

Great Falls CONNECTION



From left, Henry Carlson, 2, Tristan Callahan, 3 and Sarah Callahan, 7, meet the Easter Bunny during the Children's Spring Festival in Great Falls Sunday.

Egg Hunting In Great Falls

Keeping Lawns,
Waterways Healthy

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Joining Forces
Against Breast Cancer

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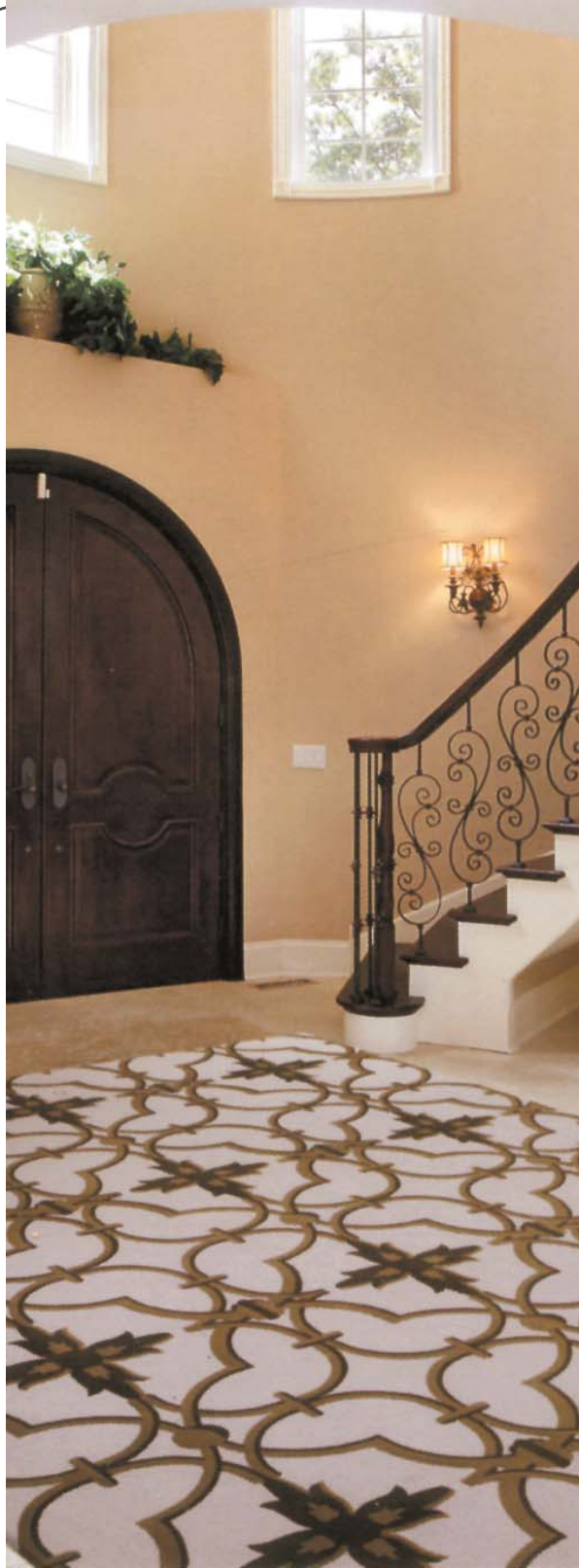
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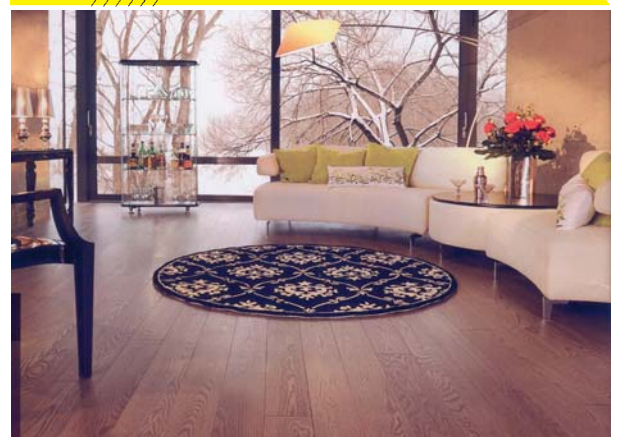
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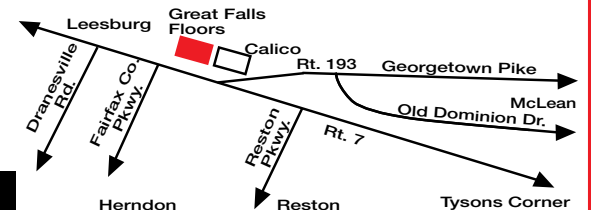
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Children chant “We want eggs!” while waiting for the Easter egg hunt at the Great Falls Village Centre to begin Sunday.



Children are unleashed at the Great Falls Village Centre Sunday as part of the Easter egg hunt at the Children's Spring Festival. More than 700 children found 5,000 eggs within about 10 minutes.

Egg Hunting in Great Falls

Great Falls Optimist Club hosts 27th annual Children's Spring Festival.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of children gathered around the green at the Great Falls Village Centre just before 4 p.m. Sunday, and their repeated chant told parents and visitors exactly what they were looking for: “We want eggs! We want eggs!”

They were only a few feet away from the green, which was covered with 5,000 plastic eggs, some containing candy, others containing gemstones donated by Adeler Jewelers. As soon as 4 p.m. hit, the children were unleashed and began searching the grass, bushes and dirt for eggs.

The Easter Bunny was waiting in the gazebo, and as the eggs began disappearing, he tossed out eggs to children nearby. Within 10 minutes, it was all over, with children scattered throughout the lawn eggs spread out in front of them, checking their treasures.

“I think it's cool we got gems,” said Gabriel Wimmer, 10. “I got a yellow one.”

While much of the candy found in the eggs made its way into children's mouth, several gemstones found their way into the dirt, discarded in favor of more candy, while parents scrambled to retrieve them.

“It can be shiny and beautiful to us, but for the kids it's just something you can't eat,” said Jenna Fitzgerald of Great Falls. “My son found a topaz, and though he doesn't appreciate it now, we'll probably have it made into a charm or something, so he'll always have this memory.”

Making memories was the main goal of Jorge Adeler, owner of Adeler Jewelers, who donated \$5,000 worth of gems to the egg hunt.

“It's just kind of an old-fashioned, simple day in the lives of these children,” he said. “One day when they're older and have kids of their own, they'll remember being part of 700-800 kids trying to find

eggs, and maybe they'll get one together for their own kids. This is the sort of thing that really makes an impression on young minds.”

This is the 27th year of the festival, which was hosted by the Great Falls Optimist Club. Wendy Adeler Hall, Jorge's daughter and one of the event's organizers, said Adeler Jewelers and the Optimist Club have similar goals, which made it a natural pairing.

“It's a fun, safe family activity. We haven't raised the price of admission in 10 years because we want it to be an affordable thing for families,” she said. “We partnered with the Optimist Club because they have the same ideals as we do: helping this community.”

The money raised from admission will go to the Optimist Club to help fund their holiday meals program, where they provide meals to needy families around Thanksgiving and Christmas.

“For the children to be able to have so much fun, and also help to feed children like themselves during the holidays is wonderful,” said Angela Bongiorno of the Optimist Club.

Jorge Adeler said that events like this could have effects in children for years to come.

“Doing a good deed is like throwing a rock into a lake,” he said. “You never know where the ripples will land.”



Children scour the Great Falls Village Centre for Easter eggs Sunday, part of the annual Children's Spring Festival.



Children search the grass and bushes for Easter eggs during the Children's Spring Festival in Great Falls Sunday. Five thousand eggs were hidden, and there were \$5,000 worth of gemstones in various eggs, donated by Adeler Jewelers.



From left, Elli Velissarakos, 3, Alex Kousiades, 4, Aggelos Velissarakos, 4 and Harris Kousiades, 4 check out their eggs after the Easter egg hunt in Great Falls Sunday.

A Passion for Science

Virginia Tech's triple major honors student Charles Baker of Great Falls named Goldwater Scholar.

Charles "Casey" Baker of Great Falls, a junior honors student triple majoring in physics, biological sciences, and mathematics in the College of Science at Virginia Tech, has been awarded a Barry M. Goldwater scholarship for the 2011-2012 year.

Baker was also recently named an ACC Undergraduate Research Scholar. He was one of 275 scholars selected from a field of over 1,000 science, engineering, and math students who were nominated from colleges and universities across the country.

Baker's area of specialization is computational biophysics. He has 3.94 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) and will earn almost twice the required number of credits before graduating in spring 2012.

"I have never met an undergraduate student with so much motivation, creativity, physical intuition, and perseverance," said Giti Khodaparast, associate professor of physics. "It is rare to find a student who is so mature, trying out not only the ideas we supplied, but also his own."

Baker says his career goal is to earn a Ph.D. in biophysics, conduct research in theoretical biophysics, and become a university professor.

"I want to not only engage in significant research, but to bring my passion for science into the classroom," Baker said. "I hope to help future students not only understand the relevant information but see the bigger picture. I hope to inspire them, as I have been inspired, with the beauty and elegance of science."

Baker has been heavily involved in research at the university beginning in the spring semester of his freshman year. He has worked with the computational biophysics group headed by Alexey Onufriev, as-



Charles Baker

sociate professor of physics and computer science, who heads the group, and with Rahul Kulkarni, assistant professor of physics.

"Casey first impressed me as an extremely motivated individual," Onufriev said. "He has become an integral member of my interdisciplinary research group, already at a level expected of a good graduate student, and somehow he manages to keep his GPA near 4.0."

Kulkarni added, "Casey combines an intense passion for learning with an exceptional innate ability for interdisciplinary research. He has already derived important results extending current research, and I expect to see many more significant contributions by him in the coming years."

In addition, Baker is a member of the Main Campbell Honors Community, Sigma Pi Sigma, the American Physical Society, and the Biophysical Society.

