

# Thelma's Revisited

NEWS, PAGE 4

**Thelma's Place:**  
Many residents don't even know that there actually is a road sign for Thelma's which still stands today. The beloved Great Falls store site is being developed into a senior residence.

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## Aging in Great Falls

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## Children's Art, Bird Election Add Creativity to Festival

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PHOTO BY WALT LAWRENCE

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**Volunteers still needed for the event; please contact Sandra Even at [seven711@verizon.net](mailto:seven711@verizon.net) to volunteer.**



PHOTOS BY JEAN JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

Linda Fernald, Acting Co-Chair of the GFCAsubcommittee, Seniors Task Team, introduces the panelists (left to right): Barbara H. Sullivan, Executive Director, Mount Vernon At Home; Brent DeRobertis, Convener, Housing Committee, "Aging in Reston;" Bill Kirby, Vice Chair, Board of Directors, Shepherd Centers of America; Cheryl Laferty, Coordinator, Adult Services, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services; and Sharon Lynn, Acting Director, Department of Family Services, Fairfax Agency on Aging.

## Aging in Great Falls

**GFCAs Town Hall Meeting presents services for seniors.**

BY JEAN T. JIANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**D**id you know that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors proclaimed 2010 the "Year of Appreciation of Older Adults," or that, five years ago, the Board of Supervisors developed a "50+ Action Plan" to prepare for the anticipated, dramatic increase in the older adult population within Fairfax County? The Great Falls

Citizens Association (GFCAs) has undertaken an effort to raise awareness of what county leaders and local organizations are doing, and of the resources that are available, to assist older adults and caregivers so that older adults can "Age in Place." In support of that outreach effort, the GFCAs hosted a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, April 19, organized by the Seniors Task Team, a GFCAs subcommittee that is focused on senior services

SEE MAKING, PAGE 7



Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) listening to closing remarks by Wayne Foley, Great Falls resident and builder; Chair of GFCAs subcommittee, Seniors Task Team.

### VIEWPOINTS

## GFCAs Town Hall Meeting on Senior Issues: What Do Citizens Say?

— JEAN JIANOS



**Maddie McCabe,**  
Retired, Lives in Great Falls  
"My husband and I want to age in place."



**Gene McCabe,**  
Retired:  
"The presentation was excellent."



**Ed Behrens,**  
Retired corporate executive,  
Photographer, Great Falls Studio artist  
"Senior issues are being recognized and are finding their place among a number of issues that are key to the broader community interest of Great Falls."



**Scott Maguire,**  
Owner of Always Best Care of Fairfax,  
provider of Senior Services,  
Lives in Reston  
"It was interesting to learn about the efforts being made in Great Falls to support older adults and to hear about what is being done in other parts of Fairfax County. It is up to the residents of Great Falls to determine the model [of support] that will best fit their needs."



**Peggy Rowell, Executive Director,**  
Great Falls Assisted Living residences for adults with Alzheimer's/dementia in Herndon  
"Supporting the local community is key for all businesses. The Great Falls Citizens Association is here today, dedicated to helping this community develop a viable senior program. This meeting is a great start! I am looking forward to working further with this [GFCAs, Senior Services] task team."



**Patricia Rohrer, Facilitator,**  
Long Term Care Coordinating Council,  
Fairfax County Health Department  
"Among other Aging in Place models, the Center Without Walls [partnership between Fairfax County and interested residents that helps older adults stay active and engaged in their community] might be a good fit for Great Falls."

SEE VIEWPOINTS, PAGE 6

# Thelma's Revisited

Beloved Great Falls store site being developed into a senior residence.

BY MEREDITH BILLMAN-MANI  
THE CONNECTION

**T**helma's ice cream and country store was, for fifty years, a focal point in the Great Falls community. She lovingly tended the store and customers with both food and wisdom until she died in 2001 at 86 years old. Thelma Feighery never heard the catch phrases "aging in place" or "tsunami of seniors" that refer to the mass of retiring baby boomers in America but she was the type of woman who would take care of her neighbors.

It is in many ways fitting that civic leaders and business leaders are joining together to create a state of the art retirement community on the very tract of land that once contained the store and her home. Brightview Senior Living is in the process of developing the property into a senior living facil-

ity with 90 apartments. Officials hope the complex will be operational in 2012 and expect it to fill up quickly.

"Great Falls has changed in the last 10 years. Senior living is important and people want their parents closer to them when they retire," said long time business owner and resident Mike Kearney. "People living in Great Falls love the community and want to stay here. Options are being proposed to keep the heart beat of the community here," he said.

Brightview has the backing of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA). "Basically, the board liked their ideas and plans. They changed their plans to make it more consistent with the area," said GFCA president Jackie Taylor. Brightview's plans currently call for 64 assisted living apartments and 26 Alzheimer's care apartments. Brightview's Director of Marketing, Tricia Ourand, said they are working with officials in



PHOTO BY WALT LAWRENCE

**Thelma's at Night - Thelma's always seemed to look better at night since it was such a collection of stuff and signs around the front of the place.**

Great Falls to create a facility that blends as much as possible into the town. "We want it to resemble and look in the family with the architecture in the vicinity. We will reflect the residential flavor of that neighborhood," Ourand said.

**THE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY** would be built on the land at 10200 Colvin Run Road, oppo-

site the more than 100 year old Colvin Run Dance Hall. Thelma's held the "honorary" designation of being on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Places, until it was demolished in July 2007. It's a designation that offers no official status or protections.

Some residents are resigned to the coming development but not excited. "I think about what else

could go in there. Anything's better than a strip mall. That area doesn't need another mall. I hope it's tastefully developed and the architects, the citizens association work to fit it in to what used to be a historic area," said David Olin, a Colvin Run resident and former officer with the GFCA.

SEE LANDMARK, PAGE 15



*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

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# NEWS



COURTESY PHOTO

**Grammy-award winning Donnie McClurkin is set to host The Making of a Star, which will kick off nationwide auditions April 28 in Alexandria.**

## The Search Is On

**New reality show seeks top military talent.**

The CW network, home to shows such as the Vampire Diaries, Gossip Girl, 90210 and One Tree Hill, is set to launch The Making of a Star, a new performance reality competition series from 5 Streams Global Entertainment that will kick off its nationwide eight-city audition tour April 28 in Washington.

In remembrance of the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, the first season will be a salute to America's military. Auditions will be open exclusively to U.S. veterans and military personnel and held at American Legion Posts across the country. Historic American Legion Post 24 in Alexandria is the site of the Washington area contestant auditions.

Hosted by Grammy-winning singer and producer Donnie McClurkin, the series will film in New York City and premiere in July for 10 consecutive weeks. The winner will be chosen from among the finalists during a live-telecast finale in September aboard the USS Intrepid.

