Delegate Comstock's website at <http://www.delegatecomstock.com>.

Members of the Great Falls Citizens Association's Transportation Committee will also be attending to discuss the issue. Those unable to attend the meeting can call or contact Del. Comstock's office.

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PET CONNECTION

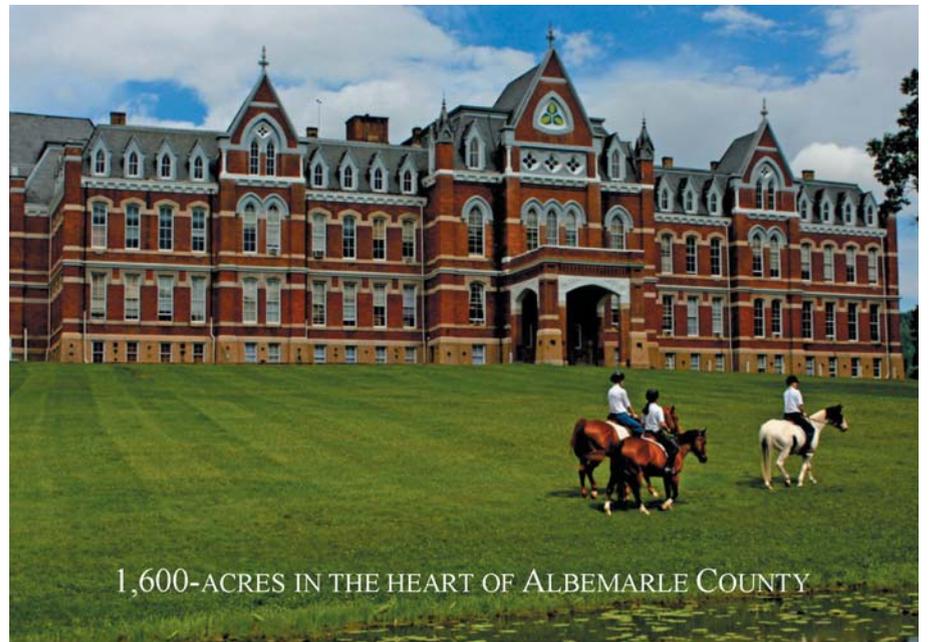
Political Pets



Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) poses with his wife's white Maltese Bennie

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Dranesville School Board member Jane Strauss sits at a computer with her cat Rezzie.



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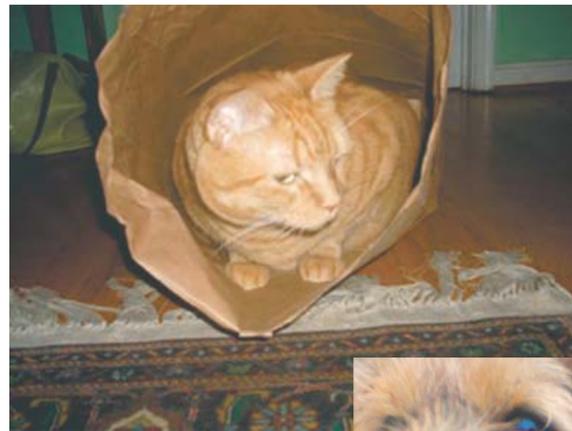
Contact
 Ralph Lazaro | 703 477 6736 | rlazaro4@gmail.com

PET CONNECTION



Anne's Biscuit

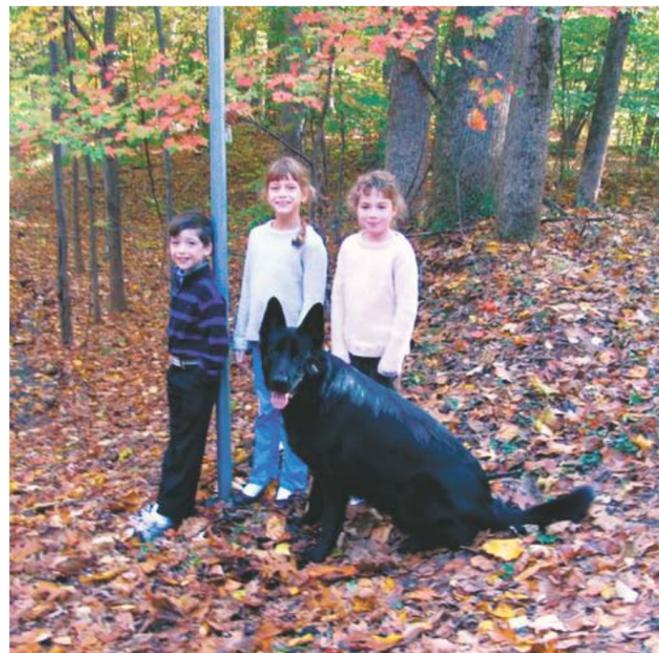
Elizabeth Hajost of Great Falls sent her favorite photo of her daughter, Anne Hajost — now age 12, age 8 in the photo — and their English Bull Terrier, Biscuit, who was 9 at the time of the photo. Biscuit is their second bullterrier from Blue Ridge Blue Terrier Rescue. Hajos said, bullterriers are fantastic family dogs and are especially good with children. They can be stubborn and animal aggressive, so they are best for experienced dog owners.