The Goldwater Foundation is a federally endowed agency established in 1986 to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in math, science, and engineering. One- and two-year scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500.

NEWS

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



Willie Woode, senior conservation specialist with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, demonstrates how to effectively take soil samples of a yard, in order to find out how to best care for it. Woode presented the information to the Great Falls Citizens Association Environment Committee April 12 at the Grange.

Keeping Lawns, Waterways Healthy

GFCA hosts session on maintaining healthy lawns with minimum fertilizer.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

As the weather warms and grass starts growing again, it's easy to be tempted into using any means necessary to keep lawns green. But fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals used to maintain lawns often simply get washed away during the spring rains, eventually making their way to the Potomac River, then the Chesapeake Bay.

With this in mind, the Great Falls Citizen Association Environmental Committee hosted a session on healthy landscaping April 12 at the Grange. Dan Swartz, a soil scientist with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, explained the soil food web, and how it affects lawns.

"Plant food and fertilizers are what you add when you don't have a healthy soil food web," Swartz said. "If you have to add a lot of fertilizers just to get your lawn and shrubs to grow, your soil is off."

He explained that soil acts like a stomach, it processes "food," or organic matter, and excretes nutrients. Fertilizers are not needed if soil is healthy, he said. Healthy soil is put together in clumps that have spaces between them to allow water and air in.

"If after a heavy rain, you still have puddles in your yard, then the soil structure probably isn't great. If it's mostly dry within 12 to 18 hours of the rain, you're good," he said.

WILLIE WOODE, a senior conservation specialist with the NVSWCD, also gave some tips on maintaining a healthy lawn without fertilizer. He recommended cutting grass to two to three inches for cool season grass and one to 1.5 inches for warm season grass.

"The length of grass is proportional to the length of the root system, so if you're cutting too low, it won't be as deep," he said.

He also recommended early morning watering in the summer months, so the water has time to seep in before the afternoon heat, rather than just evaporating.

He said that using commercial fertilizers can often lead to a lawn thinning and becoming suscep-

Tips for Healthy Lawns

Steps to keeping lawns, and by extension, local waterways and groundwater clean.

1. Pick up a free soil test kit at the Great Falls Library. Follow directions precisely for accurate results, which will be mailed back.

2. Only add what the test says is needed. The test will show pH and availability of phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium. Adding more fertilizer than the soil can absorb means excess runoff into nearby stream, leaching into groundwater and draining into the Chesapeake Bay. Some estimates say that as much as 90 percent of spring fertilizer is washed away.

3. Feed soil, not the lawn. Good topsoil is the secret to great grass, and can correct most lawn care problems. It reduces watering needs, reduces pests, resists drought and utilizes fertilizers efficiently.

4. Choose the right fertilizer and time it right. Fertilizer should be chosen based on soil test results and the type of grass. Best options include composted leaves, manure and tea, bone meal, greensand (a marine mineral), palletized alfalfa, cottonseed meal and worm casings.

tible to weeds. Organic fertilizers, such as cottonseed meal, blood meal, bone meal or composted manure can be used.

"Organic fertilizer doesn't have as many concentrated nutrients as commercial," Woode said.

Fertilizers usually contain nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, though phosphorus will not be allowed to maintain lawns in Virginia starting in 2014. Scotts fertilizers has volunteered to remove phosphorus from its products starting in 2012. Phosphorus, as well as nitrogen, is believed to prevent algae growth by cutting off oxygen. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to restoring and protecting the bay, estimates that banning phosphorus could stop 230,000 pounds of it from entering the bay every year.

Woode also explained the process of soil testing, where homeowners can take samples of their yard and get a breakdown of how well the soil is functioning. He recommended collecting multiple samples within two to four inches of the surface. The samples are then mixed in a clean plastic container and sent off to a lab.

KITS ARE AVAILABLE for free at the Great Falls Library, though there is a price to have the sample analyzed, about \$10.

Robin Rentsch, co-chair of the GFCA Environment, Parks and Trails committee, says they hope to start educating the 5,500 people in Great Falls.

"It's an educational process for us all," she said. "We have to get the word out, one homeowner at a time, because every yard counts."

Supervisors Approve Budget, Bulova Calls It a 'Soft Landing'

Herrity, Frey and Cook voted against the budget.

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors gave preliminary approval to a 2012 budget last week by a vote of 7 to 3, which cut the tax rate to \$1.07 per 1000 dollars of valuation, provided sufficient money for the extension of full day kindergarten classes to all schools and promised possible salary adjustments for county employees in October.

The formal and largely ceremonial passage of the budget will occur on April 26.

Despite a week of heavy pressure from school employee and teacher groups, the supervisors voted to maintain the School Transfer at the 2011 level with the exception of a series of trims and small transfers which provided the school system nearly \$3 million which it could use to fund full day care kindergarten programs in an additional 37 schools. Other county schools have had full day kindergartens for several years.

All county employee compensation was frozen in the new budget as it was in the past two fiscal years, but the supervisors directed the County Executive "to analyze the county's financial condition" at the end of fiscal year 2011 in October and "identify funding to provide county employees with a market rate adjustment estimated to be 1.12%."

FROM THE BEGINNING of the budget hearings this year, three members of the board, John Cook, Michael Frey and Pat Herrity, have argued that real property taxes were doubled between 2000 and 2007 and, as Supervisor Cook put it, there is only a "slow journey" to recovery.

"However, while home values are significantly below where they were in 2007, when the recession began, tax payments are roughly equal," he said at the hearing and repeated in a letter to citizens of Braddock District.

"This budget includes no significant spending reductions in county programs, or any significant reorganization to gain efficiencies," he said.

Herrity said at a tax rate of \$1.07 in the Sharon Bulova budget results in an overall tax increase and "people cannot afford a tax increase in these tough times."

Herrity, Frey and Cook voted against the budget. Bulova was supported by John W. Foust, Catherine Hudgins, Jeff McKay, Penelope Gross, Gerry Hyland and Linda Smith.

IN HER BUDGET address Bulova likened this budget to the "soft landing" of a stricken airplane on the Hudson River. The Fairfax budget is a "soft landing," after the "great recession years," and such emergency expenditures as security costs in the wake of September 11 terrorist attacks.

"While comparing Fairfax County's response to this decade's economic downturn to the Hudson River landing may be a stretch, we have averted what easily could have been a severe economic tailspin," she said.



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Performing at Mary Washington

Fritz Reuter of McLean was selected to play Leaf Coneybear for the University of Mary Washington production of "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Reuter is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Patterson of McLean and is a 2006 graduate of McLean High School. A senior biology major, Reuter is a member of People for the Rights of Sexual Minorities and Symfonics, an a cappella group.



Community News Freelance Opportunity

The Connection Newspapers is looking for one or two writers to cover one or two news stories a week. Work with award-winning editor. On-the-beat training, nominal pay per story. Please send resume, letter of interest to Kemal Kurspahic, kemal@connectionnews.com.



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Beach Mill Road (Route 603) over Nichols Branch Fairfax County Bridge Replacement Project

Find out about the proposed project to replace, widen and lengthen the Beach Mill Road (Route 603) bridge over Nichols Branch in Fairfax County.

Review the project information at www.virginiadot.org, or at the Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax, 22030. Please call ahead at 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions.

If your concerns cannot be satisfied, VDOT is willing to hold a public hearing. You may request that a public hearing be held by sending a written request to Mr. Arif Rahman, at the district office address above on or prior to **April 25, 2011**. If a request for a hearing is received, notice of date, time and place of the hearing will be posted.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information concerning the potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included in the environmental document.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at the above phone numbers.

State Project: 603-029-718, P101, C501, B603
Federal Project: BROS-5401(981) UPC: 84385

COMMUNITY

Joining Forces Against Breast Cancer

Great Falls moms, popular bistro hold fundraiser.

BY BRITT ELLINGER
FOR THE CONNECTION

Brix American Bistro in Great Falls held an all day and evening fundraiser to fight breast cancer. The Pink Bravehearts Fundraiser was held Thursday, April 14 from 11 a.m. until closing. The event proceeds support the Pink Bravehearts Team in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. The 39.3-mile Avon Walk will be held in Washington D.C. April 30 and May 1.

The Pink Bravehearts Team consists of six Great Falls moms of sixth grade daughters. They are Malia Kishore, Shera Nobakht, Lara Holsinger, Tracy West, Diane Schuler, and Britt Ellinger. Each has taken an interest in this charity because someone they love has fought the battle against breast cancer. They are walking for the survivors they cherish, and those they have lost. "We all have daughters, and we don't want to see them have to fight this fight. We want to help with the funding of early detection and cancer research so our daughters and granddaughters will live a long and healthy life," says Lara Holsinger.

IN MID-MARCH the Pink Bravehearts went to Ashwani Ahluwalia, proprietor and manager of Brix American Bistro, and asked if they could put a simple donation jar on the bar to help support the cause. It was Ashwani that suggested the idea of a fundraiser as he was celebrating an aunt that had just gone into remission from this disease. "He told us he had been looking for the right charity to support and we were it! We were so thrilled to have the support of Brix and Ashwani," says Shera Nobakht.

With four weeks of internet and email campaigning the event took shape. Hundreds of women, men, and children came in pink to dine at Brix American Bistro and bid on silent auction prizes and win raffle prizes to the generous local establishments of the Great Falls area. With commitment from local businesses like Christy Adams, Trump National Golf Club, Blacks Hill Stables, the Saddlery, and Turner Framing, the Pink Bravehearts auctioned off riding camps, paintings, spa packages, and golf and tennis baskets. There was jewelry from Vima, Union of Angels, and Midtown Jewelers. A pet basket from Seneca Hill, concert tickets, a table setting from Maison et Jardin, and coffee and tea baskets were also a success. An Alex Ovechkin signed hockey puck went for \$350.

