

# Great Falls CONNECTION

## Luck of the Irish

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From left, Karen Collazzo, Lily Curren, Annie Dunn and Tracy Clemente of Great Falls spend St. Patrick's Day at the Old Brogue.

### Private Schools Supply Fresh, Local Food

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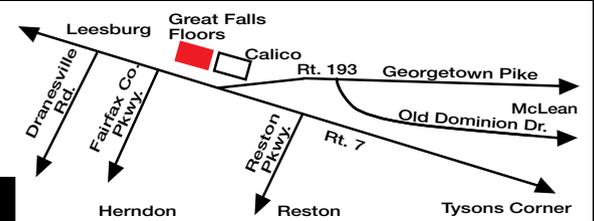
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**Firefighter Robert Shoenberger embraces his children upon his return March 20 from VATF-1 rescue efforts in the wake of the recent Japanese earthquake and tsunami.**



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

**Billy Moreland, a member of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team, is welcomed home from Japan by his wife Danielle and 8-year-old daughter Sarah. Moreland assisted in rescue efforts in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the country March 11.**

## Elite Search and Rescue Team Returns from Japan

**VATF-1 returns home as rescue operation turns to recovery.**

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

It was a bittersweet homecoming for 74 members of the elite Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team as they returned in the early morning hours of March 20 from a mission to the devastated Sendai region of Japan, where a 9.0 earthquake and subsequent tsunami left an estimated 8,649 people dead and 13,261 still missing.

"We never experienced anything like this before," said task force leader Bob Zoldos of the March 11 catastrophe. "The damage and destruction was incredibly widespread. The tsunami moved many of the victims from their original location, which made finding survivors more difficult."

Also known as Virginia Task Force 1, the team spent a week alongside teams from around the world searching for survivors, without any success.

"This was really monstrous — an earthquake and tsunami coming together like this," said Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, who was on hand to express his gratitude to the team. "The news of your arrival in my country and your activities were encouraging to all Japanese. We were watching every day as you worked in the dark and cold on such a difficult task."

Fujisaki arrived at the team's training center on West Ox Road in Fairfax at 2 a.m. March 20 to speak

individually with family members waiting for VATF-1 to arrive.

"He thanked us for our team member," said Zoldos' mother Kay. "It was emotional for everyone since we are the ones who feel so bad for him and the people of his country."

Joining Fujisaki in welcoming the team home were Fairfax County Fire Chief Ronald Mastin, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"Every mission is different and this one was especially difficult," said Bulova at the team's 4:20 a.m. debriefing. "Thank you so much for what you do. You have made us so proud."

Bulova expressed her condolences to Fujisaki and presented him with an official Fairfax County government lapel pin as a token of friendship.

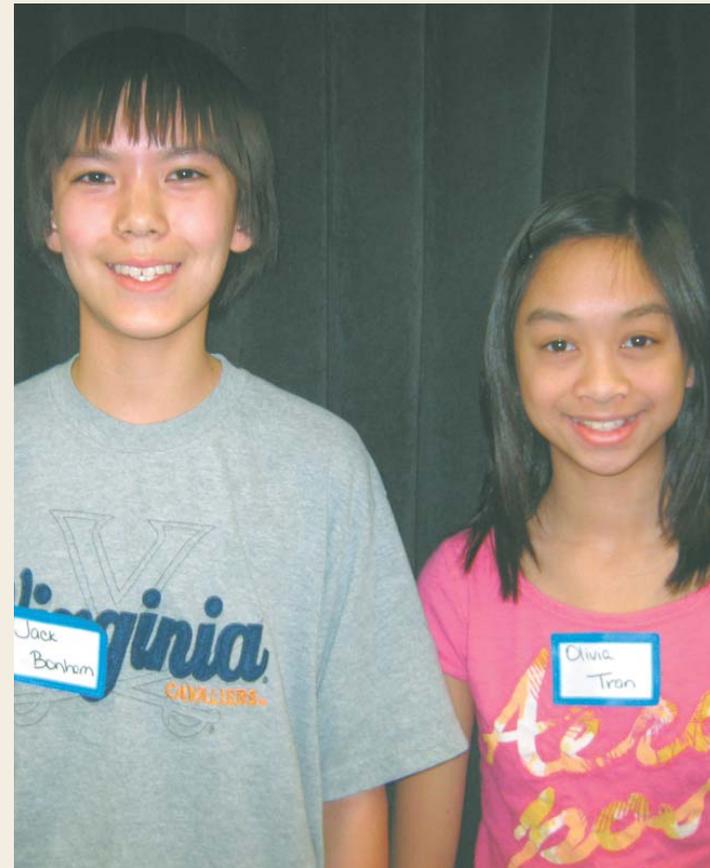
"I'm sure all Americans are very proud of you," Fujisaki said, his voice breaking as he struggled to maintain composure. "You conducted such a heroic and brave activity and the people of Japan are so grateful to you. We will never forget this."

After a standing ovation, Fujisaki left the team members to return to their families, many with pajama-clad children waving signs and holding balloons as they embraced their team members.

VATF-1 deployed within hours of the initial earthquake, carrying approximately 30 tons of equipment, including four swift water boats and swift water rescue gear.

"All of that has been left behind, including the boats," Gross said. "We left equipment, food and supplies behind for the Japanese people as they continue their relief efforts."

A contingent of international press interviewed team members on the conditions in Japan.



PHOTOS BY KRISTEN SLOAN

**Jack Bonham and Olivia Tran, both 6th graders at Forestville Elementary School, came in 1st and 2nd place, respectively, in the Forestville Spelling Bee.**

## Jack Bonham Wins Forestville Spelling Bee

Forestville Elementary School held its annual Spelling Bee on March 3. Jack Bonham, a 6th grader in Jennifer Donlon's class, was named the Spelling Bee champion after correctly spelling the word "versatile."

The Spelling Bee was open to students in 4th, 5th and 6th grades. Each teacher held their

own classroom spelling bee and the top two students in each classroom competed in the school Spelling Bee. Bonham competed against 25 other students in the competition. Olivia Tran, a 6th grader in Lauren Kennedy's class, was the first runner up.

- JANE NORBERG



**The participants of the Forestville Elementary School Spelling Bee are pictured with Principal Matt Harris and spelling bee organizer Britt Ellinger.**



Artist Ursula Esser paints a shamrock on Konnie McKee's face during the St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Old Brogue Thursday.



From left, Steve Krop and Tim Burke, staff members at the Old Brogue in Great Falls, oversee the restaurant's St. Patrick's Day celebration.



Jerry Caliguire

## Great Falls Resident to Manage Arlington Hotels

Jerry Caliguire of Great Falls was named General Manager of the Renaissance Arlington Capital View and the Residence Inn Arlington Capital View, two hotels adjoined together, situated in the south end of Arlington's Crystal City district. Caliguire was previously General Manager for the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott.

In his new role, Caliguire will be responsible for all hotel operations of the multi-branded, LEED-Certified hotel development including: a combined total of 625 guest rooms and suites, 20,982 square feet of event space, and two food and beverage outlets, including Renaissance Arlington Capital View's signature Italian illy coffee shop and SOCCI, an urban Italian kitchen and bar.

Caliguire has played an active role in community affairs throughout his career. He previously served as a board member for the Ministry of Tourism of the Philippines, and has been active in Rotary, Chaine des Rotisseurs, Habitat for Humanity and the Children's Miracle Network Foundation. He has served on the board for the Loudoun CVA and Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce.

# Luck of the Irish

## Old Brogue celebrates Saint Patrick's Day.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Before the sun was up this St. Patrick's Day, Debi Axilbund of Alexandria was at the Old Brogue in Great Falls, as she has been for the past seven years. At 7 a.m. she was the second person in line. Axilbund shares her birthday with the commemoration of the patron saint of Ireland, and her tradition is to come to the Brogue.

