

# Great Falls CONNECTION

## Dogs' Life in Great Falls

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 15

Vanessa Doyle, owner of the two-year-old Great Falls Paws & Claws pet sitting, and Peanut take a walk at the overlooks in Great Falls Park following the last week's snowstorm.

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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

## Great Falls To 'Elect' Village Bird Symbol

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## PET CONNECTION



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**Mallory, Harrison and Chase Langpaul of Great Falls build a 9-foot snowman following the recent snowstorms in the area.**



## Shelter from the Storm

**Community network comes through for people during storm.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s last Wednesday's rain turned to sleet and then to snow, many commuters in this area faced an afternoon commute that took them hours, even if the roads were passable. For others who weren't able to leave work early, they faced the prospect of spending the night at the office, or worse yet, stuck in their vehicle.

One of the avenues that helped people from around the area find a way home and up to date with the traffic situation was the myNeighborsNetwork, based in Great Falls. The local information network was used to share and distribute information from people on the roads, county and state agencies and people who were in need of supplies or a ride.

"We just tried to do anything we could to get people home safely and out of the way of the fire department and other emergency services," said Sharon Rainey. "This was one of the first storms we've dealt with where a lot of people were out when it hit."

**"This was one of the first storms we've dealt with where a lot of people were out when it hit."**

— Sharon Rainey

**JUST AFTER 5 P.M.**, last Wednesday, the network began reporting accidents, many in the Great Falls area. Downed trees as well as flipped and abandoned cars caused accidents and traffic jams, and police and emergency personnel often found it hard to make it to the accident scenes, due to the volume of incidents, as well as the weather itself, according to reports from the network.

Elaine and Jeff Tholen, of Great Falls left their house at 3:15 p.m. Wednesday to bring groceries to a friend on the other side of Great Falls, and didn't get home until almost 9:30 p.m.

"We called home and had them check the network for road updates as we were making our way about.

What a mess," Elaine Tholen said. "Lots of people in the ditches and lots of people helping."

By midnight Thursday, there were reports from network members of at least 22 abandoned cars in Tysons Corner and Great Falls.

Many people who weren't able to leave work early found themselves stuck at the office or in traffic, running low on food and gas. Rainey said members of the network came through in a hurry to help give people a ride home when needed.

"By the time I went to bed at around 10:30, there were only three people who weren't home yet," Rainey said. "And I kept getting e-mail from people, making sure everyone got home OK. I'm grateful for everybody who sent in information and was willing to help. I was amazed by how many people wanted to do their part, to help each other out."

Karen Meengs of Great Falls followed updates throughout the evening. She said she was heartened to read the updates of community members banding together and helping out.

"Both my husband and I followed [the network's] e-mail news throughout the night and we're so grateful to be part of this town," she said. "We've been here for 20 years, but until that night I don't think either one of us had ever felt that we were a part of the community, that we could and would have each other's back in an emergency."

Ellen Myseros of Fairfax called it a "great service to our neighborhood."

**SOME EVEN** used it to monitor conditions from afar. Donna Mastran of Great Falls wasn't even in the state of Virginia, she was in Nashville, Tenn., but kept up to date with the storm even when almost 700 miles away.

"The myNeighborsNetwork gave me great insight to what was going on and we were able to stay in touch with family and friends," Mastran said. "I think we were one of the few houses that didn't lose electricity so we were able to offer it to members of our family whose power was out."

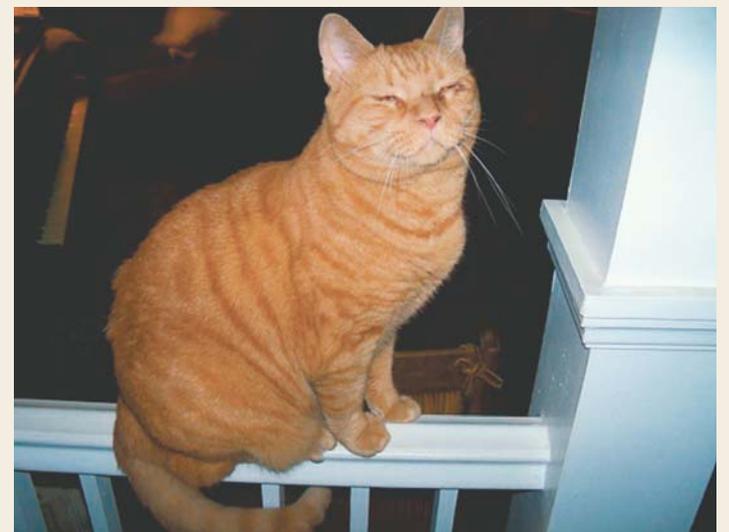
More information on myNeighborsNetwork can be found at [www.myneighborsnetwork.com](http://www.myneighborsnetwork.com).

## PET CONNECTION



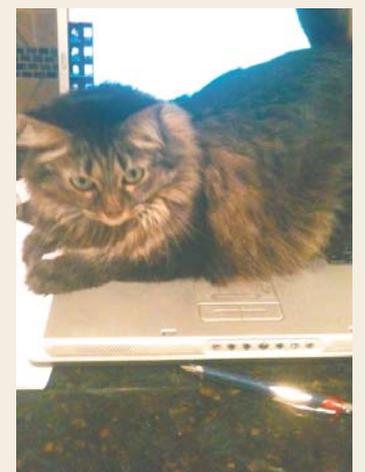
### Ressie Rules

**Janie Strauss, Dranesville Representative on Fairfax County School Board, submitted this photo of "Ressie, the high-tech cat." Ressie prefers sleeping on Strauss' computer and has walked across the keys many a time disrupting whatever she was working on. Ressie lives in Strauss' home office and guards it fiercely from another pet, a boxer dog named Akira. Although small in stature, Ressie rules the territory.**



### Mr. Giant Poses As a Circus Cat

**Jack Nutter of Great Falls has sent this photo of Mr. Giant, a 6-year-old big orange Tabby. He loves to show off as a circus cat by walking on a thin rail. He strides back and forth, adroitly turning around with gravity defying deft. After he shows off, he poses and then gives a cat smile.**



### Shania Likes Books, Cagney Computer

**John Murray of Great Falls has two cats: Shania (left) loves to be in the library but Cagney spends all day on the computer.**

From left, Jeff, Amanda, 12, and Sharon Johnson. Amanda has survived two bouts with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and will spend the next few months speaking to schools about her experiences as part of the Leukemia-Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients Program.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION

# Telling Her Story

Cancer survivor Amanda Johnson, 12, helps to raise awareness of disease.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

In August of 2008, Amanda Johnson of Great Falls was on vacation with her family in South Dakota, just before starting the fourth grade. She began feeling ill and it quickly turned into a fever and chills.

"It was 90 degrees, but I was wearing sweaters and using blankets," she said. "I also itched a lot, had very high fevers, had headaches and was having night sweats. I was taking two or three hour naps in the middle of the day."

Her parents took her to the hospital, and there they got chilling news.

"They took some X-Rays, and when they got the results back, the doctor came up to us and asked us to step in the other room," said Jeff Johnson, Amanda's father. "There was a tumor about the size of a softball in her chest."

**AMANDA JOHNSON** was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma and immediately began treatment. By New Year's Eve 2008, she was deemed cancer free.

But in March 2009, she began feeling sick again and it was confirmed that she relapsed. During treatment, Amanda Johnson lost her hair three times, and when it grew back, her straight golden blond hair was dark and curly. After chemotherapy and a stem cell transplant, Amanda Johnson has been cancer free for the past 17 months.

Even though Amanda Johnson has been in remission since the summer of 2009, she and her parents are still wary of a relapse. As Amanda says, "every time I cough my mom freaks out."

During her ordeal, the Johnsons were able to network and receive support and help from many children's cancer organizations, including the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

"We're lucky, we have good jobs, work supported us and we had good insurance," Jeff Johnson said. "But we saw a lot of families that were driven into

bankruptcy because of medical costs and the society helps with things like that."