Raffle prizes were donated by many local businesses like Saffron Grill, Great Falls Florist, The Wine Cabinet, and Santini's. Cathy's Corner donated a \$100 gift card and wine and cheese party for 20 friends. Honey Baked Ham donated a ham just in time for Easter.

THE POPULAR Great Falls Bistro was packed from lunch until midnight with patrons all out to support the fight against breast cancer. The Washington Wizards Cheerleaders lent their support by posing for pictures and helping distribute raffle tickets. In the evening DJ Heather Femia mixed some great music to keep the night lively. There was even a live performance by the sixth grade daughters of the Pink Bravehearts.



The Pink Bravehearts Team is Diane Schuler, Britt Ellinger, Tracy West, Malia Kishore, Lara Holsinger, and Shera Nobakht.



The Junior Pink Bravehearts enjoyed meeting the Wizards Cheerleaders.



The Pink Bravehearts and the Staff at Brix American Bistro in front of the banner that patrons signed to honor those that have fought breast cancer.

Brix American Bistro donated 10% of the proceeds from the day and evening to the Pink Bravehearts. This money has made sure they have reached their fundraising goal for Avon.

Ashwani Ahluwalia is already making plans for next year's event. He promises it to be even bigger and better.

A Toast to Great Falls Landmark

L'Auberge Chez François celebrates 35th anniversary.

In 1976 Gerald Ford was President, a postage stamp was 13 cents, gas averaged 50 cents a gallon, and restaurateur François Haeringer reopened his famous restaurant among the rolling green hills of Northern Virginia. To commemorate that auspicious beginning 35 years ago, L'Auberge Chez François will offer all wines on the menu, including their vintage special cellar selections, at a 50% discount during lunch and dinner on Wednesday, April 20, 2011.

"The plan on opening night, April 20, 1976, was to serve seventy-five people. My father and I would do all the cooking and my mother would prepare the pastries," said Chef Jacques Haeringer, chef and owner of L'Auberge Chez François. "Papa, always generous with his customers, could not say no to the many of his loyal patrons who wanted to be there for the opening and we were way overbooked that night. After the first seating, there was nothing left to serve. Prepared to go out and tell his customers that we were out of almost everything, Papa was saved when a sudden rainstorm knocked out the power. How could we serve dinner with no electricity? No one had to know that we also had no food.

"Papa's pride was his ability to

provide our customers with the rich flavors of his native Alsace. To honor his vision and our auspicious beginning thirty-five years ago, we are raising our glasses in a toast, and offering 50% off of our most popular item, our exclusive selection of wines."

OpenTable.com voted L'Auberge Chez François one of the 50 Best Restaurants in the United States for 2010. Readers of Washingtonian magazine have voted L'Auberge Chez François their favorite restaurant for 22 years and the magazine recently named the restaurant one of its Top 50 Best for 2011. The restaurant has received numerous awards such as AAA's Four Diamond Award for their outstanding service and quality and is featured often in magazines such as Bon Appetit, Gourmet and Wine Spectator, and regularly holds a top spot in Zagat Survey.

L'Auberge Chez François 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 7:30 p.m. Reservations can be made online at www.LAubergeChezFrancois.com, OpenTable.com or by calling 703-759-3800.

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.

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 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.

Charles Baker of Great Falls, a junior honors student triple majoring in physics, biological sciences, and mathematics in the Virginia Tech College of Science, has been awarded a Barry M. Goldwater scholarship for the 2011-2012 year. Baker was also recently named an ACC Undergraduate Research Scholar. Baker's area of specialization is computational biophysics.

NEWS



Front row (from left): Sarah Larkworthy, Betsy Abraham, Alina Zufall, Isabel Hefner, Sonya Zell, Paulina Drucker; back Matthew Goudreau, Mark Paulson, Cameran Alavi, Stephanie Anderson, Nate Bremer, Zack Gray

Langley Joins All-Virginia Chorus

The Langley High School Choral Department will send the largest number of student delegates from any Fairfax County school to the All-Virginia Chorus for 2011, which will be held April 28-30 in Virginia Beach. Langley had 9 students selected for the choir plus 3 alternates when auditions were held in February. The Langley representatives include Sonya Zell, Sara Larkworthy, Alina Zufall, Isabel Hefner, Stephanie Anderson, Cameran Alavi,

Mark Paulson, Matt Goudreau, and Zack Gray. Alternates include Paulina Drucker, Betsy Abraham, and Nate Bremer. Students must be juniors or seniors to participate in the All-Virginia Chorus. The Langley students will join other students selected from schools around the entire state for a weekend of intense choral instruction and rehearsal with a concert finale scheduled for Saturday, April 30.



The Langley Madrigals return triumphantly with their three trophies and gold plaque for their performance at the Heritage Festival. Back Row (from left): Tu-An Truong, Cameran Alavi, Zack Gray, Craig McKenzie, Nate Bremer, Jesse Levine, Alex Obolensky, Matt Goudreau and Brian Niu; Middle Row: Sonia Zell, Rachel Street, Caitie Simpson, Paulina Drucker, Hillary Benjamin, Lauren Fernandez; Front Row: Mark Paulson, Donya Mossadeghi, Nicole Kang, Allison Fleegal, Anna Jaeger, Isabel Hefner. Missing: Stephanie Anderson,

Langley High Choirs Triumph at Heritage Festival

The Langley Choirs gave stellar performances at the Heritage Music Festival competition in Orlando held March 24-26, bringing home five trophies and four gold plaques in total. The Heritage Festival is an adjudicated competition with nationally renowned judges. The Concert Choir, Madrigals, Women's Chamber Choir, and Women's Select Choir all received first place gold plaques and superior ratings for their performances. The Madrigals received the Top Choral Group trophy for the highest choir score of the competition, scoring a nearly perfect 98 out of 100. One judge described their performance as "fabulous" and

commented that they "sounded too good to be a high school choir." The Concert Choir, Madrigals and Women's Chamber Choir all received Adjudicator's Award trophies for their performances by earning a score of 95 or higher. Langley also won a Festival Sweepstakes trophy, which is given to schools that enter two or more choral groups and receive the highest scores in two categories. Women's Chamber Choir soloist Sarah Larkworthy of McLean received a Maestro Award trophy recognizing her outstanding performance in a solo. The Langley Choral department is under the direction of Dr. Mac Lambert.

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There are many ways to help Friends of Homeless Animals:



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one of our lovable cats or dogs.



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your time or services.



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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

photoGF@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Great Falls Connection,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable.

OPINION

Please Share

Every year at this time, the Connection puts out the call for photographs of moms and their children, grandmothers and their children and grandchildren. Most years, we're lucky enough to receive a photo or two that includes four generations, great-grandma and all the rest.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8, and once again the Connection will publish a selection of Mother's Day photos, celebrating the mothers who make so many things possible in families, businesses, communities, schools and other institutions in local neighborhoods.

Send in photos in jpeg format as soon as possible, including the full names of the people in the picture, hometowns, the approximate date and location the picture was taken, the ages of the children and sentence or two about the people and/or event.

EDITORIAL

Father's Day is June 19, so a few weeks from now it will be time to send photos of Dads and children, grandfathers and children and grandchildren.

PROMS AND ... While Connection photographers and writers will likely attend some proms as schedules permit, we also urge parents and students to document their proms (or

alternative activities) and send in photos in jpeg format, and also including who, what, where, when and why.

Send photos and text to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com.

Share Your Poetry

April is National Poetry Month, and we're extending an invitation a little late in the month this year, but we invite poets to send in submissions for inclusion in our papers and/or online. Are you a poet? The Connection will print poetry submitted by readers this spring, and occasionally throughout the year.

Call for Mother's Day Photos, and Father's Day; prom photos also.

Geography of Power

BY ANTHONY BEDELL
FAIRFAX COUNTY REPUBLICAN
COMMITTEE PARTY CHAIRMAN

As the General Assembly prepared to reconvene to vote on proposed new districts as required by the 2010 census, many of us in Northern Virginia were profoundly bewildered by what the Democratic majority in the Virginia State Senate were trying to accomplish.

Perhaps the best explanation so far comes from the former chairman of the Arlington County Democratic Party Pete Rousselot, who says this plan is "the product of top down, hierarchical, dictatorial planning designed to protect individual incumbent Democratic Senators behind a supposed firewall to preserve a Democratic majority in the Virginia State Senate."

But just who is being dictatorial and hierarchical? That would be State Senator Janet Howell, who as Chairman of the Senate Privileges and Elections Committee has led the process of redistricting the State Senate. Senator Howell has professed at length about wanting to take politics out of redistricting and applying fairness and civility to the process. Her website claims "she is improving public access, participation and input to this vitally important responsibility."

So why is Fairfax County now split up, bent up and reshaped into long, crooked fingers piled

one upon the other?

Answer: Caren Merrick.

Who is Caren Merrick? Caren is a wife, mother, non-profit leader and successful entrepreneur who announced earlier in the year her intention to challenge Senator Howell in the upcoming November elections.

To avoid what many considered a potentially strong challenge, Senator Howell did exactly what she said she would not do, by gerrymandering Fairfax County and literally redistricting Caren Merrick out of her Senate district. She sliced out Great Falls and parts of McLean, tossing them into a new 31st District snaking its way along the Potomac from the Pentagon all the way to eastern Loudon County.

At over 20 miles long but barely a mile wide in places, this new district gives the original "Gerry's Salamander" a good run for its money. More importantly, it slices the community of McLean in half, and disconnects most of McLean and all of Great Falls from Tysons Corner, the commercial hub they are so clearly connected to.