"I love Great Falls, and it's the best place I can think of to celebrate my birthday every year," Axilbund said. "The camaraderie here is unmatched, and it's a day I like to spend just having fun with my friends."

Her friend Amy McKay agreed, saying "there's no other bar that makes you feel at home like the Old Brogue. It's why it's an easy decision to make."

Axilbund brought along a group of 39 (up from 33 people last year), including Ursula Esser, who spent the morning painting faces

of the group, and stuck around throughout the evening to paint shamrocks, Irish flags and any other Irish symbols requested by the crowd.

"I came to paint for the birthday party, but then thought 'what the heck' it's Saint Patrick's Day, why not stick around?" Esser said.

Though most other guests weren't celebrating a birthday, it didn't stop them from flocking to the Old Brogue, whether it was in the bar area to watch college basketball, in the dining room to hear some authentic Irish music, or the front and back porches to enjoy the weather.

Several tents were set up in the front porch, where guests could enjoy some beverages in the shade or in the sun.

The dinner area featured performances by Pennywhistle, a trio from County Donegal in Ireland. The bar area featured performances by Ted Garber, a "BluesAmericanaRock" performer who kept the mood festive.

"It's about the best all-around atmosphere you can get," said Kenny Long of Vienna. "Outdoors, indoors, watching March Madness, listening to some tunes, you can squeeze it all in, and be surrounded by friends while you do it."

Barry Nelson of Pennywhistle, plays in the dinner area of the Old Brogue as part of the restaurant's St. Patrick's Day celebration.



PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION



Musician Ted Garber plays guitar for a crowd at the Old Brogue in Great Falls during their St. Patrick's Day celebration Thursday.

# NEWS

## Bird-Election Preview: Meet the Candidates

Every state has an official bird, but few cities or towns have adopted bird symbols of their own. Now Great Falls is doing its bit to change all that. From now through June, the village is hosting a series of art and photography events leading up to the "election" of our own Great Falls bird. Residents can vote for their choice between now and May 15 at the website of Great Falls Studios, [www.GreatFallsStudios.com](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com).

In the interest of good civics, the Connection is profiling each of the seven nominated bird candidates. This is the last of our seven profiles. The information comes from the website of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

### PILEATED WOODPECKER.

The Pileated Woodpecker is a consummate woodworker. It chisels huge excavations into dead trees, looking for ants. In the process, it spews wood strips in all directions, like an over-achieving lumberjack, sometimes ripping holes big enough to break a small tree in half, according to ornithologists at Cornell University. A crow-sized bird, it is common in Great Falls, where our many remnant stands of mature forest provide tree-cavity nesting sites and ample food sources.

The woodpecker's loud, ringing call signals its whereabouts as it flits from tree to tree. So does its jack-hammer pounding on dead limbs and stumps. Look for a bird with a black body, scarlet crest on its head, yellow eyes, and white stripes on its face and neck. When it flies or extends its wings, you can see white on the undersides. For more information, go to:

[www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Pileated\\_Woodpecker/id](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Pileated_Woodpecker/id).

Why it should be the Great Falls bird? It's big, brash and unique (it was reportedly the inspiration for the cartoon character Woody Woodpecker), and it is found here year-round. It chooses Great Falls as its home because we offer suitable forest habitat. It also benefits other wildlife: The holes it digs provide homes for cavity-dwelling mammals and birds.



**The Pileated Woodpecker is a large crow-sized bird that normally feeds on insects in dead tree limbs and stumps. Bill Garrett photographed this one at a feeding station on his property in Great Falls. The cartoon character Woody Woodpecker is based on the species.**



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## NEWS

From left, fifth graders Arthur Kennington and Joshua O'Cain, play "Paper, Scissors, Rock" to determine who moves first in their Go match. O'Cain would go on to win the fifth grade category, while Kennington would be one of the winners for best sportsmanship.



# Students Say Ready, Set, 'Go'

## Great Falls Elementary hosts annual 'Go' tournament.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

As a game of strategy, 'Go' is all about choosing a plan of attack with the best chance to win. Caleb O'Cain, a third grader from Great Falls Elementary School has a signature strategy.

"You move around the edges and you slowly work to the center," O'Cain said. "It's like a 99 out of 100 chance to win."

Friday evening played out according to the odds as O'Cain set them, as he placed first out of all third graders at the annual Go tournament held at Great Falls Elementary School. As host of a Japanese Immersion Program, Great Falls Elementary plays against other schools in the traditional game.

This is the sixth year of the tournament, which took place between Great Falls Elementary, as well as Fox Mill Elementary School and Floris Elementary School, which also have Japanese Immersion Programs. The schools host the tournament on a rotating basis.

Go originated in China more than 2,000 years ago. Players lay stones of opposite colors on the board, hoping to encircle and trap their opponent's pieces, thereby capturing them. The elementary school students played by using dry erase markers on a laminated piece of paper, making it easier and faster for multiple matches without the stones.

Lisa Hodge, a mother at Great Falls Elementary, helped coordinate the tournament and says the game appeals to the gamut of elementary school students.

"Some of the first-graders are very good, they can find surprising ways to win," she said. "But it also involves strategy, which the older kids like using."

Almost every student said his or her favorite part about the game was winning.

"I'm hoping to win because those trophies look good," said Sammy Spaid, 9, a third-grader at Great Falls Elementary.

## Tournament winners

### FIRST GRADE:

- ❖ Winner: Francesca Mitchell, Great Falls Elementary
- ❖ Best Sportsmanship: Julie Toloczko and Nash Rainey, Great Falls Elementary

### SECOND GRADE:

- ❖ Winner: Neha Kulshreshtha, Floris Elementary
- ❖ Best Sportsmanship: Ava Benton, Leah Schulman, Rebecca Schulman and Christa Medici, Great Falls Elementary School.

### THIRD GRADE:

- ❖ Winner: Caleb O'Cain, Great Falls Elementary School
- ❖ Best Sportsmanship: Jack Ingersoll, Fox Mill Elementary, Rachel VanderVen, Great Falls Elementary

### FOURTH GRADE:

- ❖ Winner: Ethan Enders, Fox Mill
- ❖ Best Sportsmanship: Nick Hodge and Marisa Mihori, Great Falls Elementary.

### FIFTH GRADE:

- ❖ Winner: Suchet Taori, Floris Elementary
- ❖ Best Sportsmanship: Joshua O'Cain and Arthur Kennington, Great Falls Elementary, Nozomi Hunter, Fox Mill Elementary.

### SIXTH GRADE:

- ❖ Winner: Darwin Walter, Floris Elementary
- ❖ Best Sportsmanship: Miranda Masters, Fox Mill Elementary, J.T. Mitchell and Thora Toloczko, Great Falls Elementary

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



From left, second graders Leah Schulman and Tai Brashear, both of Great Falls Elementary School, compete in the opening match of the Go tournament hosted by Great Falls Elementary.

The trophies looked good because the students recognized their significance. Each trophy has a rabbit on it, acknowledging 2011 as the year of the rabbit.

Third grader Thomas LaRow, 8, of Fox Mill Elementary School said he enjoys playing against new players.

"It's fun to play against other schools, they always think of things you don't," Thomas LaRow said.

His brother William, 10, has a strategy that he says is always a winner, no matter who he plays.

"I learned from my brother how to make I's on the board," the fourth grader said. "You can't destroy them, and if you move into one of them, it's suicide."

## VIEWPOINTS

### What is your favorite 'Go' strategy?



**Jack Ingersoll**, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Fox Mill Elementary

"I just keep them together in the same corner. When you're all together, it's harder for the opponent to capture them."