In addition to Washington, auditions will be held in Charlotte, N.C., Atlanta, New York, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles and Dallas. The competition is not limited to singers. Musicians, dancers, actors, jugglers, acrobats and comedians as well as other talents are invited to participate.

For additional requirements and audition registration information, visit [www.makingofastartv.com](http://www.makingofastartv.com) and [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org). (Note: The Washington area audition date has changed from April 27 to 28).

—JEANNE THEISMANN

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- 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](http://CelebrateGreatFalls.org). Celebrate Great Falls Foundation is a registered 501(c) 3 corporation.

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## VIEWPOINTS

### GFCA Town Hall Meeting on Senior Issues: What Do Citizens Say?

— JEAN JIANOS

FROM PAGE 3



**Beverly Rice, Retired, Great Falls**

"I am planning for future needs. This program gave an excellent summary of existing services for those wishing to age in their own homes."



**The Very Rev. Penelope Bridges, Rector, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls**  
"It is critical that we provide services for our elders so that Great Falls doesn't lose its living history."



**Robin Rentsch, Retired from environmental work, Co-chair, GFCA Environment, Parks & Trails Committee**

"The issues for seniors have not yet been addressed. This is just the beginning. Initially a farming community, as the population of Great Falls has increased, residents have become more isolated. The program helped answer the question, 'What are the options [for aging in place]?' [Not being able to age in place] would require a change of lifestyle. Our community is really who I am."

### 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 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 nu-

merous 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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# Making Great Falls Livable for All Ages

FROM PAGE 3

for Great Falls and chaired by local builder and Great Falls resident, Wayne Foley.

**SUPERVISOR JOHN FOUST** (D-Dranesville) framed the discussion in his remarks: "Here in Fairfax County we are using a collaborative approach, working with communities to help them find the right solutions for themselves. . . . We are fortunate that, here in Great Falls, the Great Falls Citizens Association has already begun the search for those solutions."

Nancy Carter and Pam Cooper are Great Falls residents who have aging parents living at a distance out-of-state. They came to the meeting to become better informed about available resources and the planning

they need to do. They left impressed with the services for older adults and caregivers that are already available in Fairfax County, as outlined by Sharon Lynn, Acting Director of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging. In particular, it was beneficial to learn that they can discuss their needs and the needs of their parents with information specialists at the Fairfax County Department of Family Services. ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices))

A recurring theme raised by all participants is the need for older adults to be able to engage in community life to the fullest extent possible. "Living a Life That Matters" is the motto of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, an interfaith organization that provides "services, personal enrichment and volunteer opportunities for adults

[age] 50 and over," represented on the program's panel by Bill Kirby, Vice Chair of its Board of Directors. Panelist Barbara Sullivan, Executive Director of Mount Vernon at Home, said that intergenerational activities that promote interaction and require cooperation to achieve a shared goal are natural outgrowths of the aging-in-place "village" model upon which that nonprofit membership organization is based. Likewise, Center Without Walls, a community-based partnership between Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services and community residents, promotes community engagement and active aging by using a variety of existing neighborhood facilities such as health clubs, other local businesses and places of worship, to provide activities, programs and services to

adults age 55 and older.

**PANELIST** Cheryl Laferty, Coordinator of Adult Services with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services pointed out that the multiple locations introduce older adults to new places and people in their community while incorporating the smart growth concept of using existing resources efficiently to preserve the lands and buildings that shape communities like Great Falls.

Ric Edelman, financial advisor, host of "The Truth About Money with Ric Edelman" on radio and television, and Great Falls resident, will be the featured speaker at the next GFCA Seniors Task Team event, scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Library.

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# OPINION

# Tolls, Rail, Ridership

## Why do private companies collect biggest tolls?

**\$**34.50: That's what I estimate I spent this past weekend on five full trips the entire length of the Dulles Toll Road and the Greenway, plus an additional trip on the Dulles Toll from the Beltway to Hunter Mill Road and back. (Remember when you could buy a tank of gas for that?)

Almost all of that money, at least \$22.50, went to the private owners of the Greenway, contributing not one penny to rail or any other local infrastructure. I don't mind the \$12 that might help pay for rail nearly as much.

How will the design of the Metro stop at Dulles Airport affect its use?

Research demonstrates, along with common sense, that the more convenient transit is, (frequency, proximity, continuity) the more people use it. It also has to be clean and safe, but we're going to assume those features will be included.

We've planned for decades (Dulles opened in 1962) not for rail to Tysons or for rail to Reston, but for rail to Dulles, to serve a portion of the 24 million passengers a year that fly through the airport; eventually the number of passengers could more than double.

Saving \$330 million is a worthy goal, the amount extra that putting the Dulles stop underground would cost. Making the rail easy to use is also important. The fact that drivers on the Dulles Toll Road pay for a significant por-

tion of construction of the rail line adds to the controversy.

There might be more than one way to shorten the walk from getting off Metro to the terminal (where we know that there are more trains, shuttles, corridors and escalators waiting). Perhaps an above ground station could be designed on the current hourly parking lot, conveniently a hop, skip and a jump into the terminal. Let the people who drive walk a few extra minutes instead.

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, demonstrated that the walk from the above ground station to the terminal would be four-to-seven minutes. We know that navigating once inside the terminal also takes time.

Meanwhile, we need more scrutiny and intellectual power on the tolls we already pay and the tolls that are coming, and how those could be used to advance transportation for everyone.

No entity, private or government, should collect tolls without displaying clearly how much they are charging. It's not easy to figure out what you spend using your EasyPass transponder. At least on the Dulles Toll Road, there are signs letting you know what you are paying. No such luck on the Greenway. It might be good for everyone who uses it to have one day a year (not the same day please) when

they must pay by cash, just as a reminder of how much money it is.

Construction continues on the high occupancy toll lanes on the Beltway, where again, a private company will collect 100 percent of the tolls for at least 50 years, and the cost of one trip from near the American Legion Bridge to the Mixing Bowl in the HOT-lanes (remember, T for toll) could be as much as \$12. This is for infrastructure built on public property.

There are benefits to the construction of the HOT-lanes including rebuilding dozens of aging bridges over and around the Beltway. But the state could have paid for the project with bonds based on tolls. Or the contract could have required revenue sharing.

As Virginia seems intent on going forward with HOT-lanes on 395-95, public officials owe Northern Virginia commuters better representation.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON

TWITTER, @MARYKIMM

## Send in Mother's Day Photos

The Connection will print a gallery of Mother's Day photos, email in your pictures to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Be sure to identify everyone in the photo and let us know when and where it was taken.