Amanda Johnson has been named one of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Honored Heroes for this year and she will be speaking with schools as part of the group's Pennies for Patients program.

Pennies for Patients is a three-week program that schools participate in where students collect spare change. Some hold related assemblies or other educational programs. Amanda Johnson will be on posters distributed to local schools and she has been offered a chance to speak at schools around the area.

Even at her young age, she is no stranger to speaking in front of large groups. Amanda Johnson has addressed congress and been interviewed by Chris Matthews, as well as participated in local public service announcements.

"We see her doing really good things. We've seen the impact she's had on our family, friends and people she's come in contact with," said Sharon Johnson, Amanda's mother. "She's been there, so who better to hear from than a child that's actually had the disease?"

**We've seen the impact she's had on our family, friends and people she's come in contact with."**

— Sharon Johnson, Amanda's mother

Sharon Johnson is herself a Hodgkin's survivor — she had it in her 20s. But she said it's a completely different thing when children get the disease.

"Kids don't do anything to get cancer," she said. "They don't smoke, they don't drink — it's just not right when it happens so young."

Jeff Johnson remembers when his wife had the disease. He "knew what Sharon had gone through, and I kept thinking I don't want Mandy to go through that."

**NOW AMANDA** Johnson is mostly back to her normal life. She still gets tired a lot and former hobbies like horseback riding haven't been possible yet, but she still keeps busy. She is interested in photography and is currently writing a script for a short movie she hopes to make.

She also loves animals, and hopes to be a veterinarian when she's older.

"The mantra is: I beat cancer, I can beat anything," Jeff Johnson said. "That's a great attitude for kids to have."

*Pennies for Patients will be taking place in February and March. For more information, or to register a school for the program, visit [www.schoolandyouth.org/nca](http://www.schoolandyouth.org/nca).*



PHOTO BY RANDY BANKS

Artist Jill Banks has a new project, 100 Faces in 100 Days, where she will attempt to paint 100 portraits in 100 days.

## Capturing 100 Likenesses

Artist Jill Banks aims to paint 100 portraits in 100 days.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

As 2010 came to a close Reston resident and member of Great Falls Studios Jill Banks had gone a long time without painting. A move and other scheduling conflicts had led her to more time away from painting than she had in the seven years since she started.

"For me, it's always about 'what am I going to paint tomorrow?' At the end of the year, I was thinking about painting, and what motivates me," Banks said. "And I realized I like working from life, I'm fascinated by people."

Banks decided that she wanted to get to know 100 people this year, and her project was born: 100 Faces in 100 Days. Banks will paint a portrait of one person a day for the first 100 days of 2011, each on a one foot by one foot square of wood. Her subjects come from all walks of life, and have been as young as six months and as old as 94.

She said she first got the idea from artist Rose Frantzen, who painted 180 people from her hometown of Maquoketa, Iowa. Banks said after seeing a video about the project, the enthusiasm of the artist inspired her.

"She seemed so excited about the project, about what she had discovered in meeting so many people," Banks said. "They're

taking the time out of their busy lives to sit down, and it's nice to really learn about someone."

**BANKS SAID** she first imagined that each portrait would only take an hour or two, but soon found that the process became more personal than just a time limit. They spend the session talking, and the subject does not pose. Instead, Banks lets her interaction with the subjects shape the likeness she paints.

"At the end of each session, no one has thought about how much time has gone by," she said. "I don't want to stop painting, and they don't want to leave."

One of her subjects, 10-year-old Rachel Slafsky of Vienna, even played clarinet at the end of their session.

"Seeing the portrait evolve was pretty neat," said Diane Slafsky, Rachel's mother, who was present during the session. "I think Rachel looks a little older in the picture, but I see where [Banks] got her ideas from."

Rachel Slafsky has become a dedicated follower of the project, Banks' blog every day for the newest entry.

"I was really excited when I heard I was going to get painted, that's never happened before," Rachel Slafsky said. "Now I check the website out a

SEE PAINTING, PAGE 5

# NEWS

Rachel Slafsky, 10, of Vienna, stands next to her completed portrait. Slafsky was face number two in Jill Banks' 100 Faces in 100 Days project.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Painting 100 Portraits in 100 Days

FROM PAGE 4

lot, I'm very interested in the project."

Banks says the paintings aren't exact reproductions of the subject, but more of an interpretation.

"This isn't necessarily how they see themselves, but how someone else sees them. I'm hard on myself when it comes to getting the

likeness of a person down, it's a blurred image that I need to clear up," Banks said. "Photographs are nice, but they're not nearly as inspiring as the energy that comes from being in front of people."

Banks says she doesn't yet know what she's going to do with her 100 faces when the project is completed. One of her ideas involves and exhibit where she invites all

the subjects together to see their painted counterparts.

**UPDATES ON THE PROJECT** come with every new face, and Banks posts the portrait on her website, in addition to photographs of the process, and sometimes the person with their portrait. Updates on the project can be found at [jillbanks.blogspot.com](http://jillbanks.blogspot.com).

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**Surrounded by an aviary of bird images, Richard Suib shows off 'pigment prints' of Great Falls birds, many photographed in his backyard. "My Backyard Birds," his one-man exhibition of avian species found in Great Falls, opened Feb. 1 at the Great Falls Library and helps to kick-off the bird election.**



**Abstract portraits of Great Falls birds painted by Jennifer Duncan will be on display with other bird art at an exhibition that opened Feb. 1 at the Artists Atelier, a working studio of 17 Great Falls painters and photographers. The whimsical painting on top, just behind Duncan, features all seven of the bird candidates.**

PHOTOS BY AL REITAN

# Great Falls To 'Elect' Village Bird Symbol

**Polls open as artists, schools, civic groups and the National Audubon Society celebrate parks, wildlife and human creativity.**

In an election campaign that may have national significance in both the art world and the world of ornithology, the local art group Great Falls Studios and the National Audubon Society, together with Great Falls and Forestville elementary schools and various Great Falls civic groups, have announced a village-wide celebration to select a bird that best represents Great Falls and to become its symbol.

This election of a community bird will be accompanied by a series of art and other events that began Feb. 1 and will last for five months. Activities include a photography contest open to all residents of Great Falls and a count of backyard birds. Selection of the winning bird will be determined by a village-wide vote, already in progress, that will conclude in mid-May. The entire program, which is called "Vote 2011: Wings Across Great Falls," could become a model for other cities around the country to combine bird conservation and art, thus drawing national attention to Great Falls.

"Every state has a bird symbol, but most towns and cities do not," said Jonathan Fisher, a local sculptor who was instrumental in organizing the event. "The artist members of Great Falls Studios wanted to demonstrate that art can have a concrete impact on life in our community and the Audubon Society wanted to promote its Great Backyard Bird Count, an annual census of birds conducted by 'citizen scientists.' Schools and other local civic groups joined in. The result is a major community celebration of wildlife, parks and trails, as well as of human creativity featuring art and pho-

tos of the 169 bird species found here."

**IN ADDITION** to the schools and the art group, the other local organizations participating represent a cross-section of Great Falls. They are the Great Falls Citizens Association, Great Falls Business and Professional Association, Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, Great Falls Community Library, Great Falls National Park, Friends of Riverbend Park, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and Great Falls Elementary School Art Enhancement Program.

In agreeing to take part in a local event, the Audubon Society, a national conservation organization committed to protecting birdlife, has recognized the importance of art and its intersection with saving birds and other wildlife.

"Art as a way to celebrate and protect nature has a long tradition in the United States," said Judy Braus, Vice President of Education and Centers, National Audubon Society. "If every city and town across America used art and photography to help



**At his home studio, painter Ben Cheshire puts finishing touches on a pastel of the Great Blue Heron, one of seven bird candidates that may become the official Great Falls bird symbol. As the bird election gears up, artists and photographers across Great Falls are creating art featuring all seven of the birds.**

ready nominated by ornithology and art experts. The objective was to select representatives of species from different Great Falls habitats that would best represent the community. The candidates are the Pileated Woodpecker, Wild Turkey, Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, Eastern Bluebird, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Great Blue Heron and American Goldfinch. Children and adults are expected to campaign for "their favorite feathered friend" in what the organizers hope will be a spirited debate to decide which bird candidate would best serve as the community symbol. Write-in candidates will be accepted.

