

Great Falls CONNECTION

Home Life Style

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In Great Falls

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NEWS

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PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, speaks at the 200th anniversary celebration at Colvin Run Mill Sunday.

Milestone for the Millstones

Colvin Run Mill celebrates 200 years of service.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

With the internet, video games, satellite television and other modern technology keeping today's youth indoors, there often isn't room for the past. But Ben Winderman, 7, of Vienna found his way outdoors Sunday afternoon to stop by the Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls.

"It seems so advanced, using the river to grind corn into powder without electricity," Winderman said. "We learned about using rivers and streams for power in class, but they're still trying to do that today."

Winderman wasn't alone at Colvin Run Mill, as more than 100 people came out to help celebrate the mill's 200th anniversary.

George Washington once owned the land the mill was built on. In 1811, Philip Carper turned it into a commercial mill. In the early 1800s, flour was the Mid-Atlantic's number one export, and Virginia manufactured about 25 percent of the nation's flour.

It went through ups and downs, suffering during and after the Civil War, only to be modernized after Addison and Emma Millard purchased it in 1883. It prospered for another 50 years, but the re-alignment in the early 1940's of the Alexandria-Leesburg Turnpike to the south side of the mill severed the water supply.

"It's a great story, and it's a wonderful accomplishment," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "It's a story that has at least another chapter, and hopefully many more, with a lot less drama in its future."

THE MILL has a daily capacity of about 50 barrels (one barrel is 196 pounds of flour). It is one of the few all-brick mills remaining in Virginia, and was purchased by the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1965. From 1968 to 1972, the Park Authority restored the mill and house and it opened to the public in 1972.

"Our mission is clearly defined as the preservation of resources, including the protection of historic and cultural resources," said Bill Bouie, Park Authority board chairman. "It takes understanding that these sites are a great value to the entire community, and although they represent the past, they are important to us as we shape our future."

Sunday, visitors could tour the mill, the miller's house and the barn, and there was a blacksmith demonstration and children could grind their own cornmeal, turning the ears of corn into powder.

"It's hard to believe we're only about five miles from the center of Tysons Corner, with everything that's going on there, and here you've got things going on the way they did 200 years ago," said Naresh Bhalla of Great Falls. "I think it's pretty cool that you can come here and actually see how a mill works, not watch a video or look at pictures, but see the process firsthand."

Mike Henry, manager of Colvin Run Mill, said that the mill serves as a monument to what helped America rise to become a superpower.

"This mill and others like it helped usher in a new age of technology and tools that transformed this county, this country and the world," he said. "This bold new era of ingenious people and machines took a fledgling America from an agrarian society to an industrial powerhouse in a few short generations."

At 12:45 p.m., volunteers from the 5th Maryland, Baltimore United Volunteers, dressed as soldiers from the War of 1812, sounded a call to assembly with their muskets, drawing people to the land just in front of the mill.

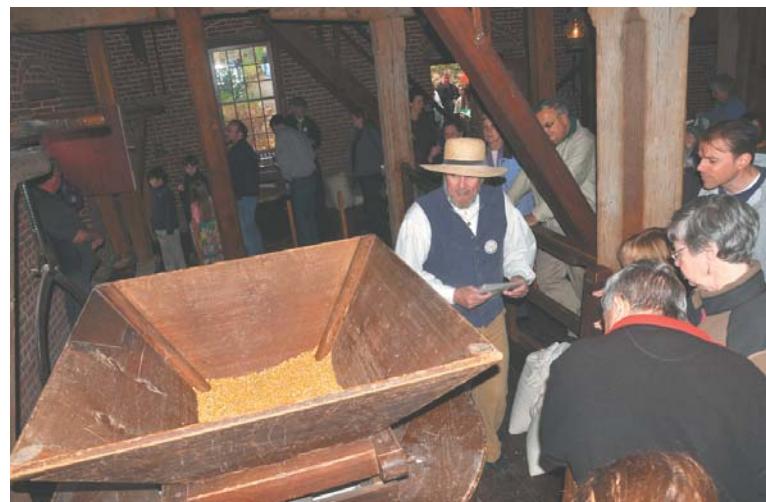
Fairfax County and Park Authority staff, as well as members of the Friends of Colvin Run Mill, gave a presentation on how important the history of the mill is to the community.

"I'm always fascinated by vestiges of things we find in Fairfax County that remind us of what was here before we were here, and this is probably one of the most interesting features in the entire county," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. "Thousands of school children come to see an old mill at work. They have a chance to study engineering, they gain new insight into how

SEE COLVIN RUN MILL, PAGE II



Rose Boos, 7, of Great Falls, grinds an ear of corn at Colvin Run Mill, as part of the mill's 200th anniversary celebration. Children could grind ears of corn into flour and take home a bag of it, in addition to other activities.



Mason Maddox, miller at Colvin Run Mill, demonstrates how the mill grinds corn at the mill's 200th anniversary celebration.



These mugs and tea bowls created by Great Falls potters will be given away randomly to local residents who vote in the election to select a Great Falls town bird. Voting is easy and takes place at the Great Falls Studios website.

Artists to Offer Prizes To Bird-Election Voters

Voting incentives include original mugs created by local potters.

As the May 15 deadline approaches for residents to vote for a bird to become the symbol of Great Falls, the art group Great Falls Studios has announced that four local potters have created mugs or tea bowls to be given away randomly to voters as an incentive to cast ballots.

The bird election, "Vote 2011: Wings Across Great Falls," is sponsored by Great Falls Studios, Great Falls and Forestville elementary schools, the National Audubon Society and eight other local groups. Residents have been asked to pick from seven candidate bird species and can vote online at www.GreatFallsStudios.com. Winners of the mugs, as well as other prizes donated by local businesses, will be drawn randomly from the list of Great Falls residents who voted. Winners will be announced after May 15.

"We devised the bird election as a fun and art-filled activity for Great Falls and an unusual exercise in civics," said Laura Nichols, president of Great Falls Studios and one of the potters who have contributed original craft prizes. "Our hope is that people will vote as part of their community responsibility, but we wanted to add an additional inducement to send them to the polling place."

In all, eight mugs or tea bowls will be awarded. They have a retail value ranging from \$25 to \$35 each. In addition to Nichols, the other potters contributing work from their kilns in Great Falls are Barbara Gatterdam, David Cowdrill, and Deborah McDysan. Their donations will be coupled with other prizes from area businesses. The other prizes include \$25 gift certificates from the Bird Feeder, a bird-supply store in Reston.

Mugs and other drinking devices hold a special place in the world of pottery. "The mug is complex and highly personal," Nichols said. "When you use a mug, do you hold it with two fingers, or are you a whole hand person? Do you drink your coffee quickly, or do you prefer a thick mug that will hold the heat

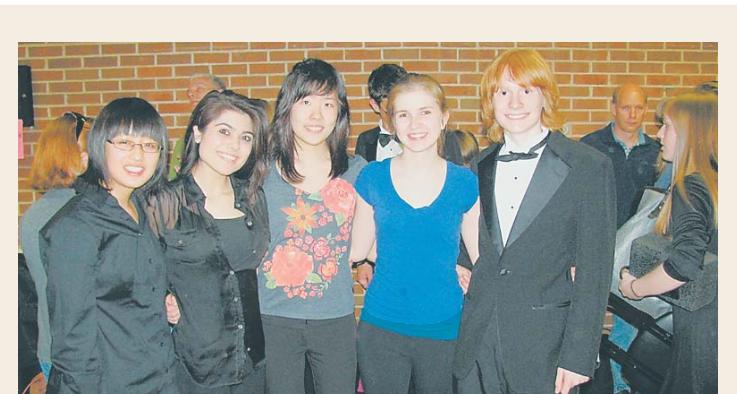
longer? Are you trying to quit and so you need a small mug? When you drink from a mug, is the rim generous, or does it fight you for your tea, or does it get ahead of you and dribble on your shirt? And that is just the beginning. You still have the surface decoration to ponder. The potter takes all this into consideration when creating an ordinary mug."

Online voting, and the chance to win a mug, is easy. Simply go to the home page at the Great Falls Studios website, www.GreatFallsStudios.com. Click on the link to "Wings." This will take you to the ballot. You can vote for one of the official candidates or write in your "favorite feathered friend." One vote per person, limited to residents of Great Falls. Children in Great Falls and Forestville elementary will vote in their schools at special election days in early May.

