

Great Falls CONNECTION

Great Falls photographer Walt Lawrence caught this close-up of a white-tailed doe enjoying her lunch in his neighborhood. In this Insiders Guide issue, Lawrence shares his fascinating images of the 'Beauty in the Backyard.'

Beauty In the Backyard

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Keeping Great Falls Green

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Cool Things To Do On a Hot Summer Weekend

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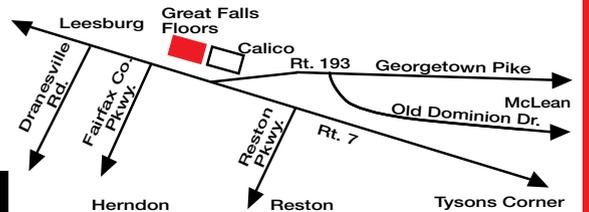
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A crowd sets up prior to a Concert on the Green at the Great Falls Village Centre. The weekly concerts are one of the community's biggest summer events.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Keeping Great Falls Green

Great Falls serves as rural oasis in suburban Northern Virginia.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

With its rural nature, Great Falls is a community proud of its heritage. With horse stables, active farms and national and county parks, it seems a far cry from the rest of Northern Virginia.

According to the 2000 census, Great Falls had a density of only 478.5 people per square mile, compared with the 2,104.9 people per square mile in nearby McLean. This lack of density is a point of pride for many residents, and its citizens are very involved in maintaining the Great Falls way of life.

"The citizens are very active in preserving the semi-rural nature of Great Falls," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "It's one of the very few rural areas, and if we want Fairfax to be a diverse county, we have to make sure it isn't overdeveloped."

Having fewer houses on bigger lots means Great Falls is home to a lot of wildlife. While being the home to so many different species is attractive to residents, it can also cause problems on the roads.

"People here like to see animals in their yards, it's one of the cool things about this area," said Kimberley Sisco, a resident who serves on the board of the Wildlife Rescue League, which helps injured animals throughout the area. "But it also means we have to be careful on the roads. Animals like deer are here, and they're going to be here, and we need to make sure people aren't going 60 down Georgetown Pike and risking their lives and property."

THE PARKS are integral to Great Falls, making it a destination for visitors as well as retreats for residents. Great Falls Park is a national park that overlooks a turbulent stretch of the Potomac River, and it sees almost 500,000 visitors per year.

Turner Farm, a county park and site of a former dairy farm, offers guests the chance to ride horses



Patrons of the Old Brogue in Great Falls dine on the front porch Aug. 22.

and use the observatory among other things. Nearby Riverbend Park offers recreational boaters and fishermen a chance to take advantage of what the Potomac has to offer.

"The parks are very special part of Great Falls," Foust said. "Great Falls, Riverbend and Turner Farm are special places, assets to the entire county."

The intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road is where most of the "industry" of Great Falls can be found. Local staples like The Old Brogue, The Saddlery and the Great Falls Salon have made their home there for more than three decades.

"I feel very fortunate being a local business owner in Great Falls," said Mike Kearney, owner of the Old Brogue. "I don't think I could ever duplicate what we get in Great Falls, we've got great customers, a great setting and great employees, which is quite a combination."

KEARNEY also serves as president of the Great Falls Charitable Foundation, which has donated almost \$40,000 to Great Falls schools in the past three years.

Kearney, like many of his fellow residents, is involved in keeping Great Falls the special place it is.

"Everything we do is to make sure we maintain this small-town feel and atmosphere," he said. "I feel very lucky, I came here 30 years ago and the local residents are still involved in making this community into what they want it to be."

Welcome

This issue of the Connection includes our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

Through narrative, listings, viewpoints and photographs, we endeavor to capture what it means to live here, highlights of places to visit and things to do, a snapshot of local history, help finding community resources and tips on adjusting to living here.

If you are new to the area, you'll find resources and ideas on these pages and on our Web site, www.ConnectionNewspapers.com. Even some longtime residents may not have visited some of the key places in and nearby their community.

We offer many more resources on our Web site.

There you will find the complete community guides for each of our 15 papers, including more extensive listings than appear in the newspapers.

You can also access the print edition of each of our papers online, showing each page exactly as it appears in the paper, including cover, photos, display ads and classified advertising. Go to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, and click on "Print Editions" in the red bar.

As a locally owned, weekly newspaper, the Connection's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

AT THE CONNECTION, we invite newcomers to the area and long-time residents alike to be a part of providing more reader input. Let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, call or send us an e-mail.

We invite you to send letters



Mary Kimm

to the editor or to send an email letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage, and suggestions for improvement.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or something you have a question about, give us a call, or drop us a line. If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, we are looking for people to feature each week.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc.

Email us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all of the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public. In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

New to Fairfax County?

The Fairfax County website provides excellent resources to help get acclimated, including registering to vote, licensing animals, local rules about trash and recycling, libraries, parks, schools, the Department of Motor Vehicles and more: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/newtofairfax

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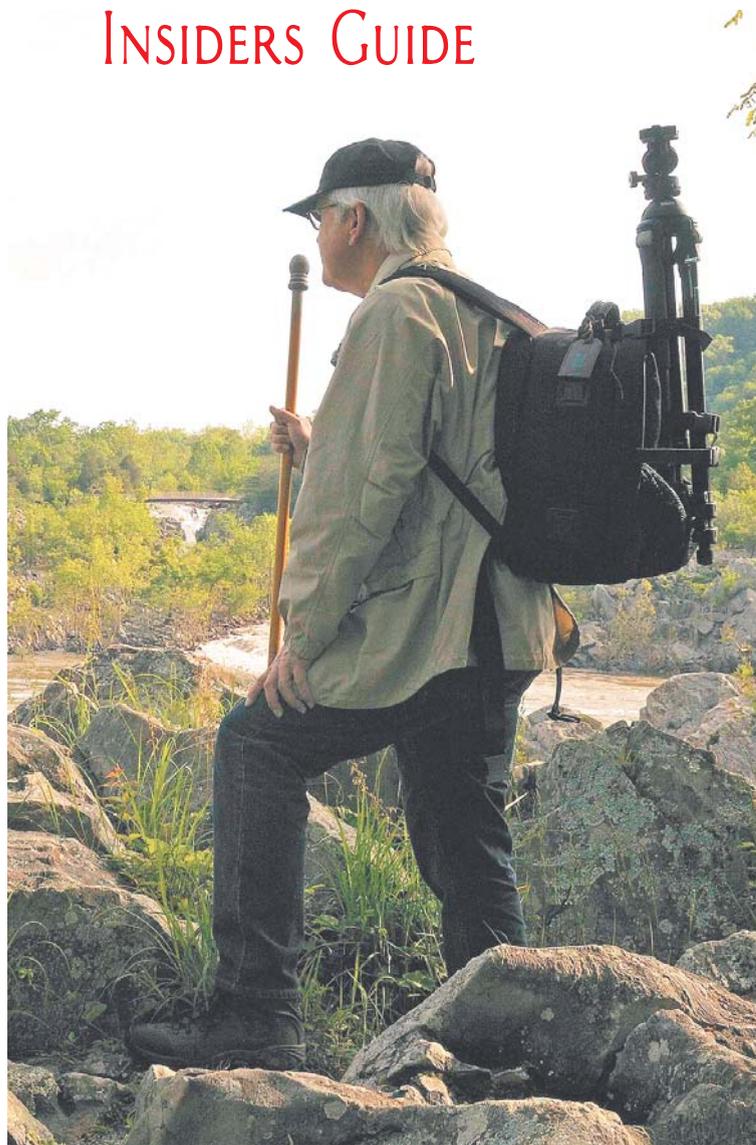
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INSIDERS GUIDE



Walt Lawrence: Self-portrait

While I have had a life long interest in photography and have taken a couple of photography classes, I never really got serious about the craft until seven years ago. I had recently retired and I bought my first single lens reflex digital camera. As I started to shoot in different locations in the Great Falls area, I quickly found myself returning to many of the same spots at different times of the year and day always finding something unique that wasn't there before or I simply didn't see. I continue to add to my collections of images of Great Falls and the Outer Banks.

I am a member of Great Falls Studios and have studio space at The Artists' Atelier located at 1144 G Walker Road in Great Falls. In my spare time, of which there seems to be precious little, I volunteer as a docent at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. and at the Udvar-Hazy Center at Dulles Airport.

Walt Lawrence in
Great Falls Park

My Path to the Community

Advice to those new to Great Falls: Just follow your hearts.

BY WALT LAWRENCE

As I think about one of the questions posed on the Opinion page of the Aug.11-17 edition of the Great Falls Connection Newspaper [Send Ideas for Connection Insiders Guide], I think about my own journey that led me to "the community" in Great Falls. I moved to Great Falls in 1977 after building a home in the woods. On my way home in the evenings in the ever maddening stop-go-stop rhythm of the traffic on Georgetown Pike, there was comfort in the anticipation of relaxing in my little place of solace and beauty. On weekends, the feeling of escape was even greater since I would have a whole 48 hours in the woods with a stream and the attendant wildlife. For the next 25 years, I lived quietly in a beautiful spot in a community to which I had no connection and consequently no commitment.

When I look back on my life, I can recall that I had 18 different addresses in the U.S. Europe and Africa before I moved to Great Falls. While this is perhaps not too uncommon for those like myself who are transplants to the area, it does explain some of why I never really felt an attachment to any place, a place I could truly call home. So after moving to Great Falls, I continued on with my business career traveling frequently around North America and overseas and always looking forward to the day when I could come home to my place in the woods. As I would travel along Georgetown Pike behind the wheel or

in the backseat of a cab, I always knew that I had a special place to which I would eventually return.