Students vote in their schools. Election Day at Great Falls Elementary School is May 11. Election Day at Forestville Elementary School is May 9. For all others, voting will take place online at the website of Great Falls Studios ([www.GreatFallsStudios.com](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com)) from Feb. 1 to May 15. There will also be a polling site on May 1 at the Great Falls Spring Festival. Prizes, including original mugs produced by Great Falls potters, will be given away as an inducement for residents to vote online. Area businesses also are donating prizes for this purpose. Prize winners will be selected at random from those who vote

build interest in local birds, think of the positive impact on conservation."

The Great Falls village bird symbol will be picked from seven avian candidates al-

# WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

## Langley Crew Team 'Rows for the Cure'

On Feb. 5, the Langley High School Crew team will participate in their annual fundraiser – a rowing machine match-up against West Springfield High School's Crew team. But this year will be a little different.

Thanks to senior rower Max Heilbrunn, the Langley crew team will also be rowing for a cure to breast cancer.

Max is a member of the National Honor Society and as he researched a project for volunteering in

the community, he realized he could combine two important interests – rowing and finding a cure for breast cancer. Max discovered Row for the Cure and brought the organization to the attention of his team.

Row for the Cure is a foundation designed to help promote breast cancer awareness among the rowing world and is affiliated with the Susan G. Komen foundation which is one of the largest breast cancer awareness foundations in the world. This year, Langley Crew will donate 10% of all funds raised above the team fundraising goal to Row for the Cure ([www.rowfortheCure.com](http://www.rowfortheCure.com)).

To donate to the Langley Crew team and Row for the Cure, please go to [www.langleycrew.com](http://www.langleycrew.com).

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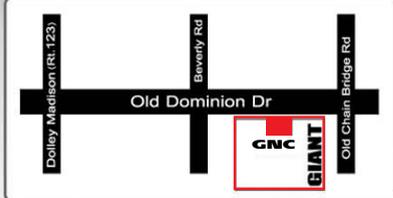
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# OPINION

## Making One's Own Pet Connection

We love our pets, but millions more need homes.

**A**re you considering adopting an dog or a cat or another animal? Be sure to rescue one in need.

More people have turned in pets to animal shelters in the past couple of years, in part because of the recession and increased foreclosures.

Approximately 6-to-8 million pets end up in animal shelters each year, according to The Humane Society of the United States. Of that number, 3-to-4 million are adopted, but the remaining 3-to-4 million pets end up being euthanized.

Here are a few places to adopt a pet who needs a home. There are many rescue organizations, including some that specialize in particular breeds. There are also networks of people, like PetConnect, mostly communicating on the internet, who help save adoptable animals from overcrowded shelters from near and far.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Who Is 'Out of Order'

To the Editor:

I witnessed something troubling during a hearing in the Virginia Senate last Tuesday. In an effort to prevent debate on important issues facing our state, our state senator, Democrat Janet Howell, chair of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee, arbitrarily shut down discussion and ruled that issues brought in front of her committee were "out of order." Were they out of order? Absolutely not. Taken from the playbooks used by Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Senator Harry Reid, Janet Howell prevented even a discussion on legislation critical to our state and our economic progress.

What were the issues she ruled "out of order?" Bills dealing with the Commonwealth's Right-to-Work laws (a key reason Virginia is #3 in jobs growth in the US,) and a Repeal Amendment against the unpopular, job-killing healthcare bill that many felt was forced upon Virginia by President Obama, Reid and Pelosi last year. It's telling that Senator Howell and her Democrat colleagues deliberately broke the rules and sought to avoid having to vote on these measures. Virginia voters sent a message in November that they want government to encourage businesses that create jobs and

grow our economy — not to discourage them. And they want greater transparency in the legislative process. Senator Howell apparently doesn't share these priorities or democratic principles. Politics is about debating differences. But when one party — and one individual — attempts to prevent debate in order to push an agenda dictated by special interests (in this case, labor unions), it's time for the voters to stand up and ask "Why?" and just who is "out of order?"

**Caren Merrick**  
McLean

*The writer is the candidate for the Virginia Senate, District 32, currently represented by Janet Howell.*

#### Gridlock in Richmond

To the Editor:

Governor McDonnell's transportation plan has two major flaws: it is fiscally irresponsible, and it gives priority to sprawl-inducing road projects over mass transit and other projects that would actually reduce our hours spent in traffic.

Virginia has a backlog of road and bridge maintenance that runs to more than 4 billion dollars. The governor wants to sell bonds to pay for these critical needs because his political base won't per-

#### Some Places to Adopt

**Fairfax County Animal Shelter:** Dogs, cats and other pets are available for adoption at the Animal Shelter Tuesday – Friday, noon – 7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, 703-830-1100 Some animals available for adoption can be viewed online. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/adoption.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/adoption.htm)

**Fairfax County Humane Society,** [www.hsfc.org](http://www.hsfc.org), 4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax; 703-385-7387. FCHS also operates two thrift stores. Second Chance 1 Thrift Store, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 4055 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax; 703-385-3064. Second Chance 2, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 929 West Broad Street, Falls Church, 703-533-9268

**Pet Connect,** [www.petconnectrescue.org](http://www.petconnectrescue.org)

### EDITORIALS

#### Super Bowl Parties, Fun and Safe

This year's Super Bowl might even turn out to be a game worth watching.

Super Bowl parties are fun even for those who are not big football fans. It's a great reason to get together at home or out in a restaurant or bar with friends.

Just be sure that you or your guests get home safely.

The McLean-based organization Washington Regional Alcohol Program suggests tips for safe celebrating to on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6. During Super Bowl Sunday 2009, 50 percent of all U.S. crash fatalities included drivers who were intoxicated according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Plan ahead: designate a driver if you're celebrating with alcohol, or use alternative transportation like taxi or public transportation.

If you're hosting the Super Bowl party: serve high protein food like meats and cheeses with alcohol; serve non-alcoholic beverages as an option; designate a bartender so guests don't mix their own drinks; close the bar at least an hour before you expect your guests to be leaving; don't serve alcohol to anyone who appears to be impaired; never serve minors; never allow anyone who has had too much to drink to get behind the wheel.

If you're driving on Super Bowl evening (or anytime), wear your seatbelt. "Wearing a seatbelt may be your best defense against a drunk driver," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP director. "The routine wearing of seatbelts is the single most effective measure to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries."

Board is considering a proposal to delegate authority to the superintendent to establish the length of the school day. The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area spoke against this policy change at the Dec. 2 School Board meeting. This is such a major change that it should have been discussed widely and received more public attention. The League supports well defined channels for community input and review for FCPS policies. Setting the amount of time that students will be in school is a fundamental responsibility of local school boards: this decision should not be delegated to the superintendent or any other employee.

**Virginia Fitz Shea,**  
chairman  
Schools Committee  
League of Women Voters of the  
Fairfax Area

#### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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Call: 703-778-9410.  
By e-mail:  
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#### Major Change

To the Editor:  
The Fairfax County School

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# WEDDING

## Lindsey R. Welch and Christopher D. Whelan

Lindsey R. Welch and Christopher D. Whelan exchanged vows Aug. 7 at the Donovan Pavilion in Vail, Colo., where a reception with dinner and dancing followed.

Lindsey is the daughter of Connie and Bill Welch of Denver, Colo. Christopher is the son of Dolly and David Whelan of Great Falls.

Lindsey is currently the Assistant Athletic Director at the National Cathedral School in Washington D.C. and Christopher is the owner of Overtime Athletics and the boys' head varsity basketball coach at Herndon High School.

The couple spent their honeymoon in Aruba and currently reside in Reston.



