

# Experiencing Japan

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The Great Falls Elementary School's Japanese Immersion Program students visited Japan July 1-14.



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# NEWS

## Intersection of Ideas

Board asks VDOT to reconsider Route 7-Georgetown Pike plan, community groups still have work to do.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted July 27 to ask Virginia Transportation Secretary Sean Connaughton to consider an alternate design of the Georgetown Pike and Route 7 intersection. Many community organizations and members have protested the idea if adding an extra left-turn lane from Route 7 to Georgetown Pike.

The intersection is one phase of the project to widen Route 7 from the Loudoun County border to Tysons Corner. Both Board Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and District Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) were in favor of trying to find an alternate plan for the intersection.

"The Board of Supervisors' vote reflects the views of the citizens of Great Falls," Foust said. "This vote was made possible because of the hard work, support and cooperation of the many residents of Great Falls and the Great Falls Citizens Association."

Bulova said she was pleased that the Board took action to request a review of the intersection design. "It is extremely important that the historical integrity of Georgetown Pike remain intact," she said.

Georgetown Pike was designated Virginia's first scenic byway in 1974, and commuters seeking to get from Route 7 to the Beltway without going through Tysons Corner heavily use it.

**THE DUAL TURN LANE** was proposed to cut down on the amount of cars overflowing from the single turn lane onto eastbound Route 7, which effectively turns Route 7 into a one lane road while it is blocked. Residents who live along the pike were concerned that the proposed plan merely shifts that safety burden into the nearby intersection of Georgetown Pike and Seneca Road.

"[The plan] removes the point of conflict of cars stacking out onto Route 7, but what they've done is change that point of conflict," said Eric Knudsen, co-chair of the GFCA transportation committee. "Every time we asked them how it was going to affect Georgetown Pike, they said that it was not part of their project. ... We don't want those safety concerns from Route 7 thrown on us."

"We want them to widen [Route] 7, but we do not want them to destroy Georgetown Pike in the process, and we do not want them to create safety hazards on Georgetown Pike," said Joan Barnes, the other chair of the GFCA transportation committee.

In a July 29 meeting at the Great Falls Library, Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) called the decision a "great community effort" and expressed her gratitude for the work that had been done to warrant the board's decision.

At the meeting, which Comstock hosted, Knudsen and Barnes told the crowd of more than 40 that while this was a small victory, work remained to be done. They showed a brief slide show of what had been proposed for the intersection, which included adding more than 70 feet of pavement, and making it at times nine lanes wide.

"Protecting the pike is something we have to do as

SEE PIKE, PAGE 5



MAP CONTRIBUTED BY VDOT

The plan to expand the Route 7-Georgetown Pike intersection, as shown here, was questioned by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors July 27, when members voted to ask Virginia Transportation Secretary to reconsider the plan, at the urging of local community groups.



PHOTO BY BILL CANIS

From left, Rob Jackson, president of the McLean Citizens Association, Joan Barnes, Eric Knudsen, co-chairs of the Great Falls Citizens Association transportation committee and Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) at the July 29 meeting. The GFCA and MCA joined forces to oppose the current VDOT plan for the Route 7-Georgetown Pike intersection.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Great Falls Elementary School's Japanese Immersion Program students celebrated July Fourth in Tokyo.

## Great Falls Students Visit Japan

GFES Japanese Immersion Program class experiences Japanese culture.

This year's graduating sixth grade Great Falls Elementary School Japanese Immersion Program (JIP) class, accompanied by parents and some of the younger siblings who are also in the program, as well as their teacher Sahara Sensei — AKA Mamiya Worland — visited Japan July 1-14. There were 25 participants in all.

The parents and children started their journeys in Tokyo, where they visited the Tsukiji Fish Market, the Tokyo Tower and the Meiji Shrine, among

other places. They celebrated the Fourth of July by taking in the Tokyo Giants vs. Hanshin Tigers game at the Tokyo Dome. They all sported Nationals' hats and American Flag shirts to celebrate Independence Day half way around the world.

EVERYONE then spent a day in the fishing village of Choshi, where they were treated to an expansive formal banquet that consisted almost entirely of raw fish. Entertainment was pro

SEE VISIT, PAGE 6



In a visit to a Buddhist shrine, students pose with a monk, who spoke about Buddhism and how it is practiced in Japan.



Newly installed signs celebrate Georgetown Pike as Virginia's first Historic and Scenic Byway.

## Signs Celebrate Georgetown Pike History

Georgetown Pike, named Virginia's first Historic and Scenic Byway back in 1973, now has four gateway signs commemorating that honor.

Last week, the Virginia Department of Transportation completed installation of the signs, which sit atop stone walls similar to those seen throughout Virginia's countryside.

"The signs draw attention to the history of Georgetown Pike and will encourage, I hope, drivers to slow down while enjoying the scenery," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "I thank VDOT and the Great Falls residents who worked for many years to make the signs happen."

The signs are located on Georgetown Pike near Route 7, the Beltway and off Route 123 at Colonial Farm Road. State and federal byway money funded the \$96,000 design and installation. Arthur Construction of Herndon was the contractor.

Georgetown Pike was one of the first paved roads in Virginia (1813) and was established to provide a direct connection from Fairfax County to the ports in Georgetown. In 1973, at the request of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Commonwealth Transportation Board in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Recreation designated Georgetown Pike as the first Virginia Scenic and Historic Byway.