### EDITORIALS

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Taking Exception

To the Editor:

We take exception to former 10th District Democratic congressional candidate Jeff Barnett's misrepresentation of our Delegate, Barbara Comstock ["Getting What We Pay For," April 20-26 issue]. While a debate over governing philosophy is a healthy tradition Virginians are long known for, mischaracterizations and distortions represent partisanship at its worst and seem to be part of a political campaign that should have ended when Mr. Barnett lost to Congressman Frank Wolf last November.

Barnett's misguided attacks ignore that Delegate Comstock has indeed focused on our top priorities. She was a sponsor for the first major investment in transportation in 20 years – the \$4B transportation bill which was passed this year with overwhelming bipartisan support. Every Fairfax County Delegate and Senator, except one, voted for the bill. Among others things, it will provide \$30m

for widening Route 7; funds that Comstock vigorously worked to secure. Further, Delegate Comstock's bill to change the revenue sharing formula to provide more transportation funds for Fairfax County was incorporated, a fact that Barnett conveniently ignored. Delegate Comstock also was a leader in working with our community to prevent the further extension of the Hot Lanes to the Maryland border, holding two town hall meetings on the issue. In Great Falls, she similarly worked with the community and VDOT, to stop the two-lane turn from Route 7 and work for a single lane solution.

On education, Delegate Comstock was among the first to reach out and team with Governor McDonnell on behalf of Fairfax County students – I know because I was among those that met with her in advance. She was one of the first leaders in our community to fight to reverse former Governor Tim Kaine's proposed change of the school funding formula which would have cost Fairfax schools over \$60m. She came to our children's school, Churchill El-

ementary, in the early days of January 2010, and fought with us to reverse Kaine's action. Jeff Barnett was a proud supporter of Kaine, who wanted to cut \$60m for our schools at the same time he wanted to add \$2 billion in additional taxes.

Delegate Comstock also was a leader in advocating for more in-state slots for our college students. The \$50m Higher Education bill that she sponsored and was passed this year with unanimous support, provides for more in-state slots for our students as well as significant STEM investments.

On the economic and jobs front, Delegate Comstock was chosen by the Governor to serve on his Job Creation and Economic Development Commission and she was the Chief Co-Patron on the R & D Tax Credit which was a priority of our high tech community and the Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC). Comstock's legislation for a Tele-work Tax Credit was also a priority for NVTC and again passed with broad bipartisan support.

Finally, Delegate Comstock has promoted quality of life issues by

founding the first House Arts Caucus and by addressing Lyme Disease prevention and passing a resolution supported by the National Capital Lyme Foundation making May "Lyme Disease Awareness Month." She also worked with a bipartisan group of legislators to strengthen penalties in Virginia to fight human trafficking.

Already, as a freshman, Delegate Comstock has been selected for leadership positions as Chairman of the Housing Subcommittee and as a Deputy Whip in her caucus. In addition, she was one of only 50 state legislators around the country to be chosen to participate in the University of Virginia's bipartisan "Emerging Political Leaders Program."

We appreciate Delegate Comstock's strong work ethic and her commitment to the people she so ably represents. We also appreciate that these significant accomplishments were secured while balancing our budget, not raising our taxes, and returning more money to hard working taxpayers.

**Nuala and Glenn Kelly**  
McLean

## THE CONNECTION

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**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Alex McVeigh**  
Community Reporter  
703-778-9441  
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County & Projects  
[nhorrock@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:nhorrock@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Rich Sanders**  
Sports Editor ♦ 703-224-3031  
[rsanders@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:rsanders@connectionnewspapers.com)

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**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
703-778-9433  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editors**  
Michael O'Connell, Kemal Kurspahic  
**Photography:**  
Louise Krafft,  
Craig Sterbutzel  
**Art/Design:**  
Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong,  
John Heinly, John Smith  
**Production Manager:**  
Jean Card

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Linda Pecquex  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

**CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS, L.L.C.**  
**Peter Labovitz**  
President/CEO

**Mary Kimm**  
Publisher/Chief Operating Officer  
703-778-9433  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jerry Vernon**  
Executive Vice President  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Wesley DeBrosse**  
Controllor

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jeanne Theismann**  
Special Assistant to the Publisher  
703-778-9436  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)

# NEWS



Shoppers can choose from a wide range of plants and shrubs at the Great Falls Garden Club annual plant sale.

## Great Falls Garden Club to Hold Plant Sale

The Great Falls Garden Club will hold its annual plant sale on Saturday, May 7, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. in front of the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike. Everyone is invited.

Hundreds of plants donated by Club members will be offered for sale. This year, in addition to selling a wide variety of plants, there will also be a Garden Treasures Sale of items ranging from plant related

books, to household items donated by Club members.

The funds raised will be used to support various Club activities, including community beautification projects. By popular demand the Club has added a Horticultural Resources page to its website [www.gfgardenclub.org](http://www.gfgardenclub.org) providing links to information on plant diseases and pests, helpful books, local public gardens, plant identification, and more.

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## ENTERTAINMENT



**Hwa Crawford's original oil painting 'Great Falls Blue Heron' is a prize with a value of \$800. It will be given to a visitor, picked at random, who votes in the Great Falls village bird election at the Great Falls Studios tents.**

# Children's Art, Bird Election Add Creativity to Festival

An \$800 painting among rewards for voting for a bird.

For those with creativity in their fingertips, the Great Falls Spring Festival on May 1 will offer a bonanza of child-related and other art activities—and a prize valued at \$800.

The art comes three ways. You can watch Great Falls artists as they create new work. You can check out an exhibition of children's art from Forestville and Great Falls elementary schools. And if you are a child, you can grab crayons and take part in art activities that include creation of a large festival banner. Children who participate will get a free sticker featuring the logo for an election now taking place in Great Falls to select a town bird symbol.

The prize is an original oil painting created by Great Falls artist Hwa Crawford. It depicts a great blue heron trolling for fish near the Potomac River shoreline in Riverbend Park in Great Falls. The framed, 16X20-inch painting will go to a Great Falls resident picked at random. To be considered, you must vote during the Spring Festival for your choice of a bird to become the official symbol of Great Falls. Voters will also be eligible to win other prizes,

including mugs made by local potters.

The bird election is a project conceived by the local art group Great Falls Studios in conjunction with the National Audubon Society, Forestville and Great Falls elementary schools and eight other local organizations. Great Falls Studios will have two tents near the gazebo on the Village Green.

The art activities at the Festival, including the election polling place, will be brought to you by 93 artists who live or work in Great Falls and are members of Great Falls Studios. The non-profit Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, which supports the visual arts in Great Falls, will also have a booth where children can create art. The two groups have been doing their best to make Great Falls an artful place, and at the Festival they'll be reaching out to you in hopes that you and your children become part of a Great Falls movement to nurture creativity and establish Great Falls as a regional center for the visual arts.