The bird candidates are the Pileated Woodpecker, Great Blue Heron, Wild Turkey, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Bluebird and American Goldfinch. Polls are open on the Great Falls Studios website until May 15.



A Pileated Woodpecker, one of the "candidates" in the bird election, adorns a mug created by Laura Nichols. Nichols, in the background, holds a second mug she has just thrown on her potter's wheel.



Langley High Students Perform in Charlottesville

Five Langley High School students auditioned and were selected as members of the All-Virginia Bands and Orchestra. The three day event culminated with a concert performance in Charlottesville on Saturday, April 9. Music selections from composers such as Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Shostakovich, Ives, Mahr, and Mackey were performed. The students from left, are: Michelle Chu - Violin (10th grade), Kimiya Haghghi - Violin (11th grade), Sae Hashimoto - Percussion (11th grade), Laura Grems - Percussion (10th grade) and Craig Hunter - Percussion (12th grade).



PHOTO BY SYLVIA BULSTANI

Langley High Orchestra Tours Montreal

Members of the Langley High School Orchestra toured Montreal from April 2-5. In addition to a performance in the Notre Dame Basilica, they participated in a clinic at Oscar Peterson Concert Hall at Concordia University. The clinic was conducted by David Alexander Rahbee, a recipient of both the American-Austrian Foundation's 2003 Herbert von Karajan Fellowship for Young Conductors, and a 2005 International Richard-Wagner-Verband Stipend. Other highlights of the trip included visits to the Museum of Science, the Biodome/Olympic Tower, a walking tour of Old Montreal, and a Sugaring-Off Feast at Cabane à Sucre Lalande.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Jessica Lauren Reber of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Washington University in St. Louis. Reber is a graduate of Langley High School.

Rachael Beekman of Great Falls has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list at Tufts University of Medford, Ma.

Sarah Moses of Great Falls, a junior at Gettysburg College, is spending the spring 2011 semester studying in Italy.

Sarah Benjamin of Great Falls was named to the fall 2010 dean's

list with high honors at Carnegie Mellon University. The junior is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. **Ashley Ann Alligood** of McLean graduated from Radford University at the end of the fall semester. The daughter of Donna Alligood earned a bachelor of science in psychology.

Victoria Avvacumova of McLean has graduated from Illinois Central College.

Lara Linden of McLean has been named to the fall 2010 dean's list with high distinction at Grove City College of Grove City, Pa. The 2007 Washington Christian Academy graduate is the daughter of Derek Linden.

PEOPLE

Great Falls Student Receives Projects for Peace Award

Tamer Hassan of Great Falls is one of two students at Colby College in Waterville, Maine, to receive a \$10,000 Davis Projects for Peace grant this year. Hassan will continue work on a documentary film series about communities conducive to a more sustainable and peaceful future.

Philanthropist Kathryn W. Davis launched the Projects for Peace program in 2007 to mark her 100th birthday. Again this year she challenged students to design and implement innovative techniques that focus on conflict resolution, reconciliation, building understanding, and breaking down barriers that cause conflict. This summer students from more than 90 campuses will share more than \$1 million in funding for projects in all regions of the world.

According to Hassan, an environmental studies major and a senior, his objective is "to reveal and inspire ideas for enacting peaceful and resilient community prac-



Tamer Hassan

tices into mainstream consciousness through film." Continuing his work with Armand Tufenkian, a 2010 Colby graduate, Hassan will make three more installments in their documentary film series

titled "Finding Community."

Hassan wrote that in making the first two films in the series, set at Twin Oaks Community in Louisa, Va., and Earthaven Ecovillage in Black Mountain, N.C., the filmmakers witnessed the "transformative potential that cooperation and communal support have on our environment, our political and economic systems, and the way in which we treat one another."

The other winner from Colby is junior Sulaiman Nasseri, a Davis United World College scholar from Afghanistan. Nasseri sees his project, "Empowering Afghan Women Through Embroidery," as a way to help families in Kabul. By providing women with the training, equipment, and materials to begin commercial embroidery, Nasseri hopes to improve their status and increase the literacy and educational attainment of their children, according to his proposal.

Great Falls Sisters Compete in Dublin, Ireland

Keaton Flaesch, an eighth grader, and Delaney Flaesch, a seventh grader, are honor roll students at Saint Luke School. The sisters are also championship dancers with The Maple Academy of Irish Dance. They started dancing in first grade and have been performing and competing for about four years. Their performances have included parades, festivals, special events and shows at such locations as Baltimore's Lyric Opera House and Wolf Trap. They have competed throughout the U.S. and in Canada.

This past December, Keaton and Delaney competed in the Southern Regional Championships (Oireachtas) which was held at National Harbor in Maryland. Delaney placed 9th in the U12 competition out of 101 dancers and Keaton placed 15th in the U13 competition out of 122 dancers. Their placements qualified them for both the 2011 North American National Championships in Nashville, Tenn. and the 2011 World Championships in Dublin, Ireland April 17 - 23. Both sisters have been to Nationals before and this will be Keaton's second time to Worlds.



Sisters Keaton, left, and Delaney Flaesch will participate in the 2011 World Championships in Irish Dancing in Dublin, Ireland, April 17 - 23.

Keaton and Delaney are thrilled to have the opportunity to compete in Ireland in the World Championships. They have worked hard both in dancing and in paying for their Irish dance expenses. Three

years ago they started K & D Pet Sitting to help defray the costs of dance classes and competition. They love Irish dance and all the rewarding experiences it has brought them.

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THE COUNTY LINE

Lyme Disease: Epidemic 'Largely Ignored'

Governor's Task Force on Lyme disease hears stories of loss, pain and frustration.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Tricia Platas, a Springfield mother of four, sat in front of Governor Robert McDonnell's Lyme Disease Task Force on March 24, clenched her hands together, and testified about losing her 9-year-old daughter, Amber Marie, to Lyme disease.

"It was a few months after her ninth birthday when we really knew something was wrong," Platas said. "She woke up one morning in so much pain that she could not walk to the bathroom. This was a little girl who loved to laugh, loved to sing and dance, Amber was the light of our lives."

Platas cried when she told the panel and 120 attendees how desperate she was to make the many doctors she saw with Amber take her daughter's "mysterious" illness seriously. In her frantic search for a cure, she took Amber to a doctor who strapped the little girl to a bed, and waved foul-smelling oils in her face. "Amber was screaming. I just can't believe anyone would do that," she said.

"I wanted them to treat my little girl right, so I wouldn't always ask the right questions, or demand answers. I feel terrible about that," she said. "You have to push for answers."

Amber Marie Platas died on April 22, 2002, at Children's National Medical Cen-

ter.

PLATAS WAS ONE of 25 area patients and caregivers who testified about their experiences with Lyme disease at Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield. They shared stories of pain, fear and fatigue with the eight-member panel of health department officials and legislators' representatives. It was the fifth public testimony hearing about the spread of Lyme disease in the Commonwealth.

Led by Michael Farris, chancellor of Patrick Henry College in Purcellville, the task force will propose recommendations to the governor after its final hearing April 25. Farris' wife and seven of his 10 children have been diagnosed with Lyme disease. The task force comprises physicians, wildlife officials, veterinarians and other experts.

According to the Centers for Disease Con-

trol and Prevention (CDC), 900 new cases of Lyme disease were reported in Virginia in 2009, a number the CDC acknowledges could be 10 times higher due to under-reporting and inaccurate diagnostic tests. In Fairfax County, 250 cases were reported last year, according to the Fairfax County Health Department.

"We're here tonight to listen to people's stories, hear their recommendations and advocate for more public awareness and education," Farris said.

A well-known constitutional lawyer, Farris is the founder of the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA) and Patrick Henry College, a Christian liberal arts college that is aimed at home-schooled students.

"Lyme disease is dramatically misdiagnosed, and there is too much denial by doctors that chronic Lyme does not exist," Farris

SEE TASK FORCE, PAGE 7

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Task Force on Lyme Disease to Hold Final Hearing on April 25

FROM PAGE 8

said.