**Marisa Mihori**, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Great Falls Elementary

"I like the double capture. It's when you put one down on three sides of the other player, and if they try to block me from doing that, I'm ready to capture their piece."



**Fiona Farber**, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Great Falls Elementary

"Keep your dots together. If you're spread out over a big space, it's much easier to get surrounded."



**Gianna Mitchell**, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Great Falls Elementary

"The ladder. It's where you make a line on two sides, and if the player tries to go between them, you capture them."



**Steven Jungers**, 1<sup>st</sup> grade, Great Falls Elementary

"I call it 'connect the dots.' You make lines of your own color to make it harder for the other player to choose a move."

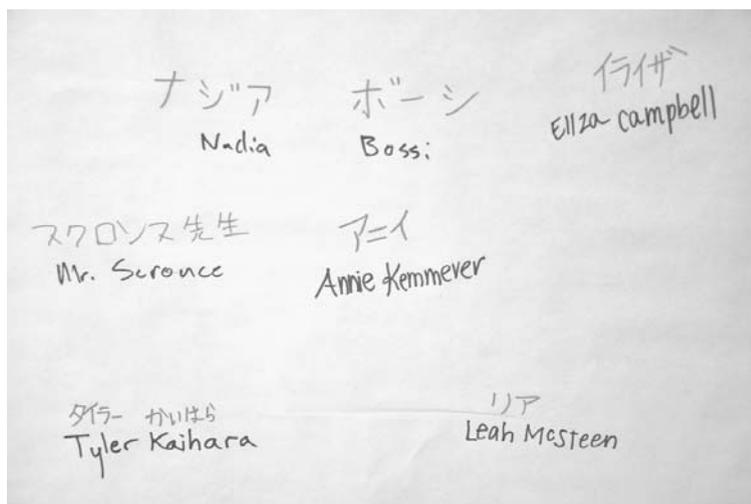


**Carolyn Amanodolan**, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Great Falls Elementary

"I like to always make sure I keep my pieces together. I don't want to make it easy for the other person."

**Students at Langley High School who have donated to Global Giving, a Washington, D.C. based nonprofit collecting money for Japan, are able to put their name on a big banner in the hallway, and Japanese teacher Andrew Scronce shows them how to write their name in Japanese as well.**

PHOTOS BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION



# Helping Japan Relief

**Langley, Cooper prepare outreach to Japan earthquake victims.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**L**angley High School Japanese teacher Andrew Scronce spent several years teaching in Japan before coming to teach at Langley. Even though he taught in the part of the country that wasn't hit by the March 11 earthquake, it didn't stop him from doing what he can to help.

Scronce put up a banner in a Langley hallway, and students that donate money to Global Giving, a Washington, D.C. based nonprofit, get their names put on the banner, and Scronce will teach them how to write it in Japanese.

"A lot of the students in the Japanese program have been there, and even if they didn't visit the affected area, it really humanizes what's going on for them, they remember how well they were treated when we visited there," Scronce said. "So far, donations are going well, it makes me happy that even though most kids at Langley here haven't been to Japan, they are more than happy to help out."

Scronce said he was able to get in touch with most of the people he knows in Japan through Facebook and e-mail. Langley senior Shana Bahamet knows a family that lives in the area around Tokyo, and due to the massive power outages, her family here hasn't been able to contact them yet.

"They haven't been able to call out without any power, but I've got some family close to Japan that are still trying to make contact," Bahamet said.

Donations to Global Giving can be made by texting "JAPAN" to 50555.

Yumi Lawless, a Japanese teacher at Cooper Middle School also has family and friends that live in Japan, but has since been able to get in touch with them.

"I didn't know until I was already at school [March 11] when some teachers were asking me about it, so most of what I learned first came from the TV," Lawless said. "I was able to e-mail my parents and some friends and talk to my sister later in the day. She said they weren't affected too much. It's hard to imagine the horrors going on."

Lawless and her classes have drawn up posters and set out a collection jar to collect donations to the



**Cooper Middle School Japanese teacher Yumi Lawless and her students are collecting money to donate to the Red Cross to help with relief efforts in the wake of the March 11 earthquake.**

Red Cross. Roberta Ricci, who teaches history and civics at Cooper, is collecting supplies for Church World Service, a group putting together hygiene packages for the victims of the earthquake.

"We worked with Church World Service to provide aid after Hurricane Katrina, and had good luck," Ricci said. "These hygiene kits are doable, and they make such a difference. This is a very giving community, and the staff, parents and students have really come together when it matters."

They are collecting 16-by28-inch towels, wash cloths, wide-tooth combs, nail clippers, bar soap, toothbrushes and Band Aids, which will be put into packages to help the people who have been displaced by the earthquake and the subsequent disasters.

More information on Church World Service can be found at [www.churchworldservice.org](http://www.churchworldservice.org).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Randy Liang, a freshman at Langley High School, suffered a ruptured spleen while on a high school band trip to New Jersey, and with his mother out of work, the local community is raising funds to help with his medical care. He is currently in a hospital in Paterson, N.J.**

## Joining Team Randy

**Community rallies around ill Langley freshman.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**R**andy Liang, a freshman at Langley High School, was on a school band trip in New Jersey last weekend when he became ill. After he was found passed out in his hotel room the night of March 12, he had to be rushed to the hospital with what was eventually diagnosed as a ruptured spleen.

Randy's mother Vera Zhao and brother, Derrick, a third grader at Forestville Elementary School are currently in New Jersey, and Zhao has not left her son's side since his ordeal began.

"As of now, he can't be transported back to the area due to his condition, which could require at least six weeks of bed rest," said Christie Shumadine, a parent helping to organize donation efforts.

It has been an eventful year for the Liang family: Zhao's husband died last summer after an eight-year battle with cancer. Zhao was a contractor for the government, but her company's contract was not renewed and her employment ended Feb. 28.

As the family is in its hour of need, the community has ral-

lied behind Randy to help raise money for his medical expenses.

Team Randy T-shirts will be sold at Langley during lunch hours from March 28 to 30, said Langley parent Silvia Gonzalez Roman.

The shirts will be sold for \$15, and checks made payable to Langley High School (with Team Randy in the memo line) and cash will be accepted.

Band teacher Andrew Gekoskie will also be collecting spare change from students in the band room. Students have also set up a "Team Randy" Facebook page, which will contain information about how to donate as well as updates.

Currently, donation are also being accepted in a PayPal account, [liangfamilyfund@gmail.com](mailto:liangfamilyfund@gmail.com). Donation checks can also be mailed to the Wachovia bank at 750 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA 22066. Checks should be made out to the Liang Family, and the account number 8857 needs to be written on the memo line.

More information about future fundraising events can be found at the Langley High School website, [www.fcps.edu/LangleyHS](http://www.fcps.edu/LangleyHS).

# OPINION

## Opportunity about To Be Squandered

Once-a-decade redistricting offers a chance to do it right; no one with power seems interested.

**H**ave you seen what our political districts look like? It's as if the clown who makes balloon animals has gone mad. And it could be amusing if it didn't matter so much.

Our once-a-decade exercise in partisan hubris is about to unfold. Next week we'll likely see proposals that seek to protect Democratic seats in the Virginia Senate, Republican seats in the Virginia House of Delegates. The status quo in Fairfax County will get another 10-year term. Virginia's incumbents in Congress will get some reassuring padding, even if it means districts that look like boa constrictors that are digesting a couple of meals and have been run over by a car in one or two places.

We are not likely to see districts that best represent residents. No one with power is talking about how to draw lines that increase voter participation and citizen involvement.

Political districts should be drawn by a non-partisan commission that looks at providing communities with representation that works. What works is keeping communities of inter-

est together, so that one town or community is encompassed in some of its political districts. Each resident is represented locally by one member of Congress, a state senator, a state delegate, and then by a county board or city or town council.