## Indian Festival Returns to Riverbend Park

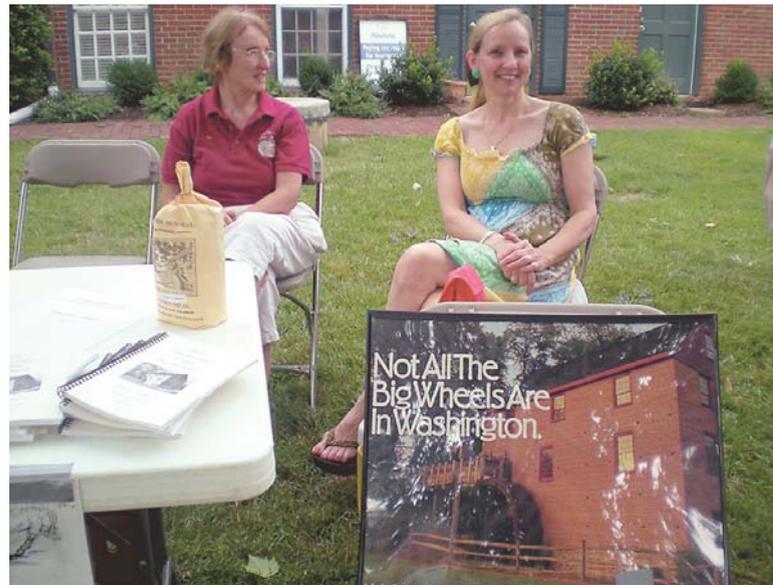
After a two-year hiatus the Virginia Indian Festival is returning to Riverbend Park on Saturday, Sept. 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival will take place rain or shine and will feature members from eight tribes native to Virginia — Chickahominy Tribe, Monacan Nation, Upper Mattaponi Tribe, Rappahannock Tribe, Pamunkey Tribe, Mattaponi and Tauxenent. They will share their culture, history and traditions with park visitors. The day will be filled with hands-on activities appropriate for the entire family.

The visitors will experience the earlier time while they move to the rhythmic drumming of the Rappahannock tribal dancers; use hot coals and chopping tools to help build a dug-out canoe from a massive log; learn to make arrowheads and other stone tools from expert toolmakers; take aim and hit the mark with an arrow loosed from a bow on the archery range; try to master the skill of throwing spears using an atlatl; watch as animal hides are tanned; walk among authentic totem poles; and see historic and genuine clothing and tools.

Admission is \$5 for guests ages 3 and older. Food, jewelry, pottery, musical instruments and other American Indian crafts will be available for purchase.

Visitors may also delve into the park's new exhibit, Riverbend Park: A Rare and Rugged Refuge, which explores the creation of the Potomac Gorge and the lives of the native people who first inhabited the area - and still do. The exhibit is on display in the Visitor Center year round.

For more information, call 703-759-3211, or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend).



Pictured, from left, Mary Allen and Laurie Bell represent the historic Colvin Run Mill.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Community Meets on the Green

### Great Falls Citizens Association, Parks featured at summer concerts series.

**O**n a recent Sunday afternoon, July 25, the Tom Principato Band played blues and Great Falls families turned out despite the summer storm warning earlier in the day to attend yet another Summer Concert on the Green at the Great Falls Village Centre. John Burke is the producer of the Summer Concerts on the Green and his arrangements made for a memorable community experience.

The Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) arranged a program featuring "Parks" including the Athletic Fields, Community Parks, Nature Centers and Historic Sites. Representatives from River Bend, Turner Farms, various Athletic Programs and Colvin Run Mill set up tables, answered questions, passed out brochures and sold stone ground corn meal. Laurie Bell represented GFCA and all the participating Park organizations introducing all the players, athletes, and reps from the Gazebo stage. The GFCA has an Outreach Program that strives to keep the Great Falls community up to speed on issues facing Great Falls.



John Burke, right, pictured with friends, is the producer of the Great Falls Summer Concerts on the Green.



Tom Principato Band plays blues at the Great Falls Village Centre.

### Great Falls community enjoys recent summer concert on the green.



# NEWS

## Pike Debate Continues

FROM PAGE 3

a community non-stop and our children will still probably trying to protect it," Knudsen said.

He went on to explain that the GFCA is taking a four-pronged approach to getting the project changed. They will use the road's historical nature, studies from the Environmental Protection Agency, working with local politicians and challenging the traffic statistics that VDOT has used as a basis for the project.

But not everyone was satisfied with the approach taken by the GFCA. Mat Haley, president of the homeowners association of Hawthorne Estates, the closest development to Seneca Drive and Georgetown Pike, said he would rather have the VDOT plan than the way things are around his neighborhood. The addition of the traffic light to the Georgetown Pike-Seneca Drive intersection has led to more backups and more people using nearby Utterback Store Road as a bypass.

"It used to be about eight to 10 minutes from our [neighborhood] to get out onto Route 7," Haley said. "It's now extremely difficult. The minimum time between about 4:15 and just about 7 [p.m.] is now about 25 minutes. "We've increased the danger in front of the [nearby Forestville Elementary] school, we've increased the danger in front of our homeowners association, and we've increased out commute times. I don't know what the solution is, but it isn't the status quo."

**KNUDSEN** replied that the first order of business was to stop the changes to the Georgetown Pike-Route 7 intersection before they became a reality.

"We're trying to keep this project from going, because it has so many detrimental aspects to our community," he said. "Once we stop this, then we can look at all the alternatives. If we can't stop this, then we don't have any alternatives."

Though the proposal is being reconsidered as of now, Knudsen urged people in and around the affected areas to keep up with new updates and to keep expressing their opinions to elected officials.

More information and updates as to the status of the Route 7 widening project can be found at [www.virginiadot.org/projects](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects). Route 7 is under the "Northern Virginia" link.

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Starting this month, we are partnering with **Food for Others** to feed the hungry of Northern Virginia. Brix will contribute 10% of our Sunday Brunch sales to the organization.

**Tuesdays** - Savor half price bottles of wine\* when you purchase any entree (\*All bottles \$65 and under)

Brix also offers a wine program... enjoy your favorite wine at home at retail prices!

**Wednesdays** - Relax mid-week with family style pasta night, ideal for parties of 4 or more... pasta specials with garlic bread and a house or Caesar salad. Round off a satisfying meal with specially priced house wines

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- Mediterranean night on Aug 19 and
- Caribbean night on Aug 26

\* We will bring you cuisines from different countries / regions \* on Thursday nights through September. Also Brix will hold a food drive, collecting non-perishable, canned food items for **Food for Others** on the last Thursday of the month. Please help us give back to the community.

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## NEWS

At the fishing village of Choshi, entertainment was provided by a Taiko drum group and everyone got a chance to try playing the huge drums.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## A Visit to Buddhist Shrine

FROM PAGE 1

vided by a Taiko drum group and everyone got a chance to try playing the huge drums. They also visited a Buddhist shrine where a monk spoke about Buddhism and how it is practiced in Japan. The monk brought out a 400-year-old sacred scrolls for everyone to see. The children, however, were most interested in the concept of being reincarnated as an animal.