Mr. Giant

When Mr. Giant was adopted from the shelter, his records said he was 8-months old. 'I thought this was the biggest cat I had ever seen for that age. I knew immediately his new name,' writes Jack Nutter of Great Falls. Turns out Mr. Giant was really 18-months old but nevertheless, is a huge big orange boy, with a head the size of a small cougar and lioness paws and has proven to be a wonderful companion, full of affection and entertainment.

John Murray sent this photo of his two Norfolk terriers, Hank and Otto. The 'dog days' of July have reduced their energy levels, making a cool indoor bed a quiet choice. But no matter the heat outdoors, they both rush to the door to take a car ride or hike at Riverbend Park.



Nero Loves Great Falls

Greg, Laura and Lizzy Gersony, all 9, of Great Falls with their dog Nero Wolfe Gersony, who, they say, 'loves Great Falls.' Nero is a black German shepherd and is now 2.

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This event will be lots of fun for the entire family:

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PET CONNECTION

Dog Parks

Talk of the Town



Photo by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Roxy, a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, gives a high-5 for a treat from companion Agnes Vanek, while Vanek keeps the other pups who would also like a treat at bay at the Reston Dog Park.

A BARON CAMERON
11300 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston
Established: September 2001
Capacity: 40 dogs
Special Features: Water supply and separate area for small dogs (under 25 lbs.)
Sponsor: RestonDogs, Inc.

B BLAKE LANE
10033 Blake Lane, Oakton
Established: June 2000
Capacity: 25 dogs
Sponsor: OaktonDogs, Inc.

C CHANDON
900 Palmer Drive, Herndon
Established: January 4, 2003
Capacity: 42 dogs
Sponsor: Herndon Dogs, Inc.



Photo by Chloe Mulliner/The Connection

Olivia Wagner and her dogs Zena and Zoey spend time at the South Run dog park.



Dogs are free to run around and play at the fenced-in South Run dog park.



Ari Alvarez of Alexandria brought her 5-months-old Presley the Pug, right, to the Herndon Dog Park on a puppy date.

Photos by Deb Cobb/The Connection



Kathy Hale, a Herndon resident, is pictured at the Herndon Dog Park with two of her dogs — and the pug Presley hoping for a treat — her 9-year-old black border collie mix Rosie, far right, and her 5-year-old beagle/pug mix, Carly.

D GRIST MILL
4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria
Established: April 2006
Capacity: 64 dogs
Special Features: Interior space is one acre of bluestone dust surface. Clean and dry.
Sponsor: Mt. Vernon Dog Opportunity Group

E QUINN FARM
15150 Old Lee Rd., Chantilly
Established: March 2006
Capacity: 90 dogs (80 large/10 small)
Special Features: Separate area for small dogs (under 25 lbs.)
Sponsor: CentrevilleDogs

F MASON DISTRICT
Intersection of Alpine Drive and Pinecrest Parkway, Annandale
Established: June 2002
Capacity: 62 dogs
Sponsor: Mason District Dog Opportunity Group

G SOUTH RUN
7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield
Established: December 2001
Capacity: 85 dogs
Sponsor: Lorton Dogs, Inc.

H TOWN OF VIENNA VIENNA DOG PARK
700 Courthouse Road
www.viennadogs.org

This new off-leash dog park is situated in Moorefield Park. The fenced 90 x 150 area is shaded with on-site water. Owners and dogs must follow posted rules and regulations. Dogs must be licensed by the Town of Vienna or Fairfax County. The park is open from dawn to dusk. Please respect others by following the posted rules and picking up after your dog. To find out more about the Vienna Dog Park. Open: Daylight to Dusk.

Fairfax County Park Authority has always welcomed leashed dogs in all of its parks. Now, well-mannered canines can enjoy a good run or a friendly romp in one of 8 dog parks - fenced areas where unleashed dogs can have free play. Additional off-leash dog areas are in the planning stage. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-offleash.htm> for more.

All of the dog parks are public/private partnerships, developed in cooperation with sponsoring organizations of pet owners. The sponsors are the agency's liaison between users and local residents, Animal Control and the Police Department. They monitor and clean up the facilities, publicize dog park rules and regulations, and report maintenance needs to the Park Authority.