### EDITORIAL

The Democratically-controlled Senate and Republican-controlled House of Delegates appear to have a gentleman's agreement in place to focus on their own branch of the legislature and not interfere with each other's lines. So Democrats will gerrymander the senate lines and Republicans will gerrymander the delegate lines.

In Northern Virginia, many of these districts sprawl and crawl out like amoebas to capture a given precinct if it will help or hurt partisan balance. Instead districts should be designed for good representation, shared high school boundaries, shared land use concerns, shared traffic challenges, shared public safety concerns. It's unrealistic to think that part-time legislators will be able to master the nuances and needs that spread out across three or more jurisdictions, as some delegate districts do.

Delegate districts in particular are the small-

est unit of representation for many people, with about 80,000 residents to be included in the newly drawn districts. These districts can and should focus compactly on communities.

Meanwhile, in Fairfax County local government, the likely outcome of redistricting will be the status quo, with nine supervisor districts, even though Fairfax County's population has grown by more than 10 percent and so could easily support another district. An additional district would allow for elected officials, both supervisors and school board members, to focus on a smaller number of residents, roads, schools and issues. Fairfax should also consider adding a couple of at-large seats in the future to balance the power of a single supervisor.

Arlington's county board is elected entirely at-large, but should consider changing to have some political districts that could broaden representation for minorities — ethnic minorities, economic minorities and political minorities.

No one actually making decisions seems to be interested in creating districts that best represent the residents of the districts.

— MARY KIMM,

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Harmonizing Health, Growth

To the Editor:

The Great Falls Connection article "Sewer Under Scrutiny" [March 16, 2011] covered the March 8 Great Falls Citizens' Association meeting soliciting public comments on the need for a new public sewer to service the Great Falls shopping centers in light of failing septic systems there.

Two completely separate issues define this problem. One issue is the primarily engineering issue of determining the best method of protecting the public health and safety from failing septic systems that currently have been found to be infiltrating aquifers supplying wells for drinking water in the area. The other issue is the primarily political issue of restraining residential and commercial development that could change the rural character of Great Falls.

The article quoted my advocating construction of a sewer line as the best way of disposing of toxic and unsanitary sewage to central sewage treatment and disposal facilities remote from Great Falls. But realistically this engineering solution could also facilitate disposal of sewage from existing or future buildings other than the commercial buildings currently experiencing problems. However, that is a

major benefit that would aid protection of the health of the entire community as future dangerous sewage overflows would be prevented by removing any other septic systems whose failure could contribute to the unsafe public health environment currently prevailing in Great Falls. The sewer should be designed to provide for that potential future growth and not be intentionally under-designed as a back-door means of attempting to restrain growth. That important public-health-related design must be left to the professional designers and engineers without undue influence from politically manipulated emotion.

Some opponents of the sewer main justify their opposition as necessary to prevent growth in the community. But normal growth is good for a community as long as it is controlled through adherence to central county planning and zoning regulations. Sacrificing the public health, both now and in the future to preserve the status quo is just plain wrong by any standards. The issues must be kept separate and resolved separately. I hope the survey questions for community polling on these issues will be phrased to recognize those two separate issues.

Thanks to the Great Falls Citizens' Association for leading this important discussion. And thanks to the Great Falls Connection for

its excellent coverage of this issue of such vital importance to the health, safety and economic success of Great Falls citizens and the businesses who serve them.

**DeForest Rathbone**  
Great Falls

## Take Moore's Money not More Money

To the Editor:

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors apparently plans to emulate Hollywood socialist Michael Moore's principles he recently espoused of what one earns belongs to the collective and it in turn will determine how much of what one earns via their labor can be kept.

The boom in the real estate market gave the Board carte blanche to ratchet up the tax assessments from 2002 through 2008. Without consulting their bosses — yes, we the people are their bosses — the Board expanded the size and scope of local government creating programs that are arguably beyond their responsibility of providing core services.

At the first hint of rising real estate values, the Board responded with a knee-jerk grab for more of our hard-earned money. County staff and the Supervisors deign to leave the real estate tax rate at \$1.09 — the 2010 figure. How be-

nevolent.

This most disingenuous act by the Board actually raises taxes by an average of \$110 per homeowner. That some citizens are suffering under the burden of increased food costs, increased gas prices, and increased fees due to expanded, overreaching government, never crossed the Supervisor's minds. The folks know better how to utilize that \$110 than government.

To prevent actual taxes from rising, the Board should reduce the tax rate to the equalization rate of \$1.065, thus putting the needs of Fairfax County families first.

"Spread the wealth" was the Democrat's mantra in 2008 driving them to victory. We now understand the danger of seeing their plan come to fruition. And the response from the voters last November: a resounding rejection.

Voters want and deserve a reduction in taxes and a reduction in the size and scope of government. The voters' wrath is directed at all levels of government, not just the federal. Politicians ignore that message at their own peril.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors must reject Michael Moore's view of a socialist utopia and stop treating homeowners like their personal ATMs.

**Dennis Husch**  
Herndon

## THE CONNECTION

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To discuss ideas and concerns,  
Call: 703-778-9410  
e-mail:  
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**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

**Alex McVeigh**  
Community Reporter  
703-778-9441  
amcveigh@connectionnewspapers.com

**Nick Horrock**  
County & Projects  
nhorrock@connectionnewspapers.com

**Rich Sanders**  
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**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
703-778-9433  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

**Editor in Chief**  
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**Photography:**  
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**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**  
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**CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS,  
L.L.C.**  
**Peter Labovitz**  
President/CEO

**Mary Kimm**  
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer  
703-778-9433  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

**Jerry Vernon**  
Executive Vice President  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

**Wesley DeBrosse**  
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**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

**Jeanne Theismann**  
Special Assistant to the Publisher  
703-778-9436  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com

## NEWS

# Northern Virginia Gives Input On New Political Districts

**Governor's redistricting commission has no bearing on actual lines.**

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**M**embers of Virginia's bipartisan committee on political redistricting listened intently to the speakers who showed up to a hearing held at George Mason University March 15.

About a dozen Northern Virginia residents came out to share their thoughts about how to redraw boundaries for 11 congressional, 40 state senate and 100 delegate seats in the commonwealth. The new districts are scheduled to be adopted next month and will remain in place until 2021.

"We really appreciate what you are doing — not looking at partisan kinds of issues. We need to avoid as much as possible any type of gerrymandering," said Julia Pfaff, who lives in the Hayfield area and is active with Virginia No Labels, a group that advocates against political partisanship.

**A FEW COMMITTEE** members nodded in agreement during Pfaff's comments. Unfortunately, the committee members don't actually have any authority to take the political gamesmanship out of political redistricting.

Following the 2008 presidential election, Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) — who was then just a candidate for his current office — said he was in favor of non-partisan redistricting. His Democratic opponent, state Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25), was also in favor of turning over the power to create political districts to an independently appointed committee at the time.

After being elected in a landslide, McDonnell cooled to the idea of nonpartisan redistricting. He formed only an advisory committee — did not back legislation that would create an independent commission with power — and gave the current committee few financial resources and minimal staff.

Democratic Majority Leader and Fairfax County state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) has indicated that Democratically controlled Senate and Republican controlled House of Delegates have a gentleman's agreement in place to focus on their own branch of the legislature and not interfere with each other's lines.

**SASLAW'S** characterization of the process stands in sharp contrast to how citizens who spoke at this week's hearing wanted to see the process move forward.

"The league would prefer a situation where you didn't consider the addresses of incumbents," said Therese Martin, who has worked on redistricting studies for The League of Women Voters of Virginia.

"The people of Virginia deserve better. They deserve fair and sensible legislative districts," said Martin, who lives in Reston.