Lindsey R. Welch and Christopher D. Whelan

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**Cindy Grisdela, a contemporary art quilter in Great Falls, has an exhibit titled 'Color Explorations' at Great Falls wine shop Maison du Vin.**

PHOTO BY AL REITAN

## Contemporary Art Quilt Exhibit at Maison du Vin

Cindy Grisdela, a contemporary art quilter, has an exhibit of her work at Maison du Vin, a wine shop in the Great Falls Village Center, through Feb. 28. The exhibit, titled "Color Explorations," showcases Grisdela's use of color and graphic design to create textile art.

"I'm fascinated by color and the way colors interact," Grisdela said. "Experimenting with colors is one of my favorite parts of the artistic process and I like to think of myself as using fabric the way a painter might use paint to create interesting compositions that cause the viewer to take more than one look."

In the beginning of her artistic career, Grisdela used traditional methods and patterns and made many of her quilts by hand to decorate her home and to give as gifts. Over the past 10 years she has explored more contemporary methods, using her sewing machine to create her own designs. These contemporary quilts are designed intuitively. Because there's no pattern to follow, the design evolves organically with each decision influencing the next. The interplay of color and design in these pieces is integral to the creative process.

"In some ways it's similar to putting a jigsaw puzzle together, but without the picture on the box to guide me," Grisdela said. This process sometimes takes a good deal of time, because the design rarely comes together in one sitting.

All of the pieces in the exhibit are designed to hang on the wall. Grisdela's work has been shown in local shows in the D.C. metro area and nationally in venues from New York to California. She has recently been chosen for representation by



PHOTO BY GREG STALEY

**'Intersections' is one of the contemporary art quilts on display through the end of February at Maison du Vin in Great Falls.**

Chasen Galleries, a fine art gallery in Richmond ([www.chasengalleries.com](http://www.chasengalleries.com))

Cindy Grisdela has been a quilt artist for more than 20 years. She holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from William and Mary as well as an MBA from George Washington University. Grisdela has been a Great Falls resident since 1995, when she moved from McLean with her husband and two sons. In 2006 she joined Great Falls Studios ([www.greatfallsstudios.com](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com)), a group of over 80 artists who live or work in Great Falls, for the opportunity to interact with other artists. She is currently on the board of directors of the group. For more information, visit her website and blog at [www.cindygrisdela.com](http://www.cindygrisdela.com).

*Maison du Vin is located at 756 Walker Road, Suite D, in Great Falls. Hours are Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday noon to 5 p.m. For more information visit [www.maison-duvin.com](http://www.maison-duvin.com)*

## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 2

**Bands without Borders Featuring Brother Shamus, The Weatherwanes and Half Brother.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).  
**Buckwheat Zydeco.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Louisiana zydeco music. \$24. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### THURSDAY/FEB. 3

**An Evening with Todd Wright and Cal Everett.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).  
**Author Sandra Parshall.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The author will sign and read from "Broken Places". [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 4

**"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire.** 8 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststageysons.org](http://www.1ststageysons.org).

**Mark Morris Dance Group.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The D.C. area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, plus "Going Away Party," "Silhouettes" and "Excursions." A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Ellis Paul.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.  
**"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy" with Steve Solomon.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The hilarious story of a man whose family has driven him from the dinner table straight into the therapist's chair. \$30. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

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### BULLETIN BOARD

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

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 2

**Raise Your Child's Social IQ: Stepping Stones to People Skills for Kids.** 7:30 p.m. Flint Hill Elementary, 2444 Flint Hill Road, Vienna. With author, social worker and psychotherapist Cathi Cohen. Open to parents of Flint Hill Elementary or Thoreau Middle School students. [www.fhespta.org](http://www.fhespta.org).

**A Parent's Guide to Children's Music.** 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn about music for kids that won't drive parents crazy. Musicians Cathy and Marcy and agent Alisa Carr Kaeser will discuss the benefits that quality music can provide and give parents an insider's look at the latest in music for youth. 703-790-9223.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 3

**Volunteers for Change Orientation.** 6-7 p.m. Whole Foods, 143 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Weekend and weekday evening projects. Register at 703-246-3895 or [aduffield@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:aduffield@volunteerfairfax.org).  
**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.** 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax, 2709



**Rona Fisher ([www.ronafisher.com](http://www.ronafisher.com)) will be one of the artists at McLean Community Center's 4th Annual Jewelry Showcase, Saturday, Feb. 5 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Many of the artisans participating in the show will take custom orders. Admission is \$3, and a coupon for \$1 off can be downloaded from [www.mcleancenter.org/special-events/jewelry.asp](http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events/jewelry.asp). 703-790-0123.**

**Jewish & I'm in Therapy" with Steve Solomon.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The hilarious story of a man whose family has driven him from the dinner table straight into the therapist's chair. \$30. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 5

**McLean Community Center 4th Annual Jewelry Showcase.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Admission \$3. 703-790-0123.

**"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire.** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststageysons.org](http://www.1ststageysons.org).  
**Mark Morris Dance Group.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The D.C. area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, plus "Going Away Party," "Silhouettes" and "Excursions." A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. 703-281-9515.

**Welcome Club of Northern Virginia Luncheon.** 11 a.m. at Maggiano's Restaurant at Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. "Nana Technology: Improving the Quality of Life for Seniors." \$30. Registration required at [www.welcomclubnvirginia.com](http://www.welcomclubnvirginia.com).

**Flamenco Dance.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Ten weekly lessons, Thursdays through April 7. No dance experience necessary. Class will cover castanets, footwork, arms, claps, sevillanas (4 short dances) and a rumba. A long, full skirt, T-shirt and shoes with a low, strong heel and a strap across the instep required. Castanets available for purchase for \$25. \$120, \$90 district residents. [www.mcleancenter.org/classes](http://www.mcleancenter.org/classes).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 4

**Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary Scrapbooking Weekend.** 6 p.m.-12 a.m. VVFD, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Vendors, supplies and expert advice available. Meals available for purchase. \$45-\$55. Proceeds benefit the VVFD. [amy.vernon@vvfd.org](mailto:amy.vernon@vvfd.org) or 703-281-5797.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 5

**Vienna Volunteer Fire Department**

George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The D.C. area premiere of "Petrichor," set to the music of Heitor Villa-Lobos, plus "Going Away Party," "Silhouettes" and "Excursions." A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**An Evening With The Nighthawks.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Friends of the Library Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. [TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com](mailto:TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com).  
**Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association.** Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lesson at 7:30 p.m., advanced beginner West Coast Swing lesson 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. Couples and singles welcome. Admission \$5-\$12.

**Auxiliary Scrapbooking Weekend.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. VVFD, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Vendors, supplies and expert advice available. Meals available for purchase. \$45-\$55. Proceeds benefit the VVFD. [amy.vernon@vvfd.org](mailto:amy.vernon@vvfd.org) or 703-281-5797.

**V-Day Oakton 2011 Auditions for "A Monologue, A Memory, A Rant and A Prayer."** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. V-Day is a global activist movement to end violence against women and girls. Registration required at [www.vdayoakton2011.weebly.com](http://www.vdayoakton2011.weebly.com)

### TUESDAY/FEB. 8

**Langley "Saxophone" Dance Team Clinic.** 4:40 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. For 4th-8th graders with all levels of dance experience. [wanda.brown@gmail.com](mailto:wanda.brown@gmail.com).  
**Vienna Area Branch of AAUW.** 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave East, Vienna. GMU Professor Dr. Anita Taylor Discusses the Future of the Feminist Movement in the Early 21st Century. Free, public invited. 703-321-7499.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 9

**Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meeting.** 1:30 p.m. at

[www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or 703-860-4941.  
**"My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm in Therapy" with Steve Solomon.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The hilarious story of a man whose family has driven him from the dinner table straight into the therapist's chair. \$30. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SUNDAY/FEB. 6

**"Fuddy Meers" by David Lindsay-Abaire.** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Claire's amnesia causes her to awaken each morning as a blank slate, and chaos arises as everyone tries to fill in the holes of her lost memory. A dirty puppet, an ex-criminal and a fake cop add to the dark comedy. 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststageysons.org](http://www.1ststageysons.org).