The festival is sponsored by the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation and will take place on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre.

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

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 27

**Thirty Seconds To Mars.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. \$32.50-\$39.50, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available at 703-993-3035. [www.thirtysecondstomars.com](http://www.thirtysecondstomars.com) or [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**The Digitour with Dave Days, David Choi, DeStorm, Ricky Ficarelli and more.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

### THURSDAY/APRIL 28

**Eisley, The Narrative and Christie Dupree.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Bedtime Storytime.** 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and songs. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 29

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

**"Cheaper by the Dozen."** 8 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Tickets \$13-\$15. 703-790-9223 or [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org).

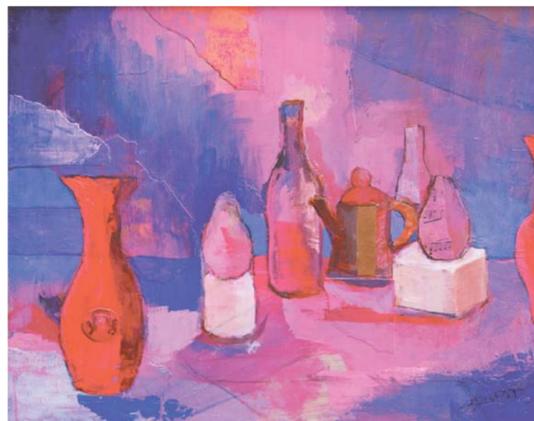
### SATURDAY/APRIL 30

**Kylie Minogue.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$55-\$125, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 703-573-SEAT. [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**Tony Thaxton and Claudia Rivera** at 10:30 a.m., and **Tyrone Wells and Matt Duke** at 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**WUMC Preschool Yard and Bake Sale.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Wesley United Methodist Church, 711 Spring St. S.E., Vienna. Children's clothes, toys, household goods and homemade treats. All proceeds will be used to purchase books for the school. [yardsaleforbooks@gmail.com](mailto:yardsaleforbooks@gmail.com).

**Fairfax CASA Run for the Children.** 8:30 a.m. Fairfax Courthouse, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 10K and 3k. Food, prizes and entertainment for runners and spectators. Runners will help raise awareness for the CASA program while also raising money to support the recruitment, training, and supervision of volunteers from the



**Twyford to Exhibit at Katie's Coffee House**  
Suzanne Twyford's work will be featured at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road in Great Falls, during the month of May. The show, entitled "Aspects of My Life" reflects, through paintings in oil, acrylic, and mixed media, favorite subjects and eclectic themes. Twyford's work has been exhibited widely and hangs in private collections here and abroad.

community to serve as Court Appointed Special Advocates. \$25-\$30. Register at [www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com](http://www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com) or 301-871-0400.

**World Tai Chi Day.** 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Demonstrations and mini-classes of Taijiquan, Qigong and Yoga. [www.peaceabledragon.org](http://www.peaceabledragon.org).

**Ryan Buckle & Friends: Science You Can Sing To.** 10:30 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Music and science with Ryan Buckle and Zeldia the Zookeeper. All ages. 703-790-8088.

**Community Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Household items, jewelry, small appliances, toys, DVDs, tools, art, books and more. 703-893-4588.

**Art Show and Sale.** 6 p.m. Historic Methodist Church, 8641 Lewisville Road, McLean. Reston-based artist Ann Marie Williams' abstract expressionist and realistic paintings. [annmarie87@verizon.net](mailto:annmarie87@verizon.net).

**Fistula Foundation Fundraiser: Dinner and Dance Performance.** 7 p.m. United Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Four-course dinner with dance performance by Jane Franklin Dance Co. Tickets \$60, available at 703-425-9712 or [carmelash@msn.com](mailto:carmelash@msn.com). [www.thefistulafoundation.org](http://www.thefistulafoundation.org).  
**"Cheaper by the Dozen."** 8 p.m.

Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Tickets \$13-\$15. 703-790-9223 or [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org).

**Community Yard Sale.** 8 a.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. Clothes, books, housewares and more. Proceeds go to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to help find a cure for blood cancers. 703-448-3900.

### SUNDAY/MAY 1

**Celebrate Great Falls Spring Festival.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Great Falls Village Center, Georgetown Pike and Walker Road, Great Falls. Rock climbing wall, moon bounces, Velcro wall, pony rides, vendors and craftspeople, stage performances including the Langley dance team and local bands, a classic car show, and more. Sponsored by the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation.

**"Places."** 12 p.m. Great Falls Festival, Great Falls Village Center, Georgetown Pike and Walker Road, Great Falls. Dodgeball Theatre's Teen Ensemble original production, written and performed by the actors. \$10. [www.dodgeballtheatre.com](http://www.dodgeballtheatre.com).

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

**Native American Woodlands Walk.** 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A tour of the Potomac Valley Native Plant Collection, with emphasis on the uses Native Americans made of these plants. Free

and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

**Community Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Household items, jewelry, tools, art, appliances, toys, DVDs, small appliances, books and more. 703-893-4588.

**Arc of Northern Virginia 33rd annual Patriots' Cup Corporate Challenge 8K Race.** 9 a.m. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Proceeds benefit people with disabilities in Northern Virginia. [www.thearcofnova.org/events/patscup/](http://www.thearcofnova.org/events/patscup/).

**7th Annual 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk.** Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center St. S., Vienna. Registration at 6:45 a.m., race begins at 8 a.m. Rock and roll warm-up, awards ceremony and post-race refreshments. Race course is USATF certified. Adults \$25-\$30, children \$5-\$15. [www.vienna5krun.org](http://www.vienna5krun.org).

**37th Annual Walk On the Hill.** 2-5 p.m. Vienna's Windover Heights Historic District. Co-sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc. and the residents of the District. Free and open to the public. Visitors may walk through any garden with an "Open" sign and listen to concerts by the Green Hedges School Jazz Ensemble and the Vienna Community Band. Rain date May 8. 703-938-5187 or [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org).

**"Cheaper by the Dozen."** 3 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Tickets \$13-\$15. 703-790-9223 or [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org).

**Civil War Concert.** 7 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. "The Civil War on the Home Front," a concert of music, song and poetry from the Civil War presented by Sior-Og. Sponsored by The City of Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts. Family friendly, free admission and parking. 703-352-ARTS or [www.fairfaxspotlight.org](http://www.fairfaxspotlight.org).

### TUESDAY/MAY 3

**Danger Between the Lines.** 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. "Danger Between the Lines - The Civil War Along Hunter Mill Road." Presentation with DVD, artifacts, and question and answer period. Presented by the Hunter Mill Defense League. Adults. Free. 703-938-0405.