Martin and Arlington Del. Bob Brink (D-48) also advocated for trying to align political districts with natural community boundaries, even if that makes a district less competitive.

Reston, for example, is within the bounds of one compact delegate seat. The seat is not very competi-

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION



**Gov. Robert McDonnell's advisory commission on redrawing political districts heard from the public during a hearing at George Mason University March 15. The commission can only make recommendations but has no power over the redistricting process, which is largely controlled by the Virginia General Assembly.**

tive, but that reflects the values of Reston, which votes overwhelmingly Democratic, according to Martin.

In order to keep communities from being split into more than one political district, Brink said Virginia should allow for greater deviation in the size of district populations.

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) agreed with Brink. "I think it is important for me that all of my constituents are within a 30-to-40-minute drive of me. You need to have access to your representative," said Petersen.

**OTHER SPEAKERS** encouraged the committee to take into account specific communities, and to try and create districts that would reflect a certain demographic group.

Virginia is required to comply with the federal voting rights act, which means that a certain number of districts — including one congressional seat — has to be drawn so the majority of people who are of voting age are African American. In order to comply with this rule, Virginia has to draw a least a few gerrymandered districts, which do not respect natural community boundaries, according to the commission members.

Approximately eight percent of Virginia residents are Latino, which should equate to 11 Latino representatives in the General Assembly. Unfortunately there are no Latino members of the state legislature, said Jaime Areizaga-Soto, vice president of the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia.

Areizaga-Soto said Virginia's Latino population tends to be spread out and is not focused enough that there is an obvious political district even at the delegate level that could be drawn as a majority-Latino seat. But there are areas where Latinos in combination with African American or Asian American groups could form political districts that are over 50 percent minority voters.

For example, 58 percent of voting-age population in the 49th district of the Virginia House of Delegates is an ethnic minority. Areizaga-Soto hopes this district, represented by Del. Adam Ebbin (D-49), will not be redrawn to become a majority white district.

## To assist the people of Japan



The following organizations, among others, have people on the ground in Japan. We urge you to donate through one of them—or through another of your favorite charities.

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# Private Schools Supply Fresh, Local Food

Some local schools incorporate gardens into their curricula.

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Locally, a handful of private schools and at least one public school are trying to promote health by teaching children about gardening and promoting locally produced food.

Hollin Meadows Elementary School, a public school in the Mount Vernon area of Fairfax County, maintains a 14,000 square-foot garden space that wraps around the school building as part of its science curriculum. In the fall, children work in the garden and families are allowed to take home the school-grown produce.

Burgundy Farm Country Day School, just outside the Interstate-495 in the Alexandria area, has a gardening program open to children, faculty and staff in the fall and spring. Located on the site of an old dairy farm, this private school also has an operating barn where students take care of goats and hens and a rooster on a regular basis.

Burgundy families get to take home farm fresh eggs from the school hens on a regular basis, according to Erin Futrowsky, Burgundy's communications director. Faculty members also get access to the eggs approximately once every six weeks, she added.

"Sometimes the program takes a little explaining. At first, some people are confused about what we do here. They think we are teaching the kids to farm," said Futrowsky.

EDUCATORS are turning their attention toward teaching better eating habits as the United States continues to struggle with escalating rates of obesity, particularly among younger children.

A 2007 survey sponsored by Inova Health Systems showed that 40 percent of children in the City of Alexandria and 25 percent of children in Arlington and Fairfax counties were either overweight or at-risk of being overweight.

Experts at the Center for Disease Control attribute the rise in childhood obesity nationwide to a lack

of exercise and poor diet among young people. Locally, the Inova survey found that 70 percent of students in Alexandria, Arlington and Fairfax do not eat enough fruits and vegetables every day.

There are several efforts to curb childhood obesity through public policy measures. First Lady Michelle Obama has made childhood obesity her top legislative priority. In Virginia, the General Assembly recently passed a bill that would increase the amount of physical education students are required to receive in school each week.

STILL SUZANNE BADOUX, who runs the dining services at Episcopal High School, said she has seen a trend toward students and institutions making healthier food choices.

"We have had a really dramatic increase in the volume of fruit being consumed. The students are eating a lot more whole fruit. Our fruit consumption is probably up 10 to 15 percent, if not more, from last year," said Badoux, who works for FLIX International, a catering company that emphasizes using fresh ingredients and cooking from scratch.

"You are never going to see potatoes coming out of a box from us," said Badoux of her company.

In addition to Episcopal, a boarding school in Alexandria, Badoux has also worked in kitchens at Bishop O'Connell, a Catholic high school in Arlington, and Washington International School, a private school in Washington D.C. In general, students seem to be paying more attention to what they put in their bodies than they were a few years ago, she said.

"We have a lot of eager takers on the salad bar and we have a growing vegetarian community. There are more and more students who are not eating red meat these days," said Badoux.



Students and staff get fresh eggs from the chickens at Burgundy Farm Country Day School.



Students help take care of goats at Burgundy Farm Country Day School.

PHOTOS BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

scratch," said Badoux.

In general, Episcopal's move toward healthier cooking had paid off and Badoux appears to be striking a balance, according to Christina Holt, a school spokesperson.

"A recent survey of students and faculty showed that 89 percent of people really enjoy the food. Most either thought it was really good or excellent," said Holt.

WHEN CADYN HARRINGTON brought home cilantro from the Bullis School garden a few weeks ago, her mother used the herb to tint Cadyn's smoothies and eggs green for Saint Patrick's Day.

"I like to eat [vegetables from the garden] a little bit more. Gardens are kind of convenient. You don't have to go to the store and buy the vegetables if you have a garden,"

said Cadyn, a third-grader at Bullis, a private school in Potomac, Md. "[The vegetables] are fresher. They are straight out of the garden and all you have to do is clean them," said Ethan Isaacson, another third-grader in Cadyn's class. Third-grade teacher Carolyn Cohen incorporates the vegetable garden into many of her science lesson plans, teaching the students about sustainable farming along the way.

A few weeks ago, Cadyn, Ethan and other third-graders planted sugar snap peas, picked cilantro and learned how to compost. In April, Cohen plans to teach her students how to plant potatoes and peanuts.

"We put the seeds about an inch apart using a tape measure," said Cohen. Students get to take home some of the produce they personally grow but many of the garden plots at Bullis are used to supply vegetables to the school's cafeteria, particularly the salad bar, said Susie Zimmermann, a Bullis spokesperson.

"We have plots for faculty and staff use too but quite a few of our plots are just for the dining hall," said Zimmermann.

Bullis labels the food at the salad bar that comes from the school garden and the program — started by alumni a couple of years ago — is extremely popular. Bullis is in the process of building a second set of elevated garden beds, which will

nearly double the amount of growing space available at the school, said Zimmermann.

In 2006, approximately 26 percent of Maryland teenagers surveyed between ages 13-18 were considered obese or overweight, a rate nearly three times as high it was in 1970, according to information on the Maryland government website.

Like most other parts of the country, very young Maryland children tend to even heavier than teenagers. In 2006, approximately 30 percent of children between 2 and 5 years old tracked through Maryland Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance were considered obese or overweight.

Katherine J. McDonald of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at St. Joseph's University.

Margaret Smith of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Ohio Wesleyan University of Delaware, Ohio. Smith is a graduate of Langley High School.

Rachel Burger of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Agnes Scott College of Decatur, Ga. She is the daughter of Eric Burger and Deborah Spear.

Sunaina Kapoor of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Kapoor is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Jackie Mullen of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Virginia Tech. She is a 2009 Langley High School graduate.

Great Falls residents Andres Orco and Jason Weiss have been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Mass.

Sarah Moses of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Gettysburg College of Gettysburg, Pa.

Justin Whitfield McKay of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Miami University of Oxford, Ohio.