**Ashbrook, Oorts & McKenna.** 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Celtic music. \$15. 703-759-3309 or [www.ionamusic.com/broque.shtml](http://www.ionamusic.com/broque.shtml).

### MONDAY/FEB. 7

**HelloGoodbye, Gold Motel, You Me and Everyone We Know and Now, Now Every Children.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

### TUESDAY/FEB. 8

**Cas Haley.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).  
**Silent Auction and Raffle.** 5:30 p.m. George C. Marshall High School, 7743 Route 7, Falls Church. Proceeds benefit the All Night Grad Celebration. 703-356-8455.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 9

**Project/Object Featuring Ike Willis.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 10

**Vienna Arts Society Meeting.** 10 a.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., N.W. Vienna. With Marni Lawson, demonstrating watercolor painting on Yupo. Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971 or [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 12

**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](http://brinker.wordpress.com).  
**T'ai Chi Practice.** 8 a.m. at St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Saturdays through March. Free, open to all. No special clothing or equipment needed. [www.FreeTaiChi.org](http://www.FreeTaiChi.org) or 703-759-9141.

**McLean Project for the Arts: Basic Monoprint Workshop with Stephanie George.** 12:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Making, registering and hand printing a monoprint using oil paints. Bring an image to work from. All supplies provided. \$20. Registration required at 703-790-1953 or [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org).



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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### Winter/Spring Class & Activity Registration Continues

Start the new year off with a new you! Pursue your interests by signing up for one or more of the more than 100 classes we offer for children and adults. Our day trips, special events and performances can keep you active and chase away the winter doldrums.

Visit our Website for detailed information.



Just in time for Valentine's Day!

### 4th Annual McLean Jewelry Showcase

Saturday, Feb. 5, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Admission: \$3

This fabulous showcase will feature a variety of quality, handmade jewelry collections and designs by jewelers from around the region.



### Puppetry Festival

Saturday, Feb. 12, 1:30 p.m.

\$12/\$10 district residents

For ages 4-8. Following performances by Grey Seal Puppets and Barefoot Puppets, children will have a chance to make their own unique creations.

### Sunday Soiree Series

"My Funny Valentine"

Sunday, Feb. 13, 3-5 p.m.

Admission: \$5 at the door

Join your neighbors at this casual dance that is the perfect way to usher in Valentine's Day. Music by the Wayne Tympanick Trio.

**The McLean Community Center**

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[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

# PET CONNECTION



**Denise Sanchez performs a standard teeth-cleaning on a patient at the Great Falls Animal Hospital while Scott Retter monitors the dog's vital signs.**



**Veterinary Assistant Joanne Fujito cleans the teeth of a golden retriever at the Great Falls Animal Hospital.**

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION

## Hospital Keeps Pets Well

**Great Falls Animal Hospital cares for pets big and small.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**F**or more than 30 years, pets around the area have been coming to the Great Falls Animal Hospital to get well. Dogs, cats, reptiles, birds, rabbits and rodents are all treated at the facility. Dr. William Goldsmith, one of the owners, even remembers a lion coming through the doors almost 30 years ago.

"We've got a seasoned staff with over 100 years of combined veterinary experience, and our patients see the same faces year after year," Goldsmith said. "This is a great place to be a vet, people really care about their pets. Owners want the best, and that's what we're here to provide."

**STARTED IN 1963** as a one-veterinarian clinic, Goldsmith and Dr. Richard Henshaw purchased it in 1982, and now there are an addi-

tional seven veterinarians practicing there. Much of the staff at the hospital has been around for more than five years, and some more than 20 years.

Mohamed Beshir, a veterinarians' assistant, has been there for 13 years.

"There's good people, good management and a family-like environment," Beshir said. "If you stay here for a week, you'll love

SEE PROVIDING, PAGE 13



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# Providing the Best

FROM PAGE 12

everything about it.”  
As health care technology has improved over the years, it has translated into advancement in pet health care as well.

“Veterinary care has kind of evolved into the human health care model. You go to your [general practitioner], and if there’s a blood pressure issue, you can get medication, or you can be referred to specialists who will look at different things,” Goldsmith said. “We’re the GP’s, the first step. Some people are with us throughout their pets’ lifetime, but if specific treatments are needed, we can refer them out.”

Goldsmith says the lack of turnover helps put their patients and owners at ease.

In this area, with a large international community as well as people who travel around the world a lot, obtaining international health certificates, required for pet travel is a constant need. Since 9/11, there have been more restrictions put in place.

“You have to plan accordingly to get a proper international health certificate,” said Dr. Laurie Cook, a veterinarian at the hospital. “For example, you have to have a ra-

bies vaccine within a year, but it can’t have been within a month, so you’ve got to make sure the timing is right.”

**IMPLANTING TRACKING MICROCHIPS** is also a popular service at the hospital. Placed just under the skin, shelters, vets and animal hospitals have readers to pick up the number on the chip.

“Chips are a great secondary way to identify pets, after collars and tags,” Cook said. “But a chip is just a number, it’s important to remember to register your information with the chip company.”

Despite their various specialties, the staff has one thing in common: their love for animals.

“My favorite part is working with pets and their owners, it’s neat to watch how much people like their pets and how they interact,” said Dr. Christine Kellogg, a veterinarian at the hospital. “There’s nothing better than working with a puppy or a kitten, they’re so sweet and honest.”

*The Great Falls Animal Hospital is located at the intersection of Colvin Run Mill Road and Walker Road, and can be found online at [www.greatfallsanimalhospital.com](http://www.greatfallsanimalhospital.com).*



The Leigh Mill Road bridge before (left) and after repairs (right).

## Leigh Mill Bridge Reopens

The Leigh Mill Road bridge, closed to traffic since last July, re-opened to traffic Monday, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. Crews will continue to complete a few punch list items as weather allows.

Drivers are reminded that the bridge is still one lane, and users should continue to yield to oncoming traffic at both approaches.

The new bridge is the same length, elevation and alignment, but is 15 feet wide rather than 13 feet to more safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. The new deck, posts, rails, and curbs were con-

structed with a laminated wood product that is bonded with strong, waterproof adhesives. The new bridge is safer, stronger, will last longer and has a natural appearance.

The bridge had been closed to traffic since July 2010, and was originally set to re-open by Labor Day. In August, VDOT engineers determined that the bridge abutments and wing walls were in worse condition than previous inspections revealed, and the entire substructure would have to be demolished and replaced. In November VDOT announced that the bridge opening would be delayed until Jan. 31, 2011. About a thousand vehicles a day use the bridge.

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# Liberty Boys' Basketball Teams Ready for Playoffs

Unbeaten Saxons still on top of standings, with McLean and South Lakes pursuing second place; Warhawks playing underdog role.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**wo-time defending Liberty District boys' basketball champion Langley, under head coach Travis Hess, looks to be in the driver's seat of the district standings as the regular season nears an end with just over a week remaining.

The Saxons, 11-6 overall going into this week, remained unbeaten in district play at 9-0 following their 82-68 district win at Fairfax last Tuesday, Jan. 25. Sitting in second place was the steady McLean Highlanders' team (11-7, 7-3), which is vying for at least the No. 2 seed as the district tournament time draws nearer. McLean won its sixth game over its last seven played last Saturday when it defeated district foe and guest Marshall, 70-56. The Highlanders' lone loss of late came at Langley, 57-47, on Jan. 21. Since then coach Kevin Roller's squad has wins over Jefferson and the Statesmen.

Right in the mix of things is South Lakes, a program which has struggled somewhat in recent years but is experiencing a respectable season under new head coach Andrew Duggan. The Seahawks, although just 8-9 overall, are 6-4 and fourth place in the district. The team did take a hit this past Saturday when it lost a close 55-54 affair at fifth place Jefferson (9-8, 5-5).