Mikey Pedersen, a 14-year-old Vienna resident, told the panel that his case of Lyme disease went undiagnosed for a year despite seven doctor visits. He said doctors attributed his symptoms to growing pains. The delayed diagnosis allowed Lyme and co-infections to spread throughout his body causing rashes, severe joint pain, and fatigue.

Kristina Sheridan, a Vienna mother of a teenage daughter with Lyme disease, told the panel her family spent four years seeing 30 doctors, visiting seven hospitals and receiving more than 15 diagnoses before they found a team of doctors determined to get her daughter well.

She gave the panel a list of specific recommendations for the panel to consider, including spraying the edges of school fields and soccer fields with Permethrin, an insect repellent, to kill ticks as well as West Nile Virus.

"I've no doubt both my kids got bitten by ticks on soccer fields," she said. Sheridan also said parents of children diagnosed with Lyme need to understand the process for Special Education Certification for "other health issues."

"This certification provides families and the school with the flexibility needed to handle the waxing and waning symptoms, the additional days of absence," Sheridan said.

MARJORIE VEIGA, a Lyme disease patient consultant and mother of a teen daughter diagnosed with Lyme disease, who also lives in Vienna, said the biggest myth about Lyme disease is that it is easily diagnosed and treated.

"It is difficult to diagnose due to the unreliable screening tests, and because of migrating and remitting symptoms," she said.

In the case of Veiga's young daughter, she was told by the pediatrician that her tick bite was a pimple.

"I insisted on a Lyme test, but the results were negative. The doctor did not tell me that tests are inaccurate unless conducted six weeks after a tick bite," she said.

After a year and eight specialists, a doctor friend recommended repeating the test, but using a different lab, Veiga said. This time, the result was positive.

"We started treatment, but the disease has become systemic, resulting in headaches, joint and stomach pain and blurred vision, and extreme fatigue."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Marjorie Veiga, a Lyme disease patient consultant in Vienna, and mother of a teen daughter diagnosed with Lyme disease, said the biggest myth about Lyme disease is that it is easily diagnosed and treated.

"These heartrending cases of misdiagnosis, financial ruin, and social isolation are difficult to hear as we travel throughout Virginia," Farris said. "But it is important to gather first-hand testimonies about the personal impact of long-term illness. One of our most important goals is to allow people to be heard."

"I was so moved by all the stories given at the meeting that night," Platas said in an interview after the three-hour hearing. "It saddens me to see how many people are still being made sick by this horrible little bug."

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) attended the hearing, and has listed Lyme Disease Awareness as one of his priorities.

"We have an epidemic that we're largely ignoring," he said, adding that he hopes the panel considers that one of their recommendations should be to pass legislation similar to that enacted in Connecticut, where doctors are allowed to prescribe extended doses of antibiotics without fear of malpractice lawsuits.

According to "The Connecticut Post," passage of the bill in May 2009, which allows physicians to diagnose chronic Lyme disease, and treat it with long-term antibiotics was one of the "cornerstone moments of Lyme disease politics over the last decade."

Similar bills have been introduced in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York and Maryland that would compel insurance companies to pay for antibiotic treatment for chronic Lyme disease CLD.



Amber-Marie, who died from complications of Lyme disease in 2002, pictured in 2001 with brothers, Zack, Michael, and Taylor Platas at their home in Springfield. Their mother, Trish, said all three boys have Lyme disease.

Fairfax County Tracks Lyme Disease Cases

For the past 10 years, reported cases of Lyme disease have been on the rise in Fairfax County. In 2009, the number spiked to 260 cases.

"Approximately 250 cases of Lyme disease were reported to the Fairfax County Health Department in 2010," said Dr. Peter Troell, medical epidemiologist with the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD). "These reported cases represent only a portion of the cases of Lyme disease in our community and are used primarily to follow disease trends. We know that many other cases go undiagnosed and/or unreported."

The good news, Troell said, is that Fairfax County employs a more comprehensive approach than many other areas in the nation, where the focus is solely on how to avoid ticks.

The county's approach includes: tracking human cases, tick surveillance, outreach to health care providers to promote early diagnosis and treatment, deer management and public education.

— VICTORIA ROSS

"For Swine Flu, we went on full red-alert, but more people are afflicted with Lyme disease, and it's time we take it seriously," Herrity said.

Those who did not attend the hearings, but want to share how they've been affected by the disease may e-mail Farris at lyme@phc.edu. The final Task Force hearing will be Monday, April 25, from noon to 3:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisor's Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway.

Q&A with Fairfax County Health Department Lyme Disease Specialists

should be promptly removed using the proper technique, and the individual should consult their physician for guidance.

Is Lyme disease contagious or communicable?

Troell: The bacteria that cause Lyme disease are spread through the bites of infected ticks. In the Eastern United States, the only tick known to spread Lyme disease is the blacklegged tick (formerly called the "deer tick"). Lyme disease is not spread through person-to-person contact.

Learn More

Because there is so much information available about Lyme disease, the Fairfax County Health Department recommends the following websites for more information on disease prevention, education and awareness.

♦ FCHD Disease Carrying Insects Program: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fightthebite>

♦ May 15, 2010 Fairfax County Lyme disease Town Hall: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westmire/lyme-townhall.htm>

♦ Removing a tick: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westmire/tickremoval.htm>

♦ FCHD Tick Identification Services: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/westmire/tick-id.htm>

♦ Lyme Disease Prevention (CDC): http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/ld_prevent.htm

♦ CDC Lyme Home: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/index.htm>

OPINION

Striving to Tell Community Stories

The Connection Newspapers, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette and the Centre View, won dozens of news awards for work published in 2010. Awards were announced at the Virginia Press Association annual conference in Norfolk on April 9.

Michael Lee Pope won nine awards writing for the Arlington Connection, the Alexandria Gazette Packet and the Mount Vernon Gazette, including investigative writing, public safety writing, education writing, breaking news writing, business and financial writing, obituary writing, feature writing and headline writing. Pope also reports for WAMU radio and authored a book, "Ghosts of Alexandria," in 2010. Pope's award-winning writing included local police departments' lack of transparency and refusal to share information that is public in almost every other state.

Alex McVeigh garnered awards for public safety writing for his coverage of the burglary spree in Northern Virginia, and for feature writing in the Reston Connection.

Julia O'Donoghue won first place for her coverage of Fairfax County School Board decision-making and communication on redrawing school boundaries and decision to close Clifton Elementary School.

News Awards

- ❖ First place, Michael Lee Pope, Obituary Portfolio, Personal Service Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- ❖ First place, Michael Lee Pope, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Creating a Police Oversight Board, Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ First place, Michael Lee Pope, Public Safety Writing: Price of Justice; Seeking Complaints; The Buoy Draggers; Mount Vernon Gazette
- ❖ First place, Bonnie Hobbs, Public Safety Writing: Killing Yields Five Years; Child Molester Sentenced to Prison/Parents of Pedophile's Victims Speak Out; Fireworks Lead to Death, Jail, I Just Wanted Him Held Accountable, Centre View Southern Edition
- ❖ First place, Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing: Tolls and a Transportation Fix; Police Power Demands Transparency; Breast Cancer Awareness; The McLean Connection
- ❖ First place, Julia O'Donoghue, General News Writing, School Board Email Communication, Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill Connection
- ❖ First place, Louise Kraft, Picture Story or Essay, Elementary School Track Meet, Mount Gazette
- ❖ First place, Craig Sterbutzel, Sports News Photo, Spartans Repeat as Region Champions, Springfield Connection

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Puzzling Enthusiasm

To the Editor:

My family recently received a letter from our State Delegate, Barbara Comstock, reporting her efforts during the latest legislative session. In addition, Ms. Comstock regularly reports via Opinion pieces in this publication. While I am sure that we all appreciate Ms. Comstock's efforts to keep her constituents informed, I think that voters would be better served by more accurate depictions of the legislation than that provided by Del. Comstock.

The very first bill on Ms. Comstock's list of "successes" is Gov. McDonnell's transportation bill. Her enthusiasm for this legislation is quite puzzling. Not only is this legislation fiscally irresponsible, it has no new or sustainable funding sources. It depends primarily on a huge amount of debt. To pay off this debt, Virginia would, in effect, be gambling on interest rates staying low and federal funding not drying up, neither of which is a given. In addition, once again Northern Virginia is treated as a cash cow for the rest of the state, since the funding for the bill that does not come from debt will come from Northern Virginia's sales tax

revenue. But most problematic is the fact that none of the projects currently under way to alleviate our worst transportation problem – traffic congestion – would get any additional funding.