The hours of operation of all off-leash dog areas are dawn to dusk, unless posted otherwise.

All dogs four months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are good for one year and must be purchased by January 31st.

1. The off-leash dog area is for dogs, their handlers and those accompanying them. No other use is allowed.
2. All dogs must be legally licensed and vaccinated, and shall wear a visible dog license.
3. Dogs under 4 months of age and female dogs in heat are prohibited.
4. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the off-leash dog area.
5. Dogs must be under the control of their handler and in view of their handler at all times.
6. Spiked collars are prohibited.
7. Children 8 years and under are not allowed in the off-leash dog area; children ages 9 - 15 years must be accompanied by an adult.
8. Handlers must be 16 years of age or older.
9. Handlers must have possession of the dog leash at all times.
10. Handler is limited to a maximum of two dogs.
11. Handlers must "scoop the poop" and fill any holes dug by dogs under their control.
12. Food and drinks in glass containers are prohibited; training treats are allowed.
13. Dogs must be removed from the off-leash dog area at the first sign of aggression.
14. No animals other than dogs shall be permitted in the area.
15. Handlers are responsible for any injuries caused by the dog(s) under their control.
16. Users of the facility do so at their own risk. Neither Fairfax County nor the Fairfax County Park Authority shall be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog in the off-leash area.



BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/JULY 29

Job and Career Fair. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Harper Park Middle School on Potomac Station Drive, Leesburg. More than 40 federal agencies and private companies will participate. Hosted by Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10). Participating employers to date include BB&T Bank, Cox Communications, Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, M.C. Dean, Inc, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Middleburg Bank, Prince William County Police, Telos Corporation, Volkswagen Group of America, and Windward IT Solutions. A complete list of expected participants is at wolf.house.gov/jobfair. Free and open to the public. 703-709-5800.

Beulah Road Al-Anon Group. 7:30 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Practicing the Twelve Steps, welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic. revku@cox.net.

FRIDAY/JULY 30

VTRCC Executive Level Leadership Development Program. 7:30 a.m. at The Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Vienna. Learn how to influence others, set priorities, create positive change, solve problems and more. With David MacGillivray, licensed business and executive coach. Members \$39, non-members \$49. Complimentary breakfast buffet.

SATURDAY/JULY 31

T'ai Chi Beginners' Practice. 8 a.m. on the outdoor basketball court behind Dolley Madison Public Library at 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. 703-759-9141 or www.FreeTaiChi.org.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 4

Oak Marr Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Oak Marr ReCenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Local vendors and producers, and a Master Gardener Plant Clinic on site. 703-642-0128 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-farm-mkt.htm.

THURSDAY/AUG. 5

Beulah Road Al-Anon Group. 7:30 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Practicing the Twelve Steps, welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic. revku@cox.net.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

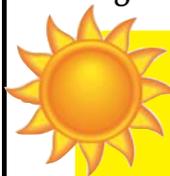
Meredyth Merrow of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2010 dean's list at Gettysburg College of Gettysburg, Pa.

Steven Jones of Great Falls has received a master of science degree in environmental engineering from the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg.

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tab and then, "Exhibitor Applications." Applications
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 **The McLean Community Center**
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www.mcleancenter.org/special-events

 **PET CONNECTION**



Jackson, a 6-month-old Burmese/Pyrenees mix being fostered by Karen Moe, is a bundle of energy.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

This is 6-month-old Humphrey, a Great Dane, pictured with his companion Roz Drayer. The dog park is an important part of Humphrey's routine. Drayer says it keeps him well socialized.

Best Friends Meet, Play at Dog Park

Reston Off-Leash Dog Area at Baron Cameron Park.

Just around the corner from the intersection of Baron Cameron Avenue and Wiehle Avenue at Baron Cameron Park is a place dedicated to dogs. It is the Reston Off-Leash Dog Area, more commonly referred to as the Reston Off-Leash Dog Area Dog Park. It's an enclosed park dedicated to letting vaccinated, licensed dogs get together off their leashes and play. The Reston Dog Park has large and small dog areas, benches, a little bit of shade and water. Guests who visit the park are asked to clean up after their dogs and supervise their dogs to make sure that all that visit have a good experience.

Reston Dogs (www.restondogs.org), a local, non-profit organization — or "dog opportunity group" — is responsible for maintaining the dog park. Members raise money to provide "doody bags" for guests to clean up after their dogs and to provide commercial waste removal services. Volunteers monitor the dog park to ensure that both two and four legged visitors stay safe by following the park rules and cleaning up



Karen Moe plays with her dog Colby, a golden retriever. 'He's a ball dog.' Moe recently moved to Reston. Her dogs provide her with a sense of security and motivation to stay fit. Particularly Jackson, a 6-month-old Burmese/Pyrenees mix she is fostering.

after themselves. Dan Sutherland, grounds management branch manager of the Fairfax County Park Operations Division, said all dog parks require such a group. His office is responsible for maintenance of the dog park. Should any visitors have maintenance concerns or improvement requests (such as more benches), they should contact the maintenance contact for the park or his office.