Fairfax (9-8), going into this week, was a half game ahead of South Lakes for third place with a 6-3 district mark. The three-team cluster of Fairfax, South Lakes and Jefferson are all vying for the No. 3 seed for tournament time.

Rounding out the eight-team district standings are Stone Bridge (4-13, 3-6), Madison (4-12, 2-7) and Marshall (3-14, 0-10).

At the district tournament, set to begin on Monday, Feb. 14, quarterfinals round winners will automatically earn a spot at the following week's 16-team Northern Region tournament. Last year, Langley, after winning the district tourney, went on to reach the region finals for the first time in school history. The Saxons lost in the region championship game to Chantilly, but still went on to be one of the region's two representatives at the state AAA tournament.

In Langley's win over Fairfax last week, a big second quarter of play proved to be the difference in the contest. The Rebels led the game 17-16 after one quarter before the Saxons got untracked and outscored the hosts 18-7 in period two to take a commanding 34-24 lead at the half. The Saxons remained in control throughout the second half to gain the win.

A huge game for Langley came from guard Austin Vasiliadis, who poured in a game-high 27 points. But



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Marshall High sophomore Connor Barrand (11) takes a fall away shot during the Statesmen's Liberty District boys' basketball game at Stone Bridge on Jan. 22. Marshall will be home versus Madison this Friday night.**

the talented backcourt playmaker was not the only one producing points for the guests as Daniel Dixon (19 points), Braden Anderson (15) and Brenden Dwyer (10) were all in double digits. Fairfax also received a balanced attack behind solid play from Spencer Macleod (17 points), who quarterbacked the Rebels' football team to the Div. 6 region playoffs last fall; Jazz Holley (14 points), John Robic (13) and Zack Burnett (12).

McLean, in its victory over Marshall on Saturday, had its hands full as the Statesmen carried a 35-34 lead into the half. Marshall still held a two-point lead after three quarters before the Highlanders dominated play in the fourth quarter by outscoring the guests 24-8 to gain the win. McLean guard Gordon Rogo scored a game-high 26 points to lead the Highlanders. Kevin Lastova contributed 11 points for the winners, while both Sango Amolo and Thomas Van Wazer scored nine points.

Marshall's top scorers in the setback were Latrell Watkins (11 points), Aaron Aggen (10), Connor Barrand (10) and Mo Samantar (9).

## Winning Ways Continue For Langley Wrestling

Jeff Mye, the Saxons' first year coach, credits his senior leaders for team's 12-5 season.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**y becoming the new head coach for the Langley High wrestling team last August, Jeff Mye, who had spent most of his life in western New York, accepted a positive type of challenge that came with the position - the fact that he was taking over a program that had known outstanding success over the previous decade.

Mye, a lifelong enthusiast of the sport, realized that the Langley High wrestling bar was, indeed, pretty high and that at least maintaining that measure of consistent winning was an expectation that came with his new job title.

"There is the added pressure [as the first year head coach] that Langley has won 10 [Liberty] District titles in a row," said Mye recently, with a chuckle.

But, with the regular season just completed this week and the postseason ready to begin this weekend with the district championships, Mye has impressively directed the Saxons to another stellar season. The Saxons have won this winter despite having to deal with the natural change that occurs for a team when it makes the transition of having a new head coach. On top of that, injuries, illnesses and other scenarios have resulted in the Langley varsity experiencing a challenging season in which it has never even once had the same set line-up at any one time this winter.

"We've had 30 different kids in the varsity line-up," said Mye, quite amazed by how the season has evolved. "It's been pretty hectic but the team has been pretty good [in handling] it. We haven't had the same line-up all year long."

Mye, the program's third head coach in three years, has gotten his first taste of Northern Region wrestling this winter. Prior to coming to Fairfax County before the start of this school year, Mye

spent the last four years as an assistant wrestling coach at Niagara Community College in Western New York. Prior to that, he served as an assistant at Attica High School in the same area of the state.

The team participates in districts this Friday and Saturday at McLean High School.

**YES, IT HAS BEEN** a rocky first season ride for the new coach and his squad in terms of different personnel being used to fill out the 14 different weight classes. Nevertheless, a number of Saxons have put together marvelous seasons. Those wrestlers include juniors Leland Jenkins (119 weight class) and Jay Ives (135), as well as seniors Matt Wilson (152), Griffin Dulany (171) and Elie Kawmy (189).

Kawmy has made the jump from being a 145-division wrestler a year ago to competing at 189 this year. He is, in fact, a light 189 but has more than held his own against physically bigger opponents. He was 20-6 going into this week and will likely be the top seed in his weight class at districts.

"Elie lost his father last year," said Mye, of Kawmy. "He has been battling a lot [of adversity]. He's been out there [on the mat] competing hard."

Dulany, at 171, leads the team in wins with 31 victories to just two defeats. He is looking forward to a big postseason after, a year ago, enduring a late season injury (broken nose) that prevented him from fulfilling his expectations.

Wilson, at 152, is 21-3 this season. Going into this week, the senior had 98 career wins over his four-year varsity career.

Ives and Jenkins, both 11th graders, have both been steady contributors to the team's success.

**LANGLEY** was scheduled to conclude the regular season earlier this week on Monday with a dual meet match versus visiting McLean High.



Twin sisters, Gloria and Rose Boos - first graders at Great Falls Elementary - pose with their kitten Lily, adopted last spring.



## Free Kitten, Priceless Experience

Free Kittens, the handwritten sign boldly read as my girls and I drove by the gardening shop. "Girls, look. Free kittens! Should we check it out?" I asked excitedly. With twin 6-year-old girls, the answer was a resounding "Yes!" We whipped into the gravel driveway and made our way to the wooden structure. The store sign said "Closed," but as fate would have it, the gentleman working there welcomed us in. As we stepped out of the car, he warned us that the kitten had been hiding all day. I looked around for the little fur-face, to no avail. As soon as my girls called out, "Here, kitty, kitty!" she sauntered out from under the table. It was kismet. The kitten had adopted my daughters. We quickly bundled her up and brought her home.

So now the tale should end, and we lived happily ever after. However, there is more to this story. After I fell prey to that wonderful offer of a "free" kitten, I was brought to a quick realization that it was false advertising. When you see that a pet is free, be forewarned. First, there is all the cat paraphernalia: Food, special treats, litter, toys, tags and collar

(with a bell, of course). Next, there are the wellness checkups, which occur regularly. Following that, since we definitely didn't need any unwanted little kittens, we had to get her spade. What about declawing? Well, that's a whole hot topic suitable for its own article, so I'm not even going to go into it. Suffice to say that if you choose to go that route, more money gets spent. The bottom line is our kitten was far from free. Every time we turned around, our checkbook was getting a workout.

The moral of the story is this: When you see "Free Kittens," think before you impulsively act. Would I do it again? Absolutely! It may be costly, but how do I put a price on teaching my daughters about the responsibility of caring for a pet (although at this point they simply feed and water her - Dad takes care of the litter box)? Finally, and most notably, watching the love between our kitten and my two girls, well that's priceless!

— MELODEE BOOS



Rose, Lily and Gloria fall asleep.



Vanessa Doyle, owner of the two-year-old Great Falls Paws & Claws pet sitting, is pictured in her backyard with her two dogs: Peanut (left) and Paddington Bear.

## Dogs' Life in Great Falls



Vanessa Doyle takes her dogs - Paddington Bear and Peanut - for a walk in the snow.



Vanessa Doyle and her sister Kimberly Doyle (in black jacket) took the dogs to the Great Falls Halloween Parade in the village in 2010. Peanut was dressed as a lion and Paddington as a skunk. Pictured with them are Colvin Run Elementary students Teagan and Braedan Smith from Great Falls.

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Elaine Elinksy poses with a gem-like portrait of an American goldfinch, one of her entries in the bird-art competition.