Then one day in early 2000 I decided that I had had enough of the airport hassles and traffic delays so I decided to retire with no particular plan in mind as to what I would do with my time. I tried building houses for Habitat for Humanity, but that was too much like what I had been doing around my own house. Besides that was hard work and I was newly retired. I took golf and fly fishing lessons but they held no interest for me. I then started to volunteer at the Great Falls Library and that was when things started to come into focus. I rediscovered my love of reading and I began to develop a number of friendships with the staff and other volunteers at the library. Soon, I was asked to join the Board of the Friends of the Library where I met even more people. I had never volunteered for anything during my working life and now I had joined this board. How strange is that?

I had always enjoyed photography and took pictures pretty much everywhere I had lived and traveled around the world. I even took a couple of photography courses. In 2003, I bought my first digital camera and started to take pictures of what had attracted me to Great Falls initially — the water, the woods and the wildlife. As I began to show some of my images to the staff at the library and to fellow Board members, I got a lot of encouragement to show my work to the community. One thing led to another and I was showing my work in the library and other available wall spaces throughout the community. Then one day, someone suggested that I join a newly formed art group in the village called "Great Falls Studios." I had never ever considered myself an artist just simply a guy with a camera, but I decided to

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 10



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INSIDERS GUIDE



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Ella, 1, Tiffany, Owen, 3 and Mark Sherrill enjoy a Sunday at the Great Falls Village Centre.

Intersection Issues

Georgetown Pike/Route 7 intersection among issues facing Great

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As the expansion of Route 7 from the Loudoun County Border to Tysons Corner takes place over the next year, Great Falls residents are fighting to keep the Georgetown Pike/Route 7 intersection from becoming an even bigger quagmire.

The intersection, which backs up in almost every direction during the morning and afternoon rush hour, is the main interchange for Great Falls residents and other parts of Fairfax County. It also serves as a shortcut for drivers looking to get to the beltway without entering Tysons Corner.

"Protecting the pike is a critical issue for Great Falls," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "The original [Virginia Department of Transportation] plans

called for an extended turn lane onto Georgetown Pike and to realign the pike from its original historic road bed."

The Fairfax County Board of supervisors voted July 27 to ask Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean J. Connaughton to consider an alternate design.

Foust said he hopes the widening of Route 7 will make Georgetown Pike less attractive to drivers seeking a shortcut.

"Widening Route 7 from Tysons Corner to Loudoun County should relieve a lot of pressure that comes with people abandoning Route 7 before Tysons," Foust said. "Now it's on VDOT to design a safe, extended turn lane onto Georgetown Pike. It was truly a community-supported solution."

The Great Falls Citizens Association is still working on getting the project changed to one that fits in more with the community's needs. GFCFA transportation co-chair Eric Knudsen says his committee is committed to getting cooperation from affected community members.

"We were close to the bulldozers coming out, we needed to stop them," Knudsen said. "Now we need cooperation down the entire corridor to make sure it doesn't go

through." Improving sewer facilities for the Great Falls Village Centre is also a priority in the coming year. There are no large sewer systems in Great Falls, just individual septic fields.

"Not having a sewer is a physical barrier against overdevelopment," Foust said. "A lot of residents don't want to see it, because they think with a sewer, there will be pressure to start zoning subdivided lots."

Bill Canis, a board member of the GFCFA, said that "wastewater issues in the commercial center of Great Falls is something that will have to be addressed soon."

Foust said another issue is the matter of bicycle and pedestrian paths along Georgetown Pike. Since the road does not have a curb or gutter, such paths would have to be set back 10 feet from the road.

"People living in new subdivisions have a desire to put trails along the pike, which means we need easements," Foust said, noting that the construction presence on property getting a path could be up to 22 feet, with the 10-foot rule, a six-foot wide path and another six feet for the construction equipment.

Where Neighbors Help Their Neighbors

Sharon E. Rainey, president and founder, myNeighborsNetwork and Neighbors Foundation



"Great Falls offers community oriented activities throughout the year where neighbors come together in a spirit of unity including the Fireworks on Fourth of July, Halloween trick or treating and the Christmas tree lighting. Residents support

local businesses, schools and non-profit groups. Many business owners live and operate businesses in Great Falls. We have walking and horse trails. We also enjoy the luxury of living close to incredible parks, fishing streams and numerous historic sites. We care about what happens in our neighborhoods. We are a community where neighbors help their neighbors."



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INSIDERS GUIDE: SCHOOLS

Fairfax County High Schools

TOTAL POPULATION: 52,243

Male	27,070	(51.8%)
Female	25,173	(48.2%)
American Indian/Alaskan	175	(0.3%)
Asian	9,985	(19.1%)
Black	5,469	(10.5%)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	38	(0.1%)
Hispanic	8,400	(16.1%)
Multiracial	2,443	(4.7%)
Undesignated	114	(0.2%)
White	25,619	(49%)

SAT SCORES

Average:

Critical Reading	552
Asian Students	542
Black Students	472
Hispanic Students	503
White	577

Mathematics	569
Asian Students	604
Black Students	471
Hispanic Students	511
White Students	583

Writing	543
Asian Students	546
Black Students	464
Hispanic Students	491
White Students	564

Average ACT Scores:

English	23.5
Mathematics	24.1
Reading	23.9
Science	22.9
Composite	23.7
Number of National Merit Semifinalists	219

TEST SCORES (2009)

Advanced Placement

Total Number of Exams Taken	29,954
By Male Students	14,276
By Female Students	15,678
By Asian Students	8,152
By Black Students	1,165
By Hispanic Students	1,524
By White Students	17,609
By "Other" Students	1,504

Average Score (Scale of 1 to 5, with 3 as passing)	3.27
By Male Students	3.36
By Female Students	3.19
By Asian Students	3.25
By Black Students	2.58
By Hispanic Students	2.99
By White Students	3.35
By "Other" Students	3.27

Percentage of Exams With A Score of "3" Or Higher	71
By Male Students	73
By Female Students	68
By Asian Students	70
By Black Students	48
By Hispanic Students	60
By White Students	73
By "Other" Students	71

Number of Students With A Score of 3 Or Higher On Three Exams	2,026
Number of Students With An Average Score of 3.25 On All Exams And With A 3 Or Higher On Four Exams	968
Number of Students With An Average Score of 3.5 On All Exams And With A 3 On Five Exams	1,661
Number of Students With An Average of 4 On All Exams and With A 4 On Eight Exams	292
Most Popular Exam	U.S. Government and Politics (3,987 tests taken)
Least Popular Exam	Studio Art: 3-D Design (28 tests taken)
Exam with the Highest Pass Rate	Computer Science AB (93% of students scored 3 or higher)
Exam with the Lowest Pass Rate	Latin: Vergil (36% of students scored 3 or higher)

International Baccalaureate

Total Number of Exams Taken	5,784
By Male Students	2,406
By Female Students	3,378
By Asian Students	1,254
By Black Students	487
By Hispanic Students	582
By White Students	3,141
By "Other" Students	320

Average Test Score	4.23
By Male Students	4.12
By Female Students	4.3
By Asian Students	4.12
By Black Students	3.85
By Hispanic Students	4.2
By White Students	4.33
By "Other" Students	4.23

Percentage Of Exams With A Passing Score (4 or Higher)	75
By Male Students	70
By Female Students	77
By Asian Students	73
By Black Students	61
By Hispanic Students	72
By White Students	78
By "Other" Students	73

Total Number of International Baccalaureate Diplomas Awarded	283
Total Number of Students Who Have Taken An IB Class	3,262
Percentage of Students in IB Schools That Receive An IB Diploma	8.7%
Most Popular Exam	English A1 (925 tests)
Exams Where Fewer Than 10 Tests Were Taken	Arabic, French AB, German AB, Mandarin, Music Composition
Exam With The Highest Pass Rate	Music Group Performance (100%)
Exam With The Lowest Pass Rate	Design Tech. (42%)

Langley High School

PRINCIPAL MATT RAGONE

Total Population: 2,070

Male	1,081 (52.2%)
Female	989 (47.8%)
American Indian/Alaskan	4 (0.2%)
Asian	369 (17.8%)
Black	36 (1.7%)
Hispanic	58 (2.8%)
Multiracial	90 (4.3%)
Undesignated	3 (0.1%)
White	1,510 (72.9%)
Students Who Qualify For Free Lunch or Reduced-Price Lunch	30 (1.5%)

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- ❖ Support available for students with low-incidence forms of autism, intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities

SCHOOL BUILDING

- ❖ Opened in 1965
- ❖ Expanded in 1990 and 2008
- ❖ Received minor renovations in 1986
- ❖ Built to hold 1,972 students
- ❖ Currently at 104 percent of program capacity (Overcrowded)

TEST SCORES

Advanced Placement

Students Scoring A 3 Or Higher On Three Exams	120
Students Scoring An Average of 3.25 On All Exams And A 3 On Four Exams	101
Students Scoring An Average of 3.5 On All Exams And A 3 On Five Exams	142
Students Scoring An Average of 4 On All Exams And A 4 On Eight Exams	19

Average Tests Scores:

Critical Reading	601
Mathematics	618
Writing	597
Number of National Merit Semifinalists	7

FAMOUS ALUMNI

- ❖ Michael Arndt - screenwriter who wrote the movie "Little Miss Sunshine"
- ❖ Lauren Graham - actress who played Lorelai Gilmore in the television series "Gilmore Girls"
- ❖ Jeremy Stoppelman, CEO and co-founder of Yelp
- ❖ Bruce Allen - Washington Redskins general manager