### WEDNESDAY/MAY 4

**Joan As Police Woman.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

### THURSDAY/MAY 5

**Jarrod Gorbel, Josiah Leming and Dion Roy.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

### FRIDAY/MAY 6

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

**"Cheaper by the Dozen."** 8 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Tickets \$13-\$15. 703-790-9223 or [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org).

### SATURDAY/MAY 7

**Steve Forbert** at 7 p.m., and **Fight The Bear and Overdrive Superthruater** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Home & Design Luxury Expo.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sheraton Premiere, 8661 Leesburg Pike, McLean. With HGTV's Jane Lockhart. HomeandDesign.com.

**Fairfax Civil War Day.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Historic Blenheim Estate, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Re-enactors, all-day demonstrations on blacksmithing with an 1862 traveling forge, railroads, and soldier research. Talks about slave life, the telegraph, soldiers' graves, Lee's resignation and the Skirmish at Fairfax. Guided tours of Blenheim's gallery, exhibits on secession and the Blenheim attic graffiti. Firing demonstrations of a Howitzer cannon artillery gun, "boot camp" for children, scavenger hunt, wagon rides through soldier camps, period music and dancing. \$5 adults, \$3 age 12 and younger. Proceeds benefit the restoration and maintenance of the Historic Blenheim Estate. Free parking and shuttle service provided at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. This event is produced by the City of Fairfax; Historic Fairfax City Inc.; and the 17th Virginia Infantry, Company D "Fairfax Rifles." 703-591-0560 or [www.fairfaxva.gov/SpecialEvents/CWW/CWW.asp](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/SpecialEvents/CWW/CWW.asp).

**"Cheaper by the Dozen."** 3 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Tickets \$13-\$15. 703-790-9223 or [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org).

**Civil War Concert.** 7 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. "The Civil War on the Home Front," a concert of music, song and poetry from the Civil War presented by Sior-Og. Sponsored by The City of Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts. Family friendly, free admission and parking. 703-352-ARTS or [www.fairfaxspotlight.org](http://www.fairfaxspotlight.org).

**"Cheaper by the Dozen."** 8 p.m. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Tickets \$13-\$15. 703-790-9223 or [www.McLeanPlayers.org](http://www.McLeanPlayers.org).

**Dragon Fest.** 2-7 p.m. Green Hedges School, 415 Windover Ave., McLean. Games, rides, face painting, food and more. Admission is free. 703-938-8323.

**Colvin Run Community Hall Dance.** 9 p.m. 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Salsa lesson, music by The Family band, dance lesson at 8. Lesson \$5, dance admission \$12. 703-795-2003 or [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

**Social Justice Yard Sale.** 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org) or [lkozloff@verizon.net](mailto:lkozloff@verizon.net).

### SUNDAY/MAY 8

**An Evening with Charlie Hunter.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).



# 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](mailto:photoGF@connectionnewspapers.com)

Or to mail photo prints, send to:

The Great Falls Connection,  
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### BULLETIN BOARD

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

### WEDNESDAY/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](http://www.umfs.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 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](http://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.

### MONDAY/MAY 2

**Safe Community Coalition Spring Meeting.** 7 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The SCC Board of Directors seeks input regarding issues for consideration and activities for the 2011-2012 school year. 703-371-5995.

**Bereavement Training to become a Haven Volunteer.** 9:30 a.m. Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Training will be on Mondays,

Wednesdays and Fridays from May 2-13. 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org).

### TUESDAY/MAY 3

**Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Business2Business.** 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. "Opportunity 2011", a trade show specifically targeted towards small to medium size companies doing business in the Vienna-Tysons corridor. Limited access tickets \$25. Full conference access tickets \$129 members, \$149 non-members. <http://viennatysonstradeshow.com>, 703-281-1333 or [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS).** 6 p.m. St Timothy's Episcopal

Church, 432 Van Buren St., Lower Level, Herndon. A noncommercial network of weight-loss support groups with tools and programs for healthy living and weight management. Meetings are Tuesdays. [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org).

**Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce TIPS Lunch.** 12:15 p.m. Shula's Steakhouse, 8028 Leesburg Pike, in the Tysons Corner Marriott. Meets every Tuesday. 703-281-1333 or [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

### THURSDAY/MAY 5

**Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group.** 10 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. 703-281-9515.

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# THE COUNTY LINE



PHOTO BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE CONNECTION

Under a 1974 law, senior citizens may attend state institutions of higher learning such as George Mason University without paying tuition.

## Free College Classes for Senior Citizens

Little known "old" law is waiting for "old" folks.

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW  
THE CONNECTION

If your 60th birthday cake is eaten and if residing in Virginia for at least one year, you can attend courses at any state institution of higher education without paying tuition and fees, such as parking. However, you must pay fees covering course materials.

Any course the senior applicant qualifies to attend on a paying basis may be attended on the non-paying basis. Traditional courses and special courses (such as "adult education" and "continuing education") are included.

Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC), George Mason University (GMU) and all other

### More

**Law:** Virginia Code Sec. 23-38.54 through .60.

**Regulations:** The State Council for Higher Education published rules in the Virginia Administrative Code at 8 VAC 40-20-20 and -30.

**To Start:** Contact the Student Services Center or Registrar at the campus of choice and obtain a catalogue.

state institutions of higher education conduct this free tuition program for senior citizens. Graduate and professional schools are not excluded.

A couple of general restrictions apply. The non-tuition senior can take no more than three courses each term. Tuition-paying students must be accommodated before the non-paying senior is admitted to the course; in other words, there

SEE FREE CLASSES. PAGE 17

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More information is available at [www.gulickgroup.com](http://www.gulickgroup.com).

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# EMPLOYMENT

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and  
KATHLEEN B. HOOD,  
Respondent  
**NOTICE OF ACTION FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE**  
To: KATHLEEN B. HOOD  
{Respondents last known address}  
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**21 Announcements**    **21 Announcements**

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The Virginia Department of Historic Resources will hold a Public  
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ning at 7:00 p.m. in the Arlington County Office Building, Ar-  
lington County Boardroom on the third floor at 2100 Clarendon  
Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. Public comment regarding  
the proposal will be taken at the time of the hearing or can be  
sent to: Director Kathleen Kilpatrick, VA Department of Historic  
Resources, 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221.  
These proposals have been recommended eligible for the Vir-  
ginia Landmarks and National Register. Proposals will be pre-  
sented to the State Review Board and the Historic Resources  
Board on June 16, 2011 in Richmond, VA. For a copy of the  
proposal and/or a boundary map, contact Marc Wagner, VA  
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## Daze of this Particular Week



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Here it is: April 3, 2011, three months since my last diagnostic scans, the exact week in fact when typically – per doctor's orders for the last two years, I would be waiting out (sweating out is more accurate) the findings from the previous week's scans, hoping for a good result. Trying to pretend that I was still in control of my emotions/life. Trying not to worry my wife, Dina. Trying to put my best face forward; until the call came or we arrived at my doctor's office for the usual post-scan appointment/assessment to discuss and/or "strategize" about what medical treatment/frequency happens next.