Gov. McDonnell can only serve one term. But governing is not a one shot deal. The repercussions of this legislation will be felt for years to come. The Governor's transportation bill is another in a long line of examples of a short-sighted solution to a long term problem. The fact that interest rates are currently low is not a good enough reason to saddle us and our children with a mountain of debt.

Traffic congestion is a problem for all of us. We all want our legislators to find a solution: a good, long term, fiscally responsible solution, one that we can all be enthusiastic about. The current bill is not that solution, and Del. Comstock does her constituents a disservice by portraying it as such.

Sarah O'Neil
Great Falls

Write

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.
By e-mail:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

GFCA to Hold First Town Meeting on Seniors' Issues

On Tuesday, April 19, the Great Falls Citizens Association will hold its first town meeting on seniors' issues in order to assist the community's seniors and family caregivers.

The April 19 town meeting will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Great Falls Library conference room with a mixer of conversation and refreshments. The official meeting starts at 2 p.m. Encourage those who plan to attend to contact Beverly Luce at beverly.luce@gmail.com. Capacity of the conference room is approximately 100. A survey will be available for those who are interested in completing it, to be used for future meeting agendas.

Historical Society to Hold Annual Banquet

The Great Falls Historical Society's annual banquet will be held at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 780 Walker Road in the Village Center in Great Falls on Wednesday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m.

The Jean Tibbetts History Award will be presented at the banquet. This award was established by the GFHS in memory of former president, historian, and author, Jean Tibbetts, who died in September 2004. It is given to writers of Great Falls or Northern Virginia history, in recognition of excellence in historical research and writing. The Award carries a stipend of \$200 and the awardee's name is placed in recognition on the Society's Great Falls Historians' Plaque that is displayed in the Great Falls Library.

Entertainment—Dulcimer by Brian Lewis; Cocktails & Small Appetizer Buffet at 6:30; Dinner at 7. Choose one from Rotisserie Chicken 1/2 chicken served with mashed potatoes and vegetable; Prime Rib au jus served with au gratin potatoes; Yorkshire pudding and vegetable; Blackened Salmon Salad served with ginger soy vinaigrette; Cash Bar. \$30 per person includes tax, gratuity and non-alcoholic beverage.

RSVP before Tuesday, April 19 using the form on page 2 or on GFHS website at gfhs.org. Seating is limited.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 23

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APRIL 18, 19, 20 12:10 p.m. Eucharist*	
THURSDAY, APRIL 21 MAUNDRY THURSDAY 6:00 p.m. Agape Meal 7:30 p.m. Eucharist*	
SATURDAY, APRIL 23 HOLY SATURDAY 9:30 a.m. Liturgy of Holy Saturday 8:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter	
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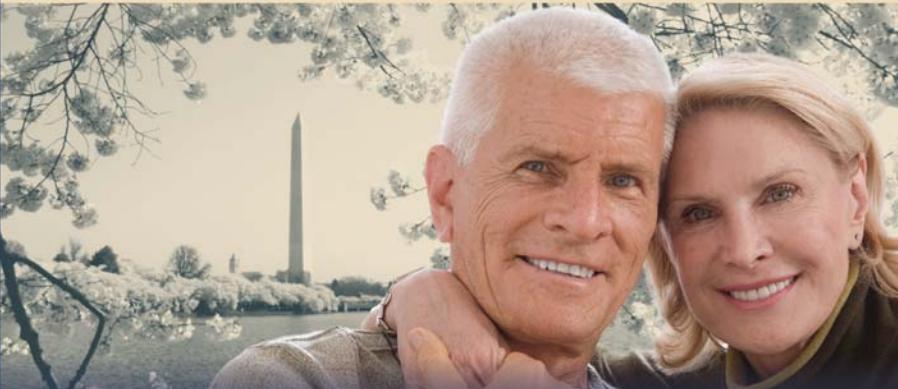
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NEWS



Raffle tickets for "Twilight in the Garden," a quilt handmade by Sarah Entsminger, are available from St. Francis Episcopal Church. Proceeds will benefit victims of the Japan earthquake.

St. Francis Quilt Raffle for Japan

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls has raffle tickets available for a quilt to benefit the victims of the recent earthquake in Japan. The quilt, entitled "Twilight in the Garden," was handmade by parishioner Sarah Entsminger.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each and are available from St. Francis Episcopal Church, located at 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. Checks should be made payable to St. Francis Church and

marked "Japan Quilt." Tickets will be mailed or can be picked up at the church.

The drawing will be held on Sunday, April 24, between 10 and 11 a.m. The proceeds will go to Episcopal Relief and Development's Japan Fund.

For more information, visit www.stfrancisgreatfalls.org or www.facebook.com/stfrancisgf, or call the church at 703-759-2082.



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NEWS

PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



From left, Nina, 4 and Leila Zavala, 5 enjoy cornbread made with flour ground at the Colvin Run Mill during the mill's 200th anniversary celebration.

Colvin Run Mill Celebrates 200 Years of Service

FROM PAGE 3

water power and machines work, they view what was once cutting edge innovations for automated milling."

BULOVA presented a resolution that had been unanimously passed by the Board of Supervisors commemorating the mill's 200 years of service. Guests also sampled cornbread made with flour ground from the mill itself.

Though the day featured a look

back on the past 200 years of the mill's existence, Henry made sure to tell the guests that the mill also plays a strong part in this community's future.

"This place has never, ever been about the past. It's always been about the future," Henry said. "That's still the mission of the mill, and it has been since day one. Two hundred years old, and yet the mission is the same: molding the future. The legacy of this mill is the realization that the past is a guidepost, not a hitching post."

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Just as the real basics of human nature do not change from one generation to another, so the real basics of human leadership do not change from one leader to another —from one field to the next—but remain always and everywhere the same.

—William E. Holler

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 13

Jesse Winchester and Neema. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Floral Design Class. 6 p.m. Karin's Florist, 527 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Create an arrangement to take home. Wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres. \$100 per person. 75% of proceeds benefit The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, Team BLOND Ambition and fund research for a cure for blood cancers. 703-242-5668 or marla@karinsflorist.com.

THURSDAY/APRIL 14

Chatham County Line. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.
"The Shadow Box." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. The Providence Players of Fairfax, directed by Barbara Gertzog. One day in the life of three families, each with a family member living with terminal illness. \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and youth. providenceplayers.co \$703-425-6782.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16
"The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.
Robbie Schaefer at 7 p.m., and A Mighty Raucous Evening with John Mark McMillan and

Society at its membership meeting. Free. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.
Opening Reception and Gallery Talk. 7-9 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Drawings, photography and woodcut prints. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 15

"The Glass Menagerie" by Tennessee Williams. 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$15-\$25. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststageysons.org.
Graham Colton at 7 p.m. and The Board Administration at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

"The Shadow Box." 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. The Providence Players of Fairfax, directed by Barbara Gertzog. One day in the life of three families, each with a family member living with terminal illness. \$18 adults, \$15 seniors and youth. providenceplayers.co \$703-425-6782.
Trompe L'OEil Painting Techniques. 7:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., N.W., Vienna. Demonstration by artist Jane Coonce, sponsored by the Vienna Arts

Friends and All The Bright Lights at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.
Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason



CONTRIBUTED

Adeler Jewelers, in conjunction with the Great Falls Optimist Club, is hosting the 27th annual Children's Spring Festival and Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 17, 2-4:30 p.m. This annual event attracts from 500 to 1,000 children plus their parents. What makes this egg hunt so special is that \$5,000 worth of gemstones have been hidden within the 5,000 Easter eggs filled with candy, so some lucky children will go home with their own gems courtesy of Adeler Jewelers.

MONDAY/APRIL 18

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Stories, fingerplays and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/APRIL 19

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

Nathan Angelo, Chris Ayer and Chelsea Lee. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Author Michael Kerrigan. 7:30 p.m. St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, 1020 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Book signing and discussion of "Politics with Principle: Ten Characters with Character". 703-759-6959 or gmlanzara@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 20

Ari Hest and Katie Costello. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

Book Discussion Group. 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

Model Investment Club of Northern Virginia. 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Learn more about investing. Adults. 703-790-8088.