PHOTO BY  
INGE CURTIS

## 'Community Bird' To Be Elected

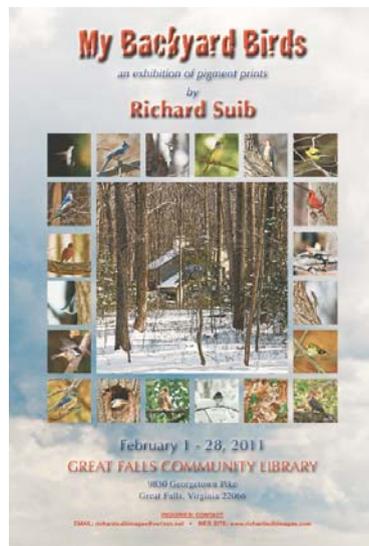
FROM PAGE 6

and will be notified by the end of May.

**THE RUN-UP** to the final polling features a series of exhibits as well as the photo contest. At the same time, art projects in the schools will focus on the election and the birds of Great Falls.

The first of the public exhibits opened on Feb. 1. A display of "pigment prints" of local birdlife photographed by Great Falls resident Richard Suib is being held at the Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. During a long art career, Suib, an exhibit designer and art curator, produced major displays for the U.S. government in countries around the world. His Great Falls show, which includes images of five of the candidate birds, will run throughout February and can be seen during normal library hours. It is called "My Backyard Birds." Many of Suib's images also appear in a new virtual gallery on the Great Falls Studios website. This online gallery will be replaced with a new exhibit each month and is intended to provide visitors with a fresh look at local art each time they visit the Great Falls Studios site.

A second exhibit also opened Feb. 1 that features the work of many of the 17 painters and photographers at the Artists' Atelier, a working studio of Great Falls artists. Their paintings and other works of candidate birds are in styles ranging from realistic to abstract. The Atelier is at 1144 Walker Road, Suite G, and will be open for a special reception on Friday evening, Feb. 4, from 7 to 9 p.m. The show will run through March. Images of art from this ex-



**A poster for Richard Suib's February exhibition at the Great Falls Library focuses attention on local birds and on the rich variety of birdlife in Great Falls. The poster shows Suib's home and numerous species he photographed on his property and elsewhere in Great Falls.**

hibit will also be included in the Great Falls Studios virtual gallery during the month of March.

Also debuting Feb. 1 was the online photo competition. Anyone in Great Falls can add original photographic images of local birds to a special competition website and in doing so will compete to win cash awards for best bird photos in a variety of categories. Rules and prizes are listed on the website: [www.flickr.com/groups/birds-of-22066](http://www.flickr.com/groups/birds-of-22066). Residents who are already members of Flickr can post images directly. Alternately, they can submit Great Falls bird photos to the webmaster: [Mike@mcmimagery.com](mailto:Mike@mcmimagery.com), who will post them on the Great Falls Flickr site. To see the posted images, which are expected to increase daily in number through May 15, visit the contest website on Flickr. Winning entries will be judged by



PHOTO BY AL REITAN

**A Northern Bluebird feeding its young is the star in this photo that appears on a special website to display entries in a bird photo contest open to all residents of Great Falls. All Great Falls photographers (amateurs included) are invited to add images and cash prizes will go to top bird photos. This photo was taken by Inge Curtis, whose in-laws live in Great Falls. To post or view images posted by local photographers, visit [www.flickr.com/groups/birds-of-22066](http://www.flickr.com/groups/birds-of-22066).**

John Nuhn, photo editor of National Wildlife magazine.

A complete listing of exhibits, park events and other things to do is on the Great Falls Studios website, [www.GreatFallsStudios.com](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com), and will be updated periodically. Additional bird exhibits will be announced over the next several months. Information about the candidate species can be found on the website of the Great Falls Citizens Association: [www.gfca.org](http://www.gfca.org). Painters and other Great Falls artists who are not members of Great Falls Studios can submit works for a major Great Falls Studios show of bird art to be held in June at the Library. That exhibition will include paintings and other artworks of the winning Great Falls bird. To inquire about submitting original art if you are not a Great Falls Studios member, email Laura Nichols at [Laura@pigpenpottery.com](mailto:Laura@pigpenpottery.com).

**KICK-OFF OF THE BIRD ELECTION** in February corresponds to the Great Backyard Bird Count, an ongoing national program of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Each year during President's Day Weekend (Feb. 18-21 this year), the Society enlists interested people to count birds in their backyards.

The program is open to children and adults and is easy to join. Participants can spend as little as 15 minutes taking part and are eligible to win prizes from the Audubon Society. For details on

how you can be a citizen scientist, go online to [www.birdsource/gbbcl.org](http://www.birdsource/gbbcl.org).

For a listing of other events in the parks, including a birding course conducted by a naturalist from the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and bird walks led by rangers in Great Falls National Park, go to the Great Falls Studios website: [www.GreatFallsStudios.com](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com).

In addition to calling attention to the Great Backyard Bird Count, the Great Falls election has the potential to support bird conservation around the country. "The experiment in Great Falls to select a village bird may become the national model for Audubon to encourage other communities throughout the country to learn more about birds and adopt their own official mascot," said Audubon's Braus.

As for art in the community, said sculptor Fisher, "National art leaders tell us that an active art scene is good for a community's quality of life. That makes sense, just as providing soccer fields and good schools make a community a better place to live. But it's not easy to prove this. The bird election is Great Falls Studios' way to demonstrate beyond a doubt that art can be relevant, fun, informative and very useful to a community. We believe that our bird election is unlike any art program anywhere in the country and we couldn't be happier that Great Falls is taking a leading role in an idea that could resonate across the nation."

## SCHOOL NOTES

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

Nine Fairfax County Public School students have been named semifinalists in the 2011 Intel Science Talent Search: **Joo Hee Choi**, Langley High School; **Tong Chen**, Madison High School; and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology students **William Bunting**, **Sanjeet Das**, **Sang Min Han**, **Kelly Ivins-O'Keefe**, **Venkat Iyer**, **Aman Kansal** and **Rachel Marzen**.

**The Longfellow Middle Science Olympiad team** earned second place in a recent competition in Ohio. Team members earned 23 top medals and ribbons, placing in 16 of the 23 events. First place medals went to Tara Abrishami, Yunkyu Bae, Junyoung Hwang, Tai Kao-Sowa, Billie Malès, Winston Ou, Tajin Rogers, Alex Wendt, Tiger Zhang, Kevin Zhou, and Kyle Zhou. Events range from academic events such as anatomy and fossils to engineering events such as bottle rockets and catapults. Team members also include Hasan Ahmad, Phil Carr, Allen Cheng, Maya Chung, Patrick Do, Henry Howe, Tyler Larkworthy, William Liu, Nick Mariam, Emily Moschella, Didi Park, Kate Salamido, Mira Sridharan, Joseph Suh, Peter Suzuki, Anna Venetianer, Gerry Wan, Derek Zhou, and Nick Zugris.

**Corey Jean Gartenhaus** of Great Falls has graduated with a bachelor of arts in marketing and advertising/public relations from Marietta College of Marietta, Ohio.

**Zachary D. Geller** of Great Falls has been accepted to The Graduate School at Virginia Tech. Geller is majoring in civil engineering and pursuing a master of science in the College of Engineering.

**Frances E. Ruppe** of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Bucknell University of Lewisburg, Pa. She is the daughter of David Ruppe of Great Falls, and a graduate of Madeira School.

**Erin A. Quante** of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Lock Haven University of Lock Haven, Pa. The freshman is studying secondary education/English.

**Corey Lynch** of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Quinnipiac University of Hamden, Ct.

**Jack S. Lundeen** of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Colby College of Waterville, Me. He is the son of Edward and Amy Lundeen.

Great Falls residents **Hannah K. Laws**, a senior recreation, parks and tourism major, **Mazin Saad Rayes**, a sophomore economics major, and **Zach Alexander Sahn**, a freshman marketing major, have been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Radford University of Radford, Va.