And what change occurred, what change Team Lourie agreed on was, twofold: to reschedule my every-three-week chemotherapy to four, and to change the frequency of my quarterly scans. The CT scan will now occur every four months. The MRI of the brain and the Bone scan will now occur every six months. (Minimizing exposure to harmful radiation and poisonous chemotherapy was our intent.) What it all means is, right now I am emotionally over-extended, sort of. Right now – exactly, I am living the month between the old – and familiar – cycle of being scanned quarterly and then being updated by my oncologist accordingly and now (subject to reevaluation anytime; it's up to me, my doctor has assured me), adding a month's time to that assessment because of my relative good health and previous "partial stable remission" status and desire to moderate, if possible, the collateral damage caused by my ongoing treatment. Good news, all the way around; except...

It's sort of uncharted territory, though. It's the longest interval between scans – and certainly appointments with my oncologist, since I got on this cancer train in late Feb., 2009. Don't get me wrong. I'm thrilled to be here. (Heck, I'm thrilled to be anywhere; let's be honest.) And according to my oncologist's initial diagnosis and prognosis: "13 months to two years," I shouldn't be here. Yet, here I am; living proof of a patient who has outlived his prognosis and has jokingly been called "the poster child for Avastin." I have now survived longer on this chemotherapy drug than any other of my oncologist's previous patients.

However, I am not cured. I am only continuing to respond well to treatment. But nothing is forever. There were few guarantees given at the beginning of my diagnosis and there's been even fewer offered now, 25 months post-diagnosis. And it's during these atypical intervals of time or changes in treatment, or living beyond dates when I was told how statistically unlikely it would be for a stage IV lung cancer patient to survive, when I have extra anxiety about the jackpot in which I find myself immersed.

And the reason I feel this way is that part of my coping mechanism, diagnosis-to-date, has been denial: trying not to focus or concern myself – or others, too much, with the underlying problem (as I euphemistically refer to my diagnosis). Even though there were (are) constant reminders, I have deluded myself, somehow and assimilated and compartmentalized the cancer stuff into a "Seinfeldian" type of vault. A vault to which only I have the key and for which I maintain control – responsibly.

But new-and-different causes problems for old-and-familiar me. This one month extension, to which doctor and patient agreed, is "new and different." Soon it won't be. Soon I'll get my scan results and things will go on as they now will have become: familiar. That's my hope anyway. And if not, you'll read about it here because I'll need your thoughts and prayers even more.

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

# Landmark Site to Link Seniors

FROM PAGE 4

Olin was a close personal friend of Thelma's and fought to preserve the country store before and after Thelma died. "I understand there is a desire and need in the community for the facility. Where the choice is to put it," Olin said, "there are pros and cons. There has been an argument that Thelma would have loved it. I don't agree with that. Her wish was that the store would go on."

Attempts were made by subsequent owners to run the store but none were successful and the building was eventually left to decay until it was in such poor shape that it was demolished. Current zoning allows for a commercial use. The community leaders' choice to support Brightview reflects a sea change within the community as well as changing demographics.

Great Falls lacks a physical building that can provide for the needs of transitioning seniors. That's a hole Brightview hopes to fill. "Great Falls is such a lovely place and there's a need here. It's such an extraordinary, active home-based place where people have roots," explains Ourand. Current thinking is that allowing seniors to "age in place" by developing facilities and services that assist people in living comfortably in their own communities is most advantageous. "Aging in place means, to me, aging in a geographical environment where you can have continued connections where you have roots," Ourand said.

**KEARNEY** has watched the population of Great Falls mature and develop. "Ten years ago, I don't know if we needed this," said Kearney. "But the people who will be moving into that community are the people who made Great Falls so great in the first place and they want to stay here. It's ironic but I think Thelma would be happy to have her friends here," said Kearney.

While there are detractors from the proposal to build a retirement home in Great Falls, the supporters have been vocal and plentiful. Several recent meetings held by the GFCA on the topic of aging have been well attended. Last week the GFCA host a Town Meeting on Collaborative Initiatives for Seniors. District Supervisor John Foust



PHOTO BY WALT LAWRENCE

**Thelma's on the Inside: Everyone who knew of Thelma's has stood in front of this ice cream freezer trying to make the most difficult decision, 'Which flavor?'**

**"I hope it's tastefully developed and the architects, the citizens association work to fit it in to what used to be a historic area."**

— David Olin, a Colvin Run resident

and five expert panelists were on hand to present myriad solutions to how aging residents can stay in their homes as long as possible. Foust said he is "working with the community to help them find the right solutions for themselves," and commended the GFCA for being proactive in addressing this growing issue.

The GFCA has a dedicated Seniors Group that is holding public meetings, like the one last week, to gather as much citizen input and information as possible. That data, in turn influences decisions the group makes, such as support and suggestions for Brightview's project.

Taylor concedes no one really wants more development but that the opportunity before the community now is to ensure what is constructed at the site serves the residents of Great Falls. "On the board, the vast majority are for it. It's a better commercial use than another shopping mall," said Taylor. "A lot of people did want this, some didn't and some were adamant against it because there might be a precedent for density," Taylor said.

The Brightview community in Great Falls has been in the works for some time, according to Ourand but they are still "in the process of doing due diligence and sight plans. Saying it's a done deal is an overstatement." Several large hurdles have been crossed already, according to Taylor. "VDOT has made some concessions," Taylor said. There is also public water and sewer hookup at that end of Great Falls so they would not have the septic issues that plague other parts of town.

Brightview officials decline to comment on the price of an apartment in the proposed facility. Given that Great Falls land values are some of the highest in the country, the price point is likely to be high as well.

## Historic Street Fair to be Held at Colvin Run

As a way to honor and applaud the two hundredth anniversary of the Colvin Run Mill and surrounding community, the Great Falls Historical Society is sponsoring a Colvin Run Historic Street Fair on May 15, from 12 noon to 4 p.m. Inside the Colvin Run Schoolhouse, visitors can enjoy a school reenactment; photo boards depicting the community over its 200 year history; treasured artifacts on display; and relatives and descendants of local residents who will discuss the

good old days, weaving a picture of days gone by. Members of GFHS can begin the day at the schoolhouse, where a wristband can be picked up that will allow access to a free grind at the Colvin Run Mill.