Thomas Jefferson High School For Science And Technology

PRINCIPAL EVAN GLAZER

Total Population: 1,792

Male	977 (54.5%)
Female	815 (45.5%)
American Indian/Alaskan	3 (0.2%)
Asian	832 (46.4%)
Black	28 (1.6%)
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	3 (0.2%)
Hispanic	38 (2.1%)
Multiracial	99 (5.5%)
Undesignated	8 (0.4%)
White	781 (43.6%)
Students Who Qualify For Free Lunch or Reduced-Price Lunch	31 (1.7%)

FAMOUS ALUMNI

- ❖ Eric Froehlich - Professional poker player
- ❖ Stephen Drodge - North American Bridge Championship's National 99er Pairs winner
- ❖ Ian Caldwell and Dustin Thomason, authors of "The Rule of Four"
- ❖ Ehren Kruger - screenwriter who created "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" and "The Ring"

TEST SCORES

Advanced Placement

Students Scoring A 3 Or Higher On Three Exams	150
Students Scoring An Average of 3.25 On All Exams And A 3 On Four Exams	127
Students Scoring An Average of 3.5 On All Exams And A 3 On Five Exams	540
Students Scoring An Average of 4 On All Exams And A 4 On Eight Exams	130

Average SAT Scores

Critical Reading	723
Mathematics	747
Writing	714
Number of National Merit Semifinalists	149

SCHOOL BUILDING

- ❖ Opened in 1964
- ❖ Expanded in 1966 and 1988
- ❖ Received minor renovations in 1986
- ❖ Built to hold 1,971 students
- ❖ Currently at 100 percent of program capacity

GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Connection will publish back-to-school articles in the weeks before school begins this fall. Visit the Fairfax County Public Schools Web site at www.fcps.edu for more information, as well as links to individual school Web sites.

The schools that Great Falls students attend are in cluster 1 and the Langley High School pyramid.

Forestville Elementary School

Grades: K-6
 First opened: 1980
 Enrollment: 782
 Principal: Matt C. Harris
 PTA president: Lynn Conforti
 Special programs: gifted and talented, special education, interactive Smartboards in every classroom.
 Web site: www.fcps.edu/ForestvilleES
 Address: 1085 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls
 Phone number: 703-404-6000

Great Falls Elementary School

Grades: K-6.
 Enrollment: 601
 Principal: Earnest Leighty
 PTA president: Karen Collazo
 Special Programs: gifted and talented, special education.
 Web site: www.fcps.edu/GreatFallsES
 Address: 701 Walker Road, Great Falls
 Phone number: 703-757-2100

Colvin Run Elementary School

Grades: K-6
 First opened: 2003
 Enrollment: 854
 Principal: Stephen Hockett
 PTO president: Erica Glembocki
 Special programs: gifted and talented program, special education, preschool program, PTO sponsored "Art Plus" and before and after school enrichment programs.
 Web site: www.fcps.edu/ColvinRunES
 Address: 1400 Trap Road, Vienna
 Phone number: 703-757-3000

Cooper Middle School

Grades: 7-8
 First opened: 1962
 Enrollment: 946
 Principal: Arlene Randall
 PTA president: Betsy Shomaker
 Special programs: business/school partnership with Books-A-Million, Japanese immersion, autism program, honors instead of gifted and talented.
 Web site: www.fcps.edu/CooperMS
 Address: 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean
 Phone number: 703-442-5800
 Guidance: 703-442-5812

INSIDERS GUIDE

SUPERVISOR'S CORNER

A Dynamic Place to Live

Our challenge in the coming years will be to ensure that growth is balanced with expanded public facilities and public services.

BY JOHN FOUST
SUPERVISOR (D-DRANESVILLE)



The Dranesville District, with a population of over 110,000, includes Herndon, Great Falls, McLean, and parts of Falls Church and Vienna. It covers 65-square miles of Fairfax County and runs from the Arlington border to the Loudoun County border along the beautiful Potomac River. Each of our neighborhoods has its own distinctive characteristics, making the district a dynamic place to live.

The district is well served by residents who care deeply about their community, who contribute thousands of volunteer hours each year to civic and community organizations, and who work every day to improve the quality of our lives. It is home to many excellent public schools including the high achieving and highly-regarded Langley, McLean and Herndon high schools. Dranesville residents are blessed with nearly 500 acres of public open space and many great parks, including Great Falls National Park, Riverbend Park, Claude Moore Colonial Farm, Runnymede Park, Scotts Run Nature Preserve, Turner Farm, Clemyontri Park and Wolf Trap National Park

for the Performing Arts. An extensive network of trails carries pedestrians, bicyclists and horseback riders through beautiful Northern Virginia countryside. Recreation and community centers offer cultural, exercise and other amenities to people of all ages. Throughout the district, there are excellent libraries and active arts and youth sports organizations.

Fairfax County, and especially Tysons Corner and the Dulles Corridor adjacent to Dranesville, continue to grow and provide excellent business and employment opportunities for Dranesville residents. And soon, Dranesville residents will have access to HOT Lanes on the Beltway and seven new Metro stations that will be part of the Metro rail to Dulles Airport project.

All of this and more make Dranesville an excellent place to live, raise a family and do business. Our challenge in the coming years will be to ensure that growth is balanced with expanded public facilities and public services so that future generations will be able to enjoy living in Dranesville as much as past and current residents have enjoyed making their homes in one of the District's many great neighborhoods.

'Get-Away-from-It-All' Place

JACKIE TAYLOR
PRESIDENT,
GREAT FALLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION



“Great Falls is a ‘great place to live’ because of the low density, semi rural character that the community actively strives to preserve. It is closely, conveniently located to a world class, cultural city center and yet provides the feel of a remote, small town feel in a ‘get-away-from-it-all’ location. You can walk along the Potomac on trails where you rarely pass another person or see a man-made structure. You know the shopkeepers and business owners and they know you. The schools and peer group for the children are exceptional. This little ZIP code community has only single family housing, mostly on generously large properties, because of the preponderance of the septic sys-

tems instead of sewer. This is also an active community. There is no local government. So, the neighbors in our community have been using the Great Falls Citizens Association for over 35 years to advocate to the elected officials who represent our interests. GFCA now has almost 800 active, dues paying members. These are the kind of voters who also show up at the polls. So, with this ‘collective voice’ the organization has been able to preserve this unique way of life, even in a rapidly growing metropolitan area. The cool thing about it is that the neighbors take turns in volunteering their time to GFCA. So, each year about half the volunteer executive board rotates out and new neighbors step in to take a turn. GFCA has just launched a membership drive to increase the volume of this Great Falls ‘voice’. Check it out at www.GFCA.org.”

MILITARY NOTES

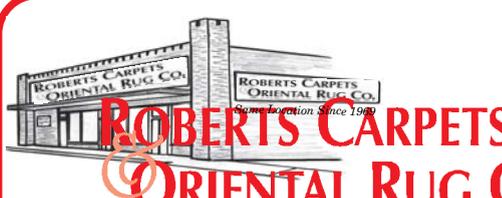
To have community events listed in the Connection, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Army National Guard Pfc. **Joshua B. Atkins** has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, he studied Army history, tradition and core values, physical fitness, received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons, chemical warfare and bayonet training, drill and ceremony, marching, rifle marksmanship, armed and unarmed combat, map reading, field tactics and more. He is the son of Randy Atkins of Weant Drive in Great Falls, and a 1990 graduate of the Blue Ridge Preparatory School of Dyke, Va.

Cadet **Anthony Kotoriy** of Great Falls successfully completed Cadet Basic Training (CBT) at the U.S. Military Academy on Aug. 14. The initial military training program provides cadets with basic skills to instill discipline, pride, cohesion, confidence and a high sense of duty to prepare them for entry into the Corps of Cadets. Areas of summer instruction included first aid, mountaineering, hand grenades, rifle marksmanship and nuclear, biological, and chemical training. He is the son of Giovanni and Elizabeth Kotoriy of Great Falls, and a graduate of Langley High School.

Army Pfc. **Bo J. Buffkin** has graduated from the Basic Field Artillery Cannon Crewmember Advanced Individual Training course at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. The course is designed to train servicemembers to maintain, prepare and load ammunition for firing; operate and perform operator maintenance on prime movers, self-propelled Howitzers, and ammunition vehicles and establish and maintain radio and wire communications. He is the son of Mark D. and Beverly J. Buffkin of Huntover Court in McLean, and a 2008 graduate of Langley High School.

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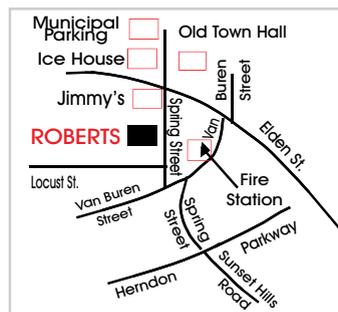
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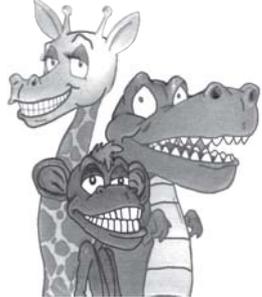
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INSIDERS GUIDE

A Loving Community

The Village Centre is the heartbeat of the village.

BY KATHLEEN J. MURPHY
VICE PRESIDENT, GREAT FALLS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Things I love about Great Falls: I love the "sense of place" we share about our village, this place where we belong.

By capturing, retelling and enjoying the history of the place we call our hometown, we build a sense of our place for all ages. We sink our roots deep into the soil of this place and gain a sense of how our earth nourished those that lived here before us. We gain clues about the values they held and the bonds that linked them together.