FRIDAY/APRIL 22

Stephen Kellogg with Tift Merritt, The Solo and Down Low Tour. 8:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$7-\$15. www.ringling.com or 202-683-3238.

Vocalist Azam Ali. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$30-\$65. A sophisticated exploration of Iranian, Turkish, Lebanese, and Kurdish lullabies. cfa.gmu.edu.

Martha Graham Dance Company. 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. "Essential Graham". \$40, \$35 McLean district residents. 703-790-0123.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-938-0405.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

Dancin' on Broadway & Beyond. 8 p.m. At 1st Stage Theatre, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. A jazz dance show by Dancin' Unlimited. \$25 adults, \$20 seniors and students. www.jazzdance.org or www.brownpapertickets.com/event/163845.

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Octagon House, a Long-Awaited Dream

Design explores rare 19th century architectural style.

By JOHN BYRD
THE CONNECTION

Good things come to those who wait sometimes in memorable shapes.

It was almost 30 years ago, in fact, that Susan Cooper first got a glimpse of her future dream house, and another 20 years before she discussed the vision with someone who could properly interpret it. Cooper contends that the result — one of few Octagon houses in the United States — was worth the wait.

"An old boyfriend's family had an Octagon-shaped country house," Cooper recalls. "I was fascinated with the irregular lines, and the creative interior design the shape allows. So smitten, I immediately began to plan an Octagon house of my own."

Cooper indulged in a recurrent labor of love, sketches, floor plans, design details and several scale models. Still, it wasn't until 1986 that Cooper had a chance to review the project's feasibilities with a real architect, Joe Burton, principal of JA Burton Architects in Vienna.

Burton was designing commercial interiors for Rucker Realty Group where Cooper was employed. The two shared a love for the Romantic-revival period architecture (1850 to 1910), the Octagon house being a favorite, and by the late 1980s, Cooper had commissioned Burton to convert her concepts into working drawings.

The Northern Virginia native even put Burton's plans out for bid, only to conclude the interviewed builders weren't right for her special assignment.

Eventually, Cooper hired Burton to build a more conventional house for herself and her husband. But when her husband died a few years ago, Cooper knew it was time to commence work on the long-forestalled dream home.

"An Octagon house is essentially a radiant pattern — like a spider web — that proceeds from a central core and links eight horizontal beams to eight equidistant vertical shafts," Burton explains. "This structure, in turn, directs the search for symmetry into a continually compelling convergence of the functional and the decorative."

WHILE THERE HAVE BEEN SPORADIC EXPERIMENTS with the Octagon's demanding geometry, the style's pioneer was American architect Orson Fowler who authored a seminal work on the topic. Fowler was persuaded that the design greatly improves on traditional shapes by augmenting both natural light availability and outdoor visual continuum. While some Fowler-influenced homes were built in the mid 19th century, the design never enjoyed



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY



wide spread popularity; today there are fewer than 500 authentic Octagon houses in the country.

"Certainly the shape mainly appeals to owners with a particular sensibility", Burton said. "When you're looking to create personalized spaces, this is a fascinating configuration."

Structurally, Burton designed a 6,400 sq ft three-level home around a belvedere-topped central atrium that features a glass-enclosed elevator.

"I had the belvedere fabricated off-site, then craned into place," Burton said.

The main level consists of an entryway with a living room off to the right and the kitchen and informal dining to the left. One can walk through the atrium to the formal dining room, then circle back in either direction. Cooper finds the plan confers each room with privacy while simultaneously encouraging strollers to roam about freely.

"There cannot be a better plan for entertaining," Cooper said. "I've had up to 60 guests and found I had plenty of space to add tables where needed."

Cooper selected Mexican saltillo tiles for the first level flooring. Burton introduced brick-hued variants in a pattern to emulate the home's web of structural supports.

The second level provides three bedrooms, each with a private bath. The lower level incorporates a spacious family room and an additional guest room.

As one would expect of a Romantic-revival style home, the transition from inside to outside is a critical piece of the architectural statement. A generous veranda completely circumscribes the home's main block. A spacious breezeway, crowned with a 16x 16-foot skylight, links the house to a two-story outbuilding.

Burton notes that an essential consideration was sighting the structure with an eye

Architect Joe Burton designed a 6,400 sq ft three-level home around a belvedere-topped central atrium that features a glass-en-cased elevator.

towards focal points. On this score, Burton positioned the living room fireplace and built-ins to obstruct a view of the only close neighbor. Other windows present inviting portraits of surrounding woodland, a vista Cooper has begun enhancing with a series of landscaping projects.

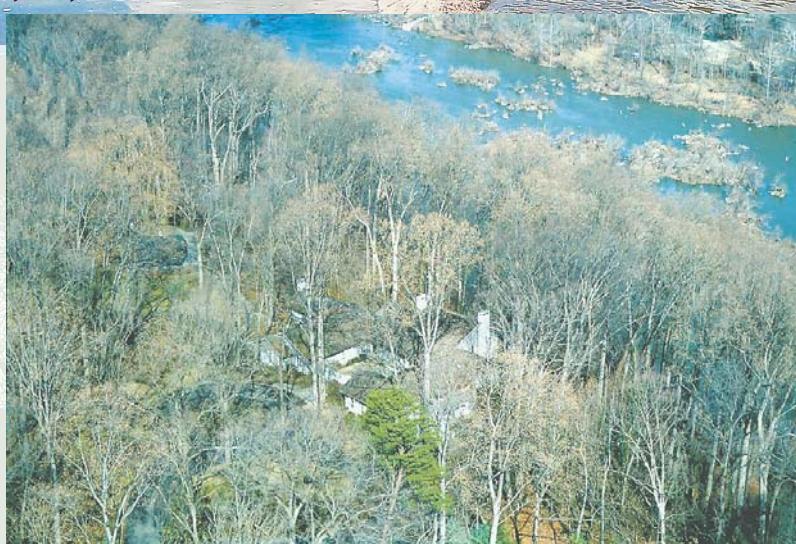
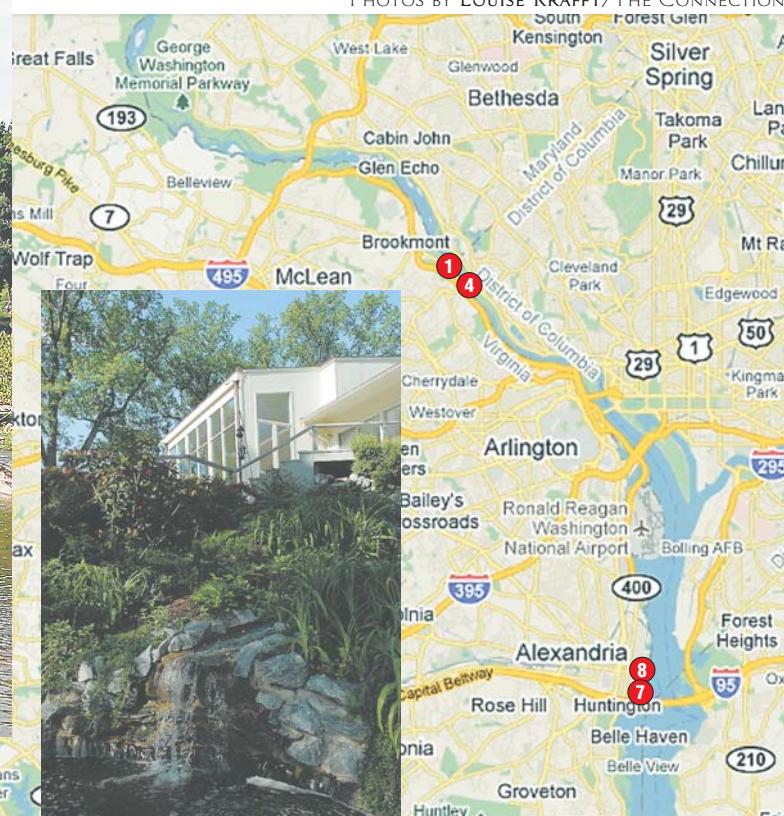
Joe Burton periodically holds workshops on residential architecture, contact 703-321-0021 or jburton@burtonarch.com