Brian Davidson, a volunteer with Reston Dogs, said the dog park is a critical part of the Reston community. The off-leash area

opened a few days after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City and at the Pentagon. He talks about how the dog park was a place for the community to process what was happening at the time. "To me, it drove home how much having a dog brings you out into the community. We found that dog owners are very generous and involved. At that time, they raised a great deal of money to help out the rescue dogs working in New York and Arlington."

— DEB COBB



PET CONNECTION

Volunteers Give Back To Lift Me Up Program

FROM PAGE 4

"[The move] allowed us to expand the program from 25-30 people to more than 100, which we have now," said Georgia Bay Corey, the program's director. "We were able to go right through the waiting list, and now we even have openings."

THERAPEUTIC RIDING has a host of mental and physical benefits. It can help improve balance and core strength for those with muscular disorders or injuries and has been used to treat wounded warriors all over the country. Riders with autism and cerebral palsy are among the most common in the program as well.

"Riding stimulates so many parts of the body, there's so much input from the horse, which really gets the brain working to create new pathways," Corey said.

According to Tom Marsh, whose son Sterling has hypotonia, a state of very low muscle tone, the program "helps him with a lot of different activities and focuses his attention span," he said. "He's very calm on the horse."

"For him, coming here and working doesn't feel like work, it's a great alternative way of learning," Tom Marsh said.

About six years ago, the program started giving lessons as a group, which it still does now, in groups of no more than four.

The riders practice different stances on the horse, as well as guiding the horses between a set of poles. As class members progress, they do various drills in which they guide the horses close enough to a wall to pick up a stuffed animal, and then deposit the animal on a barrel at the other side of the arena. Music is often blasting, and the younger riders can often be found singing along as they ride.

"The riders just enjoy the riding, they all get something out of it," said volunteer Jen Myers. "For some it's just a kind of social interaction, where they learn how to communicate."

For other riders, the physical act of riding can be empowering, especially those with walking problems.

"We have a few kids that use wheelchairs or walkers, and this gives them a chance to get up higher than they otherwise could, it gives them a lot of

pride," said Julia Kirkpatrick, a volunteer.

"These riders have overcome a lot by just being able to get on a horse, and now they're able to be in control of the horse they're riding," said Jan McCarthy, a volunteer who grew up around horses, and spent her career working at children's mental health facilities.

Volunteer Kenna O'Brien, a rising sophomore at Flint Hill School, said she likes watching the children and horses interact. "It's cool to watch the riders get more comfortable around the horses," she said.

"I was riding in the program for so long, I decided I wanted to give something back to the program."

— Katie Metro, Volunteer

ONLY HORSES with certain dispositions are selected. "They have to like people and have a calm demeanor," Corey said. "Even after the horses are in the stable, when a new rider joins the program, the staff try to find a horse that will go well with the rider and their needs."

Besides Corey and a few instructors, most of the workers are volunteers, and even those who are paid "wear a couple of hats,"

Corey said, everything from instructing to office work.

Diana Ahlers serves as the volunteer coordinator for the program, and she said that the volunteers get something out of the program as well.

"They get to learn about their riders and various disabilities, and I think the sense of community service they get is great," Ahlers said. "It's a fantastic place to work, the ability to work with horses, combined with children with friendly faces and smiles really makes it a joy to be here."

Katie Metro, a rising eighth grader at St. Agnes School, first came to the program as a rider, now she also volunteers. Metro doesn't have the use of her left hand, which is what brought her to the program.

"I was riding in the program for so long, I decided I wanted to give something back to the program," Metro said. "It's pretty different standing in the ring than being on the horse."

The program also offers a show at the end of each season-long session, and last year riders traveled to a Therapeutic Horse Riding Association of America event, where the Lift Me Up riders scored the best, winning the high-point center position.

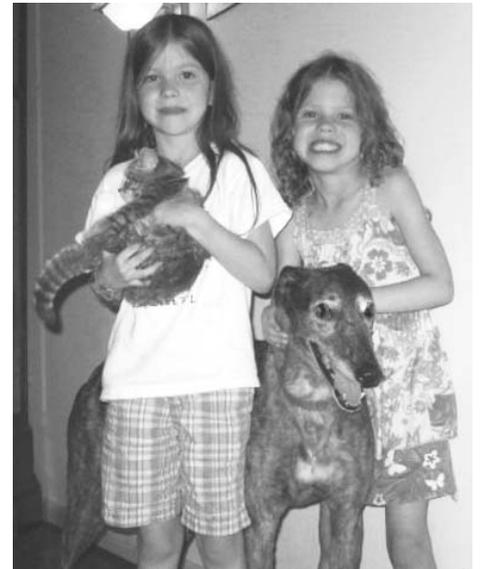
More information on the program, including applications, is available at www.liftmeup.org.