I urge all voters to look at the newly proposed districts as written by Senator Howell, and ask who this plan really serves. It clearly does not serve the interests of the voters in Fairfax, but clearly serves the self-interest of a politician desperate to maintain power.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Getting What We Pay For

To the Editor:

I was surprised to see the McLean Connection run a political letter from one of Delegate Comstock's financial supporters [Praising Del. Comstock, March 30-April 5 issue]. I was doubly surprised by the lack of substance in the letter describing Comstock's "accomplishments." We have real problems that Comstock is ignoring. Pupil-teacher ratios in public schools are bad and getting worse. Roads are rutted and crowded. Rail-to-Dulles is an underfunded disaster. Our great state universities are under-supported and politicized. Electrical outages are almost routine whenever it rains. Dead animals lay along state roads for days.

A single local delegate can't solve these and other problems all by themselves — but they should be part of the solution. Unfortunately, that is not happening.

We are the richest district in the commonwealth. McLean (and the rest of the district that Comstock just gerrymandered) is a net donor of taxes (we give more than we get). We need a leader in Richmond who makes sure we get what we pay for. As her lack of substantive accomplishments implies, our incumbent is under performing. She is a pleasant person who is in over her head.

Jeff Barnett
McLean

Unaffordable Housing

To the Editor:

Your editorial [In Praise of Workforce Housing, Connection, March 30-April 5, 2011] is on the mark, but unfortunately, Supervi-

sor Foust is not going along. He just recently paid \$3.5 million for four affordable rent houses and tore down three with two more to go, "to straighten the boundary of McLean central park." His rationale is that the owners would build big houses and spoil the park. Apparently, the option of having a contractor refurbish them for the kind of workers that need them never entered into the decision making process. According to an article in the Connection, Foust's Dranesville district has the lowest percentage of affordable housing in Fairfax county. It is now lower.

John Rudzki
McLean

Separation from Responsibility

To the Editor:

With all due respect to reader Ann Malekzadeh, I would like to express my disagreement with her letter ['Forgotten Schools,' Great Falls Connection, April 6-12, 2011], regarding full day kindergarten. The "numerous studies" I have found on the benefits of full day kindergarten are largely inconclusive, or relate to a task advantage in the next grade. I see full day kindergarten as another way parents can accelerate their separation from responsibility for raising and nurturing their children, while establishing another entitlement of free daycare under the misnomer of "education." Can vending machines with pre-packaged snacks and soft drinks in "school" be better than soup, salad and a sandwich at home, prepared by a caring parent? Childhood obesity, latch-key kids, behavior

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of
Great Falls

An independent, locally owned weekly
newspaper delivered
to homes and businesses.

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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The Connection
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Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

modification through drugs, and increased suicides, are not components of “thriving children.” The U.S. is down to 26th in the world and falling in regard to education. At one time we were upset when the U.S. fell to second place after the Russians launched Sputnik. At the time, most kids didn’t even go to half-day kindergarten.

Gene Phillip
Great Falls

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MONDAY/APRIL 25

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.

THURSDAY/APR. 28

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

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EXTRAORDINARY THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE!

RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE OPENS HUGH STEPHENS FIELD AT ESTES PARK

On April 9, 2011, Randolph-Macon College dedicated a new baseball stadium which features permanent grandstand seating, a new scoreboard and a 16-foot wall in left field—accompanied by architectural elements which were designed to complement the college’s historic campus. The development of this stadium is another example of R-MC’s commitment to its students and belief that their dedication to excellence deserves the same in return.



ANDREWS HALL

Opening in Fall, 2011
Andrews Hall, a 104-bed, suite-style freshmen facility, will feature a 1,500 square-foot common room for academic and student organization use, study areas, a TV/gaming room and an on-site laundry facility.



JOHN B. WERNER PAVILION

Opening during the 2011-12 Academic Year
The John B. Werner Pavilion at the McGraw-Page Library will be a 3,300 square-foot study environment with 24/7 access to a quiet-zone reading area and WiFi.



Visit www.rmc.edu/tour or call (800) 888-1762 to learn more about R-MC’s Four-Year Degree Guarantee program and other exciting developments happening at R-MC.



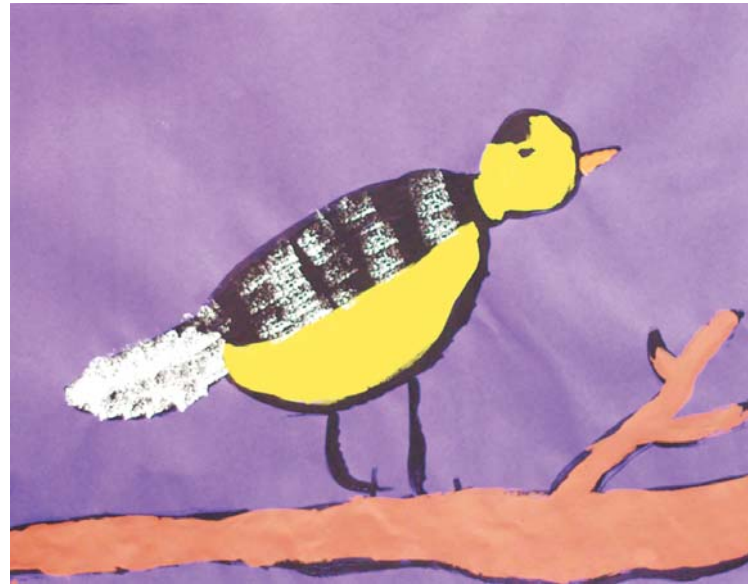
Randolph-Macon College

Ashland, Virginia

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird:
Mohini Sudhakar, second grade, Forestville.



American Goldfinch: Zoe Wang, first grade, Forestville.



Student Bird-Art Show Takes Wing at Library

Children from Forestville and Great Falls elementary schools create exhibit.

A colorful exhibition of bird art by students at Great Falls and Forestville elementary schools went on display at the Great Falls Community Library, while a companion exhibit with additional student artworks from

the two schools went live on a virtual gallery at the website of Great Falls Studios: www.GreatFallsStudios.com. Both shows are associated with the election of a town bird symbol, now underway in Great Falls. "The art is colorful, graphic and great

fun," said librarian Daniela Dixon, branch manager of the Great Falls Library. "I hope many people in the community will come in to see it."

Friends of the Great Falls Library, a non-profit group that supports the library and its programs, sponsored the library exhibition.

The Great Falls Library itself is part of a consortium of community and other groups that are active supporters of the election,

known as "Vote 2011: Wings Across Great Falls." The two schools are among the partners, along with the National Audubon Society. Great Falls Studios, a network of more than 90 artists based in Great Falls, is the primary organizer.

Each of the two elementary schools will host an election day in early May in which students can vote for one of seven bird can

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 11



The Potomac School Summer Programs

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Students Help Elect a Town Bird Symbol

FROM PAGE 10

didates. All other Great Falls residents can vote online at the Great Falls Studios website. Votes will be combined to determine the winning bird, with the new Great Falls symbol announced after May 15, when the online polls close.

For the current student exhibitions, children from Great Falls Elementary created a range of campaign posters featuring each bird. They worked under the direction of the parent-led Great Falls Elementary School Art Enrichment Program, also a bird-election partner. Children from Forestville entered the competition under the guidance of the school's two art teachers and created a wide variety of works in many art media.

In all, there are 84 pieces in the library show. The online gallery displays 95, including images of three-dimensional works done at Forestville. The Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, a non-profit

group working to make Great Falls a more artful place, donated prizes to be awarded to the creators of three top artworks selected in each school. The Foundation is also a partner in the election.

Other groups supporting the election are Friends of Riverbend Park, Great Falls Business and Professional Association, Great Falls Citizens Association, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia and Great Falls National Park. Each has contributed to the Wings program.

"The bird election has the backing of many different community groups, but the heart of it is the creative effort by the kids in town," said Donna Barnako, a Great Falls artist who also serves on the board of Friends of the Great Falls Library. "Their enthusiasm for the election is big, and this shows up in their amazing artwork." Barnako organized the library show and is responsible for the upcoming ice cream social.



Red-Shouldered Hawk: Farzad Jarrahi, fifth grade, Great Falls Elementary School.

"The art is colorful, graphic and great fun."

— Daniela Dixon, branch manager of the Great Falls Library



Pileated Woodpecker: Klana Khoshnoud, fourth grade, Great Falls Elementary School.



Before I came here, I never thought teenagers had as many tools as adults to make a difference in the world. But we have something significant – the ability to dream, to believe anything is possible.

Beverley

They are the first to stand, to raise a hand, to ask, to lead, to suggest a direction or new idea.

If your daughter is looking for an academic environment where she can really develop her sense of self and her unique abilities, we encourage your family to attend our upcoming Open House on:

Tuesday, May 3rd, 9:00 a.m. – Main Living Room

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We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming Open House.

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**McLean
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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Vote by Absentee Ballot

Not able to vote in the MCC Governing Board election at McLean Day 2011 on May 21? Vote by absentee ballot! Completed ballots are due to MCC by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 18.**

Jammin' Juniors Concerts

McLean Central Park
Free admission

Peter McCarty
May 4, 12:30 p.m.

Farmer Jason
May 11, 12:30 p.m.



**Pushcart Players in
Peter and the Wolf**
May 14, 2 p.m.
\$12/\$8 district residents

An adaptation of the traditional Russian folktale set to the music of Sergei Prokofiev. This enchanting tale is all about the adventure of growing up.

Summer Class Registration

Begins **May 16** for district residents
May 23, for all others

Watch your mailbox for our summer program guide. Summertime fun is just a few days away. Take your pick of classes, camps, events and performances.

Get Out of Town!
Glorious Gardens of Winterthur
May 17

Sign up now for this day trip and see the home of three generations of du Ponts.

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

NEWS

Härth Executive Chef Thomas Elder toasts the launch of Hilton McLean's eco-friendly restaurant with Vienna Mayor J. Jane Seeman [left] and Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth.