Next, they went to Kyoto, the former imperial capital of Japan, where they visited the shogun palace "Nijo Castle" and the Kiyomizu Shrine. Dinner that evening featured a performance from a geisha and a maiko, an apprentice geisha.

Next on the tour was the sacred island of Miyajima. The entire island is considered

sacred. Memorable events included climbing to the top of Mount Misen, the highest peak on the island, to visit the eternal flame. The children also spent an afternoon at the beach on the island and played King of the Mountain with a handful of Japanese school children.

They visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. It was a somber, moving reminder of the realities of nuclear war.

In Fukuyama, they spent a few days with GFES' sister school Eisugakkan Elementary School. The children each were assigned a family to spend two nights with so they could fully immerse themselves in the Japanese culture and language. The GFES JIP students also attended school with the

SEE EXCHANGE, PAGE 7

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# BULLETIN BOARD

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## THURSDAY/AUG. 5

**PRS, Inc. (Formerly Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services) Open House.** 1-2:15 p.m. at PRS Tysons, 1761 Old Meadow Road, Suite 100, McLean. Welcome remarks by PRS President and CEO Wendy Gradison and Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust, and an update on PRS' new Recovery Academy by PRS Director of Day Programs Tom Schuplin. Light refreshments. Take a client-led tour of the facilities and learn more about the services PRS provides to adults working to recover from serious mental illness. 703-531-6321.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 11

**Jeff Barnett Town Hall Meeting.** 7-8:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Democratic candidate for Congress in Virginia's 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, will hold ten town hall meetings across the District throughout August and early September. The public is invited. <http://jeffbarnettforcongress.com>.

**Multiple Sclerosis Support Group.** 7 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Sponsored by the National Capital Chapter of the MS Society. The group meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Free. 703-768-4841.

# Exchange Highlights Language, Culture

FROM PAGE 6

Eisugakkan sixth grade for a day. In exchange, Eisukkan High School sends Japanese students to stay with GFES and Langley High School families every spring.

Finally, they went back to Tokyo for a final day. The GFES Japanese Immersion Program is well thought of in Japan and the students had the opportunity to show off their language abilities to several high-ranking government officials. They met U.S. Ambassador John Roos who spoke about the importance of learning a foreign language and his struggles to learn Japanese now. He

talked about the duties and responsibilities of being an ambassador and answered the children's questions regarding his job.

**THE GREAT FALLS STUDENTS** also met the deputy minister of education, as well as the director general of the Public Diplomacy Department at the Ministry of Public Affairs. Finally, and best of all, they went to the Diet, the Japanese equivalent to the White House, and met with Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Motohisa Furukawa. The children were followed around by a slew of reporters and photographers. They felt like little celebrities.

## HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

*Name of Event:*

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Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome.

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# OPINION

# Five Percent Off

Back-to-school sales tax holiday a reminder of other back-to-school rituals; buy some extra supplies for needy students.

**W**hile some of us are not sure how it got to be August, never mind time to start thinking about going back to school, the first day of school is more than a month away, Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept. 7.

Virginia families can take advantage of what amounts to a three-day coupon for five percent off many back-to-school items. Sales tax is suspended for the coming weekend, Friday through Sunday, Aug. 6, 7 and 8 (restrictions apply).

During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from sales tax.

The tax holiday should encourage more families to spend their back-to-school dollars in local stores rather than online. This is an excellent time to support local businesses, many suffering from the recession as well as competition from online businesses that offer tax-free shopping all the time. Local businesses that don't get their money from the federal government need local shopping support now more than ever.

## LETTER

### A Highway Robbery

*Congressmen Wolf's letter to Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton*

Dear Sean:

I have been openly critical of the cost of the tolls on the Dulles Greenway for several years and the increase that went into effect on July 1 only added fuel to the fire. During rush hours, it now costs \$4.50 to use the road, and if drivers are coming from or going onto the Dulles Toll Road the rate is \$5.25. That means a daily round trip would be \$10.50. Over the course of a month, a daily commuter could spend the equivalent of a car payment. If you live in one of the communities just off the Greenway, you could easily get on and off the road multiple times a day.

I have said it before, and will say it again: this is highway robbery. And, as you well know, the Greenway's tolls are not going to improve transportation in Virginia but rather go to the bottom line of Australian-based Macquarie Group, the parent company of the

firm that owns the road.

While I am fully aware that the recent rate hike was approved by the State Corporation Commission (SCC) – against my strong objections, I need to add – drivers who use that road are being ripped off. The 14-mile Greenway is, or close to being, the most expensive toll road per mile in the country, and it is having a serious impact on people who live in Loudoun, Clarke and points farther west who use the road every day.

I write today for three reasons. The first is for you to consider supporting legislation that not only rolls back the previously approved toll increases, but provides consumers with greater protections as the state considers more public-private ventures to address the Commonwealth's transportation infrastructure. When the SCC approved the most recent toll increases in 2007, it readily admitted that its hands were tied when it came to making its decision, stating "the Commonwealth made a series of policy decisions that leave us little choice but to make the decision we make in this case." In my opinion, the current law protects the interests of the owner of the toll road rather than the con-

sumers of the road. At public hearings to discuss the recent rate increases, almost no one spoke in favor of the proposed increase. A law which allows no ability to consider the burden on my constituents and others who use the Greenway to commute to work, or to take their children to day care or soccer practice is a law in need of revision.

My second request is that the company, which owns the Greenway, be required to erect large signs at each of the entrances and exits of the road clearly stating the cost of the tolls. The signs should be large enough that drivers can read them regardless of what lane they are in, particularly as drivers approach the main toll booth from the east. The existing sign can only be read from the far right lane. There are large signs approaching the main toll plaza for the Dulles Toll Road. At minimum, the same signage should be at the main toll plaza of the Greenway.

Signs also need to be in place on local roads leading to the entrance ramps. For example, there is no sign listing the cost of the toll for drivers getting on the Greenway from the Route 7 bypass

lecting for its annual Back-to-School Supplies Drive, for children at Mondloch House II, a Fairfax County homeless shelter for families. Send donations by Aug. 26 to Fairfax Law Foundation, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 216, Fairfax, VA 22030.