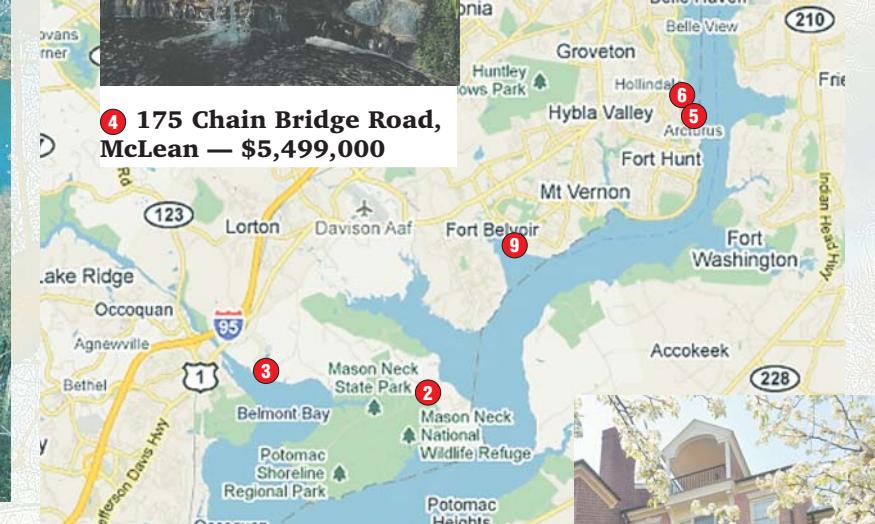
Susan Cooper and Joe Burton in front of Cooper's Octagon dream in McLean.

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⑤ 7808 Southdown Road, Alexandria — \$3,555,000



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② 11201 GUNSTON RD	FX7324475	6	8	2	MASON NECK	\$7,995,000	Detached	5.131	STONE MANOR ON THE POTOMAC	McEneamey Associates	Sue Goodhart
③ 10606 BELMONT BLVD	FX7469424	4	3	1	LORTON	\$7,000,000	Detached	7.735	BELMONT BAY	Long & Foster	Pascale Karam
④ 175 CHAIN BRIDGE RD	AR7568928	4	3	1	MCLEAN	\$5,499,000	Detached	2.299	ARLINGWOOD	Long & Foster	Jack Spahr
⑤ 7808 SOUTHDOWN RD	FX7260580	6	6	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$3,555,000	Detached	0.645	WELLINGTON	Coldwell Banker	Wil Roberts
⑥ 7608 SOUTHDOWN RD	FX7523353	3	4	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,750,000	Detached	0.416	ARCTURUS ON THE POTOMAC	Keller Williams Realty	Bob Kuletz
⑦ 12 WOLFE ST #52	AX7549012	3	3	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,695,000	Townhouse	-	HARBORSIDE	TTR Sotheby's	Michael Rankin
⑧ 6 WOLFE ST #22	AX7557493	4	4	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,550,000	Townhouse	-	HARBORSIDE	McEneamey Associates	Babs Beckwith
⑨ 8516 MOUNT VERNON LNDG	FX7022897	6	5	-	ALEXANDRIA	\$2,900,000	Detached	0.535	MT VERNON ON THE POTOMAC	Long & Foster	Chris White

SOURCE: WWW.HOMESDATABASE.COM

Details Matter in Great Falls Transformation

Family room makeover marries fine details with coffered ceilings to elegant effect.

BY JOHN BYRD
THE CONNECTION

Sitting in the crisply re-designed family room of his Great Falls colonial, owner John Dearie recalls the previous look of this 17'x 26' space:

"It looked like a ski lodge out of the 1980s," Dearie says. "There was a hearth surrounded by rocks rising thirteen feet into a vaulted ceiling. The stones reminded me of Beowulf."

Yet when the Dearies were relocating from upstate New York not long ago, they loved everything else about this spacious custom home but the family room.

"Certainly the scale was wrong," said Emily Pierson, the interior designer from Landis Construction who developed the distinctive elevations that now define the room from every direction. "The vaulted ceiling made the room feel like a place in a completely different home."

Pierson and colleagues proposed a three-part solution: 1) lower the ceiling to the standard ten feet, restoring proportionality; 2) disassemble the rock-wall and create an entirely new hearth-side presentation; 3) form a cohesive, whole—marrying wall elevations to an equally distinctive ceiling.

Dearie is partial to a coffered ceiling, a style that elaborates the overhead surface as a perfectly geometrical pattern of panels, or coffers.

"A coffered ceiling can really set off an interior" Pierson said, although "creating one is always labor-intensive." And structurally intricate.

Pierson's ideas for the mantel and built-ins, likewise, pay close attention to 18th century tradition. The crown molding, fluted columns and arched pediments above the bookcases are specific to Colonial- and Georgian-style detailing. The coffers, in turn, match the crown molding profile used in the built-ins.

As a final touch, Landis replaced a non-symmetrical trio of glass-



"A coffered ceiling can really set off an interior, creating one is always labor-intensive."

— Emily Pierson,
interior designer from
Landis Construction



facing doors accessing the back deck with a more balanced French variant framed by a transom and

side lights, looking out on mature trees and abundant natural light.

"It's such a pretty place," Dearie

says. "My whole family spends most their leisure time in it."

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The Family Foyer: Essential Space

BY JOSH BAKER
FOUNDER, BOWA

The front entryway. The mudroom. The all purpose room for shoes, backpacks, mail, mobile phones, keys and gym equipment.

Whatever your name for it, this space is essential for every homeowner. At BOWA, we call this important room the "Family Foyer" as it often includes spaces to help organize the way today's modern family lives. Here are four tips to help your family optimize (or create) a useful Family Foyer.

1.) Transforming a Space into a Family Foyer: If there is no space currently allocated as a Family Foyer, the first step is to understand what the space is currently being used for and if those functions can be moved elsewhere or incorporated into the new family foyer space. For example, at BOWA, we are seeing more people repurpose their back halls and laundry spaces into family foyers. Many families are doing home renovations to move their laundry facilities to the upper level since that is where the majority of laundry is generated.



Josh Baker

2.) Protect from Wear and Tear: The family foyer is the first line of defense from the outdoors—meaning it sees a lot of traffic, dirt and other debris. To protect floors from wear and tear, utilize tile or stone flooring. These materials are much easier to clean and protect than carpet or wood flooring. Stone materials used to create adjacent patios or walks can be incorporated to create a cohesive flow between the indoor and outdoor spaces. For walls, we recommend a quality grade of paint with a more durable finish like eggshell or satin, which makes clean up easier. For aesthetic reasons, we also see a lot of wainscoting used in family foyer renovations. This material also has the added benefit of being a more durable surface to protect walls from the scuffing of kids' backpacks and the dog's scratching.

3.) A Space for Everything: From a space for mail organization, to mobile phone charging stations, to shelves for storing children's backpacks and shoes. We have also seen dog showers and storage for Fido's leash, toys and food. In some cases the family foyer blends into the home more seamlessly by remodeling areas for crafts or laundry centers (if that doesn't get moved upstairs). There are a lot of tools out there to help economize and tuck storage into every spare space. Small space storage organizers used to be seen only in the design of boats and RVs but are now being used to help fit a lot of function into residential small spaces. At BOWA, we particularly see this in our condo remodeling and row house projects, where space is often at a premium.

4.) Provide Personalized Spaces: If you provide it, maybe they'll use it? Consider designating individualized spaces for family members to help ensure their personal items are actually put away. For children, consider creating individual lockers or cubbies with their names on them and designed to meet the needs of the particular child. For example, the ballerina needs space for her dance bag while the budding baseball player might need a taller cubby for his bat bag and cleats. For smaller spaces, you can still provide children opportunities to customize. That may mean a different color or decal on their cubbies, or adjustable hooks for the youngest child to be able to hang his or her coat without assistance.

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SPORTS

Rain, Rain Go Away

Local high school teams do all they can to get practices, games in.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Dealing with poor springtime weather is a yearly ordeal high school sports teams have got to deal with and properly navigate in order to get the most out of their seasons. The cranky spring seasons in Northern Virginia often consist of cold, blustery weather and lots of rain. Such elements are not conducive to outdoor sports and create havoc with the re-scheduling of games, difficult field conditions and team continuity. Usually, the poor weather is worse over the first six weeks of the spring season, a carryover from the winter, before turning for the better over the final six weeks or so of the school year.