As we mark our days in this place, snuggling together through the snowy winters and humid summers, newcomers arriving from distant towns, crowded cities or faraway lands, we weave together a common heritage as Great Falls villagers. We know each other. We warmly greet each other. Our neighborly caring for each other grows.

Our village history gifts us with the roots and underpinnings of what it means to belong to this special place. In reality, we do not own our property, our land owns us. It greets us in the morning. It releases us to slumber at night. Our trees stand guard over us, breaking the wind, screening the sun, sheltering us from the howling storm. Wherever we have come from, no matter. What is important is our love of the origins and story of our land, our shared place in this world. It is important that we sink our minds and hearts into the way things used to be, to give us a sense of possibility today and stimulate insights into how we might grow together as neighbors, building a

future together that will sustain our children and our children's children.

'Insider Tips' for Friends, Newcomers: Our community has a deep desire to have a place to meet and warmly greet each other. The Village Centre is the heartbeat of our village. Saturday mornings are a very special time in the village of Great Falls, tens of antique cars line the road in front of Katie's Coffee House, where excellent coffee, lovely pastries or hearty breakfasts are offered late into the morning. The Great Falls Farmers Market opens from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It was the desire

of our community to have a local farmers market so that we could have fresh, organic produce available to us from farmers who follow the finest farming practices. We have gotten to know some wonderful dedicated growers and bakers who warmly greet us every Saturday morning. People go to the market early in the morning to beat the hot sun, and in the last hour before it closes, the late risers among us. There is always someone there you know or should get to know. Conversations start at each stand or among the artists' weekly display. Everyone is there to be neighborly. If the economy is being hard on your family, come anyway, just buy a loaf of bread, a bunch of vegetables, one package of free-range beef to make some good burgers or a sack of potatoes or tomatoes.



PHOTO BY DAVID LONNQUEST/THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Historical Society presented a historic train in the 2008 July Fourth Hometown Celebration parade.

A tomato sandwich on olive bread is the finest of delicacies. Buy only one thing. Just to feel the buzz. Do your conversational dance to create our community's heart and soul. Spread some neighborly love around for others to feel and enjoy. Let's create the texture of all that we hope for through such easy playful actions.

Advice to Newcomers on How to Get Involved: Come join the Great Falls Historical Society (www.gfhs.org) and learn how history is made, the oral histories, the archeological artifacts, and the pre-war architecture. Meet our historians in residence. Participate in the gathering, codifying and securing of our local history. Listen to the stories of days long gone. Capture the kernels of wisdom that anchor guidance for our future. Become a member of a wel-

coming community of local residents committed to passing their story on to future generations. Great Falls has a history that reaches back 20,000 years to the last ice age. Artifacts are constantly being discovered that mark the milestones back to a rich confederation of indigenous tribes. Many of our Heritage Trees date back 400 years, before the American Revolution. The local farming and milling economy had the notable effect of preserving our land untouched by urbanization over the last 400 years. Our land is fertile. Our tree canopy is abundant. We appreciate our local wildlife that roams free through contiguous wildlife corridors, traversing our hospitable backyards. In the midst of the information technology boom and the growth of the intelligence and military industries nearby, pressure has arisen to increase density in surrounding areas. The commitment of our community remains to preserve the small town character of Great Falls. This is a goal that has been abided by for the last 30 to 40 years. It is a goal that requires the dedicated resolve of an active and committed citizenry today. Each of us has a part to play in stepping forward to do what is required to preserve and protect the semi-rural character of Great Falls. There are many Great Falls clubs, societies and associations in which to make your contribution to realizing our shared vision. Give some of your personal time and effort to the fulfillment of our shared dream.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 26

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.

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

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.

Brinker Toastmasters. 9:30 a.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Meets second and fourth Saturday of the month. brinker.wordpress.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 2

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.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 4

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.

MONDAY/SEPT. 6

A Representative of Congressman Frank Wolf at the McLean Community Center. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 1234 McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. First Monday of every month. Citizens are invited to express opinions on issues before Congress,

or seek assistance with federal problems. 703-709-5800.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 8

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.
Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meeting. 1:30 p.m. at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

THE CONNECTION

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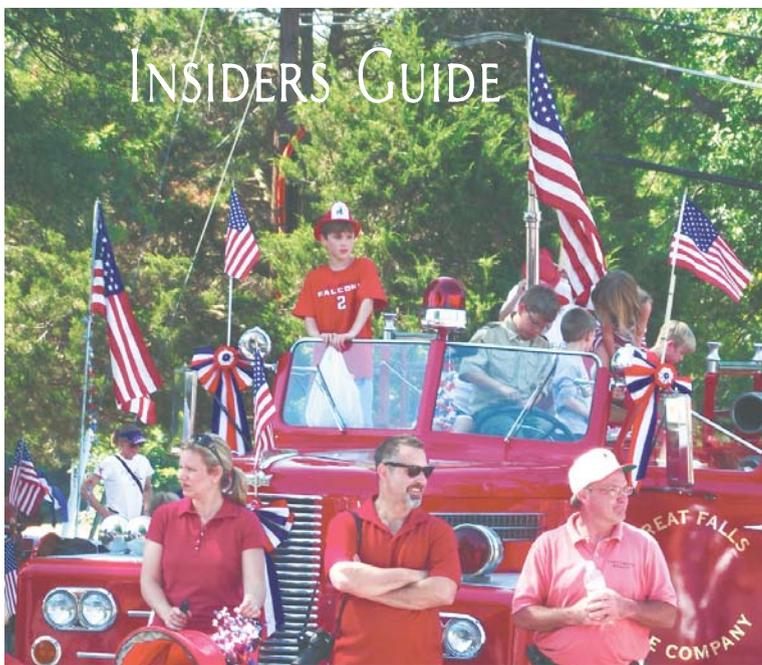


PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

A crowd watches the Great Falls Fourth of July parade at the Great Falls Village Centre.

The Voice of Citizens

Citizens Associations work with government to meet community's needs.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As unincorporated areas in Fairfax County, Great Falls and McLean rely on government officials to make sure their voices are heard. Each community also has a citizens association that acts a liaison with officials.

The citizens associations each have committees designed to do research, speak with the principal decision-makers, and help the group come up with a position on each issue.

"If an issue arises somewhere, we start a committee, or the board assigns it to a committee, who will study the issue and make recommendations," said Rob Jackson, president of the McLean Citizens Association. "As a board, we will decide what we support or oppose, and suggest changes."

The MCA have committees for such issues as budget and taxation, education, environment, parks and recreation, planning and zoning and transportation. They also have a special Tysons Corner Liaison Committee, whose charter was recently extended to make sure the MCA stays involved in the Tysons Corner development process.

Jackson says he sees the MCA's primary function as a place for the community to be heard.

"Anyone can come to our meetings and raise an issue. We'll give them time to express their concern, and we will address it," Jack-

son said. "Generally, people aren't very shy about letting us know if there's a problem."

The 40-member MCA board offers a variety of opinions and is not shy about backing those opinions up.

"We have a very diverse board, we don't all think alike," Jackson said. "We like to get input from a lot of different sources, and we do our homework to support what we say."

Great Falls has its own citizens association, which is also dedicated to expressing the will of residents to those in power.

"The role of the Great Falls Citizens Association is to help focus, define and voice issues within our community," said Bill Canis, a board member on GFCA. "We have no mayor, no town council, we're represented at the county level, who we work closely with."

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) said his district, which includes McLean and Great Falls, as well as Herndon, Vienna and Falls Church, is very involved with their surroundings.

"They're very active, very vigilant when it comes to proposals that would change their community," Foust said.

"I think we have a credibility when it comes to elected officials," Jackson said. "We don't expect them to vote with us every single time, but we expect them to listen."

Canis said "people recognize the Great Falls Citizens Association as a solid representation of the issues at hand, we try to get widespread community input."

Information on the MCA can be found at www.mcleancitizens.org, and the GFCA can be found at www.gfca.org.

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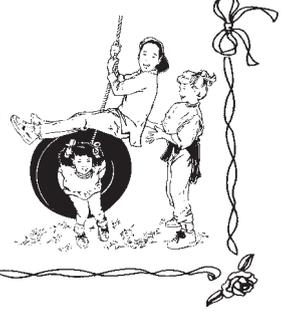
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Barred Owl

I awoke one morning to the sound of crows screaming high in the trees which typically means that they are trying to drive off a predator such as a hawk. Barely awake, I got out my camera and walked out onto my deck and waited. Eventually, I saw a large set of wings fly away from all the commotion and glide to another tree. I started shooting as soon as I saw the wings and continued until the bird landed. Convinced that I had taken several images of a hawk, I went back into the house and looked at the image more closely and discovered to my surprise that the subject was a Barred Owl.



Red-Shouldered Hawk

I love to watch and photograph these magnificent flyers. The hawk always spots the photographer first and he will let you get as close as he wants. Then he swoops down from his perch and away from the camera so I have a lot of images of these birds flying away from me. But this time he came towards the camera and I managed to get this shot.

PHOTOS BY WALT LAWRENCE



Where's Mom?

Every spring, I seem to be able to find a new litter of fox kits. The mom was in the immediate vicinity but the little ones seemed to feel better if she was always in view so I got this image as they all turned to follow her movements. Thus the title, "Where's Mom?"



Wild Turkey

As I was driving into my garage one afternoon, I got a glimpse of a large bird in the back so I went into the house and got my camera. Sure enough, it was a turkey and as I approached the bird trying to conceal my presence behind some trees he spotted me and started to run. I continued to shoot him as he ran and eventually he took flight. Yes, turkeys can fly and this one looked like a 747 trying to get off the ground. But I do have a shot of the southbound end of a northbound turkey in the air.