❖ Our Daily Bread's Back to School program helped more than 350 receive the supplies they needed, 108 more children than in 2008, and they expect the demand for assistance this year to be greater than ever. See [www.our-daily-bread.org/Back\\_to\\_School\\_Program.html](http://www.our-daily-bread.org/Back_to_School_Program.html)

Back-to-school shopping for supplies is one of many important things to take care of before school starts. Students need up-to-date immunizations. Early in fall, flu shots will also be available. Add to the list of "safety" items: talk with your students about what they are doing online (hint: it mostly isn't shopping).

But probably the most important thing parents can do to ensure a successful school year is to make contact with your child's teachers, make sure they know who you are, how to contact you and that you care. Use the online tools to track your child's progress (but don't go crazy monitoring every blip).

One of the best ways to kick off this regular contact with your child's school is to attend back to school night. Most back to school events for parents are already scheduled; mark your calendar.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## THE CONNECTION

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Sincerely,  
**Frank R. Wolf**  
Member of Congress

## Helping To Save the Children

Children were all smiles at the opportunity to meet and shake hands with NASA Astronaut Piers Sellers on Monday, July 26. Sellers was at the Washington, D.C. office of the global humanitarian organization Save the Children to return the red Save the Children T-shirt he carried with him on his 12-day mission to the international space station in May. After sharing experiences of his flight and explaining the T-shirt's journey to outer space and back, Sellers presented it to

Save the Children.

Sellers has been a long-time supporter of Save the Children and values the organization's efforts to work with communities and governments to provide a better and brighter future for children in need in the United States and around the world.

"I was pleased to have the opportunity to bring the T-shirt aboard the Atlantis as a symbol of the good work Save the Children does to create lasting change for chil-

dren and families in the poorest parts of the world" said Sellers.

When asked what advice he would give children who want to grow up to be an astronaut, Sellers said, "Study hard, whether you want to be an astronaut, fireman or doctor. It all starts in school."

The T-shirt, which traveled more than 4.8 million miles on the space shuttle, will be framed and put on display at the organization's headquarters in Westport, Conn.



CONTRIBUTED

**Nick Fouty, 12, of Great Falls, helped Astronaut Piers Sellers hold up a red Save the Children T-shirt that he brought with him on his 12-day mission to the International Space Station via the space shuttle Atlantis.**

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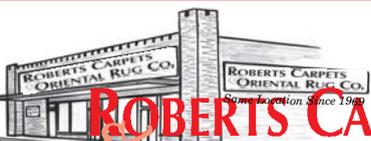
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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Cast Members Becca Allen, Alex Don and Molly Moran in the McLean Summer Theatre Program's production of 'Curtains.'

## 'Curtains' Presented at Langley High

McLean Summer Theatre Program brings middle, high school students together.

By NIKKI CHESHIRE  
THE CONNECTION

When in search of summer activities to keep children busy over the summer, the most popular choices are traditionally summer camps and sports programs. But other areas of talent are often overlooked outside of camps and school. That is, until the McLean Summer Theatre Program came around.

Founded three years ago by a few teachers and theater lovers, including current program and production director Meg Baber,

the McLean Summer Theatre Program provides an outlet for children who otherwise would have none over the summer, according to Baber.

The children are kept busy working up to their annual production, rehearsing five hours a day, five days a week for three weeks. "You really get to see how much the kids come together," Baber said. She added that it's beneficial for the middle school-aged children to meet with the high schoolers, and build a foundation of friends before they enter into a new school as freshmen.

Recently, the program, which is open to children from all over the area, put on a production of "Cur-



They're 'In the Same Boat' in 'Curtains'. From left are Kathleen Welch, Sarah Larkworthy and Kaitryn Evans.



'Curtains' featured a cast of 43 teens from several middle and high schools in the area.

tains," a "musical mystery" which takes place on a Boston stage and follows the story of a troubled cast who, enveloped in murders and scandals, look to the help of a detective to aide them in solving the crime as well as putting on a great play.

"We chose to do 'Curtains' this year because of how it gives opportunities to lots of different kids," said Baber. "It features kids who can sing, kids who can dance and kids who can act."

In the end, all the students' work seemed to pay off, as the actors left the Langley High School stage, embracing their castmates and

bowing in front of a large audience and a several minute long round of applause following the performance last Thursday.

"I thought the show was great," said audience member Lisa Sulliean, a McLean resident. "Not only was it a great mystery, but it was also a subtle comedy."

The play is directed by Meg Baber from Cooper Middle School, assisted by Cristi Goldberg, choreographer; Lori Taylor, music director; Wendy Mueller, artistic director; and Hannah Goldberg, assistant choreographer.

## CALENDAR

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

### THURSDAY/AUG. 5

**Nottoway Park Concert Series: The Kusun Ensemble.** 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. West African dance. Free. 703-324-7469 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances).

**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](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Alex Band.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**NSO@Wolf Trap: The Music of James Bond.** 8:15 p.m. at the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Carl Davis, conductor, and Mary Carew, vocalist. Tickets \$20-\$52. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### FRIDAY/AUG. 6

**Traveling Players Ensemble: Shakespeare's "Love's Labour's Lost"**. 6:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Free admission. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Chairs available for rent for \$5 each; all proceeds to go towards TPE educational programs. In case of inclement weather, the performance will be held at the Madeira School. [travelingplayers.pmailius.com/](mailto:travelingplayers.pmailius.com)

**Summer on the Green: U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters.** 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](http://www.viennava.gov).

**The Lydia Finale: A Goodbye & Farewell Tour, River City Extension and Analog Rebellion** at 6 p.m., **John Eddie** at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**'Narnia, The Musical.'** 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. The first and most famous story of the Chronicles of Narnia. \$13 general admission, \$11 for students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Junior Ranger Day.** 12-3 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Fun



Two Car Living Room performs in Great falls Summer Concerts series on Sunday, Aug. 8, 6 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre, at the corner of Georgetowne Pike and Walker Road Rock music. [www.gfcitizens.org](http://www.gfcitizens.org).

activities for children as they learn about the performing arts, Wolf Trap, and the National Park Service. Activities include a variety of ranger-led programs and a rubber stamp scavenger hunt. [www.nps.gov/wotr/forkids](http://www.nps.gov/wotr/forkids) or 703-255-1827.