Clever Star

A losing racer becomes a winning pet in a Great Falls home.

BY MELODEE BOOS

Clever Star was born a racing greyhound. From the time that she was just a little puppy, she lived in a crate like all the other racing greyhounds. In order to run faster, her owners fed her lots of carbohydrates, but it was not a well balanced diet. She was very skinny. She raced for more than two years. She did her best, but only managed to win one of her many races. Finally, her owners gave up



In this picture taken on June 26, 6-years-old Rose and Gloria Boos pose with their 6-week-old tabby kitten named Lily and 10-year-old greyhound dog named Star.

on her and sent her away. They had no use for a losing greyhound.

Star was shipped to a greyhound adoption group, which is where we found her. She had such a sweet disposition we fell in love as soon as we met her. She came home with us that same day.

When we first let her into the house she acted very confused. She had never felt a rug before, or been around furniture. She kept running into things. And the stairs were a big challenge. We had to help her up the stairs and carry her back down. Stairs are still tricky for Star. We fed

her the best dog food we could find, and, over time, she filled out beautifully. Her coat became silky and her eyes became playful. Unfortunately, when we got her, her tail had a sore that became infected. After numerous veterinarian appointments, she had to have it amputated. Now she's Stubby Star. Star has been retired now for seven years. She's considered a senior. She has arthritis and lies around the house on her pillow most of the day. We're so glad she was a losing racer, because she became our winning pet.

Boos, page 2

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
2993 Oakleigh Lane, Oakton, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Madhav P. Ghimire and Rima U. Ghimire, dated June 27, 2007, and recorded June 28, 2007, in Deed Book 19423 at page 518 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, August 3, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Lot 25, Oakleigh, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 5793 at page 1627, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 2993 Oakleigh Lane, Oakton, Virginia 22124.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$30,000.00 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 7.125 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. Prensley
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
814 Leigh Mill Road, Great Falls, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Fahraneh S. Sohrabian, also known as Farzaneh S. Hashemi and Shawn Sohrabian, dated February 23, 2006, and recorded March 1, 2006, in Deed Book 18249 at page 934 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, August 3, 2010
At 9:30 a.m.

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

Tax Map No. 013-1-01-0085

Commonly known as 814 Leigh Mill Road, Great Falls, Virginia 22066.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$300,000.00 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.

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

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUMP NATIONAL

Age 13-14 girls' relay record holders, from left, Maggie Natal, Caitlin Rose, Annika Kollevoll, Mary Bishop and Courtney Cantrick, each of whom is a resident of McLean or Great Falls.

SWIM REPORT

The Trump National swim team finished third overall at last Saturday's Relay Carnival at the Country Club of Fairfax, but it set three new Dominion Country Club League (DCCL) records.

The first league record was set by the first place 9-10 girls' 200-medley relay team of Corinne Bates, Elizabeth Ellinger, Erica Barton and Sophia Divone, with a time of 2:25.59. The second record was set by the 13-14 girls' 200-relay. The foursome of Annika Kollevoll, Mary Bishop, Caitlin Rose and Courtney Cantrick broke a 28 year record with a time of 2:16.87. And the third record was broken by the 13-14, 200-freestyle team of Maggie Natal, Annika Kollevoll, Caitlin Rose and Courtney Cantrick with a time of 2:04.01.

The 5-0 RiverBend Stingrays are the new Dominion Country Club League (DCCL) champions after defeating Trump National, 283-233, on Saturday, July 24. Will Koeppen, Micaela Grassi and Jessica Hawken each won four first place ribbons. Ryan Windus won three events. Christopher Blankingship and Max Trautwein were double winners. Other first place winners included: Carter Bennett, Kelsey Campbell, Anna Phillips, Jack Hall, Anna Takis, Jake Trautwein, Julian Villacorta and Maya Valcourt. In addition, the girls mixed age 9-18, 200-free relay team of Kelsey Campbell, Micaela Grassi, Anna Phillips and Jessica Hawken broke a pool record, lowering the mark to 2:10.69.