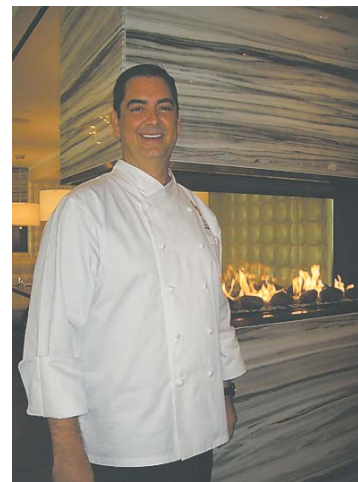
DONNA MANZ/
THE CONNECTION

Fired-up in McLean

**Härth at Hilton McLean
Tysons features local meats,
produce, and beehives.**

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

When Hilton McLean embraced the innovative concept for its new restaurant, Härth, it focused on the palate, the environment and the community, guided by the hands of Executive Chef Thomas Elder. Elder keeps bees for their honey, grows herbs and vegetables on Hilton McLean grounds, and buys his organic produce and naturally-raised meat from local farmers. It's sustainability, flavor and innovation to the n-th degree.



Härth

The soft launch on April 4 brought out Hilton McLean and Hilton International management, local elected officials and the press. A Hilton concept, Härth is part of Hilton McLean's \$40 million renovation.

"What Härth brings is a sense of community," Elder said. "Sustainability is important in our world." Härth, so-named because of its signature wood-burning granite-clad oven, specializes in wood-fired dishes, from garnished crusty flatbreads to Virginia-raised meats. The open-kitchen oven, centerpiece and heart of the restaurant, and three decorative wall fireplaces, set the tone for the restaurant's ambiance.

And Chef Elder isn't shy about applewood-smoked bacon, either, whether it tops his flatbreads or is the primary ingredient in his secret-recipe bacon jam.

NOT YOUR TYPICAL GOURMET RESTAURANT, Härth features a garden abundant with herbs and vegetables, and a patio accented with firepits. Elder keeps bees on the hotel's roof, anticipating enough honey for recipes and tea service.

If that's not enough "green" for you, then, imagine this: The hotel is installing charging stations for electric cars and is hosting a Saturday producers-

only farmers' market from mid-May through the fall, partnering with Inova health care and its wellness resources. In a service to the Tysons-area community, Härth will offer semi-annual electronics recycling.

Elder has had planted at Hilton McLean eight varieties of exotic peppers and five varieties of mint. He learned about beekeeping when he decided to integrate local honey into the restaurant's inventory. In the past year, he's learned a lot about his two hives.

The Härth bar features the restaurant's signature dishes, including the wood-fired flatbreads, mini lobster rolls, and a charcuterie and cheese platter to share. Elder plans on adding authentic Virginia peanuts to the complimentary bar snacks.

"I think this is fantastic," said Mayor M. Jane Seeman, one of Härth's opening day guests. "This whole concept certainly makes them unique. Maybe, it will start

a trend.

"This area will be redeveloped and we need to look at fresh options. This could be the trendsetter for Tysons redevelopment."

ELDER'S NEWLY-SCARRED ARMS, gratis of the wood-fired oven, are testament to his hands-on approach to his restaurant and its objectives. Every detail of Härth has Elder's handprint. "For people like us, with our hearts in our cooking, the work is rewarding," said Elder, a Chicago transplant.

Providence District Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth expressed delight with the concept, from the garden to bees on the roof and buying locally. "The whole green sustainability part is wonderful," said Smyth. "It's an upscale type of restaurant we would love to see at Tysons. Not to mention, it's beautiful, too. Apparently, a lot of thought and planning went into this restaurant."

HÄRTH, AT HILTON MCLEAN Tysons Corner, celebrates its grand opening the end of April. The hotel is located at 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Phone 703-761-5131.

COMMUNITY

Great Falls to Celebrate Spring

Celebrate Great Falls Spring Festival will be held on Sunday, May 1, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. The festival attracts more than attracts 3000 people and includes activities like a rock climbing wall, moon bounces, Velcro wall, pony rides, etc. Vendors and craftspeople will be selling their wares at the new “Marketplace on the Green.” There will be numerous food vendors, a variety of stage performances, including the Langley dance team and local bands; a classic car show, and numerous booths from a variety of local organizations and businesses, all providing activities and giveaways. This community-oriented event is sponsored by the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation.

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Riverbend Park Mounts Exhibit of Bird Photos

Dramatic images in new display focus on seven bird-election “candidates.”

Seven of the 191 bird species that have been observed in Riverbend Park in Great Falls are now hanging on the walls of the park’s headquarters building—as photographs.

The bird images are part of a new photo exhibition that went up for public view on Friday and will continue to be shown through May 15. The show is sponsored by Friends of Riverbend Park, a non-profit support group for the park, in conjunction with the arts organization Great Falls Studios.

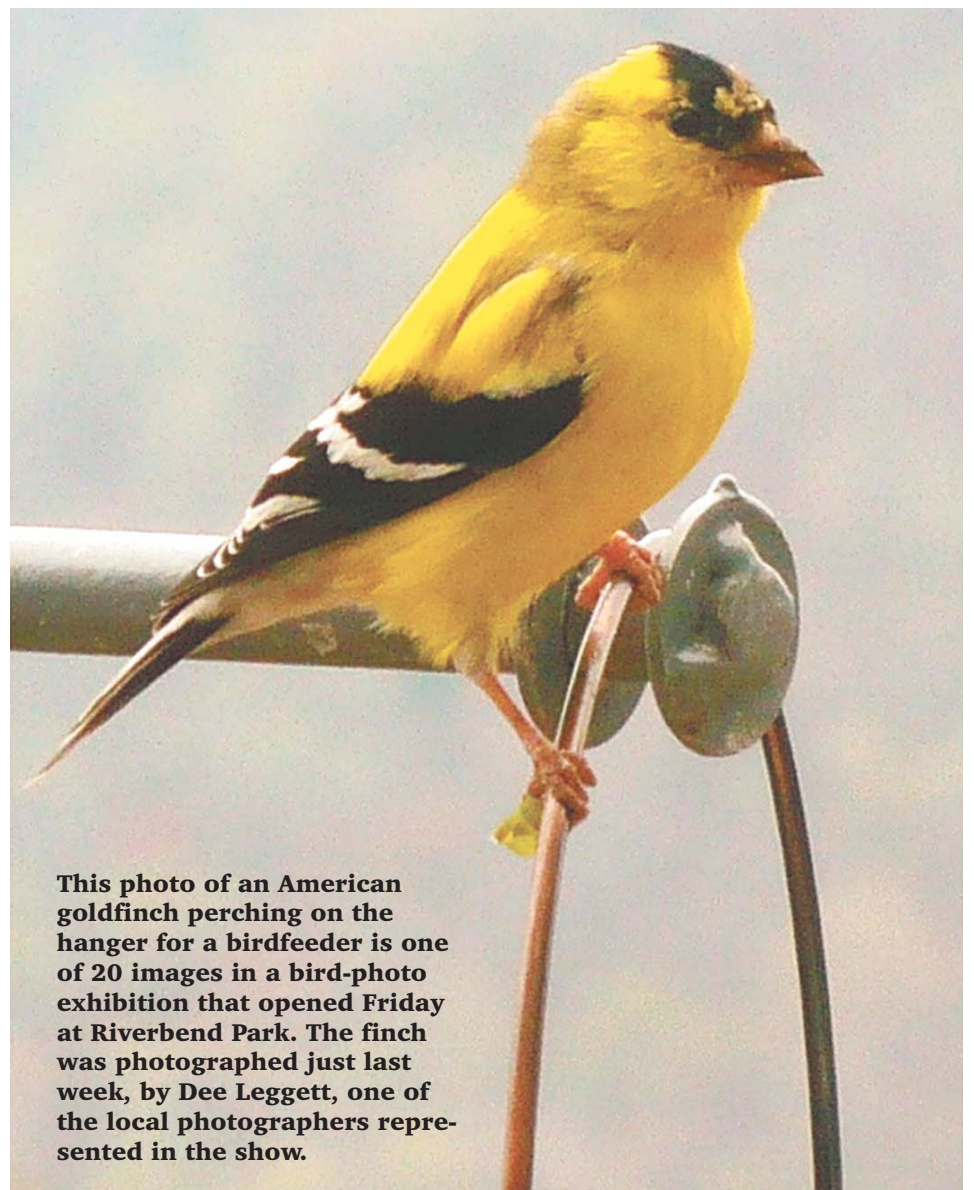
The seven birds are the “candidate species” in an election now underway in Great Falls to select a town bird. In all, there are 20 images on display, some of them unusual. Photos include a shot of a wild turkey in flight, for instance, and of multiple bluebirds on one feeder. The pieces are the work of Great Falls photographers Bob Blackwell, Bill Garrett, Richard Suib, Dee Leggett and Walt Lawrence, all members of Great Falls Studios.

“Riverbend Park is an amazing resource

for Great Falls,” said Walt Lawrence, who was responsible for hanging the show. “We have 418 acres of environmentally significant landscape that supports a variety of bird species. That makes an exhibition of bird photos here all the more important.”

The election of a bird symbol to represent Great Falls is taking place online and wraps up on May 15. To vote, residents should go to the website of Great Falls Studios and click on the “Wings Across Great Falls” event. This will take you to the electronic ballot. The website address is: www.GreatFallsStudios.com

The seven nominated birds are the American goldfinch, eastern bluebird, great blue heron, pileated woodpecker, red-shouldered hawk, ruby-throated hummingbird and wild turkey. The bird election, Called “Vote 2011: Wings Across Great Falls,” is a celebration of local parks and wildlife, as well as of human creativity. The park, a jewel in the Fairfax County Park Authority system, is at 8700 Potomac Hills Street.



This photo of an American goldfinch perching on the hanger for a birdfeeder is one of 20 images in a bird-photo exhibition that opened Friday at Riverbend Park. The finch was photographed just last week, by Dee Leggett, one of the local photographers represented in the show.