**NSO@Wolf Trap: Bugs Bunny at the Symphony.** 8:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Created and conducted by George Daugherty. Tickets \$20-\$52. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SATURDAY/AUG. 7

**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Farm Show.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, with a carnival open to 10 p.m. Old-fashioned country fun with games, rides and exhibits. Try milking a cow or shelling corn. Live entertainment, dog and horse shows and more. Free admission, parking \$5. 703-437-9101.

**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](http://www.wolftrap.org).

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**Nathan and The Gang Bang, Nunchucks and The Waves** at 1 p.m., **Mary Fahl** at 7 p.m., **Passafire and Mojo** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E.,

Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**'Narnia, The Musical.'** 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. The first and most famous story of the Chronicles of Narnia. \$13 general admission, \$11 for students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Lego Brickfair.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly. Lego creations big and small. Build in the Stay & Play area, watch Brickfilms. [www.brickfair.com](http://www.brickfair.com).

**No Better Off.** 5 p.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Alternative rock. Free. 703-288-9505.

**Healthy Responses to Anger.** 9:30 a.m. at The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.

**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. 703-293-6227.

**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. 703-790-8088.

**Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A special collection by the Friends of the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library. 703-790-8088.

**SUNDAY/AUG. 8**

**Summer on the Green: Dagmar and the Seductones.** 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](http://www.viennava.gov).

**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Farm Show.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon, with a carnival open to 8 p.m. Old-fashioned country fun with games, rides and exhibits. Try milking a cow or shelling corn. Live entertainment, dog and horse shows and more. Free admission, parking \$5. 703-437-9101.

**Hippiefest: A Concert for Peace and Love.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Jack Bruce of Cream, War, Mitch Ryder, and Rare Earth and more. \$25-\$42. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**'Narnia, The Musical.'** 1 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. The first and most famous story of the Chronicles of Narnia. \$13 general admission, \$11 for students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Two Car Living Room.** 6 p.m. Great Falls Village Green, at the corner of Georgetowne Pike and Walker Road in Great Falls. Rock music. [www.gfcitizens.org](http://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](http://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens).

**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](http://www.vvfd.org).

**Lego Brickfair.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly. Lego creations big and small. Build in the Stay & Play area, watch Brickfilms. [www.brickfair.com](http://www.brickfair.com).

**Tea and See Benefit Auction Preview.** 1-3 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Preview of donated artworks to be auctioned to benefit the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Free admission, open to the public. 703-319-3971 or [www.viennaartscociety.org](http://www.viennaartscociety.org).

### MONDAY/AUG. 9

**Tracy Bonham, Bleu and Common Rotation.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Child and Spousal Support: The Realities Beyond Formulas.** 7 p.m. at The Women's Center, 127 Park St., NE, Vienna. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.

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## PEOPLE

### Shafran Inducted into the Naval Academy

Trevor Shafran, of Great Falls (Langley '09), completed the year long program at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, R.I. and received his Commencement Certificate and Letter of Appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy from Gen. James N. Mattis, U.S.M.C., in a formal ceremony at the prep school on June 4.

Mattis, who was recently named by Defense Secretary Robert Gates to head the U.S. Central Command in Afghanistan, delivered the keynote address at the Naval Academy Preparatory School and presented the midshipmen candidates with their letters and commencement certificates at the graduation ceremony.



**Trevor Shafran receives Commencement Certificate from Gen. James N. Mattis, U.S.M.C.**

After receiving his official Letter of Appointment, Shafran was officially inducted into the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis on July 1, as part of the class of 2014. Shafran is currently participating in the academy's plebe summer training program and will begin classes at the academy in mid-August.

Shafran was recruited as a long stick defenseman to play men's lacrosse at Navy. A former captain and long stick defenseman for the Langley High School lacrosse team in 2009, Shafran and his teammates helped capture the Virginia State AAA boys lacrosse championship for the first time in Langley's history.

### Volunteering in Guatemala

Rising Langley High School seniors Lea Mulder and Sandra Moncivais returned from volunteering in a school for indigenous Mayan children outside of Antigua, Guatemala. They were part of Global Vision International, an organization with multiple projects around the world. "The days were long but worth it," said Mulder of their 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. schedule. "We were each assigned a class and assisted the teacher in everything from lesson planning to leading songs. We were even expected to teach some classes, in Spanish." Moncivais is fluent, and Mulder relied on the three years of Spanish she took at Langley. "We especially loved the kids," said Moncivais. "Each day was a lot of work but filled with smiles and hugs."

Before starting their volunteer assignments, Mulder and Moncivais were able to experience some of the things Guatemala has to offer. They rode horses through coffee and avocado groves and up and down the side of a mountain, hiked into a national reserve rain forest at the base of a volcano with suspension bridges and monkeys swinging overhead, and visited a macadamia nut farm where the caretaker's wife gave them macadamia nut facials and pancakes topped with macadamia nut butter.



**Lea Mulder and Sandra Moncivais with first grade girls in the play area of the school.**

"I'd really like to go back next year," Mulder said. "There is so much to see and do, the country is extremely beautiful and non-commercial, and I miss the kids already."



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### SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Pike Calming Step by Step

To the Editor:

The completion last week of the four stone based signs at the Pike's entrances from Route 123, Route 7 and both sides of Interstate 495 is the next to last completed action of the 1999 Georgetown Pike Traffic Calming Working Group composed of community representatives, public officials and VDOT. Other recommended actions already undertaken include (1) spot improvements at five locations along the Pike, (2) slower speed limits with better signage and (3) signage and crosswalks in Great Falls. The final action to commence shortly will be a mini-park, including an historic Pike marker and tables, with a crosswalk opposite the Clemejonry Park, providing 20

additional parking places for that children's facility.

The Working Group's public officials were former state delegate Vince Callahan, Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) and former Supervisor Stuart Mendelsohn. The Great Falls Citizen Association was represented by Eleanor Anderson and John Ulfelder, Karen Washburn represented the Fairfax County History Commission and The Georgetown Pike & Potomac River Association representatives were Dorothy McCormick, Knowles Harper and John Adams.

Congratulations go to Ellen Vogel of VDOT for seeing this phase of the project to completion.