In another recent meet, the Stingrays continued their winning streak with a decisive victory over Evergreen Country Club, 435-81. Ryan Windus, Jack Hall and Jessica Hawken each won four events (freestyle, breaststroke, fly and IM) for River Bend, as did Colin O'Connor (freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and fly). Anna Phillips, Carter Bennett, Micaela Grassi, Kelsey Campbell and Anna Takis were triple winners. Other first place winners were: Charlotte Bell, Lauren Bell, Connor Smith, Allison Franke, Allan Spiegel, Maggie Duff, Chloe Bennett, Will Ferrer, Julian Villacorta, Sabrina Slavin, Grant Youngkin and Conor Wesolowski. Special mention goes to Caroline Maruca, age 12 of Great Falls, who swam up in three events - the 15-18, 50-backstroke; 13-14, 50-breaststroke; and 15-18, 50-fly, winning two silvers and one bronze.

The Highlands Whomping Turtles trounced Vienna Woods 276 to 126, in their final Division 2 swim meet last Saturday. Double winners for Highlands were: Ben Charles, Patrick Dolan, Colton Heuple, Chuck Katis, Jayme Katis, Zach Tripodi and Helen Yablonski. A new NVSL record was set in the boys' 15-18, 200-medley relay by the Whomping Turtles' foursome of Charlie Putnam, Chuck Katis, Chris Barnard and Stephen Richards, with a time of 1:50.62. A new Highlands team record was set in the girls 13-14, 50-breaststroke by Claire Collins with a time of 37.53. At the recent All Star Relay Carnival, a new Highlands team record was also set by the girls' 8-under medley team of Catherine Kiyonaga, Chiara Tartaglino, Teresa Dolan and Amanda Moore.

The Highlands' dive team defeated host Ravensworth, 44 to 28. Maggie McDonough won freshman girls, with Carolyn Brown-Kaiser placing third. Evelyn Gray and Bobby Trono won the junior competitions, with Olivia Pope finishing third. In intermediate girls, Lizzy Brown-Kaiser and Sammy McAlonan placed second and third. Stephen Clark won intermediate boys, besting his own team record, and Johnny Bowman finished third. Ian Clark won senior boys and the Highlands swept in senior girls, with Cameron Hancock, Abby Neuberger, and Lauren Tangney finishing first, second and third. Highlands was scheduled to finish up its regular season at Dunn Loring on Tuesday, July 27. It will host the Div. 3 Championships on Sunday, Aug. 1.

The Great Falls Rapids (4-1) finished their season in Division 11 with an exciting win over the Long Branch Dolphins (3-2) by a score of 217-185. Double winners included James Cutler, Mary Liz Elliott, Annie Kemmerer, Will Kemmerer, Ana Mulligan, Annie Thomas and Max Wingo. Single winners included Julia Bullock, Jason Guidi, Kendall Heebink, Grace Hetherington, Elizabeth Longosz, Jaimie Mulligan and John Mulligan. The Rapids are looking for numerous individual great swims at the Saturday, July 31 Divisional Meet at Springboard.

The Langley Wildthings beat the South Run Seahawks in another close meet to fin

SEE SWIM REPORT, PAGE 21

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SPORTS

McLean 10-11 Girls Reach State Finals

Local softballers settle for second in state.

The McLean girls softball team (10-11-year olds) reached the finals of the Virginia State Little League tournament in Yorktown.

McLean qualified for states by capturing its District 4 tournament with a pair of shutout wins over Great Falls, 15-0 and 10-0. Then, at states, the locals put together a string of four consecutive wins over Green Run, 10-5; Honaker, 15-0; Tuckahoe, 11-2; and Essex, 13-3.

The semifinals win over Essex advanced McLean to the title game where it lost to Grayson, 7-1, to finish second overall.

In the win over Essex, McLean used four pitchers — Sabrina Sanchez, Victoria Bergeron, Lucy Mulligan and Mariah Zwirb. The foursome combined for six strikeouts and just two hits allowed. At the plate, Victoria Bergeron led McLean with three hits, while



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCLEAN TEAM

The McLean girls' softball All-Stars not only made it all the way to the Virginia state finals.

Allie Clarke and Lucy Mulligan both had two hits. Also getting hits in the win were Sabrina Sanchez and Samantha Stacey.

In the championship game against Grayson, McLean starting pitcher Mulligan threw the first two innings, allowing just one run and two hits.

McLean, trailing 1-0, scored a run in the top of the third inning to tie the game. Anna Harris and Zwirb started the inning off with base hits before advancing to second and third on a sacrifice bunt by Clarke. Harris eventually scored on a wild pitch.

Grayson, however, scored three runs apiece in both the bottom of the third and fourth innings to go ahead 7-1.