Local businesses will display their wares and offer foods along the road. Artists will be outside the Mill, painting the historic building for all to see. Food, ice cream, and music will delight. A silent auction will provide a way for local businesses to showcase their offerings. Outside the schoolhouse

native plants, heirloom seeds, and backyard wildlife habitat techniques

will be on display. The Great Falls Historical Society invites and welcomes member participation in the preparation of this event. They are gathering the history of the Colvin Run area and welcome your photos, artifacts and stories, if you have

items you would like to share. For further information call Kathleen Murphy 703-759-6509 or Kathleenjm@aol.com.

# Not in My Back (or Front) Yard

BY KIMBERLEY SISCO

Last night, a deer was hit in front of my home. Twice. The impact of the second hit, by a speeding truck, left her skull cracked and three of her legs broken.

The crash woke my seven-year old son, who watched from his window. It also left the deer alive.

Someone eventually drug her to the grass on the side of the road, where my son waits for his school bus. It was there that I found her, a little after 2 a.m. Body broken, barely breathing, and giving birth.

Both doe and fawn died as another car flew by.

It took me until sunrise to move and bury them. I finished just in time to slip the tooth from my son's pillow. He woke still believing both in the tooth fairy and that people do the right thing. I answered his questions with the best

version of the truth I had, the deer was in a better place.

I brought my son here, home, to give him his own memories of warm summer nights, crisp autumn air, and quiet winter snow. I did not bring him to remember mangled carcasses at the bus stop or the sound of screeching tires.

This is not about whether there are too many deer, should we kill them with bullets or arrows or which has more value, a fawn or a tulip. This issue is about public safety, responsibility and reality.

Period. The problem with becoming acclimated to broken deer dead on the side of the road is that we have also been seduced into thinking it is not our problem.

**FOR EVERY DEAD DEER** on the roadside, someone was lucky

enough to escape serious injury.

If carcass-strewn roads have not alerted us that recklessness equals death, who will we be to mourn the next person killed in a deer-vehicle collision when we can prevent it?

Yes. We have a "Deer Management Program." In response to the outcry of a tragic fatality from a deer-vehicle collision in 1997, our county has spent the last fourteen years shooting, striking and spearing as many deer as our tax dollars permit. We can literally see the results with our own eyes.

No. It's not working.

Good news: there are things that do work. Driver education. Flashing signs. Speed limits that are enforced. Public awareness. Media campaigns. Deer-deterrent systems. Cleared underbrush. Slowing down. Community commitment. Action.

Bad news: if it works somewhere else, we're not even trying it here.

Communities across the country have reduced deer-vehicle collisions by 85% in a year. It does not take rocket science to raise public awareness and make the roads safer. It simply takes a community deciding enough is enough.

It has been over twenty-five years since I took driver's ed but I still remember the "IPDE" motto - Identify, Predict, Decide, Execute.

Identify. It is not a question of if there is a deer in or near the road, but where.

Predict. Yes, Virginia, there will be an accident.

Decide. Choose not to blindside an expectant mother, risk your life, cause a traffic jam that makes the morning news and incur, on average, \$2500 worth of body damage to your car.

Execute. Here's where the rocket scientist weighs in...slow down.

We were right to demand action when a woman lost her life in 1997. We were wrong not to pay attention to if it was working.

It is not.

I chose to bury that broken doe and her baby. Out of sight does not mean out of mind. I'll bet if the two drivers that struck her had been forced to choose between lifting, loading and burying the two deer, then rocking my tear-filled, wide-and-wild-eyed child to sleep, or slowing down, they would picked the latter.

**I DO NOT WANT TO SACRIFICE** my child's innocence, replace the smell of summer grass with decaying flesh or lose another night's sleep. Even more, I do not

SEE OPINION, PAGE 17

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# THE COUNTY LINE

## Free Classes for Seniors

FROM PAGE 12

must be space in class for the senior citizen.

In some cases, academic credit toward a degree can be earned. One of those situations is where the senior had \$15,000 or less in Virginia taxable income during the preceding year. The Social Security Administration reports the average monthly retirement benefit currently is \$1,178. Factor in the personal exemption and deductions to reach "taxable income" and the potential pool of eligible seniors is sizeable.

Participating seniors often do not seek a degree. They "audit" courses on a part-time basis for personal reasons. These include the pure enjoyment of studying a subject of interest such as art or

history, the challenge of learning to converse in a foreign language, and improvement in self-skills (e.g., time management). The attraction for those re-entering the job market might be a course titled Preparation for Employment.

According to Jessica M. Baxter, NVCC's public affairs officer, available data for recent years show total student headcounts at about 70,000. Yet, the numbers of free-tuition senior citizens in the current year's fall and spring semesters are 514 and 612, respectively, says Michael A. Blackwell, the NVCC business manager responsible for such filings.

Senior citizen attendees at GMU present a similar picture. Current student enrollment is 32,562, according to Daniel Walsch, press officer. Of the 418 students age 60

or older, he notes that only 185 claim tuition-free attendance.

Although the law has been on the books for more than 35 years, these figures suggest that benefits of the Senior Citizens Higher Education Act of 1974 are underused. The law itself requires that the program be displayed "prominently" in every college and university catalogue; yet, school staff admit to being unfamiliar with the statute.

This general lack of awareness could explain why so few take advantage of the opportunities offered at Virginia's colleges and universities.

*The writer has participated in the tuition-free program since 2002, and courses range from "introductory" at NVCC to "graduate" at GMU's School of Law.*

### OPINION

FROM PAGE 16

want the responsibility of knowing that one day soon, tragedy will strike our community again and I did not sound the warning bell.

One of these days, it will not be a deer that is left broken in the

middle of the road in the silent night, it will be a mother, or a child, or a father.

Identify what will happen if we do not demand actions that will reduce deer-vehicle collisions.

Predict that by taking responsibility we will save lives.

Decide there is no alternative. Execute your decision.

If you live here, if you drive, if you pay taxes, if you have eyes, it's your problem too.

*The writer is resident of Great Falls.*

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# Tough Pitching Slows Highlanders Down Over Spring Break

But McLean remains unbeaten in Liberty District softball play this spring.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

The McLean High girls' softball team went up against some stiff competition at the Madison High Spring Break Tournament in Vienna over the last two weeks.

The recent poor weather conditions continued at the tournament. Nevertheless, the Highlanders were able to get in three of their scheduled five games. The other two are set to be made up later this week.

McLean went up against some pretty quality competition and pitching and as a result struggled to generate a lot of offense in its three games at the tournament. The Highlanders lost two close contests - 3-1 to Stonewall Jackson (Manassas) and 3-2 to Northern Region opponent Westfield High.

McLean pitcher Lauryn Hahne put together two quality outings in both losses. But along with the struggle to score runs in those two contests, McLean struggled defensively as well according to head coach Maurice Tawil.