**John Adams**  
President of the  
Georgetown Pike & Potomac  
River Association

# MPAartfest to Feature 44 Artists

## Selected artists include 12 from McLean/ Great Falls area.

**M**PAartfest juror Trudi Van Dyke has selected 44 artists to participate in the fourth annual MPAartfest on Sunday, Oct. 3, 10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. in McLean Central Park.

Van Dyke, an Independent curator and fine arts consultant said, "As always, the MPA is a magnet for all good things art and the applications submitted to MPAartfest were no exception. It was both an outstanding opportunity and awesome responsibility to select from a broad pool of artists. I am looking forward to joining the community in attending this great festival."

Of the selected artists, twelve are from the McLean/ Great Falls area and sixteen are new to MPAartfest.

MPAartfest transforms McLean Central Park into an art gallery featuring the sale of the fine arts and crafts of the 44 artists. MPAartfest includes fun activities for both children and adults, as well as live music and refreshments. There is no charge to attend MPAartfest, although a donation of \$5 is greatly appreciated which helps support McLean Project for the Arts and this special community event.

### MPAartfest artists for 2010 include:

Banks, Jill, oil painting; Barbieri, Ann, abstract painting and drawing; Brown, Tavia, jewelry; Bucci, Thomas, printmaking monoprints; Burke, Cynthia, painting; Burris, Eric, mokume gane jewelry; Campello, F. Lennox, drawing; Cassidy, Katie, oil and acrylic painting; Ciminio, Lisa, jewelry; Deans, Karen, oil on panel; Emrich, Hanna, mixed media and collage; Farrow-Savos, Elissa, sculpture; Fields, Laurie, mixed media paintings; Ganley, Betty, traditional watercolor; Green, Michele, landscape painting; Grisdela, Cindy, quilting; Hachey, Hilary, jewelry;

Hatfield, Jennifer Bernhard, whimsical ceramics; Hubacher, Karen, mixed media paintings and collographs; Jensen, Jill, handpainted and handprinted wallhangings, scarves, journals; Jolles, Ronni, layered paper and pastel; Katz, Lori, clay; Knott, Greg, photography; Lansaw, Julie Lea, landscape paintings; Lester, Cherie, painting/collage; Mahan, Val, nature photography; McGihon, Marty, mixed media; Michelle, Jenae, fiber, one of a kind handbags; Nimic, Gisele, ceramics/collage; Paredes, AnaMarie, metal sculpture; Peery, Laura, ceramics; Reiber Harris, Kristin, drawings/monoprints; Rosenstein, Lisa, mixed media paintings, white on white; Rosenstein, Loren, silk scarves; Rubel, Erika, mixed media; Saenger, Peter, ceramic; Singh, J.J., jewelry; Slack, Connie, abstract paintings; Staiger, Marsha, abstract collage; Trump, Novie, sculpture; Tsai, Irene, chinese watercolors on rice paper; Vardell, Mollie, oil paintings; Williams, Ann Marie, abstract paintings; and Woody, Curtis, mixed media paintings.

For more information about McLean Project for the Arts and MPAartfest, visit [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org) or call 703-790-1953.

McLean Project for the Arts is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue in the McLean Community Center. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday 1 - 5 p.m.

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# Rec Sports Leagues Provide Competition, Fitness, Friendship

Sports playing careers don't have to end after college for the athletic minded.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**C**rowing up in his hometown of Vienna in the 1970s, Rodger Melchiori of Chantilly had a love and passion for playing and following sports. Some of his greatest memories are of playing youth basketball for the Cougars within Vienna Youth Incorporated, as well as playing baseball for the Rebels within the Vienna Little League.

Melchiori continued to play and excel in athletics as he moved into his teens, always enjoying the competition and camaraderie that comes with being part of a team unit. He competed at the intramural level at James Madison University in Harrisonburg and, during the summers, loved playing slow pitch softball within the old Vienna Church Softball League as a member of the St. Mark's team.

As an adult, Melchiori, a 1981 graduate of James Madison High School in Vienna, played softball for years within Fairfax County as part of the Fairfax Adult Softball organization — one of the largest and best run adult softball programs in the country. He also played in Fairfax County-run basketball and flag football leagues.

One of the greatest benefits for athletic minded adults, like Melchiori, in Northern Virginia is the outstanding Fairfax County adult recreation sports leagues that allow individuals to continue their playing careers for as long as they wish. A sports venue is always available for men and women who love hitting the ball field or the hard wood.

"Fairfax County [for adult athletes] is excellent," said Melchiori, the father of three. "They do a fantastic job of providing opportunities to play, having well organized programs and having good playing facilities."

As Melchiori's children grew older over the year, he got more involved in their sports endeavors and "retired" as an active athlete himself.

"Once your kids start playing sports, their activities kind of take



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



**Fairfax County adult recreation indoor soccer provides participants a chance to compete while staying in shape and having fun.**

over," said Melchiori, with a laugh. "But I have always thought it would be fun to be in one of the 50-over leagues."

**FAIRFAX COUNTY'S** most popular adult sport venue is Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS), which has close to 10,000 participants — men and women combined — who make up more than 800 teams. The organization runs spring, summer and fall leagues. Ball players can compete in men's or women's leagues, as well as coed and senior divisions.

The long-running FAS organization is currently as popular as ever. "We have a whole lot of teams, from the [more] competitive level to recreation level for those who like that," said Christine Frece, FAS administrative assistant. "This year, we have increased teams for fall, spring and summer."

Frece, whose father played competitive tournament softball, said there are so many positives that come from playing adult softball or any sport.

"It's fun, you get exercise and you have the social aspect playing with friends and family," said Frece, a former girls' softball player at Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield. "It's funny who you'll run into on the softball field."

Frece also plays recreation volleyball.

"I like volleyball a lot," she said. "You play three games a night and it's fast paced."

Those interested in playing within FAS' upcoming fall league softball program should contact the FAS office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

Fairfax County adult sports programs that take place on outdoor fields across Northern Virginia in-

clude baseball, field hockey, flag football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, kickball, softball and cricket. About 50,000 adults participate in those sports combined. The county sports programs that take place indoors include badminton, basketball and volleyball. Close to 13,000 participants take part in those sports.

Karen Avvisato, the Fairfax County's division director for community use scheduling for the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, said adults love competing in sports for numerous reasons.