SWIM REPORT

FROM PAGE 20

ish the season with a 3-2 record in Division 5. The Wildthings broke three more records. Double event winners against South Run included Derek Proxmire, Elena Shklyar, Schuyler Bailar and Meghan Overend. Single event winners included Chris Dillard, Maggie Bellaschi, Zach Thompson, Nathan Johnson, Alexandra Cramer, Jinwon Bailar and Jack Reilly. Team records were broken by Elena Shklyar (9-10 back, 38.03); Nathan Johnson (11-12 back, 32.58); and the 13-14 girls relay team (Katie Robinson, Schuyler Bailar, Sarah Horan, Alexandra Cramer - 1:02.94).

At All Star Relays earlier in the week, five relay teams broke records: the 9-10 girls 100 free (1:04.82); 13-14 girls 200 free (2:02.73); girls mixed age (2:02.89); boys 11-12, 100 free (58.03); and boys 11-12, 100

medley (1:02.33). Nathan Johnson also broke the 11-12, 100-IM record (1:16.64).

The rain and chill couldn't stop the McLean Marlins as they defeated Vienna Woods, 226-176, in a recent summer swim meet. Double winners for the Marlins were: Erin Barth, Christopher Murphy, Caitlin Nguyen, Isabella Rongione, Andrew Seliskar, Stephen Seliskar, Will Soobert and Madalyn Ulrich. Single event winners for the Marlins were Henry Brooks, Thomas Brooks, Akshay Krishnan, Hannah McCarron, Danny Mittel, Justin Nguyen, Megan Murphy and Libby Ulrich. Andrew Seliskar set a new team record in the 13-14, 50-meter breaststroke with a time of 33.90. Earlier in the week Isabella Rongione set new records in the 10-and-under 100-meter IM with a time of 1:17.42, and in the 9-10, 50-meter breaststroke with a time of 41.75.

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First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525
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Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

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Church of the Brethren

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43611 Parisville Court.....\$825,000...Sat 1-4....Denene Crabbs.....Century 21.....703-803-3898

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6502 Dryden Dr.....\$695,000...Sun 1-4....Cecelia Lofton.....Weichert.....703-508-3968
1551 McLean Common Ct...\$739,000...Sun 1-4....Pamela Peregoy.....McEneaney.....703-609-7267
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9756 Hatmark Ct.....\$649,970...Sun 1-4....Lisa Moffet.....Coldwell Banker.....703-517-6708
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2914 Yarling Ct.....\$329,000...Sun 1-4....Paul Gunning.....Samson Properties...703-606-6068

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2100 Tazewell Ct.....\$624,900...Sun 1-4....Jeremy Cunningham...Refin Corporation.....703-955-1832
3528 Military Road N.....\$798,500...Sat/Sun 2-4....Hal Logsdon.....McEneaney.....202-372-6273
2929 N. Sycamore St.....\$979,000...Sun 1-4....Jennifer Caterini.....Coldwell Banker.....703-609-6258
3830 N Upland Street.....\$1,149,000...Sun 2-4....Howard Thorkilson.....Arlington Heritage.....703-536-5788
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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JULY 29

"The Pajama Game." 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. A musical comedy about a pajama factory labor dispute. \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors. Proceeds support mission projects in Haiti. www.stmark.org or 703-938-5656.

Aretha Franklin. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$45 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. Maryland Youth Ballet: Caroline Goes to the Zoo, 11:15 a.m. Bob Brown Puppets: Dragon Feathers. Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

The Winstons Band. 7:30 p.m. Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Motown. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers and Matt Hires. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. jamminjava.com.

English Conversation. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Conversation group for adult non-native English speakers of all levels. 703-938-0405.

Parent-Child Time Together. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Bring a bag supper to the Picnic Area and enjoy garden-based activities. \$2 per adult-child duo. Reservations required. pdietly@nvrpa.org.

"Curtains." The McLean Summer Theatre Program presents a hilarious musical/comedy whodunit at Langley High School (6520 Georgetown Pike), 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the door.

Naturally Curious. 2-4 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Activities and discussions about nature and science. People and plants: taxonomy, nomenclature, and style. For grades 6-9. \$15. pdietly@nvrpa.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 30

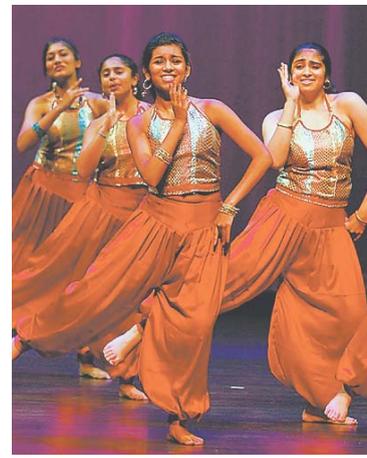
Summer on the Green: Cravin Dogs - Rock. 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. It is recommended that pets be left at home. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

"Little Women, The Musical." 8 p.m. McLean Community Players, Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Based on the Louisa May Alcott story. \$17-\$19, group rates available. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers and Matt Hires. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. jamminjava.com.