"It seems as if weather has always been an issue during baseball season," said second year Herndon High baseball coach Greg Miller, a former player for the Hornets as well. "Dealing with the rain is never fun. I always tell our team that we need to control what we are capable of controlling and the weather isn't one of those things."

Miller and his Herndon team, which carried an impressive 5-1 record going into this week, have a nice backup plan in the event that bad weather hinders practices.

"We are very fortunate that one of our assistants owns an indoor facility, Diamond Sports Training in Sterling, and we are able to go there and workout when our field is not playable," he said. "It is a beautiful facility and we are able to get most of our normal work in there. So far our team hasn't given any indication that the weather is

going to affect the way we play."

IT IS PRETTY MUCH expected that several games during the spring will be hindered by poor weather, resulting in temporary stoppage of play during a game or postponement. Early season non-district games are often not rescheduled. District games usually are re-scheduled.

"We have been fortunate so far, in that we have only postponed one game due to weather," said Maurice Tawil, the McLean High girls' softball coach.

Last Saturday, the Highlanders spent most of the day preparing their field for a 2 p.m. afternoon game versus private school opponent Bishop O'Connell. Late week rain had swamped the diamond with water. But all the hard work Saturday morning and on into the early afternoon paid off as the field was made playable. McLean, the defending state public school champions, went on to defeat the perennial powerhouse Knights to improve their record to 6-0.

"We worked on our field for seven hours, to make the field playable for our game with O'Connell," said Tawil. "We obviously wanted to play."

Longtime athletic personnel in the Northern Region, such as Tim Gordon, the Fairfax High director of student activities, goes into the spring season expecting poor weather to cause havoc. This spring has been relatively easy in comparison to some spring seasons.

"I think I have been doing this so long as either a DSA (director of student activities) or a baseball coach, that I get used to it," said Gordon, the former head baseball

coach at Chantilly High. "Honestly, I have memories of a lot worse times, like last year's blizzards and springs where we had to just cancel the second half of the season."

The relatively recent addition of turf playing fields on high school athletic campuses throughout Fairfax County has made it easier to combat rainy conditions. Many of the football stadiums use turf, meaning springtime girls' and boys' soccer and lacrosse games can often take place even when it is raining, as long as lightning, sleet, or high winds are not prevalent. The turf fields, which do not get ripped to shreds like grass fields, drain splendidly, allowing conditions to remain playable for longer.

"Turf fields have certainly made a difference for lax and soccer," said Gordon.

John Schneeberger, the Madison softball coach who led the Warhawks to both the Liberty District and Northern Region titles last year, said dealing with poor weather is simply a part of the spring sports equation.

"Rain is just a part of spring sports and impact softball and baseball the most," he said. "At Madison we plan for it and do what we can to play. The school is very supportive to make sure we have the resources available to get the field ready."

SOME OF THE LOCAL teams thrive playing in rainy, sloppy conditions.

In soccer and lacrosse, playing games in wet field conditions has been a common theme for years at the pro, college, and high school levels.

"Our team has an interesting twist on the bad weather," said Craig Lunde, the South Lakes High boys' lacrosse coach. "We love it."

Lunde, whose Seahawks last



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Baseball and softball diamonds are more prone to becoming water drenched and being unplayable, as opposed to soccer and lacrosse turf fields which drain water more readily.

year qualified for the region playoffs for the first time in the program's history, recalled a 2010 spring game in which South Lakes thrived as rain intensified.

"Last year we played our best lacrosse quarter in the rain," he said. "We were down 4-2 at half-time. In the third quarter the rain got worse and the guys ran off nine straight goals to seal the victory."

During a pre-game talk to his players prior to their Liberty District opener against Stone Bridge on March 17, Lunde encouraged his team to embrace the poor playing conditions they had been practicing in all that week leading up to the game.

Sometimes, teams are grateful when a game is postponed. Lunde said his team was preparing to play without several key players in a March 31 district game at McLean. Three of his team members were scheduled to make a school band trip to Orlando and another player was under the weather. It turned out that the game was postponed due to poor weather. In the make-up game played on April 4, the Seahawks were at full strength again and defeated the Highlanders 13-6.

The Langley High girls' lacrosse team has had one game shortened - a 10-4 Liberty District home win

over Marshall - due to worsening weather conditions, and another - a scheduled district home game last Friday night versus Jefferson - that was not started because of poor conditions.

While just two of Langley's games have been affected by poor weather, numerous practices have been changed up.

"We haven't had use of our fields about nine times this year," said Langley coach Richard DeSomma, who led the Saxons to their first ever state playoff appearance last year. "We are used to adjusting for that."

In the event that the Saxons cannot practice on their field, DeSomma said there are other options - the Saxons can practice in the gym, on the outdoor basketball court, or even on the outdoor track. And there is always the option of a chalk talk session inside.

"The girls aren't affected in any way," said DeSomma. "They and coaches are used to making adjustments. Any coach or player involved in a spring sport for any length of time knows what to expect - that it's not really warmer until the end of the season and that fall [season] sports are warmer for a longer period than spring sports."

SPORTS NOTES

Langley Girls Lax Handles Fairfax, 17-7

The Langley High girls' lacrosse team posted an impressive 17-7 victory over the Fairfax High Lady Rebels in a Northern Region, Liberty District tilt on Monday night, April 4. Playing for the first time this season in short-sleeve weather, under the lights on the Rebels' artificial turf field, the Lady Saxons easily handled the blustery winds and the Fairfax squad to go to 4-2 on the year, while the Rebels slipped to 1-3.

The Saxons jumped on top early and never looked back, with a strong face-off by senior co-captain Torrie Zarella leading to a quick goal within 20 seconds by junior Mary Redmond on a feed from junior Kelly Martins. After the Rebels answered less than 30 seconds later on a shot from senior attack Christine Wells, Langley took control with goals from junior Ellie Glasgow on a penalty and freshman Jordan Simonides on an athletic run-and-pass from sophomore Haley Soutter, who leads the team in assists and is increasingly involved in running the offense.