Victoria Roisman of Great Falls was named to the 2010 fall merit list of Oxford College of Emory University in Oxford, Ga. She is the daughter of Peter S. Roisman and Emily N. Roisman.

Kaelin Fraley of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Washington and Lee University of Lexington, Va.

Brian Raymond Trundy of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at the Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

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

SCHOOL NOTES

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

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## 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)

### FRIDAY/MARCH 25

**"The Glass Menagerie"** by Tennessee Williams. 8 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststageysons.org](http://www.1ststageysons.org).

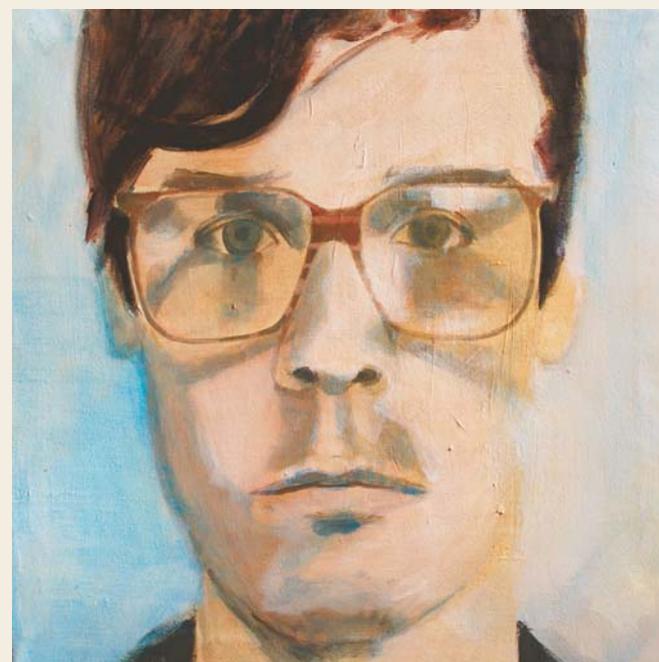
**Ron Sexsmith "Late Player Bloomer" CD Release and Caitlin Rose.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Artists' Reception.** 4-9 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. With local artists Jackie Elwell, Elaine Florimonte, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner. 703-319-3971.

**Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring work by Ohad Naharin, Lar Lubovitch, Robert Battle and Susan Shields. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Artists' Reception.** 5-9 p.m. Hermitage Design and Gallery, 6831 Tennyson Drive, McLean. 703-827-0066 or [www.hermitagedesigngallery.com](http://www.hermitagedesigngallery.com).

**Artist's Reception.** 7-9 p.m. Avenue Beau Sejour, 10135 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. "Art and Wine" with Joanne Robert Wittauer. 703-268-5355 or [www.AvenueBeauSejour.com](http://www.AvenueBeauSejour.com).



**Claudia Samper. 'Man with Glasses,' acrylic on canvas, 24in x 24in.**

## Claudia Samper's 'New Portraits' at Katie's Coffee House

Claudia Samper, award winning contemporary artist, will show a series of new portraits at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Rd. in Great Falls, during the month of April. Inspired by daily interactions with people, Samper sought to create an intimate connection with the viewer. Samper is a member of the Great Falls Studios and has a studio space at Reston Art Gallery at 11400 Washington Plaza W. Reston. Visit her website at [www.claudiasamper.com](http://www.claudiasamper.com) to learn more about her work.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 13

Looking for activities for your child during Spring Break?

McLean **Spring Break Camp**

The McLean Community Center  
 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101  
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[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

Children enjoy supervised games, arts and crafts, activities, music, and special events throughout the week. Children must bring a lunch and a drink each day and dress in comfortable clothes and tennis shoes. A morning snack is provided.

Camp will be held at Churchill Road Elementary, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean.



## A Season of Enchantment

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Saturday, March 26, 2011 @ 8pm

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

## SATURDAY/MARCH 26

**McLean Symphony Orchestra: Myths and Motion.** 8 p.m. Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Wagner's Ride of the Valkyries, Peaslee's Arrows of Time with Craig Mulcahy, Trombone Soloist, and Franck's Symphony in D Minor. [mclean-orchestra.org](http://mclean-orchestra.org).

Saturday/March 26

**"The Glass Menagerie"** by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststageyosons.org](http://www.1ststageyosons.org).

**Pruning Demonstration.** 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. How and when to prune and the proper tools to use. Demonstration of removal of dead and diseased wood. \$5. Reservations required at 703-255-3631.

**Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Featuring work by Ohad Naharin, Lar Lubovitch, Robert Battle and Susan Shields. Tickets \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**A Staged Reading of "A Memory, A Monologue, A Rant and A Prayer."** 8 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The play explores the way violence affects us all. V-Day is a global movement to end violence against women and girls. V-Day Oakton 2011 beneficiaries are Men Can Stop Rape and Dating Abuse Stops Here (DASH). Tickets \$10-\$25, available at [vdayoakton2011.weebly.com](http://vdayoakton2011.weebly.com).

**Fairfax Swing Band.** 8 p.m. Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. A big band in the style of Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey, with the Main Street Community Band, a symphonic wind ensemble. \$15 adults, \$9 seniors, free admission for age 18 and younger. [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org) or 703-757-0220.

**Homeless Animals Rescue Team (HART) Art & Silent Auction.** Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. 7 p.m. preview, 8 p.m. auction. Hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. Proceeds benefit HART, a no-kill animal rescue/support group. \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. [www.hart90.org](http://www.hart90.org).

**Indonesian Guitarist "Balawan"**

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

## THURSDAY/MARCH 24

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.** 6:30 p.m. Sunrise of McLean, 8315 Turning Leaf Lane, McLean. 703-902-8102.

**Registration for Spring English Classes for Adults.** 7 p.m. St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Nine-week semester, meeting Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. \$20, new students must also purchase the appropriate book. Optional basic computer skills class for intermediate and advanced ESL students. 703-626-3585 (English), 703-300-3936 (Spanish) or 703-994-8510 (Korean).

**Motherhood Stress and Guilt.** 6:30 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., NE, Vienna. How to get the most out of motherhood. \$35 registration fee, \$25 members. [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).



**The Mason Dance Company 2011 Gala Concert will be Friday, March 25 and Saturday, March 26 at 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive in Fairfax. The performances will showcase a repertory company of dancers performing contemporary choreography in four pieces, including Ohad Naharin's "Ehad Mi Yodea," Lar Lubovitch's "Dvorak Serenade," Robert Battle's "Promenade" and Susan Shields' "Sunlit Song." Tickets are \$20 adults, \$12 students and seniors, and are available at the Center for the Arts Box Office, open Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., or at 888-945-2468 or [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).**

**Batuan.** 1 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Ethnic Fusion. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## SUNDAY/MARCH 27

**"The Glass Menagerie"** by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or [www.1ststageyosons.org](http://www.1ststageyosons.org).

**The Capitol Steps.** 4 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Musical political satire. Proceeds benefit the Class of 2011 All-Night Grad Party. Tickets \$25-\$30. [madisoncapitolsteps@yahoo.com](mailto:madisoncapitolsteps@yahoo.com).

**An Evening with David Lindley.**

7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**All-Day Art Demonstration.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Vienna Arts Society, Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., N.W., Vienna. Multi-media exhibition and demonstrations. 703-391-3971 or [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

## MONDAY/MARCH 28

**Matt Wertz and Ben Rector.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## FRIDAY/MARCH 25

**Nominating Petition Deadline.** 5 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. MCC is seeking candidates for the 2011-2012 Governing Board. The board provides oversight and guidance for MCC programs and facilities, including the Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Teen Center. Nominating petition forms are available at the Center. Voting will be May 21 from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-790-0123, TTY 711.