Harris Teeter
Your Neighborhood Food Market

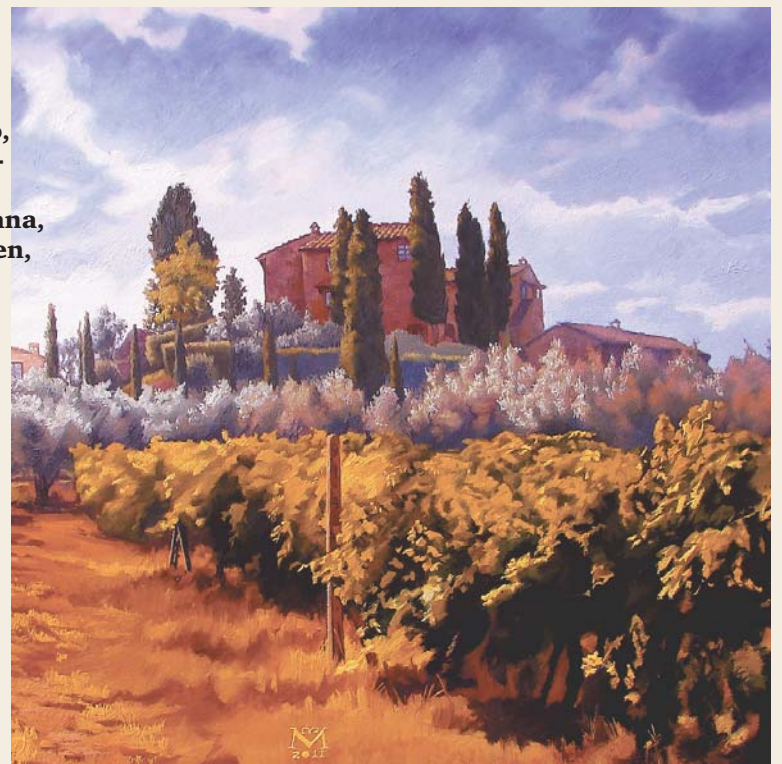
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Michela Mansuino, 'The Vineyards At Montagnana, oil on linen, 20 X 20 inches.



Mansuino to Exhibit at Maison Du Vin

Michela Mansuino will be exhibiting a new series of Tuscan Landscape Paintings at Maison Du Vin during the months of May and June. Her landscape series started 30 years ago when her instructor, Master Fresco Painter Otello Chiti, took her to see the famous medieval town of San Gimignano, Siena, Italy. Paired with Maison Du Vin

extensive collection of fine Italian and French wines, this show promises to be a tasteful treat. Opening Reception and Wine Tasting Saturday, May 14, from 1 - 5 p.m. Maison Du Vin is located at 756 Walker Rd. Suite D in Great Falls, Tel: 703-759-9880. Store Hours: Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

FAITH

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

Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, has announced several April events. 703-938-6753 or www.antiochdoc.org.

❖ **Passover Seder Meal**. Thursday, April 21 at 6:30 p.m. A way for Christians to celebrate common ancestry with Jewish families around the Passover supper. Call to reserve.

❖ **Good Friday Service**. Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the church. The day of solitude where Christians reflect upon the death of Jesus.

❖ **Easter Sunrise and Celebration Service**. Sunday, April 24. Easter Sunrise Service at 7 a.m. in the "Groves" next to the Antioch Christian Church. Guitar music, an inspirational message and prayer for one another. Bring Lawn chairs and breakfast food. At 11 a.m. the church will host the "Celebration Easter Service" with special music by the Chancel Choir.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd. in McLean, has announced their Holy Week schedule. 703-356-3312 or www.umtrinity.org.

❖ **April 20, Wednesday Communion**. 12 p.m. in the Chapel.

❖ **April 21, Maundy Thursday**. 7:30 p.m. Celebration with footwashing in the Chapel.

❖ **April 22, Good Friday**. 7:30 p.m. Members of Chesterbook UMC and Charles Wesley UMC with Pastors Kathleene Card and Candace Martin will join us in the Trinity Sanctuary.

❖ **April 24, Easter**. 8:30 a.m. Casual Worship, 10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship, 10:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School and 11:45 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt.

Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road in Oakton, has announced their Holy Week services. 703-938-1234 or www.oaktonumc.org.

❖ **Maundy Thursday Service, April 21**. Worship, Communion and Pastor Don Hawks' sermon "Jesus & the Farewell Dinner."

❖ **Good Friday, April 22**. "The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross." Word 1, Luke 23:34 at 12 p.m. Word 2, Luke 23: 43 at 12:25 p.m. Word 3, John 19: 26 at 12:50 p.m. Word 4, Matthew 27: 46 at 1:15 p.m. Word 5, John 19:28 at 1:40 p.m. Word 6, John 19:30 at 2:05 p.m. Word 7, Luke 23:46 at 2:30 p.m.

❖ **Easter Sunday Services, April 24**. 8.30 a.m. in the Chapel and 10:55 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary Choir, instrumentalists and Pastor Don Hawks' sermon "Jesus and the Last

Laugh".

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean, welcomes everyone to Good Friday worship services on Friday, April 22. 703-356-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

❖ **12-3 p.m.** Meditations will be given by the Rector, the Reverend Edward O. Miller Jr., on The Seven Last Words of Christ. Via Crucis (The Way of the Cross) by Franz Liszt will be sung by the St. John's Choir.

❖ **7:30 p.m.** Excerpts from the Oratorio on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ by G. F. Handel will be performed in English translation. The service begins with a brief Good Friday Liturgy.

Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive in Vienna, will hold their Easter service on Sunday, April 24 at 11 a.m. The sermon will be "The Great Later." 703-938-3494 or office@epiphanyumc.com.

Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. in Vienna, presents the 12-week program "Passages," for those experiencing separation or divorce. The DivorceCare series meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost of materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938 9050 or Passages@ViennaPres.org.

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

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

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

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sunday nights, 6 - 7:30 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

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

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

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

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

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7:30 P.M. Good Friday Tenebrae

8:30 A.M. Easter Sunday with Holy Communion
11:00 A.M. Easter Sunday with Holy Communion



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21 Announcements
ABC LICENSE
American Girl Boutiques, Inc
trading as American Girl, 8090
L Tysons Corner Center,
Space K9L, McLean, VA
22102-4504. The above estab-
lishment is applying to the
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL for a Mixed bever-
age (on Premises) Wine and
Beer (on Premises) license to
sell or manufacture alcoholic
beverages. Ellen L. Brothers,
Director/President

21 Announcements
ABC LICENSE
The NEVA Group, Inc trading
as Neisha Thai Cuisine,
7924LB Tysons Corner
Center, Mclean, VA 22124.
The above establishment is
applying to the VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF
ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGE CONTROL for a
Wine and Beer on Premises
and Mixed beverage
Restaurant license to sell or
manufacture alcoholic
beverages.
Rick Kitchrayotin/President

ABC LICENSE
Simplicity, LLC trading as
Simplicity Catering, 6402
Arlington Blvd, B150, Falls
Church, VA 22042. The above
establishment is applying to
the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL for a Mixed
Beverage Catering Limited
license to sell or manufacture
alcoholic beverages. Alex
Schriefer, Member/Managing
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21 Announcements
**TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF VALUABLE
IMPROVED REAL ESTATE**
Improved by the premises known as
7842 Snead Lane, Falls Church, Virginia
In execution of a Deed of Trust from Roger J. Oliva, dat-
ed April 21, 2004, and recorded April 26, 2004, in Deed Book
15957 at page 943 among the Land Records of Fairfax Coun-
ty, Virginia, the undersigned trustee will offer for sale
at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for
Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia,
on

21 Announcements
Friday, April 29, 2011 at 11:00 a.m.
the following property being the property contained in said
Deed of Trust, described as follows:
Lot 65, Pinewood Greens as the same appears duly dedicated,
platted and recorded in Deed Book 3391 at page 152, among
the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.
Commonly known as 7842 Snead Lane, Falls Church, Virginia
22043.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$4,500.00 or ten per-
cent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the
form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser
at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase
money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale,
time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of
5.25 percent per annum from date of sale to date of
settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the se-
cured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no
cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebt-
edness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of
Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.
Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and
stand the risk and cost of resale.
Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements
and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the
real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materi-
alman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be
sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of
redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agree-
ments of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to con-
vey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and ex-
clusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the
time of sale.
The subject property and all improvements thereon will
be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Pur-
chaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zon-
ing code violations whether of record or not of record, as well
as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condomini-
um owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Pur-
chaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the
property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the
risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandal-
ism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occur-
ing after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special war-
ranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary
fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of
conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and
local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assess-
ments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and there-
after shall be assumed by the purchaser.
The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the
right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or dis-
approve the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser;
(iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to ter-
mination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v)
to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or
time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement
hereunder.
Additional terms and conditions of sale may be an-
nounced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee
FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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ed to be interview-based. For further infor-
mation or questions please contact Tabitha
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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA. CASE NO. 2011-30093-FMCI (36)

IN RE: The Marriage of:
ROBERT W. HOOD,
Petitioner,
and
KATHLEEN B. HOOD,
Respondent

NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE
To: KATHLEEN B. HOOD
{Respondents last known address}
601 CLEAR SPRINGS RD, GREAT FALLS, VA 22066

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that an action has been filed against you and you are required to serve a copy of your written defenses, if any, to it on ROBERT W. HOOD, whose address is 2154 Brandywine Falls Way, Orlando Florida 32824, on or before 5/13, 2011 and file the original with the clerk of this 125 E. Orange Ave, PO Box 2401, Daytona Beach, FL 32114, before service on Petitioner or immediately thereafter.

If you fail to do so, a default may be entered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

Copies of all court documents in this case, including orders, are available at the Clerk of the Circuit Courts office. You may review these documents upon request.

You must keep the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office notified of your current address. Future papers in this lawsuit will be mailed to the address on record at the clerks office.

WARNING: Ruling 12.285 Florida Family Law Rules of Procedure, requires certain automatic disclosure of documents and information. Failure to comply can result in sanctions, including dismissal or striking of pleadings.