Great Blue Heron

Every spring the herons enjoy the fishing at the base of the falls in Great Falls Park, and it is not uncommon to see 10 or more birds at one time. One day I was shooting a bird that seemed to have picked a good spot and got this once-in-a-lifetime image of a heron and a fish that the bird had just hit and dropped. The fish got away but he had definitely been hit as evidenced by the drops of blood in the water spray.

Beauty in the Backyard

FROM PAGE 4

join, paid my dues, and quickly found myself actively involved in the organization and eventually volunteered to serve on the board.

It is through my volunteer associations with the library and GFS that I have truly found a place that I now refer to as "the community" and feel that I have made a commitment to the community. It only took me 65 years to get there, but I have certainly developed an attachment to this place and it is a place where I have put down roots and it is a place that I now call home. Now whenever anyone asks me where I am from my answer is "Great Falls."

So for anyone who would like to find "the community" in Great Falls, I would simply say don't wait until you retire, just follow your heart and locate or start a civic group that is in some way compatible with your passion and follow the path. There are about 15-20 such organizations already in the village so there is a lot to choose from and you will quickly learn that several people are involved in multiple groups. This approach worked for me and my only regret is that I waited so long to get involved.



Ruby-Throated Hummingbird

These birds move so quickly from one flower to the next that it's very difficult to get a shot. The other trick is to stop their wing motion since they beat their wings 40-80 times per second. If you look closely you can see a small feather that the bird had just dropped, probably from its wing.

INSIDERS GUIDE

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Let me introduce you to the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO), an important part of your new community. From our unique and valuable education programs in County schools, to our free summer concerts in the parks, to our fabulous concert season throughout the year at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, we are everywhere you are. Take advantage of our low ticket prices, convenient location, and neighborly environment and come to a concert this season.

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— Christopher Zimmerman

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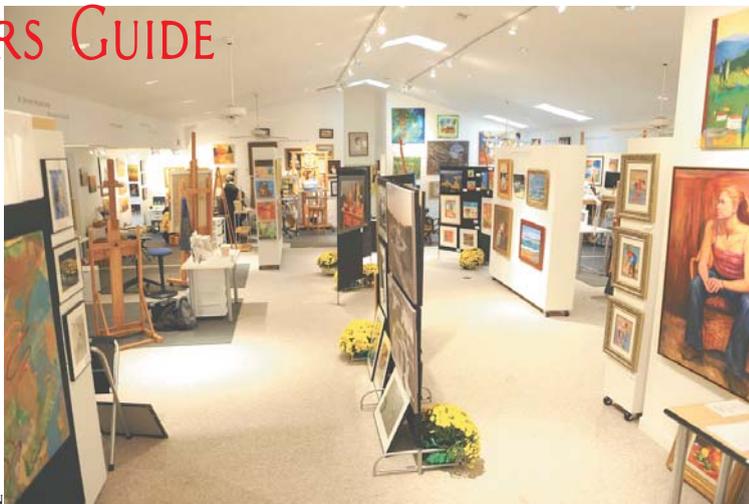
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INSIDERS GUIDE

The Artists Atelier, located in a Great Falls loft, is operated by the Great Falls Foundation for the Arts to provide affordable studio space to local artists. The Atelier currently serves 16 artists, most of whom are members of Great Falls Studios, a network of 90 artists who live or work in Great Falls. Most art displayed on the walls is for sale.

PHOTOS BY AL REITAN



Arts Flourish in Great Falls

Network of local artists and an arts foundation help stimulate creative life.

Newcomers to Great Falls will discover that the village has become a leading center for the arts in Fairfax County, with a thriving community of 90 working artists, an arts foundation and numerous opportunities for children and adults to study and enjoy art.

"We believe we've brought a heart and soul to our community and have demonstrated that quality of life improves where art is present," said Laura Nichols, president of Great Falls Studios, the network of local artists. "Not only have we made Great Falls an artful place, but we've created a mechanism for residents who've moved here to share their creative experiences for our mutual growth. We have artists originally from Argentina and Iran, Pakistan and China, India and Sri Lanka, England and South Korea, to name a few, and each brings something new to Great Falls."

Here is a summary of what's available:

❖ **Artists in the community.** Great Falls Studios (GFS) is an all-volunteer membership organization of 90 painters, potters, quilters, jewelry designers, printmakers, weavers, photographers and other artists who live or work in Great Falls. It encourages artistic expression, serves the professional interests of its members and functions as a community service organization. For more information, go to www.GreatFallsStudios.com. To join, call Laura Nichols at 703-901-7002.

❖ **An arts foundation.** Great Falls Foundation for the Arts (GFFFTA) is a non-profit organization working to expand opportunities for art education, expression and professional development. It administers an art school, gallery, and shared studio workspace, and is raising money to bring an art center to Great Falls. For more information, go to www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

❖ **Opportunities for learning.** The Great Falls School of Art is a non-profit teaching facility founded by GFFFTA to offer art instruction to children, teens and adults. For more information, including a list of classes and workshops, contact the director, Terri Parent at parent.terri@gmail.com or visit the GFFFTA website. Numerous individual artists in Great Falls also teach in their home studios. Check the GFS website for names and contacts.

❖ **Space for artists to work.** A large loft called the Artists' Atelier provides 16 local artists with af-



Potter Pu-Chin Waide shows off some of the pieces she has made in her studio, a converted garage at her house. Waide was one of 44 artists who last year took part in the annual Great Falls Art Studio Tour sponsored by Great Falls Studios. Since the tour began in 2003, it has generated 10,000 visits to art studios in Great Falls. This year's tour will be on Oct. 16 and 17.

fordable studio spaces in a collaborative work environment. The artists sublease the space from GFFFTA. There is currently a short waiting list. For more information, contact Elaine Elinsky at elinsky@erols.com. The Atelier, at 1144 Walker Road, Suites D and G, is open to the public. For hours, see the GFFFTA website.

❖ **Annual Studio Tour.** Great Falls' signature art event is an annual free driving tour to visit artists in their home studios on back roads throughout Great Falls and at other venues across town. The tour, which is run by Great Falls Studios, has established the village as a "go-to" place for quality art. Over the past six years, it has generated more than 10,000 visits to Great Falls art studios. This year the tour will be held on Oct. 16 and 17.

❖ **Art exhibits and festivals.** In addition to the annual Studio Tour, GFS organizes two annual art festivals where work by Great Falls artists is sold. It also hangs art exhibits year-round in Katie's Coffee, Great Falls Community Library, Maison du Vin, Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Resort & Spa, and at other venues. Events are listed on the GFS website.

Serving Great Falls. GFS members give free talks to community groups about the stories behind their creations and organize periodic programs at the library on the arts and art-related issues. To arrange for an artist to talk to your group, call Jan Bender at 703-430-9566. GFFFTA attracts regional talent to the community by organizing guest artist workshops at the Great Falls School of Art and sponsoring solo shows in the GFFFTA Gallery. It also hosts ArtPartners, a free monthly networking meeting for artists and art enthusiasts. See the GFFFTA website for details.

A Perfect Balance

Long-time residents enjoy a small-town feel of Great Falls.

By NIKKI CHESHIRE
THE CONNECTION

Beth Russo, Attorney for the Federal Government



A resident for about 15 years, Beth Russo and her family have enjoyed many aspects of Great Falls. "I work in D.C., so we enjoy living so close. Also, it's easy to carpool," said Russo. "It's convenient, and I also like taking my kids to the museums and monuments."

She said there was a perfect balance of Great Falls' location and ambiance. "It's close enough to Tysons, but also close enough to be rural. We have a choice of either Shenandoah or Tysons," said Russo. "We love it because of its bucolic nature, and we love the pond and nature trails out back," she said, gesturing to behind her house.

"Our small neighborhood, about 70 houses, is full of friendly people," she said.

Russo and her family also enjoy the benefits of the Fairfax county school system as well as the abundance of wildlife.

Kim Kennedy, IT Specialist (with her Pomeranian Cody)



Having lived in Great Falls for close to 17 years, Kim Kennedy and her husband Jim have come to appreciate many things about the area. "I just love the small town feeling it has," said Kim Kennedy, picking up her black-and-white Pomeranian, Cody.

She said they love the events in Great Falls like the July Fourth parade and fireworks. "It's a nice thing to live in such a close-in town," she said, highlighting the special, tight-knit community that has become known in Great Falls.

Kennedy also enjoys the location. "I feel like I'm in the coun-

try with all the woods, parks and nature, but I'm not," she said. "It really is a beautiful place."

Jorge Adeler, the owner of Adeler Jewelers, the oldest independently owned retail business in Great Falls

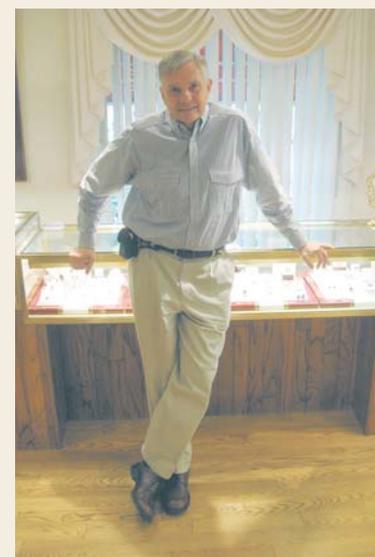


PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

For Adeler, a supporter of numerous community events, "it's all about people.

"Hands down the Great Falls people are wonderfully nice, educated, unassuming, respectful, interesting, challenging, demanding but fair, generous and above everything welcoming."