The Saxons created even more distance in a two-minute sequence when Zarella

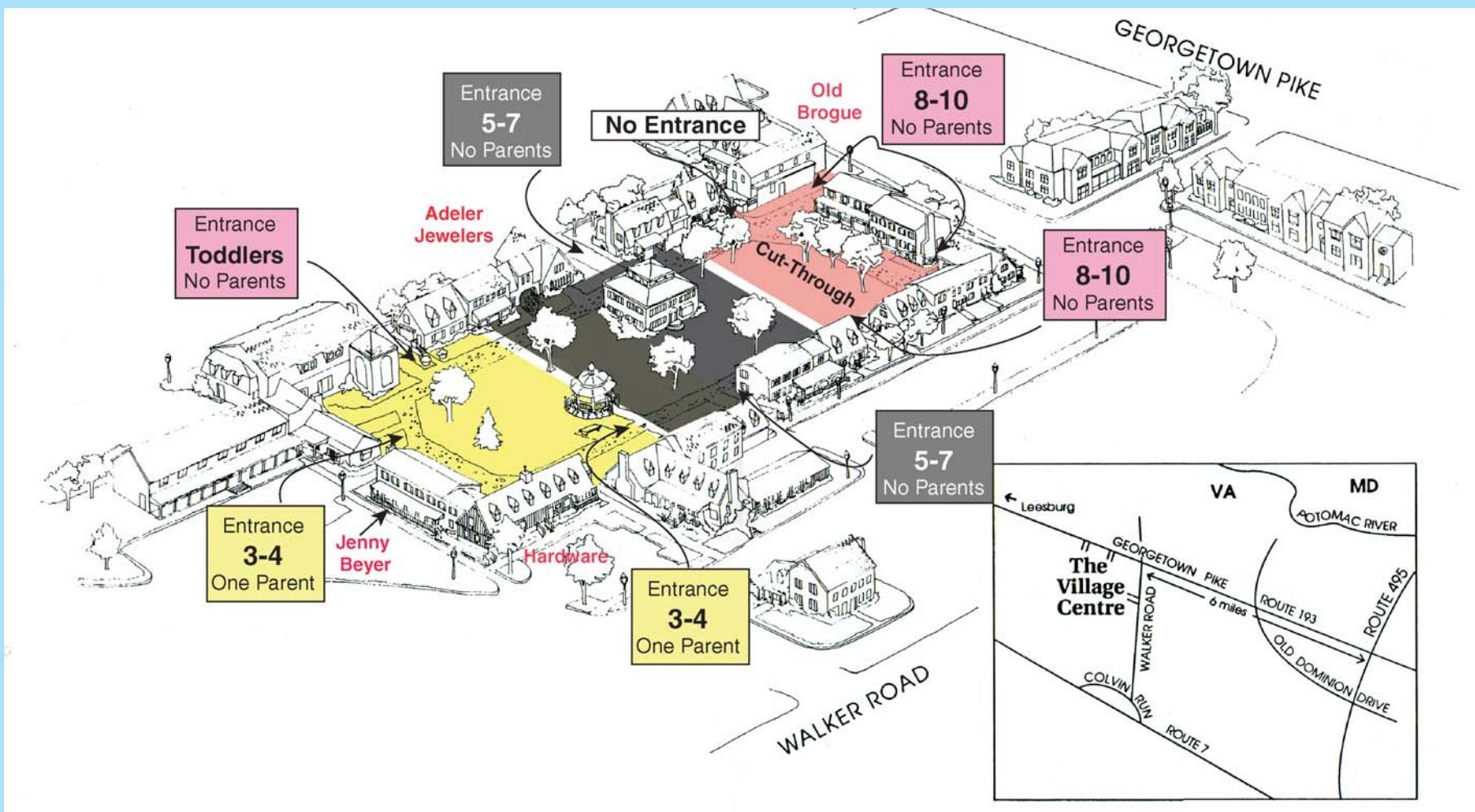
scored on a well-drawn clear-out play, Glasgow tallied again on a Soutter feed and Zarella again found the net off an offensive set. Fairfax tried to buck the tide with goals from junior Paulina Tammaro and Wells, but the next five minutes saw the Saxons double their total on two goals from Zarella and tallies by Redmond, Simonides and juniors Devon Clark and Anna Helmer. The Redmond goal came at 5:11 following a save by sophomore standout goalie Erin Long and a brilliant downfield passing sequence involving Glasgow, Zarella, Nicole Burkart and the finishing Redmond. Simonides' nifty spin move off a Zarella feed closed the Saxons'

first half work, and a goal from Rebel junior Jessica Colligan with under two minutes left the halftime score at 12-4.

The second half featured the Langley defense, as coach Richard "Des" DeSomma again ordered his squad to slow down on the offensive end.

Said Coach DeSomma, "We always welcome a Liberty District win, but more encouraging was the hustle and teamwork we showed, running down ground balls, swarming on defense and executing our set plays as a team. Most impressive to me were the 12 assists for 17 goals on 24 shots."

27th Annual Egg Hunt brought to you by Adeler Jewelers and the Great Falls Optimist Club at the Village Centre



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2:00 - 4:30 PM

Photograph courtesy HILL Signature

A large white Easter bunny costume is prominently displayed in the foreground, holding a small golden egg.

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The egg hunt includes over \$5000 worth of gemstones donated by Adeler Jewelers, mixed with candy and stuffed into 5,000 plastic eggs that will be scattered around the Village Centre for children ages 1-10 to find.

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Important Information

*** Please Note: Candy in the Egg Hunt may contain nuts! We do our best to avoid this, but we cannot guarantee it because even nut-free candy MAY HAVE BEEN MADE on machines that previously processed candy that did contain nuts. **No Rain Date:** Due to the size of this ever-popular event, and to scheduling requirements for the Village Centre and volunteer staff, we are unable to provide a rain date for the egg hunt. Please call 703-759-4076 after 9:00 am on April 11 to verify the status of the event if you are concerned about cancellation due to inclement weather. **Volunteers Needed:** We can always use more volunteers to help with a range of jobs, including staffing an entrance, helping with set up and clean up the day of the hunt, and other activities. If you are interested in helping with this fun, family-friendly event, please contact at 703-757-7313 or mcasso@msn.com. This is a terrific opportunity for Scout troops and students looking for community service opportunities!

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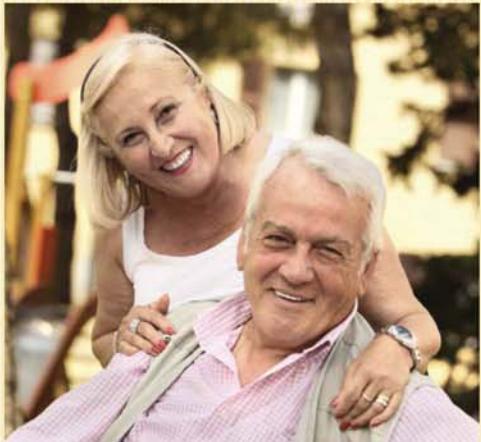
April 19th 1:30 pm

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Great Falls Citizens Association

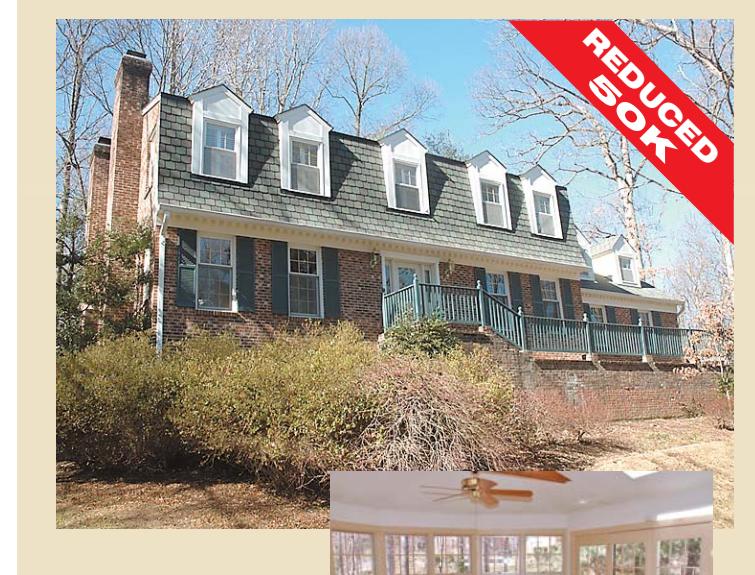
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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

FROM PAGE 9

L'Auberge Chez Francois Offers Easter Dinner Feast

Chef Jacques Haeringer announced that L'Auberge Chez Francois will be accepting reservations for Easter dinner on Sunday, April 24. A long-time favorite destination for Easter Sunday, Chef Jacques will be offering their award-winning six-course prix-fixe dinner from noon until 7 p.m.

The prix-menu ranges from \$62 to \$74 per person and includes: Amuse Bouche; Choice from a wide range of specialty appetizers; La salad de l'Auberge; Homemade Sorbet; Choice from an extensive selection of main courses; Choice of dessert; Coffee or Tea; Mignardises (Chocolate Truffles and Tuiles).

To reserve Easter Dinner at L'Auberge Chez Francois, go to their website, www.LAubergeChezFrancois.com, or www.OpenTable.com or by calling 703-759-3800.

L'Auberge Chez Francois is open for lunch Tuesday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Sunday from noon until 3 p.m. The restaurant is open for dinner Tuesday through Friday starting at 5 p.m., Saturday at 4:30 p.m. and Sundays noon to 7 p.m. Reservations can be made online at www.LAubergeChezFrancois.com, [OpenTable.com](http://www.OpenTable.com) or by calling 703-759-3800.

Lift Me Up! Expands in Great Falls

Lift Me Up! Inc. a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization based in Great Falls has announced its purchase of a three-acre parcel at 9700 Georgetown Pike. This addition doubles the organization's existing acreage and creates a permanent home for its program. Lift Me Up! has provided therapeutic riding services to the area for more than three decades.

"This purchase secures a permanent location where we can continue providing exceptional therapeutic riding services," says Georgia Corey, the program's director and advanced riding instructor. "Our location has been great for our riders and volunteers for the past 36 years and now we have more room to expand our services."

Lift Me Up! serves over 100 riders with special needs in ages rang

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Good Friday Service of Darkness - 7:30 pm

Sunday, April 24th
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7:00 am - 9:00 am - 11:00 am

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