DATED this 29 day of March, 2011

CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT BY L. Moreland, deputy clerk

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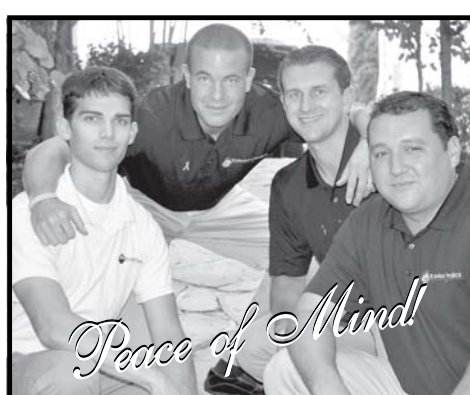
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When I am working on a problem I never think about beauty. I only think about how to solve the problem. But when I have finished, if the solution is not beautiful, I know it is wrong.

—Buckminster Fuller
(1895-1983)



REAL ESTATE

Seven Reasons to Buy Now

By MORTEZA GHALAMBOR
CEO/PRESIDENT OF TPI GROUP, INC.

ONE: HOME PRICES ARE AFFORDABLE Because of the housing market correction, prices are affordable in Virginia/Maryland. On average, prices are down by more than 25% from the peak in 2005. (According to Zillow Statistics at Zillow.com and the National Association of Realtors)

It is a good time for first time home buyers, because there are many low priced homes to choose from. Low home prices combined with low interest rates makes buying cheaper than renting, plus the fact that you can still buy with only 3.5% down payment.

This is also a good time for investors to buy residential rental property because they can cover their expenses with rent, due to the increased demand for rental properties following the foreclosures of so many homes. Investors will be able to have positive cash flow from the rentals because the rental income will exceed the low carrying costs of the property (investors need only 25% down payment to buy).

Real estate cycles generally run 7 to 12 year swings and we are at the bottom of a cycle now. Real estate prices are as low as they are likely to get. In fact there are indications that the market will start a moderate upswing cycle.

TWO: INTEREST RATES ARE AT A HISTORIC LOWS

While interest rates have been inching up in recent weeks, they are still at a historic lows. At approximately 4.625% (as of March 2011), this is close to the lowest rate in over 40 years.

Example: a \$280,000 mortgage on a townhouse carries a monthly cost of less than \$2,000 including all expenses.

THREE: HOUSING PRICES HAVE STABILIZED AND ARE STARTING TO RISE

Since the peak of the real estate market 2004-2006 prices on homes have come down from 25 to 45% as the market collapsed, sub-prime lending to many was the culprit of this bubble we lived and is nonexistent any more.

Prices in the metropolitan area of Washington have stabilized and this point was reinforced by the Virginia Association of Realtors. In their report, "Trends in Virginia's Housing Markets," they say that median sales prices in the third quarter of 2010 have increased 6% compared to the third quarter of 2009.

FOUR: ECONOMIC STABILITY AND EX-

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MONDAY/APRIL 25

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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

Foster Parent Information Session. 6 p.m. United Methodist Foster Services (UMFS), 6335 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria. Agency

representatives will answer questions and explain the requirements to foster or adopt. Free. 703-941-9008 or www.umfs.org.

Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Mixer.

TD Bank Vienna, 308 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Register at 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org.

Peer Support Group for Survivors of Clergy Abuse. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Co-sponsored by the Northern Virginia affiliate of Voice of the Faithful, meetings last Wednesday of every month. Free. 703-538-6128.

THURSDAY/APR. 28

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group. 6:30 p.m. Sunrise of

PECTED GROWTH IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The economy in Northern Virginia will continue to grow in the future, drawing more people to the area, who will require housing, since it is a leading center for technology, defense, aerospace/aviation, IT, telecom and bioinformatics and other industries.

Northern Virginia has a low unemployment rate and has proven to be resilient in times of recession because of its proximity to Federal Government.

According to Gerald Gordon, president of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, in addition to Volkswagen and Hilton that moved here last year, several other companies are currently speaking with Virginia authorities about relocating here.

According to Stephen S. Fuller, director of the George Mason School of Public Policy's Center for Regional Analysis, "we have the largest concentration of IT as well as a host of top tier hospitals that, along with bioinformatics research industry, will draw more people into the area"

FIVE: HEDGE AGAINST INFLATION

According to Smart Money magazine (Jan. 2011), we have been experiencing deflation since the early 1990s, and that cycle is slowly reversing itself. They advise holding real estate as a hedge against future inflation. He notes that "during the stagnation nightmare of the 1970s, real estate had a strong run."

And if inflation comes Real Estate owners will be the primary beneficiaries of asset protection.

SIX: LENDERS MAY LOOSEN STANDARDS

Tight lending restrictions have hurt the housing market in the last couple of years. However, The National Association of Realtors (NAR) has been lobbying lenders and expects that lending restrictions will ease as the economy improves.

SEVEN: GOOD RETIREMENT PLAN

For people who are close to retirement, buying a property that produces rental income that's likely to increase with inflation makes a good long-term investment. Rentals bring in a steady income stream at a higher yield than most other fixed income investments.

Also, you can use your IRA assets to buy real estate investment property. Owning a home is much safer than owning stocks and the combination of low prices and low interest rates makes this the ideal time for investing, we at TPI Group are always ready to assist you and answer your concerns.

Please contact us for any inquiry, our consultations are free. We are located at 8601 Westwood Center Drive #240 in Tysons Corner/Vienna. Tel: 703-288-1998, email Morteza@tpigouprinc.com

McLean, 8315 Turning Leaf Lane, McLean. 703-902-8102.

Child and Spousal Support: The Realities Beyond Formulas. 7 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. How to do your own child support guideline calculations. \$40 non-members, \$30 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Jill Banks on "The Business of Art" and a sale of surplus art materials and publications to benefit the Society. Guests welcome. 703-790-0123.

HOME SALES

In March 2011, 15 Great Falls homes sold between \$2,497,000-\$350,000.

Address	BR	FB	HB	..	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
601 DEERFIELD POND CT	7	8	2	..	GREAT FALLS	\$2,497,000	Detached	5.00	****		
9301 MORISON LN	5	5	2	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,728,000	Detached	1.72			MORISON ESTATE
11300 SENECA CIR	5	3	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,475,000	Detached	7.46			MEADOWBROOK
836 NETHERCLIFFE HALL RD	6	5	2	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,400,000	Detached	5.00			CHESHIRE
10895 LAKE WINDERMERE DR	5	4	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,312,500	Detached	1.72			LAKE WINDERMERE
9117 JEFFERY RD	5	5	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,293,800	Detached	2.88			RIVERBEND COMMUNITY
11101 OLD SAYBROOK CT	4	4	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,260,000	Detached	1.72			OLD SAYBROOK
330 SINEGAR PL	5	4	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,175,000	Detached	1.77			CASCADES ESTATES
10654 CHADWELL CT	5	4	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$1,047,000	Detached	1.22			EVONSHIRE
11404 JORDAN LN	4	3	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$875,000	Detached	0.56			SENECA HILLS
10864 WOLFE HILL LN	4	3	0	..	GREAT FALLS	\$838,500	Detached	2.19			MULMARY
1158 RIVA RIDGE DR	4	2	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$829,000	Detached	0.68			LOCKMEADE
10604 SPRINGVALE CT	4	2	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$745,000	Detached	0.61			SPRINGVALE WOODS
917 JAYSMITH ST	4	2	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$725,000	Detached	0.47			HICKORY CREEK
10608 OXFORD CT	4	2	1	..	GREAT FALLS	\$350,000	Detached	0.25			GREAT FALLS FOREST

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Home Price Recovery Continues

The greatest increase in the \$1.25 to \$2 million price range.

By KAREN BRISCOE

The tale of home price recovery continues for first quarter 2011 in the markets of McLean and Great Falls. Even though one fewer property traded hands in first quarter 2011 versus 2010, prices appear to be pushing up. This is still a tale of recovery as the market has not returned to peak prices yet, but still a story of good news.

The market segment that experienced the greatest increase is the \$1.25 to \$2 million price range. In 2010 first quarter there were only 18 transactions,

in the same time period in 2011 there were 32. This represents a 78% increase. What I believe is happening is that there is not the inventory relative to demand in the under \$1.25 million range, thus buyers are moving into the next price segment in order to find a home that meets their needs.

The over \$2 million segment remained unchanged overall in 2011 from 2010. Truly there are only so many upper bracket purchasers, thus no change year over year is not surprising.

What is my crystal ball prediction for the remaining three quarters of 2011? Honestly, I believe it is that of continued recovery. Peak prices in this marketplace occurred in 2005 and 2006. In 2007 the market was living off the fumes of 2006 and in 2008 the market was surviving off the fumes of 2007. In 2008 there weren't any more fumes. And in 2009 the bottom of the market occurred; 2010 was a solid year of recovery and that is what I predict for 2011.

McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales: 1st Quarter 2011 compared to 1st Quarter 2010

(Based on Final Closed Price)

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil	\$750k-\$1.25 Mil	<\$750k
1st QTR. 2011					
22101	1	2	11	27	23
22102	1	2	7	11	40
22066	2	1	14	14	6
Total:	4	5	32	52	69
Combined Total:	41		121		
All Sales 1st Qtr. 2011: 162					
1st QTR. 2010					
22101	2	4	10	29	29
22102	0	1	3	21	38
22066	0	2	5	16	3
Total:	2	7	18	66	70
Combined Total:	27		136		
All Sales 1st Qtr. 2010: 163					

REAL ESTATE

To have real estate information listed in the Connection, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage offices in the Greater Washington, D.C. Metro, including the Vienna office, collected 4,749 pounds of food during the company's annual "Harvest for the Hungry" food drive for the Capital Area Food Bank. According to the food bank, this will allow them to provide nearly 4,000 meals to families and individuals in local communities.