**McLean Art Society Meeting.** 10 a.m. Mclean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Jill Banks, a teacher and award winning artist, on "Mastering the Business of Art". Guests welcome. 703-790-0123.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 26

**Fairfax County Mega Job and Entrepreneurship Expo.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Major area employers, employment experts and

**eBooks/eAudiobooks Workshop.** 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Learn how to download and read or listen to free library eBooks and eAudiobooks. Bring laptops, eReaders, MP3 players or other devices. Adults and teens. 703-790-8088.

## TUESDAY/MARCH 29

**Sick Of Sarah, Hunter Valentine, Curtis Peoples and Lucas Silveira.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

**Novelist Anita Shreve.** 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/News/news1118.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/News/news1118.htm).

**Movie Matinee.** 11:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Short movies based on popular children's books. Bring lunch. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-757-8560.

**Duke Special and Eli Staples.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

skill workshops. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/news/mega-job-fair-employers.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/news/mega-job-fair-employers.htm)

## SUNDAY/MARCH 27

**New Providence Republican Women Membership Tea.** 1 p.m. 11219 Sorrel Ridge Lane, Oakton. 703-593-7935.

## MONDAY/MARCH 28

**Ayr Hill Garden Club Meeting.** 10:30 a.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Peter Deahl, volunteer master bird bander, will share his knowledge and photos of both local birds and those migrating through the area. Free and open to the public. [plhweiss@yahoo.com](mailto:plhweiss@yahoo.com).

**McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia.** 5:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group is planning an event for Saturday, Oct. 22, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. 703-356-8223.

# Spring Break April 18-22 Trips for 5th-8th graders

Join the OFTC on these fun and exciting trips:

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Monday, April 18 - Friday April 22, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sign-up for one trip, or all five and receive a discount!

**Shadowland Laser Tag**  
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**Massanutten Indoor Water Park**  
Wednesday, April 20

**Rock Climbing @ Great Falls Park**  
Thursday, April 21

**Movie @ Tysons Corner**  
Friday, April 22



## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2013 Programs**  
Wednesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District One at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2013, which runs July 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013.

**The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.**

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: [mail@mcleancenter.org](mailto:mail@mcleancenter.org).



**The McLean Community Center**  
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101  
703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)



The Langley High softball team (pictured) will be hosting defending district and region champion Madison this Friday night.

## Langley Receives Confidence Boost In Season-Opening Softball Win

**Freshmen pitcher Templin keeps Robinson in check in Saxons' shutout victory.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

The Langley High girls' softball team opened up the new season with a crisp 3-0 non-district win at Robinson Secondary last Thursday, March 17. The Saxons, coming off a 7-15 record in 2010, received an impressive outing from freshmen pitcher Emily Templin, who in her first career high school game pitched and hit her team to victory.

Templin, on the pitching mound, allowed five hits and walked two while striking out four in gaining the shutout win. Meanwhile, at the plate, she smacked a pair of doubles, including an RBI two-bagger, in three at-bats to pace Langley's seven-hit attack.

Jessica Roche, the Langley head coach, said the ninth grader showed none of the nervousness that often accompanies a freshmen ball player competing in her first varsity game.

"It doesn't bother her at all," said Roche, of Templin's first game mindset in the season opener. "She's been pitching all her life."

Templin benefitted from a solid defense behind her in the win over the Rams, perennially one of the better teams in the Northern Region.

"It was a real exciting win," said Roche. "Knowing that Robinson traditionally has one of the better teams in the region gives us confidence."

"Our pitcher did an excellent job where the batters hit playable balls," said the coach. "Our defense was solid with just one error. Definitely, our infield looked excellent. Our outfield did not have a lot of action."

Templin used an assortment of pitches versus the

opposing Robinson batters. Most importantly, she hit her spots and made the Rams hit her pitch.

"She did what she had to do," said Roche, of Templin's ability to do her part in keeping the host Rams off of the scoreboard.

Langley's Courtney Conklin, a senior first baseman, contributed an RBI single to the Saxons' victory.

**ONE OF THE ASPECTS** Roche loves early on about her team is its good chemistry and team-first mindset. The Saxons have nine returning players on their 11-member roster, along with two freshmen. One of the team's top returning players is senior shortstop Mandy Moll, an Honorable Mention All-Liberty District selection last year. Both Moll and Conklin serve as team co-captains this season.

The Saxons have a good early season team blend which hopefully will result in a cohesive unit that wins a bunch of games this spring.

"My girls get along so well," said Roche. "Being a team on the field for them is natural. They didn't show hesitation or nervousness [in the opener]. They just went out and had fun. Looking at them after the game and seeing their enthusiasm [at having won], I think they had forgotten what it felt like to get a big win."

Langley plays in a super competitive Liberty District consisting of such outstanding teams as Madison, the defending district and Northern Region champion, and McLean, the defending state AAA champion. Other quality teams in the district will likely include Marshall, Fairfax, and Stone Bridge. The Saxons will be looking to improve on last year's four district wins.

Langley was scheduled to play a district game earlier this week on Tuesday, March 22 at South Lakes High in Reston. This Friday night, the Saxons will meet visiting Madison on Saxon Field at 6:30.

Over spring break week next month, Langley will travel to Myrtle Beach, S.C. from April 18-22. There, the Saxons will compete in the Grand Strand Softball Tournament.

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS



PHOTO BY N. KANAAN

Members of the Great Falls U9 Milan boys soccer team pose with their First Place medals after winning the championship in the U9 Boys Black Division at the Prince William Soccer Annual Icebreaker Tournament last weekend in Haymarket. (Another local team, the Great Falls U11 Rapid, also won a championship game in the U11 Boys White Division). U9 Milan went a perfect 3-0 in their flight, with wins over Arlington, Herndon and Sterling, before going on to beat the Richmond Kickers Collegiate Aston Villa, 9-0, in the championship game. On the back row, from left: Coach Laszlo Juhasz, Julie de Kanter, Cristina de Kanter, Rex Kerrigan, Aidan Stein, Will Rissing, and Coach Jose Urquizo. Front Row: Sebastian Conlon, Jad Kanaan, Andrew Daniel, Garret Nimmo, and Aidan Kenny.

Jimmy Lange scored a 10-round unanimous decision over Jimmy "The Fighting School Teacher" Holmes last week at the Patriot Center, utilizing an effective jab especially in the middle-through-late rounds to help earn his 35th career victory. Lange, headlining his 12th show at the George Mason University venue, improved to 35-4-2, 24 KOs, while Holmes dropped to 19-2, 10 KOs.

"I thought I got in some good work tonight. He is a very long fighter and I usually fight shorter guys so I had to make some adjustments," said Lange, who plans to fight out of town once or twice before returning to Fairfax this fall. "I did not see any tape on him so I did not know what to expect until the bell rung. I played it by ear a little bit early on."

**The Langley High girl's lacrosse team** opened its defense of last season's Liberty District and Northern Region championships with a tough 10-8 home loss to a determined Battlefield High team on March 15. Suffering from the absence of several key starters, the Saxons kept it close but were unable to withstand repeated fast-break runs by the energetic Lady Bobcats that led to transition scores. The game served notice that the Lady Saxons' success last year will motivate this year's tough schedule of opponents to bring their best.

Langley jumped on top when Hayley Soutter executed a quick steal and unassisted score. The Saxons, as the half wore on, stayed close, with tallies coming from Ellie Glasgow, Rachel Wagner and Margo Swomley. But the lead would change hands several times as the Bobcats' seasoned team, featuring no less than eight seniors, four of whom have already committed to college play, quickly responded with speed in transition. The half ended, 6-4, with the Lady Bobcats ahead.