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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/AUG. 26

Nottoway Park Concert Series:

The Grandsons. 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Rockabilly/swing/lounge music. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Anita Baker. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$48 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.org.

Patrick Henry Book Club. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Call for title. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Jay Nash and Dean Fields at 7 p.m., **Viking, Ypset, Young Enough and Turbo P** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 27

Outdoor Movie Night. 7:30 p.m. at New Life Christian Church, 1988 Kirby Road, McLean. Previews at 7:30. "Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian" screening at 8 p.m. Bring a blanket or chair; refreshments available. summerr@newlife4me.com or 571-294-8306.

Antonia Bennett. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$48 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.org.

Curious George Live! 7 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. A musical about Curious George helping Chef Pisghetti save his restaurant. Tickets \$16-\$30, available at www.ticketmaster.com or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.curiousgeorgelive.com.

Deanna Bogart Band at 7:30 p.m., **Along Those Lines, Await Rescue and Loving the Lie** at 10:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna Silent Auction Art Benefit. 2-5 p.m. at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Auction items include paintings, photography, jewelry and ceramics. Free admission. Proceeds benefit the SCOV, which provides services for seniors by seniors. 703-281-0538 or office@scov.org.

The Ultimate Doo-Wop Show. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Charlie Thomas, Shirley Alston-Reeves, The Flamingos featuring Terry Johnson, Jay Siegel & The Tokens with Jay Traynor, Eugene Pitt & The Jive Five, Cathy Jean & The Roommates and more. \$40 in-house, \$22 lawn. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.org.

Curious George Live! 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. A musical about Curious George helping Chef Pisghetti save his restaurant. Tickets \$16-\$30, available at www.ticketmaster.com or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.curiousgeorgelive.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. 703-293-6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County



There will be an Opening Reception for the "Pieces and Parts" experimental art forms show, 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2, at the Vienna Arts Society Art Center, 115 Peasant St. N.W. in Vienna. "Halls of Power", pictured above, is a mixed media painting by D. Marshall Elliott. 703-391-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

SHARE Food Drive. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Safeway, 7401 Colshire Drive, McLean. Volunteers will distribute a list of needed food and household supplies and collect donations. SHARE collects and distributes staples to local families in need, provides school supplies, furniture, transportation and emergency family assistance. 703-356-8224 or dwthmpsn@gmail.com.

Catherine Hillis Art Show and Reception. 6-9 p.m. at Applegate Gallery & Custom Framing, 101 Church St. N.W. Suite C, Vienna. nfo@applegateframing.com.

The Grandsons. 5 p.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Rock music. Free. 703-288-9505.

Left on Vermont, Subtle Body and Forevsner at 1 p.m., **The Nighthawks and Los Fabulocos** at 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 29

Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna Benefit Auction. 2-5 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. Closing reception and silent auction of donated artworks, to benefit the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Free admission, open to the public. 703-319-3971 or www.viennaartsociety.org.

Donna Summer. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$48 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-255-1868 or www.wolftrap.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.

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.

Curious George Live! 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. A musical about Curious George helping Chef Pisghetti save his restaurant. Tickets \$16-\$30, available at www.ticketmaster.com or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. www.curiousgeorgelive.com.

Summer on the Green: U.S. Navy 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.

Whamoo!, Home Brewed, Branch Avenue, Dominic Elliott, Nate Lukas, Richard Fercovic, Shoes and Jakob's Night. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

What's a Weed and What's Not. 2 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Join a walk in the garden to learn about invasive plants in our region. Discuss origins, control and identification of many weeds and their effects on local ecosystems. \$5. 703-255-3631.

MONDAY/AUG. 30

Joe Zelek, Tyler Toliver and Casey. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/AUG. 31

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax.

Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-790-8088.

Book Talk for Book Lovers. 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for title. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Madison High School Fall Kick-Off Festival. 5-8 p.m. 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Visit guidance department tables to register for PSATs or learn about the All-Night Graduation Party. Clubs and athletic teams will give out information, performances by dance and cheer teams, and the drama department will present their schedule for the year. krroberts@fcps.edu.

Brainfang and The Silver Liners. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 1

The Dear Hunter, O'Brother and Midnight Masses. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 2

Opening Reception for "Pieces and Parts". 6-8 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Society Art Center, 115 Peasant St. N.W. in Vienna. Experimental art forms show. 703-391-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

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INSIDERS GUIDE

Saturday mornings at Katie's Coffee old and sports cars are on display.



PHOTOS BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/ THE CONNECTION

Cool Things To Do on a Hot Summer Weekend

Things people do on hot summer days.

BY NIKKI CHESHIRE
THE CONNECTION

On hot summer days, most people tend to schedule trips to the pool or even just stay inside. But for the times when the heat is bearable, Great Falls hosts an array of activities to cure summer boredom and provide entertainment for the entire family.

Cars and Coffee

Every Saturday, from 7-9 a.m., the owners of both antique cars and sports cars, as well as admirers, meet at Katie's coffee to show off their possessions and look at others'.

"A few of my friends and I used to come up here and meet, and it gave us a chance to drive our cars, have coffee, and have them back in our garages by early morning," said Bob Morris, the unofficial founder of the weekly meeting. "It gave us a reason to drive, since we had talked about not wanting to go to shows."

"It's a great sense of community," said Kiri Pugh, a barista at Katie's Coffee. "It brings people together. We always try to find ways to make this town more cohesive."

Morris added that he had no idea that this would grow to be so big. "Now, people come all the way from Baltimore and Fredericksburg. It's great for our town at this beautiful coffee shop. It's really something special."

Farmers Market

In a parking lot near the Old Brogue on Saturday mornings from late April to late November, tents are set up, tables are unfolded, and produce is placed out in crates and baskets to be sold. Everything from locally grown fruits and bread to olive oil and



Lynn Voight offers all things olive at the Great Falls Farmers Market.



This time, car wash raised money for a local boys soccer team.



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SEE SUMMER WEEKEND,
PAGE 22

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INSIDERS GUIDE

Welcome to 'Saxon Country'

As we are approaching the beginning of yet another school year, The Connection has asked area schools' principals to respond to the following three back-to-school questions:

1. What is the most exciting news in your school approaching a new school year?
2. What is your single most important goal (in a new school year)?
3. Some of the upcoming events at the school?

Matthew J. Ragone, principal, Langley High School:

1. I am very excited about a renewed sense of spirit coming from our kids and our community. We have a new slogan, "This is Saxon Country." Whenever students or visitors come to Langley they should see this new pride and spirit on display. They will know they are in Saxon Country. Being in Saxon Country also means that our students take pride in our school and that they never do anything to disrespect their school.

2. Our most important goal is even higher academic achievement for all students.

3. Upcoming Events: Freshman Orientation – Sept. 1; Back to School Night for ninth and 10th – Sept. 29; Back to School Night for 11th and 12th – Oct. 7; Homecoming Week – Oct. 4 through Oct. 7. All Langley Alumni are welcome.

Ernie Leighty, principal, and **Barbara DeHart**, assistant principal, Great Falls Elementary:

1. Our renovations are almost complete and we have a beautiful new building. Besides new and improved classrooms, the renovations included a new library, courtyard, art room, stage, and cafeteria. The library features large windows making it bright and a cheerful place to cuddle up in the carpeted reading corner. The courtyard features tables for the children to work on. This space will give the children an opportunity to plant gardens. Plans are in place for a Japanese Garden, which will be located in the front of the school. Installation of the Garden will take place after school begins. The art room will allow students to work on a variety of projects. In the past, our art program was delivered to students from a cart holding the necessary supplies for each lesson taught. We are also pleased with our new cafeteria (with acoustical ceilings) which provides more room for our students. We also now have a large pull down projector screen to use for presentations.

2. Our single most important focus this year is to promote our learning communities. Our teams of teachers will be spending additional time planning for the individual needs of all students.

3. We will hold dedication ceremonies for our Japanese Garden and for our renovated building this coming year.

Matt Harris, principal, Forestville E.S.:

1. We are so excited about the PTA buying 13 SMARTBoards giving one to each classroom teacher. We are also excited about the continuation of data driven best practices utilizing Intervention and Enrichment time each day for all grades. We are also excited about our focus on inciting creativity in the children especially in light of the recent Newsweek cover story.

2. Adding that focus on creativity, kicked off by a workshop by Dr Carol Horn, coordinator of AAP K-12, to our staff and our continued success on the SOL tests is a strong goal. One hundred percent of our third graders passed the math SOL.



Matthew J. Ragone, principal, Langley High School



Ernie Leighty, principal, and **Barbara DeHart**, assistant principal, Great Falls Elementary:



Forestville Elementary Principal Matt Harris and Assistant Principal Kathleen Quigley.

PHOTO BY HANNA HOWARD/THE CONNECTION

INSIDERS GUIDE

Bringing History to Life

County's Virginia Room adds 574 photos to Library of Virginia's online database.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

A new partnership between the Virginia Room at the City of Fairfax Regional Library and the Library of Virginia will let residents all over the Commonwealth get a glimpse into the county's past.

A total of 574 photos were recently added to the Library of Virginia's online photo database, allowing residents from Reston and Herndon to Norfolk and Hampton Road to pore over photos showing the county's agrarian past, the important role it played during the Civil War and the rapid changes over the past few decades.

"This is a new way to show off digital pictures we have in the Virginia Room's collection," said Elaine McHale, a librarian in the Virginia Room, housed in the upper part of the library in the City of Fairfax.

Each county in Virginia has a Virginia Room, archiving documents, photos and maps, McHale said, but Fairfax County's is among the first in the region to have this kind of partnership.