"I'm thankful for the generous contributions from the community and our agents in making Harvest for the Hungry a success. This food drive and many other charitable efforts throughout the year have a positive, tangible impact in our region," said Paul Valentino, president of Coldwell Banker Residential

Brokerage in the Greater Washington, D.C. Metro.

For more information about the "Harvest for the Hungry" food drive, contact Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Vienna at 703-938-5600. The company's Web site is www.cbmove.com.

Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors announced that the McLean/Old Dominion office was recognized for outstanding results and industry success in 2010. In 2010, the McLean/Old Dominion office, managed by Steve Gaskins, led the region for new homes dollar volume, sales and resales. The region consists of offices throughout Virginia. The Weichert's McLean/Old Dominion office can be reached at 703-821-8300 at 6257 Old Dominion Drive.

Harper McDaniel, associate broker

with the CENTURY 21 New Millennium McLean office recently earned the CENTURY 21® System's CENTURION Producer, President's and Quality Service Pinnacle Awards again this year following her 2010 sales success.

"Harper is a leader and innovator in delivering powerful home buying and selling choices to her clients because she knows the community she serves," said Todd Hetherington, CEO and co-owner of CENTURY 21 New Millennium.

Harper McDaniel has more than 10 years of experience in the real estate industry.

"Achieving CENTURION, President's and Quality Service Pinnacle Producer status is a great milestone in my professional career and with a continued effort and focus on my clients, I hope to continue on this path of success," said Harper, associate broker with CENTURY 21 New Millennium.

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Come Visit The Great Falls Farm Market starting Saturday April 30 in its new location at the Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, Great Falls, VA

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- Medina Produce ~ Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

- On The Gourmet ~ Local Eggs, Cheeses, Vegetables and Milk
- High View Farm ~ Free Range Chickens, Fresh Eggs and Hogs
- Stallard Road Farm ~ Organic Meats, Fresh Herbs and Honey

- Jennifer's Pastries ~ Fresh Pies and Baked Goods
- Baguette Republic ~ Fresh Breads and Baked Goods

- Palermo's Ba Da Bing Sauces ~ Specialty Sauces
- All Things Olive ~ Olive Oils, and Artisan Wine Vinegars

- Fabioli Cellars ~ Local Winery
- Notaviva Vineyards ~ Local Winery

- Neighbors Network ~ Local Artists and Community Information
- Great Falls Art Studios ~ Local Artists

The Market will be held Weekly on Saturday mornings from 9 A.M.-1 P.M. through Nov. 19th.

The Great Falls Farm Market is operated by the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation. For more information, go to the Web at CelebrateGreatFalls.org. Celebrate Great Falls Foundation is a registered 501(c) 3 corporation.



Langley won a hard-fought game over Woodson at last year's state semifinals. The Saxons have won the past two state tournament titles.



PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Langley Boys' Lacrosse Gearing for Season's Second Half

Two-time defending state champions are 4-1; McLean boys, meanwhile, showing good improvement at 4-5.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Going into the spring break week, the Langley Saxons boys' lacrosse team was carrying a solid 4-1 record and rounding into good midseason form. Coach Earl Brewer's team, which a year ago captured its second straight Virginia State tournament title, was competing at this week's West Springfield High Spring Break Tournament. When school resumes next week, the Saxons will get back into the swing of their Liberty District schedule with a road game at cross-town rival McLean High on Thursday, April 28.

Langley opened the season up with a contest versus private school opponent Georgetown Prep, a traditionally strong team across the metropolitan area and a member of the Interstate Athletic Conference. Prep, playing at home on March 18, defeated Langley, 12-3.

The Saxons came back strong, however, as they faced - and defeated - four district opponents over the next 10 days, beginning with a 10-6 road win in Vienna over Madison High, 10-6, on March 25. That was followed by another road win, this time in Ashburn, three days later - a 10-4 triumph at Stone Bridge.

Next, on April 1, Langley traveled to nearby Marshall High and won convincingly, 18-1, to improve its record to 3-1. Three days later, the Saxons opened their home schedule with another dominating showing, resulting in a 16-1 victory over the Fairfax Rebels on April 4.

LANGLEY HAS EMERGED into a program with high expectations after capturing state crowns the past two years. In 2009, the Saxons bested Northern Region opponent Chantilly in overtime to win its first-ever state championship. Last year, Langley experienced an emotional postseason in which it edged Madison, 10-9, in the Liberty District tournament finals before going on to lose in the Northern Region title game to Robinson in overtime. Despite the region finals loss, Langley still qualified for states. There, Brewer's squad regrouped and made a sensational tournament showing. After winning a down-to-the-wire overtime affair over Salem High of Virginia Beach, 13-12, in a quarterfinals contest, the

Saxons met a determined region foe, W.T. Woodson, in the semifinals. In a defensive-dominated affair, the Saxons emerged as 7-5 victors to qualify for another state finals contest. In the championship game, played at Westfield High School, Langley defeated Loudoun Valley out of the Northwestern Region in convincing fashion, 12-5, successfully defending its previous year's title.

Will the upcoming postseason hold similar golden moments for Langley later this spring? Hard to tell, but the Saxons will certainly give it their best shot.

THE MCLEAN HIGHLANDERS, meanwhile, have struggled mightily to win games in recent years. Following three-win seasons in both 2008 and 2009, the Highlanders dipped to a one-victory season last year. But the team, under veteran head coach Jake Bullock, has turned things around this spring and put together a solid first half of the season with a 4-5 record.

McLean opened the season on March 15 with an 11-6 road win at non-district opponent Falls Church High. Following the win over the Jaguars, McLean went through a tough stretch of three straight losses over a nine-day period from March 17-25 - setbacks at Yorktown, 13-4, on March 17; at district opponent Jefferson, 11-7, on March 21; and home to district rival Stone Bridge, 12-4, on March 25.

The Highlanders earned their second win of the season on March 29 at West Potomac High, 16-2, to snap the three-game winless streak. But a 12-5 district home loss to South Lakes, one of the most improved teams in the state over the past two years, on April 4, followed by a tough 13-11 district defeat at district opponent Marshall on April 7 had McLean staring at a frustrating 2-5 record.

But the Highlanders then won consecutive games - an 8-6 district home win over Fairfax last Thursday, April 14, followed by an 11-10 triumph at non-district opponent Centreville the following day.

The two recent, close game wins have the Highlanders at 4-5 going into tough, upcoming district home games versus Madison next Monday, April 25, and Langley next Thursday, April 28. McLean would love nothing more than to be playing at its best at district tournament time where a first round win would qualify the Highlanders for the 16-team region playoff field.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The McLean High boys' soccer team was 7-0-2 going into spring break week. Pictured in action against South Lakes High is forward Mark Saunders.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Langley High boys' tennis team defeated Madison, 7-2, in a Liberty District meeting held on Monday, April 11, in Vienna. The highlight for Madison came at No. 1 singles where Dan Sablik, the Warhawks' No. 1 player, remained unbeaten in district matches by defeating Langley sophomore Brandon Lee, 10-8.

Approaching darkness forced the coaches to limit play in the No. 1 and No. 2 doubles matches to eight game pro sets.

Langley won all of the singles matches from No. 2-through-No. 6. At No. 2 singles, Saxon senior Josh Cooper edged Madison senior Ho Joon Choi, 11-10 (7-4). At No. 3, Langley senior Vincent Ning won a close 11-9 decision over John Adam.

Meanwhile at No. 4 singles, Langley junior Jimmy Fang got past Madison junior John Nothaft, 10-5. Also for Langley, senior Alec Shklyar defeated Madison's Matt Bosco, 10-3, at No. 5 singles. And at No. 6, Langley junior Jeff Small won over Madison senior Will Lowther.

Madison's No. 1 doubles team of Sablik and Adam defeated Langley's Cooper and Ning by an 8-1 score. At No. 2 doubles, the Saxons' duo of Lee and Shklyar defeated Madison's Choi and Nothaft, 8-4. At No. 3 doubles, Langley's team of Fang and Anudeep Boddu defeated Madison juniors Alex Russell and Aaron Plymack, 10-3.

The McLean High varsity boys' soccer team won a tough Liberty District home game over Thomas Jefferson High last Wednesday night, April 13. Two

nights later in a non-district contest, the Highlanders won a road game at Hayfield High, 4-1. Following that victory over the Hawks, McLean's record stood at 7-0-2 overall. The locals are 4-0 in district play, with the district wins coming over Marshall, South Lakes, Madison, and Jefferson. Their three non-district wins have come over Wakefield, Oakton, and Hayfield. The tie game affairs came against Westfield and Centreville.

The Run for the Children, a 10K Race and 3K Run/Walk hosted by Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) and made possible through a generous partnership grant from Verizon and other local corporations, will take place on April 30 in historic Fairfax City. This is Fairfax CASA's first community awareness event. Participants will start from the Fairfax County court house complex in a symbolic nod to the CASA volunteers who advocate for abused and neglected children under the court's protection. For more information on the race and CASA, visit www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com.

The following is the Baseball Top 10 Northern Region Coach's Poll for the week of April 11. The top 10 is as follows: 1. South County; 2. Westfield; 3. Lake Braddock; 4. WT Woodson; 5. Stone Bridge; 6. Madison; 7. Oakton; 8. West Springfield; 9. McLean; 10. Marshall and Hayfield (tied). Other teams receiving votes: Chantilly and Yorktown.

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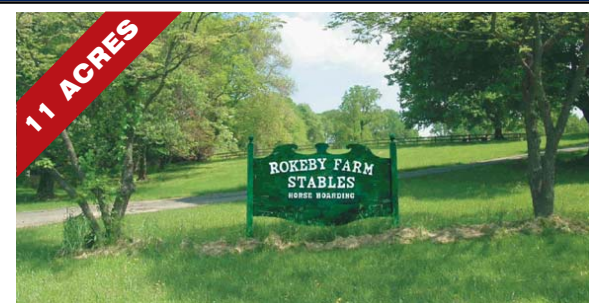
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