PHOTOS BY  
DEB COBB/  
THE CONNECTION

Show co-directors, Alicia Underhill (left) and Jacqueline Pifer (right) in front of the students in the Advanced Fashion Marketing class who were responsible for the design, organization and execution of the recent Langley High School fashion show, titled **Once Upon a Runway – A Fashion Fairytale: 170 students and 24 faculty members, including Principal Matthew Ragone, modeled original designs by 10 students and collections of outfits styled by students to reflect current fashion trends.**

## Fashionable at Langley High

Junior Margo Swomley watches as her model, junior Nathalie Goudy, practices walk down the runway before the start of the fashion show. Swomley designed the dress Goudy is wearing [The Connection switched their names under the photo printed last week].



### FAITH NOTES

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

**Vienna Presbyterian Church**, 124 Park St. in Vienna, presents the 12-week program "Passages," for those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce. The DivorceCare series begins Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. Cost of materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938 9050 or [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.org).

**Antioch Christian Church**, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, invites singers to join a local volunteer choir. Presentations are Sundays at 11 a.m. at with rehearsals Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. 703-255-2761 or 703-319-8742.

**Centering Prayer offered at St. Dunstan's**, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean, Tuesdays at 7-7:45 p.m. Centering prayer is meditation and contemplative prayer, wordless, trusting, opening of self to the divine presence. Instruction offered. [marjorie.cole@gmail.com](mailto:marjorie.cole@gmail.com).

**Epiphany United Methodist Pre-**

**school**, 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](http://www.epiphanypreschool.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](http://www.ViennaAG.com).

**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 [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

**Trinity United Methodist Church**, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sunday nights, 6 - 7:30 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each

Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or [umtrinity.org](http://umtrinity.org).

**McLean Bible Church**, 8925 Leesburg Pike in Vienna, presents The Power of a Changed Life, a multi-arts presentation on Jan. 15 at 7:30 p.m. The film "Adoniram's Calling" is the story of Adoniram Judson, the first US foreign missionary, and the program continues with stage readings. There will be a children's program for ages 5-12. [mbhsbh@earthlink.net](mailto:mbhsbh@earthlink.net).

**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 [www.ChesterbrookUMC.org](http://www.ChesterbrookUMC.org).

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2130 21st Rd N.....\$1,325,000...Sun 1-4....John Eric.....Wash Fine Prop.....202-274-4668  
925 N Danville St.....\$1,550,000...Sun 1-4....Ron Cathell.....Keller Williams.....703-975-2500

### Arlington (22204)

742 S Granada St.....\$499,990...Sun 1-4....Dave Lloyd & Associates...Weichert.....703-593-3204  
4200 Arlington Blvd.....\$939,000...Sun 1-4....Sharon Sheldon.....Long & Foster.....703-231-8000

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4522 34th St S.....\$399,900...Sat 2-4....Saundra Giannini.....Wash Fine Prop.....703-242-4240

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2701 Lorcom Ln.....\$675,000...Sun 1-3....Bob Kenney.....RE/MAX Allegiance...703-217-7023  
2022 Dinwiddie St.....\$725,000...Sun 1-4....Priti Malhotra.....Weichert.....703-821-8300  
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## Membership Has Its Privileges



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Membership in the cancer club, that is. And the specific privilege to which I refer is sponsorship, to invoke a familiar component of Alcoholic's/Narcotic's/Gambler's Anonymous' multi-step recovery program: someone to talk to, 24/7, who's been there and still doing that; a voice of experience and reason, a compassionate and caring individual who can appreciate – and relate, to the new life your cancer diagnosis has forced you to live. My sponsor is Mary Kimm, Publisher/Chief Operating Officer for Connection Newspapers. Diagnosed with breast cancer a month or so before I was diagnosed with lung cancer; neither of us a smoker or a child born into a family with a history of cancer, Mary has repeatedly offered her time and insight to me – whenever I needed it. In effect, she has become my go-to cancer survivor.

As yet, I have not cell-phoned Mary on her off-time, but I nearly did so a few Sundays ago which led me to realize – in my mind, anyway, that our regular weekly cancer conversations about life in the cancer lane these past two years have created in me a kind of reliance on her judgment, not uncommon I would imagine, among people experiencing similar kinds of traumatic-type diagnoses and life-changing circumstances.

What comfort for me to know there is someone so close and so available to whom I can reach out – and not touch, whose words have been so touching and reassuring to me on so many occasions. Mary has told me that she has enjoyed a similar relationship with some women in a cancer support group she regularly attended; learning about her cancer and treatment as she listened, and subsequently sharing some of what she learned with me. I never would have guessed that someone else's participation in a cancer support group in which I was not a direct participant would have mattered and affected me so much. But I'm grateful every day that Mary is "paying it forward" and so lucky to be the recipient of her kindness.

Who's to say what contributes to my better-than-expected health result? Is it my body's tolerance to the chemotherapy? Is it a reduction in stress brought about by a different work schedule/routine and a corresponding nearly 100 percent elimination of my daily/weekly commute? Are the financial changes in my life/income contributing as well to an improved quality of that life, even though I still have stage IV lung cancer? Are the thoughts and prayers of readers – regularly mailed, e-mailed and phoned, likewise contributing to my atypical good quality of life? Is the love and support from family, friends and co-workers helping me Carpe diem ("seize the day") without worrying too much about the night? Is having a sponsor (Mary Kimm) providing the kind of unspoken – and spoken comfort a phone call away – anytime, more valuable than perhaps even I realize?

The answer is; yes, yes and yes! However, you probably need everything working for you to defeat (deter) cancer but missing anything might have tragic consequences. If I had written a what-I-need-to-do list to survive cancer back in February 2009 when I was first diagnosed, I don't think, given my nature, I would have listed having/need a go-to-type sponsor/support person as a necessity. Two years later, I've certainly learned my lesson.

Cancer is bigger – and badder – than any one person, and thinking that suffering in silence earns you some kind of medal for valor is foolish – and stupid! Thanks to Mary Kimm, I was never allowed to be either; not too often, anyway. It's been my privilege – and great, good fortune, to be so sponsored.

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

OPINION  
 The New Road  
 To Happiness

BY FIONNUALA QUINN

Lots of us have fond memories of getting ourselves to school but few local children walk or bike there today. In Fairfax County, many who live within the one-mile limit of their elementary school are bused if it is decided that unusual hazards make the route unsafe. One option would be to help remove some of the obstacles through the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program. This Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) program provides funds to make bicycling and walking a safe option. Of the \$13,000,000 total funds available to Virginia schools, Fairfax County has received only \$10,000 to date.

The image of Fairfax children walking to school in the past is preserved in a silent movie, "The Road to Happiness." This movie was produced in 1924 by the Ford Motor Company as part of a campaign to promote road paving for automobiles and was filmed in various parts of Fairfax County and employed mostly local residents. Copies of what remains of the original movie are available through the public library. In an early scene, children walk along an unpaved West Ox Road to the original Navy schoolhouse, scraping their boots before entering. Later, the teacher encourages the students to enter the Good Roads essay contest. The Good Roads movement was sweeping the country at the time and the contest drew over a quarter of a million entries annually. One of the students wins and heads to Washington to be presented with a college scholarship by President Calvin Coolidge. The student goes on to study highway engineering, eventually returning home as the local County Engineer. Finally, we see children happily walking together on the newly paved road to the Navy schoolhouse. One pair of students drive a pony and cart to the school.

That one-room schoolhouse has long since been replaced with an eight-hundred student facility while West Ox Road is a four-lane divided highway. Today, many children living short distances from the school cannot easily walk there. Sidewalks are missing in many locations and vehicles speed by the school on three sides. While in the past getting to school had fostered great independence, now many children are not encouraged to walk or bike there. This change in children's behavior came about in large part because of how we designed and constructed the surrounding neighborhoods and streets.

Times have changed and we have realized some of what was lost in all those "improvements" that we built. Meanwhile, we can actually go back and restore some of the missing links through the VDOT Safe Routes to School Program.

Fionnuala Quinn, a member of Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB), is a Fairfax City resident, a cyclist and civil engineer who co-wrote the recently-published Guide for Reviewing Public Road Design and Bicycling Accommodations for Virginia Bicycling Advocates.

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