PHOTOS can be searched by region, by date or by topic, McHale said. But the 574 photos available online are only a small fraction of the photos in the library's collection.

The photos might also be of interest to people who grew up in Fairfax County, who remember that Braddock Road used to be one lane in each direction, or who remember a time when Tysons Corner was populated by more cows than people.

The City of Fairfax Regional Library did have some photos available online before, McHale said, but the collection was taken down when the library's website was renovated.

"We had been looking for a place to display these photos and our administration contracted the Library of Virginia to see if they were interested," she said.

It took several months to select the photos to be included on the website, she said, but the time was well spent.

"Historians can use these photos for their books — we had one customer come in looking for a photo of Top's Drive-In when he was younger and we had it ready within minutes," McHale said.

Students wanting to research the Civil War can find a photo of a battlefield in Centreville on a cold winter day, steam rising from the nostrils of horses.

Or, if families have photos from Fairfax County's past, anything from farm records and family photos to homeroom pictures to subdivisions, the library would be happy to add to their collection,

"This is a new way to show off digital pictures we have in the Virginia Room's collection."

— Elaine McHale, Virginia Room librarian

McHale added.

"We have over 12,000 photos catalogued here, but there are thousands more and we're always looking to add," she said.

Prints of any photo can be purchased from the library for \$8, she said.

OVERALL, McHale said the library is "very proud," both of their in-house collection and their online offerings.

Suzanne Levy, another librarian at the Virginia Room, shares her sentiments.

"It gives us a new doorway to our collection by making this subset (of photos) available at a website not sponsored by Fairfax County," Levy said. "These photos are a window into the county's past."

While many residents aren't familiar with the county's more pastoral history, Fairfax County "used to be a major dairy producer in the state and our photo archive helps document that past with photos of small homes in wide open spaces, barns, county churches and schools, trolleys and train stations and aerial photos."

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FAITH

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

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

Good Shepherd Preschool, a new outreach ministry of the United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, opens on Sept. 14. The Preschool will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact 703-281-3987 ext. 18 or www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

Vienna Assembly of God has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or www.ViennaAG.com.

English classes at McLean Baptist Church on Mondays, including beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. Free class and reg-

istration, but students must buy their own books. 9:30 a.m. at 1367 Chain Bridge Road. 703-356-8080 or www.mcleanbaptist.org.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean. The third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available at the 10:15 a.m. service. 703-356-7533.

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

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

Charles Wesley and Chesterbrook United Methodist Churches invite the community to a 20-minute weekly service of prayer and Holy Communion in the Charles Wesley sanctuary, 6817 Dean Drive in McLean, at 12 p.m. Thursdays. At the conclusion of the service, there is a time of individual blessing, anointing and healing prayer. 703-356-6336.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed, strength is gained, and friendships are formed. Mondays 9:15 a.m. and Fridays 9:45 a.m. Childcare is free for registered students. E-mail bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org for more information.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

A **Centering Prayer Group** meets

Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, 1421 Whiele Ave. in Reston, will hold their 40th Anniversary Celebration at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 25. Former Space Shuttle Astronaut Tom Jones, Ph.D. will speak on "Reaching the Heavens," an astronaut's human and spiritual experiences during spaceflight, and whether America has a future in space exploration. Dr. Jones' books will be available for purchase and signing. stthomasabecketparish.org.

Upcoming Events

❖ **First Congenital Heart Walk**, Sept. 12, at George Mason University, 10 a.m., registration opens at 9 a.m. The walk is a joint effort between the Adult Congenital Heart Association and the Children's Heart Foundation. See www.congenitalheartwalk.org.

❖ **2010 Northern Virginia Memory Walk and Candlelight Rally** at Reston Town Center, 11921 Freedom Drive in Reston on Sunday, Sept. 26. (a 1 mile walk followed by a candlelight rally). 4 p.m. - Registration Opens; 6 p.m. - Program and Walk Begin; 7 p.m. - Candlelight Rally. Contact: 703-359-4440 or send an email to memorywalknova@alz.org

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INSIDERS GUIDE

The Year Langley Dethroned West Potomac Football

In 1991, Saxons ended Wolverines' hopes of a three-peat.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Twenty years ago, the West Potomac High football team was the standard for greatness throughout both the Northern Region and the state of Virginia. The Wolverines, under head coach Dan Meier, currently the principal at Robinson Secondary in Fairfax, had captured state crowns in both 1989 and 1990. Since the old Mount Vernon area high schools — Groveton and Fort Hunt — had combined to form West Potomac in 1985, West Potomac had, in just a few years, emerged into a high school football powerhouse.

In the fall season football playoffs of 1991, West Potomac was poised to make another strong run at both the region and state championships. But it was an opponent which had known little football success in its past — the Langley High Saxons — who would put a stop to the Wolverines' quest for continued greatness.

In that year's Division 5 region title game, the upstart Langley team, under head coach Fred Benevento, dethroned the Wolverines, 17-7, in the night time game played at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington.

With the setback, West Potomac saw its season end at 9-3 and also saw its nine-game postseason win streak come to a halt. It also fell short of one of its goals to become the first-ever Northern Region team to capture three straight region championships.

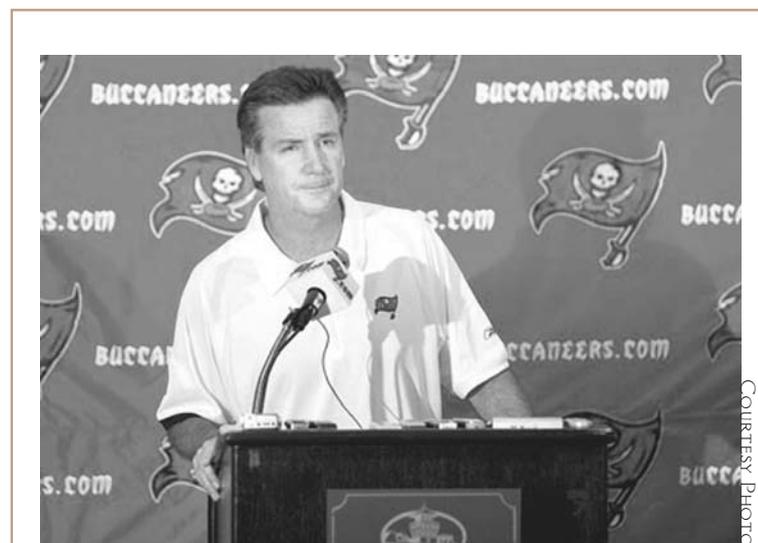
"I've always said about the playoffs that the downside is that every team, except for the state champion, ends the season on a down note," said Meier, who five years later would lead the Chantilly Chargers to a state title. "One of our goals was to be the first team to win three Northern Region titles."

West Potomac's playoff magic had finally worn off as Langley, which went 10-3 that season, busted through the Wolverines' defense for 239 rushing yards. It was the Wolverines' first postseason defeat since the 1988 Division 6 region title game when they had fallen to Robinson.

"It would have been a dream to get into the state playoffs again,"



In the 1991 Northern Region football playoffs, Langley upset two-time defending state champion West Potomac.



Former Tampa Bay Buccaneers General Manager Bruce Allen, a Langley High graduate, is now in the same position with the hometown Redskins.

Renowned Langley High Athletic Alumni

Bruce Allen - current General Manager of the Washington Redskins; served as GM for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2004-'08) and as Senior Executive of the Oakland Raiders (1996-2003); son of Hall of Fame coach George Allen, who led the Redskins to their first Super Bowl appearance in the 1972-73 season; brother of former Virginia governor and senator, also named George Allen; former Langley High student attended and played football (punter) at the University of Richmond (1974-'77); was selected by the old Baltimore Colts in the 12th round of the 1978 NFL Draft.

said Meier, quoted in the championship game story of the Nov. 27, 1991 edition of the Mount Vernon Gazette. "But they did to us what, in the past, we have done to other teams."

Langley, which had finished second behind South Lakes in the old

Great Falls District that autumn season, went on to lose in the state playoffs to E.C. Glass (Lynchburg), 12-6. But the Saxons had made their season a truly great one with the win over West Potomac. The Saxons, in that contest, played a near flawless game with no turn-

overs.

"They just dominated both sides of the line of scrimmage," said Meier, of the Saxons. "I was impressed. They're a heck of a football team."

LANGLEY LED 10-0 before West Potomac scored its first points of the game on a 39-yard scoring pass play with four minutes, 26 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Now trailing just 10-7, the Wolverines, who had come from behind the week before in a first round playoff win over Centreville, were right back in the game.

But Langley answered with its biggest scoring drive of the season, marching 66 yards on 10 plays. Saxons' running back Matt Clark, who rushed for 135 yards on 23 carries that night, scored from 2 yards out early in the fourth quarter and Langley was in control again at 17-7.

The key play on that so important scoring drive came from running back Henry Womack, who picked up 12 yards on a third-and-eight play to bring the ball to midfield. Later in the march, on a fourth-and-one, Clark picked up 2 yards.

Womack would finish the game with 83 yards on 16 carries with a touchdown.

"I really thought the third-and-eight play was a key play because at that time we had enthusiasm and the momentum," said Meier. "If we stop them, I think we have a good shot at winning. There's nothing more frustrating for a coach than being unable to stop the run. They just hammered it to us."

Late in the game, West Potomac moved the ball all the way to the Langley two yard line. But the Wolverines saw that drive end — and its chances of winning all but finished — when a fake field goal try was unsuccessful.

The 1991 season was a breakthrough campaign for a Langley football program which had never before even made the playoffs. Several Saxons were named to the Connection's All-Northern Virginia Football Team that season. Those players were: Jon Kiefaber (first team defensive end); Todd Bartholow (first team defensive tackle); Brien Davis (second team linebacker); and Dixon Croft (third team defensive tackle).