"The Pajama Game." 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. A musical comedy about a pajama factory labor dispute. \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors. Proceeds support mission projects in Haiti. www.stmark.org or 703-938-5656.

NSO@Wolf Trap: Distant Worlds, Music From Final Fantasy. 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Arnie Roth, Conductor. \$20-\$52 www.wolftrap.org.



SATURDAY/JULY 31

Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. Maryland Youth Ballet: Caroline Goes to the Zoo, 11:15 a.m. Bob Brown Puppets: Dragon Feathers. Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

"Little Women, The Musical." 8 p.m. McLean Community Players, Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Based on the Louisa May Alcott story. \$17-\$19, group rates available. 703-790-9223 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

Asylum Street Spankers at 7 p.m., The Chuck Shaffer Picture Show, Conditions and Madrone at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc. 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Masters Gardeners from the Fairfax County Cooperative Extension answer gardening questions. Adults. 703-790-8088.

"The Pajama Game." 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. A musical comedy about a pajama factory labor dispute. \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors. Proceeds support mission projects in Haiti. www.stmark.org or 703-938-5656.

Artist's Reception. 6-9 p.m. at Applegate Gallery & Custom Framing, 101 Church St. N.W., Suite C, Vienna. Lark McPhail will be on hand to answer questions about her artwork. Refreshments served. Exhibition open July 31-Aug. 25. info@applegateframing.com.

Summer Gala and Fundraising Auction. 7:30 p.m. at 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Springhill Road, McLean. Musical performance, announcement of next season's shows, champagne reception with hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and an auction of theatre mementos, lessons and more. Tickets \$50. Reserve at 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

Tropical Plants. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A free walk through the gardens to learn how to grow, propagate and over-winter tropical plants. pdietly@nvrpa.org.

Folsom Prisoners. 5 p.m. outdoors at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Country music. Free. 703-288-9505.

NSO@Wolf Trap: The Planets in HD. 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Emil de Cou, conductor. \$20-\$52. www.wolftrap.org.

Dhoonya Dance's Bollywood & Hip Hop Dance Camp will be Aug. 2-5 at James School of Dance, 6723 Whittier Ave., McLean. Ages 7-10 and 11-15 can attend Dhoonya Dance's summer camp intensive, for a combination of Bollywood and Hip-Hop styles that culminate in a performance at the end of the session. Register at tinyurl.com/dhoonyacamp.

SUNDAY/AUG. 1

Summer on the Green: Difficult Run Jazz Band. 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for seating. No alcoholic beverages allowed. It is recommended that pets be left at home. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

Hamburger James. 6 p.m. Great Falls Village Green, at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road in Great Falls. Rock. www.gfcitizens.org.

Butterfly Garden Guided Tours. 3 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. An introductory guided stroll. Learn how the gardens attract butterflies. Members free, non-member adults \$4, seniors and age 7-17 \$1.50, under age 6 free. Rental binoculars available at the Visitor Center. 703-255-3631, ext. 0 or www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens.

"The Pajama Game." 2 p.m. St. Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. A musical comedy about a pajama factory labor dispute. \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors. Proceeds support mission projects in Haiti. www.stmark.org or 703-938-5656.

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Bingo. 7 p.m. at the VVFD, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Games held every Sunday in the Flame Room. www.vvfd.org.

The Goodnight Anthem, Jonas Sees In Color, The Love Light and Forever Is Forever. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Reggae: For the Love of It with Beres Hammond, Inner Circle, Kenyatta Hill of Culture, Lenya Wilks and DJ Inferno. 3 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 2

Alejandro Sanz. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$30-\$48. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Dhoonya Dance's Bollywood & Hip Hop Dance Camp. 2 p.m. at James School of Dance, 6723 Whittier Ave., McLean. Ages 7-10 and 11-15 can attend four days for a combination of Bollywood and Hip-Hop styles, culminating in a performance at the end of the session. Register at tinyurl.com/dhoonyacamp.

TUESDAY/AUG. 3

Willie Nelson. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25-\$45. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. PROJECT Trio: From Hip-Hop to Bach, 11:15 a.m. Wolf Trap Opera Studio: Instant Opera! Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

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Snapshots from our June 2010 production of "A Golden Afternoon"



Lauren Megrue as Alice and Florian Rouiller as the White Rabbit



Bridget Hott in the "Caterpillar's Metamorphosis"



Photos by John Vanderpool

Adriana Lundgren, Katherine Boruff and Bridget Hott in "Deck of Cards"



London Tuma, Anna Parks and Julia T. as the Hedgehogs

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