The Saxons would get no closer in the game as Battlefield maintained control of the midfield for long stretches and scored opportunistically on transitions or penalty shots. Goalie Erin Long had an excellent game in goal, registering nine saves, and the defensive unit did a fine job shutting down the Bobcats' half-court offense. But the offense struggled, failing to score for a long stretch between the 13- and 4-minute mark of the second half, by which time the Bobcats had built a 9-5 lead. Energized by the continued determined play of the defense, the offense came alive in the waning minutes, attacking the goal and registering another several goals by Margo Swomley and Anna Helmer, the last at 38 seconds remaining. But it was too little too late, as time ran out on the Saxon comeback.

# HOME SALES

In February 2011, 12 Great Falls homes sold between \$3,400,000-\$738,500.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
10859 WOLFE HILL LN	7	6	3	GREAT FALLS	\$3,400,000	Detached	5.00	MULMARY		
10616 GOOD SPRING AVE	4	4	2	GREAT FALLS	\$1,839,000	Detached	4.18	SPRINGWOOD		
11304 LANDY LANE	4	4	2	GREAT FALLS	\$1,660,000	Detached	1.07	CHANEL ESTATES		
395 WALKER RD	4	4	3	GREAT FALLS	\$1,540,000	Detached	1.99	RIVER BEND WALK		
649 DEERFIELD FARM CT	5	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,451,000	Detached	1.72	DEERFIELD FARM		
11933 THOMAS AVE	5	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,325,000	Detached	2.00	KENTLAND FARMS		
10202 COLVIN RUN RD	6	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,271,500	Detached	1.09	COLVIN RUN		
351 RIVER BEND RD	6	4	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,125,000	Detached	1.09	WEANT		
218 RIVER PARK DR	5	4	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,100,000	Detached	1.74	RIVERBEND FARM		
10449 ARTEMEL LN	4	4	1	GREAT FALLS	\$893,000	Detached	1.21	PINEY RUN		
808 LEIGH MILL RD	4	4	3	GREAT FALLS	\$838,000	Detached	5.00	JACKSON MILL		
9404 MYRA DR	5	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$738,500	Detached	0.49	WOLF TRAP GREEN		

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## Saturday & Sunday, March 26 & 27



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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), click the Real Estate links on the right side.



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 754 Ellsworth Avenue...\$1,699,999.00...Sun 1-4...Dianne Van Volkenburg...Weichert...703-980-4553  
 9450 Deramus Farm Ct...\$1,449,000...Sun 1-4...Dianne Van Volkenburg...Weichert...703-980-4553

### McLean

6429 Georgetown Pike...\$1,900,000...Sun 1-4...Monica Gibson...Keller Williams...703-944-3434

### Reston

1902 Crescent Park Dr...\$399,000...Sun. 1-4...Kathy Shipley...Long & Foster...703-407-9518  
 11711 Stillbrook Ct...\$387,500...Sun. 1-4...Peggy Hamaker...K.D. Hamaker Properties...703-533-1188  
 11591 Maple Ridge Rd...\$349,000...Sun. 1-4...Robert Chevez...Keller Williams...703-679-1700

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 754 Barbaralynn Pl...\$379,900...Sun 1-4...Kevin LaRue...Century 21...703-217-6665

### Vienna

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 601 Plum St...\$782,500...Sun 1-4...Lauren Sobol...Realty Investments...703-615-5812

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11305 Walnut Creek Ct...\$1,325,000...Sun 1-4...Ashley White...TTR Sothebys...703-431-1705

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**To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or [salome@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:salome@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.**

# THE COUNTY LINE

## County Could Add a New Seat

NICHOLAS M. HORROCK  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Fairfax County Advisory Citizens Reapportionment Committee will forward 25 redistricting plans to the Board of Supervisors on March 29, but will recommend no reduction or addition of supervisory districts and will back only size and precinct changes, according to Katherine K. Hanley.

Hanley, chairwoman of the committee, said after its nearly two months of meetings, the commission voted not to add or subtract a district because the 120,000 population rise didn't warrant dramatic change "and the districts were not very out of balance."

She said the cost of creating a new district (estimated at \$1 million) would have come at a time that the county is experiencing serious budget deficits.

She said the committee followed two principles on redistricting of county districts: "there is to be as little disruption of the lives of the people of Fairfax" as possible and disparity between district populations must be dramatic to warrant dramatic change.

"The districts were substantially all near the same level" and the "numbers didn't dictate huge upheavals."

In the new 2010 census, the largest district is Mount Vernon with a population of 127,501 and the smallest is Mason District with a population of 109,326.

Anne Kanter, who represented the League of Women Voters on the committee, said that the movement of voter precincts would be relatively small.

"Dranesville is likely to get one from Hunter Mill (second largest district with 126,594 people) and Mount Vernon will have to lose a precinct to Lee District," she said.

The committee received 25 plans for redistricting. Nineteen called for keeping the present 9 district size, two sought 10 districts and one recommended a plan for 11 districts.

The plans will go to the Board of Supervisors without names, Kanter said, to prevent the name of the author influencing the board decision.

All 25 plans with a cover letter containing the committee's conclusions will be delivered to the Board of Supervisors on March 29. The board will advertise all the plans and committee conclusions and a public hearing will be conducted on April 12.

On April 26, the board will adopt a redistricting plan. It can follow the committee's recommendations, choose any one of the

## But 120,000 new residents likely to be absorbed into current supervisor districts.

25 plans, or create its own plan.

Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova has said she doubted that a new district would be created and there seemed no chance the number of districts would be reduced.

The timing from then on is crucial. Virginia is one of a few states with an election on the same year as the new census comes out. The primary new primary date moved from June to Aug. 23.

Fairfax County (and several other Virginia jurisdictions) must forward its plan to the Department of Justice under a section of the Voting Rights Act; to have it certified. DOJ has 60 days to respond.

Michael Long, office of the County Attorney, who worked on redistricting, said if it arrived by April 28, DOJ might return it by June 28. Ballots then could be printed.

Absentee ballots for all county residents abroad or overseas in the military must be ready by 45 days before the election or July 8, 2011.

Fairfax County has far less population growth than Loudoun and Prince William counties.

**ONE GROUP** that publicly sought to form a new district was the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce which covers lower Mount Vernon and Lee districts. Chamber President

Tom Riser said that in 1990 districts had some 90,000 citizens and supervisors could manage the needs of constituents far more completely. Now Mount Vernon has some 127,501 citizens which makes it a much larger administrative area.

Rise said Gerry Hyland, the current supervisor is widely respected, but it will soon be time to redraw the lines.

"Gerry has been phenomenal juggler, but ... there is no way to represent your district well when you have 125,000 residents," Riser said.

Hyland confirmed recently that he will seek reelection.

But Riser said he had been briefed on how the committee had ruled and he was still fully satisfied. "It gave us a chance to call attention to the enormous growth down here and it will lay the base for the future."

Mount Vernon is expected to have continuing growth with many new residents coming in as a result of the military's base realignment program.

Kanter said she was the author of a plan to create 11 districts, not as the League of Women Voters representative, but as an individual. She said the size of Fairfax districts, even with introduction of satellite "city halls" are too large for one supervisor to fully represent the interests of small groups.

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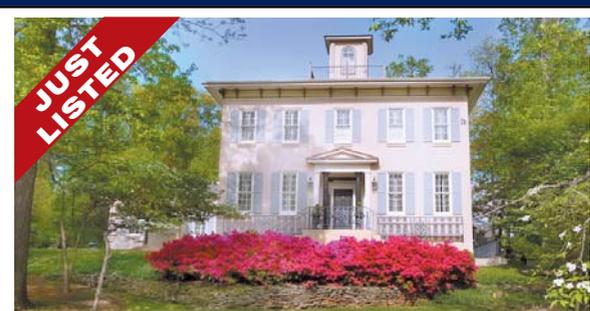
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