McLean High graduate Seth Greisinger, who pitched for the Detroit Tigers, won three games at the 1996 Olympic Games for the U.S. National Team.

Renowned McLean High Athletic Alumni

Eric Dorsey: former NFL defensive end and a 1982 McLean High graduate; forced 10 fumbles as a senior, helping lead the Highlanders' football team to a 10-1 record in 1981; earned All-State recognition as a high school senior; played collegiately at Notre Dame where he earned Honorable Mention All-American recognition following his senior season; selected in the first round of the 1986 NFL Draft by the New York Giants; started for the Giants in Super Bowl XXV; played seven years in the NFL (1986-'92), all with the Giants.

Seth Greisinger: McLean Class of 1993; baseball pitcher who was originally selected by the Cleveland Indians in the seventh round of the 1993 amateur draft; elected instead to play collegiately at the University of Virginia; as a junior starting pitcher at UVA, went 12-2 with a 1.76 ERA, earning First Team All-American honors; went 3-0 as a member of the 1996 U.S. Olympics baseball team that earned a bronze medal; chosen by the Detroit Tigers in the first round (sixth overall) of the 1996 draft; made his big league debut with Detroit on June 3, 1998; went 6-9 with a 5.12 ERA for the Tigers in that '98 season; career was curtailed by arm injuries from 1998-2002; spent brief stints with the Minnesota Twins and Atlanta Braves and finished his Major League career with a 10-16 record; played in the Japanese League beginning in 2007; finished with a 13-6 record and 3.47 ERA for the Yomiuri Giants in 2009, but missed the postseason due to elbow problems.

McLean Man Arrested on Child Porn Charges

Police arrested a 41-year-old McLean man on Monday, Aug. 9 after an in-depth investigation which began in May. Detectives charged him with five counts of possession of child pornography and one count of production of child pornography.

The investigation began after police received a report of a 15-year-old Centreville-area girl who was reported as a runaway. As police investigated this incident, detectives reportedly linked the McLean man to the girl through a series of online interactions. They believe the girl and the man met in person and he allegedly took photos of a sexual nature and transmitted them electronically.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

One Arrested At Sobriety Checkpoint

Fairfax County police officers from around the county conducted a sobriety checkpoint to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers on Friday, Aug. 20 from 11:30 p.m. until 2:30 a.m. Saturday. All motorists were stopped and drivers were checked to assure that their abilities to drive had not been impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Approximately 982 motorists passed through the checkpoint on Route 7 and Lewinsville Road. One arrest was made for DWI.

SHARE Food Drive Set for Aug. 28

The SHARE Food Drive will take place on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010 (from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at the Safeway, 7401 Colshire Drive in the Pimmit Hills neighborhood. Local volunteers will distribute a list of needed food and household supplies to customers as they enter the store and collect donations as customers leave the store.

All donations will be taken to the SHARE food pantry in the basement of the McLean Baptist Church. SHARE distributes food and household supplies (plus clothing) from this location on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

Interested volunteers should contact the Charles Wesley UMC Office CWUMC@earthlink.net or Dale Thompson dwthmpsn@gmail.com.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Change - For the Worse



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Of course, the Postal clerk wouldn't know I have cancer. How could she? It's not as if I am emblazoned with a scarlet "C" on my forehead (which is now mostly covered by a full head of hair, anyway) any more than I respond to any standard greeting by replying that I have cancer (see column entitled, "Fine," 8/4/2010). Still, in my head/brain, I can't help but filter everything I see - and hear, through that prism.

Consequently, when the clerk asked me if I wanted to buy a book of first class stamps (which I didn't need) to make her change-making of the twenty-dollar bill I had handed her less tedious (in fairness to her, all I owed was 34 cents. However, a twenty-dollar bill was all I had) and less problematic with respect to the cash she had in her register (now, in fairness to me; it was a Friday morning at 10 o'clock, she should have had plenty of cash on hand; it's the Post Office!), I hesitated. Not taking my hesitation sitting down (in point of actual fact, she was standing up), she proceeded to attempt to sell me on the benefits of buying 20 44-cent stamps: "They are a good investment. They're good to have." And then the killer, which sent me over the edge and onto a bit of a verbal tirade (although "tirade" is too strong a characterization of my outburst, even "outburst" is too strong a characterization. How about mild rebuke?): "They're forever stamps, they last for like 100 years." And before I went off, I went on the following internal thought process: As a cancer patient OR ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING having as a reason to buy stamps, that they will forever be first-class appropriate regardless of future price hikes - "for 100 hundred years," matters to me because, I'LL STILL BE LIVING IN 100 YEARS. Well, that finished me, or rather started me:

"What do you mean, 'They're good to have?' Is the Post Office closing tomorrow or something? Are you never opening again? 'Good investment?' Are my stamps gaining value every day that I don't use them? '100 years?' Is that reason to buy stamps so that I can still use them in a hundred years? That's so not that point."

Now my question is, if I were not living with a life expectancy-challenged time line, would I have reacted (you'll note, I didn't say, overreacted) in a similar fashion? Would the illogical ludicrousness of what she rationalized as reasons for me needing to buy stamps set me off in fact I had 100 years still to live (instead of 100 days, hopefully a lot more, or less), not considering for a second whether the Post Office, as we know it, would itself even be around in 100 years? (I only know that it's pretty unlikely that I'll be around in 100 years.) The point is moot. I can't change who I am now and/or how I view the world - especially since I've become a member of the cancer club. I am forever affected by its insidious growth inside my body.

I don't blame the clerk for her ridiculous reasoning any more than I apologize for questioning her logic. It's not about her. It's about me. I don't want it to be, but it is. Cancer changes everything, even something as simple as a visit to the Post Office.

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

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
2248 Central Avenue, Vienna, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Ahmed Umar, dated June 14, 2004, and recorded June 15, 2004, in Deed Book 16167 at page 2029 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

Friday, September 3, 2010 at 11:30 a.m.

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

Lot 18-B, Campbell's Landing, Section One as per subdivision plat recorded in Deed Book 7619 at page 1982 as corrected and re-recorded in Deed Book 7661 at page 485, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 2248 Central Avenue, Vienna, Virginia 22182.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$75,000.00 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 3.25 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

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

ABC LICENSE

Burke Retirement Center Limited Partnership trading as Heatherwood Retirement Community, 9642 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Mixed Beverage on Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. W. Heywood Fralin, President, Retirement Unlimited, Inc.

ABC LICENSE

Mad Rose, Inc trading as Mad Rose Tavern, 3100 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Beer, Wine and Mixed Beverage on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Naeem Mohd (president)

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ABC LICENSE

Prathumwal Uthes trading as Burapa Thai and Sushi Restaurant 1210 N. Garfield Street, Arlington, VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Mixed Beverage on premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Prathumwal Uthes, owner.

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In July, the Great Falls Library featured Christin Boggs' artwork.

PHOTOS BY
NIKKI CHESHIRE/
THE CONNECTION

Summer Weekend in Great Falls

FROM PAGE 15

quilt weavings can be purchased at the Great Falls Farmers Market.

"We started out over at St. Francis Church, but we moved here three years ago," said James Monroe, the market manager and owner of the Baguette Republic, a stand stocked full of fresh breads. "Great Falls needs centers like this," he said, adding that the proceeds from renting the space go towards the Great Falls Charitable Foundation.

"I've been here since last year," said Alma Diaz, an owner at one of the many fruit stands. "I heard about Great Falls from people who manage at another market. I like it here and I'm gonna keep coming back."

Car Wash

While driving through Great Falls, it's hard to not see children holding handmade signs advertising their car wash every so often. At the Exxon station on the corner across from the shopping center, it's a common sight to see dozens of children with sponges working hard to raise money for their schools, sports teams or other recreational groups.

"We've been hosting these groups for the past 12 years," said manager Saman Limouee. "Even though we just switched over to city water and now have to pay for what the kids use, we don't charge them for it. We do it for charity, to be part of the community."

Limouee smiled when he pointed to the car wash schedule displayed on a whiteboard hanging next to the front door of the convenience mart at the station. "We're usually packed every weekend with

local groups looking for a place to hold a car wash."

Library Art and Summer Reading

One way to stay inside without sitting at home is to visit the Great Falls Library. In their conference rooms, the library cycles through displaying art from members of the community and Great Falls Studios. In July, work from Christin Boggs' "Produce" collection lined the edges of the large room.

"We've been hosting art from Great Falls Studios artists since we opened in 2000," said branch manager Daniela Dixon. "They organize themselves. We just offer the room and they have the freedom to give studio tours and have open houses."

New art comes in on a month to month basis, and always features a local artist.

"In addition to the art, we offer a summer reading program for the kids," Dixon said. "They can come here, get reading logs and come see various performances and events like magic shows and story times."

Concerts on the Green

Every Sunday evening in Village Centre, people gather in front of the gazebo and unfold lawn chairs, lay out blankets and unpack coolers and picnic baskets in preparation for the weekly concert. Artists come from all over to perform their songs and covers for the Great Falls community.

Recently, the Smallwood Brothers performed, Tom from Leesburg and Gary from Alaska, and with no relation to one another.

During the Smallwood Brothers' performance, two friends were celebrating their birthdays at a large table set off to the edge of the sidewalk. Karen Fatherree and Rachel McLeod gathered with a large group of friends to celebrate at the concert. "My friends thought it would be fun," Fatherree said. "And it is exceptional."

The Smallwood Brothers perform at the Great Falls Summer Concerts on the Green.



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