"People want the socialization, and they want to unwind after their work day and get together with friends," said Avvisato, who works out of the Pennino Building in Fairfax. "Some [participants] have never played before and go out for the fun of it. But most people have played sports most of their lives and want to continue that."

"We live in such a fast-paced area," she said. "It's a tough time economically and people work hard for a living here. It's nice for people to unwind and to have that avenue to exercise and play sports with friends."

While adult softball has the most participants, Avvisato said soccer is also popular with more than 9,000 athletes having participated this past spring season and just as many likely to play this fall.

"There's lots of running and it's a way to get exercise," said Avvisato, of the cardiovascular strengthening sport of soccer. "Soccer helps you maintain fitness."

Fairfax County, for its sports programs, utilizes gym and field space at local schools and park sites, pro-

**Fairfax Adult Softball offers an opportunity to compete for a range of age groups and ability levels.**

viding quality playing venues for all those involved in adult recreation sports.

"It's our job to give everyone a [quality] place to play, to maximize all the facilities out there," said Avvisato.

## Lasting Memories

Dave Sanders, who grew up in Vienna and currently lives in Ashburn with his family, played within the Fairfax County recreation men's basketball and softball leagues for years, and currently plays hoops within Loudoun County.

Sanders, a former Madison High basketball player (Madison, class of 1987), has great memories of his 20-plus years on the ball diamond playing softball. He played for Emmanuel Lutheran Church's men's softball team within the Vienna Softball Church League in the mid-to-late 1980s and into the early 1990s. Eventually, the team moved into the Fairfax County league.

"Playing softball in Fairfax County was and has been a great experience," said Sanders. "It gave me the ability to connect with family, church and college friends on a weekly basis for 20 years. Memories include playing at Braddock Park, my favorite venue, during summer nights, nothing quite like the feeling of playing under the lights against tough competition. The most special experiences, however, were the teammates, guys trying to sustain the glory years, giving it their all, allowing us for just a moment to leave all the daily responsibilities behind."

"My memories include the feeling of hitting a line drive to the opposite field, relays to the plate,

guys taking shots off their chest from aluminum bats that became more difficult to navigate, calling the [FAS] rain lines and, most of all, the friendship and competition," said Sanders, who currently has cut down his athletic playing endeavors to basketball within Loudoun County. "Fairfax County always ran a good league."

**RESTON NATIVE** Anne Nichols, 21, plays for a social league softball team despite having no experience. She joked that she plays catcher to avoid being involved in the action.

"It just seemed like a fun opportunity, even though I'm really miserable and I've never played before," said Nichols, a student at Wake Forest.

Nichols' boyfriend's sister, Katie Flynn, started the team. Flynn, a 27-year-old Reston native, played softball at South Lakes High School and Seton Hall University. While Nichols is a newcomer along for some fun, the rest of the team has a different approach.

"As a team, we're outrageously competitive to a point where it's embarrassing and awkward for everybody," Flynn said.

Within Fairfax County adult recreation sports, there is a place for the highly competitive as well as those who come out strictly for social enjoyment and exercise.

"For me, it was more being with your friends," said Melchiori, of the greatest enjoyment he received over the years playing sports, both as a youngster and on into adulthood. "You develop such friendships playing youth ball and into high school [and beyond]. Playing sports is a great way to maintain friendships."

Reporter Jon Roetman contributed to this story.  
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# PEOPLE & PETS



Piano students of Artstars Studios performed in a recital 'Pets On Parade' on June 27. The instructor for Artstars Studio is Great Falls resident Mary Jane Cogan.

## Piano Students Present 'Pets on Parade'

Mary Jane Cogan, a piano teacher who lives and teaches in Great Falls, recently conducted student recitals, entitled "Pets on Parade." Each student learned a piece of music about a pet. Since Cogan is also an artist, she asked students to create a drawing about

a pet they own or a pet they would like to have one day. The students displayed their art at the recitals. In addition, they conducted a fund raiser for shelter animals, pets who are looking for homes. Contributions were made to Friends of Homeless Animals.

Laura Bentley created this drawing of her four cats - Kara, Max, Lily, and Chase.



Katie Myers performs 'Kittens Galore,' while displaying her drawing of her cat Oreo.



Pets and piano music were combined in a recital by students from Artstars Studio on May 23. The instructor is Great Falls resident Mary Jane Cogan, on the far right.



Christina Hara shows off her pets. The bunnies are Cloudy and Coconut. Chibi is her dog.



Sean Hagerup tickles the audience by performing "Flippant Flea." On the music stand is his drawing of a pet show.

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## THE COUNTY LINE

# Fears, Hopes for Private Liquor Sales

Governor wants to raise transportation cash by selling off state liquor business.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) hopes to sell off Virginia's state-run liquor business to generate as much as \$500 million for transportation projects.

The Governor has assembled a government reform committee to investigate the issue.

The committee, which has been holding public meetings around the commonwealth this month, is expected to vote on a privatization proposal produced by McDonnell's staff in late August.

Then, McDonnell wants to call the Virginia General Assembly back to Richmond for a special

session this fall to consider privatizing liquor sales.

Several legislators said the issue of selling off the commonwealth's liquor business is more complex than it may first appear. Two other governors, Doug Wilder and Mark Warner, also looked at privatizing liquor sales but ultimately did not pursue the issue.

McDonnell has to not only demonstrate that Virginia would receive a large lump sum of money up front but that the new private system would also produce as much annual revenue for the government as the current state-run network. Last year, the Virginia general fund received \$230 million from liquor sales.

Many people, particularly

county and city officials, also have concerns about the placement of the liquor stores. They want local government to be able to control where the liquor stores go so that certain neighborhoods aren't "overrun."

Some people are also concerned about an increase in liquor consumption and access to alcohol in general.

Previous proposals to privatize state liquor sales would make as many as 800 to 1,000 licenses for selling spirits available in Virginia. Currently, there are fewer than 350 liquor stores across the commonwealth.

Here is what some of the elected officials had to say about private liquor sales coming to Virginia:

## Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill)

Bulova is concerned about the commonwealth selling off a government asset that reliably brings in funding for education and social services.

"My biggest concern is that we would be selling off an asset for one-time funding that, right now, is a regular recurring source of revenue," she said.



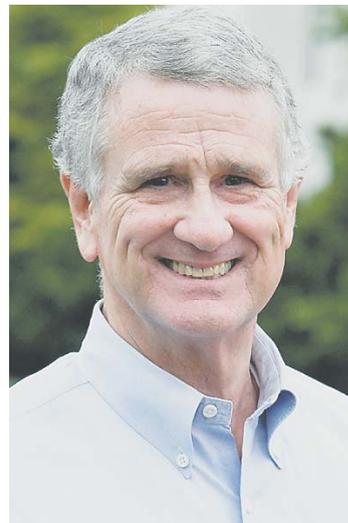
If Virginia shifted to private liquor stores, Hudgins would want local governments, like the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, to have control over where the stores were placed.

"We don't want to see them pop up on every corner in some neighborhoods. How we control it is going to be a big discussion," she said.

## Del. Tom Rust (R-86)

On principal, Rust is supportive of the idea of privatizing liquor sales in Virginia. But the delegate would only support a proposal that also found a way to replace the revenue the current state-run system generates for Virginia's general fund each year.

"Conceptually, I don't think Virginia ought to be in the ABC business," said Rust.



## Del. Ken Plum (D-36)

The possibility that a new private system could more than double the number of places where liquor is sold in Virginia makes Plum uncomfortable.

"That we could go from 300 liquor stores to as many as 800, I just don't find that very tasteful. As far as I am concerned, we have enough in Virginia as it is," said Plum.



## "Fine."



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That's my standard answer to the most frequently asked question I hear: "How are you feeling, Ken?"

The problem is not with the question or the questioner, it's with the "questionee," yours truly. I never know if the question pertains to me in general or to me with cancer, in particular. Am I being asked about life or about death? Admittedly, I can't be objective and keep an open mind. Almost instinctively I think the question is being asked in the context of me having cancer. But sometimes, it's not (as I've found out). Sometimes, as they say, "a cigar is just a cigar." And so, to keep from making that very presumptuous mistake – and thinking the world revolves around me and my cancer – I simplify my answer and wait for a follow-up question, to be sure.

I don't need to talk about my cancer (apparently I need to write about it, though). I don't need – or want, quite frankly – to be Kenny with cancer and/or play the cancer card and receive pity/special treatment. I want (need) to be treated as normally as possible. However, given the fact that I am myself consumed (mentally, not physically; thank God!) by it, it is nearly impossible. Though I have tried, on occasion, not thinking about it for one minute; (it's akin to holding your breath – it doesn't work long term; heck, it doesn't exactly work short term, either), it's extremely difficult for me to not think others are, at the very least, aware of my condition and as a result, their questions must have something to do with the big picture (cancer), not the every day picture.

Therefore, after having given a few ill-advised and unanticipated answers to this standard question, I have decided to be simple-Simon rather than cancer-Kenny. Oh sure, I'll give somebody chapter and verse, if that's what they're really asking and interested in hearing, but until I know the depth of their inquiry, I won't bore anybody with the low lights of my diagnosis, prognosis, current treatment protocol and miscellaneous side-effect deficits. I want to be sure I'm answering the question that they're actually asking.

Now writing about it is something different entirely. I'm not writing these "cancer columns" (as I call them) because somebody asked me a question or because I'm trying to educate the general public (with some unique information that only I have had the good fortune to benefit from which I'm now able to share; I wish) about cancer as some time-honored – and unselfish – respectable, journalistic pursuit. Hardly. I'm writing these columns because I need to, probably for self-preservation, I imagine, but definitely as a means hopefully-not-to-my-end. And it's in these columns where I can indulge my fantasies of thinking how much my life (or my "journey," as one reader characterized it) might matter, maybe even benefit others.

In reality though, my life matters most to me, and that's why it is so difficult to take a question at face value. Given the severity and terminal nature of my original diagnosis/prognosis, how can anyone ask how I'm doing and not realize the gravity of the situation? But they don't necessarily. Why should they? They're just asking a simple question. And from now on, I'm going to give them a simple answer.

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

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Jessica Place

## Langley Students Attend NASA Academy

Mark Greenspan and Jessica Place, from Langley High School, spent a week of their summer planning a mission to Mars. They were among 48 rising high school seniors from across Virginia selected to take part in the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars (VASTS) academy. The academy took place June 10-July 16 at NASA Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., and was hosted by NASA Langley in a partnership with the Virginia Space Grant Consortium.

Prior to the academy, the students completed a six-month interactive distance-learning program on aerospace exploration that prepared them for their intensive week at NASA Langley.

"I enjoy math and science at school, and the opportunity to learn from NASA professionals was too good to pass up," said Greenspan. "The online curriculum has exposed me to many divisions of NASA that I did not know existed."

"There's definitely a lot more to learn here than I thought there would be," said Greenspan. "I was expecting that we were going to be assigned a mission, but I definitely didn't know the depth of all the stuff we were going to learn."

"It's kind of surreal to be on site at NASA Langley. I get to see all the inside work of everything I've been working on for the past months," said Place. "We get to apply everything we've learned and all the concepts."

During the academy, Place and Greenspan built, programmed and tested robots, toured NASA labs and facilities, talked with

NASA researchers, scientists and astronaut Dr. Roger Crouch, as well as gained solid workforce experience and college credit.

"NASA is one of the leading organizations in the area, and I believe I will learn a lot from this experience," said Place.

Both Place and Greenspan worked on the "Getting There" team while at NASA. Their primary objective was getting the astronauts from Earth to Mars and back. "Getting There" was one of four teams that worked together to plan a mission to Mars.

After a couple of days on site, Greenspan described how the group learned how each other reacted to situations.

"It works well because we have some people who lead a little bit and some who are calm and collected who get their points across," said Greenspan.

"Our group is getting along really well. We all bring something different to the table so it's nice to collaborate together," said Place. "I like the group work."

In the future, Place would love to be able to work for a company that integrates fashion and engineering.

"I know that the mix of the two fields isn't common, but I believe that in the future, the two will play an important part in how both industries are seen," said Place.

Greenspan plans to go to undergraduate and graduate school to study mechanical engineering, specifically dealing with aerospace aeronautical or automotive engineering.

For more information about VASTS or for an application, visit <http://www.vasts.spacegrant.org>.



Mark Greenspan

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