"In both those losses, our defense did not support the outstanding pitching by sophomore Lauryn Hahne," said Tawil. "We also didn't hit well enough to make-up for our sub-par defense. But, we need to give credit to [the opposing] pitchers."



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean High softball pitcher Jamie Bell remains unbeaten this season.

The loss versus Stonewall Jackson was the first of the entire season for McLean, the defending state AAA champions who started this season 7-0. The Highlanders, in the loss to Stonewall, managed six hits at the plate and the one run. Hahne allowed just four Raiders batters to get base hits in her stellar effort for McLean.

MCLEAN, despite its tournament losses to both Stonewall and Westfield, did get a nice victory over a tough C.D. Hylton High (Woodbridge) club, 2-0, on Monday, April 18, at Madison.

In that game, McLean's Grace Henry drove in the winning two runs with a double over the center fielder's head. Freshman

Christi Geisler, meanwhile, went 3-for-3 at the plate, with two doubles. The winning pitcher for McLean was seasoned standout Jamie Bell, who remained unbeaten on the season.

McLean will conclude the tournament with games versus both West Potomac and Marshall High Schools this Saturday, April 30. Both opponents, like McLean, are members of the Northern Region. Marshall is also a fellow member with McLean of the Liberty District.

Going into this week, McLean was 9-2 overall. The team is a perfect 7-0 in Liberty District play.

The Highlanders have been led this season by seniors Bell and Jesse Straub, as well

as junior Allison Wilhelm. Bell, who is unbeaten on the mound, is also contributing mightily at the plate with a batting average at around the .500 mark. Straub, meanwhile, has been outstanding defensively and is also hitting near .500 with good power numbers. And clean-up hitter Wilhelm is leading the team in home runs while also batting near .500.

THIS WEEK, the Highlanders were scheduled to resume regular season play within their Liberty District. McLean was scheduled to play at home versus Fairfax High on Monday, April 26, before traveling to Jefferson High the following day (April 27) for a game versus the Colonials. This Thursday evening at 6:30, McLean will be at home versus South Lakes. Then, of course, the locals will conclude play in the Madison Tournament on Saturday.

Next Tuesday, May 3, McLean will be at home against district rival Madison for a 6:30 p.m. game. It will be the second meeting of the season between the two district foes. McLean won at Madison on April 1 by a 5-2 score. In that first meeting between the Highlanders and Warhawks, Highlander RBIs came from Straub, Bell, and Wilhelm. On the mound that evening, Bell allowed 11 base hits but held the hard-hitting Madison team to just the two runs.

Coach Tawil realizes the Highlanders have quite a challenge in all the games they are scheduled to play over the next several days, especially when it comes to the district games.

"We have several big games coming up and we will need to continue improving in order to stay atop a talented Liberty District," said Tawil.

## Highlanders Edge Warhawks In Liberty boys' Tennis Action

Liberty District boys' tennis rivals McLean and Madison High Schools competed in a closely contested team match earlier this week on Monday, April 25. The visiting Highlanders edged the Warhawks by a 5-4 score.

It was an exciting match with the team score tied at 4-4 with just the No. 1 doubles competition pending. The McLean top doubles' team of Nik Padmanabhan and Louis Gruber ended up winning a close competition over Madison's No. 1 team of Dan Sablik and John Adam, 10-8, to tilt the team victory into the Highlanders' favor.

Sablik, Madison's outstanding singles player, remained unbeaten this spring at No. 1 singles, getting past McLean junior Kayvon Mobarakeh. Madison also received singles victories from John Nothaft, who bested Charlie Roco, 10-7, at No. 4 singles; and Matt Bosco, who got past McLean's Bing Waid, 10-6, at No. 5 singles.

The Highlanders also earned three wins at singles. Padmanabhan, at No. 2 singles, defeated

Madison's Ho Joon Choi, 10-4. Gruber, at No. 3 singles, beat Madison's John Adam, 10-7. And at No. 6 singles, McLean's Zach Spahr was a 10-7 winner over Madison's Will Lowther.

So, going into doubles, the team match was tied at 3-3. Madison's No. 2 doubles team of Choi and Nothaft was a winner over McLean's Mobarakeh and Roco. Meanwhile, at No. 3 doubles, the Highlanders' duo of Waid and KC Kristian defeated Madison's twosome of Alex Russell and Aaron Plymack. Following the conclusion of both the No. 2 and 3 doubles' matches, the No. 1 match was still taking place. The winner of that top tier competition would determine the team victor. And it ended up being the Highlander team of Padmanabhan and Gruber that came out on top at the No. 1 doubles matchup, thus giving the Highlanders the team triumph.

McLean, with the win, improved its record to 8-3 on the season. Madison, with the loss, is now 4-5.

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Langley Saxons boys' soccer team will celebrate Senior Night on Friday, April 29. Special pre-game formalities will begin at 6:30 p.m. as seniors will be introduced. Kickoff for the Saxons' Liberty District game versus Stone Bridge High will be at 7:30. The evening will feature special activities and the night of soccer will be fun for all ages. Local youth players in attendance should wear their Great Falls Soccer Club jerseys for free admission. Regular admission is \$5. Donations accepted.

The Langley girls' soccer team, meanwhile, will celebrate its Senior Night on Thursday, May 5.

Great Falls Soccer Club is proud to have had and continue to have so many of these Langley seniors play in the Great Falls Soccer Club from the earliest of ages (many since U5). This is their last season with Great Falls Soccer Club and with Langley.

Jesse Lawrence, a McLean resident and a graduate of Maret School in Washington, D.C., played a big role for the Ohio Wesleyan University men's lacrosse team in its 8-7 victory over Kenyon. The NCAC game took place on April 15. With Ohio Wesleyan holding onto an 8-7 lead in the final minutes, Lawrence, a junior midfielder for the

Battling Bishops, was instrumental in causing several Kenyon turnovers over the contest's final three minutes to preserve the lead and the win for his team.

American Legion Post 180 will hold its 10th annual Golf Classic Friday, June 17 at Penderbrook Golf Club in Fairfax. Registration is from 7 to 8 a.m., with shotgun start at 8. There is room for 144 golfers. Each entry fee includes Green Fees, Event Shirt, Cart Rental, and Steak Dinner. There will be prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, and hole in one. For more information contact Janet Renner at rennerj17396@verizon.net.

The Paul VI High golf team recently captured its seventh straight Virginia State Catholic Schools Championship. The postseason event took place at Kiskiack Golf Club in Williamsburg. Under windy conditions, Paul VI (308 strokes) edged out local rivals Bishop Ireton (326 strokes) of Alexandria and Bishop O'Connell (334) of Arlington, both whom finished in second and third place, respectively.

Paul VI senior Tyler Wingo was the first place medalist at 72, even par.

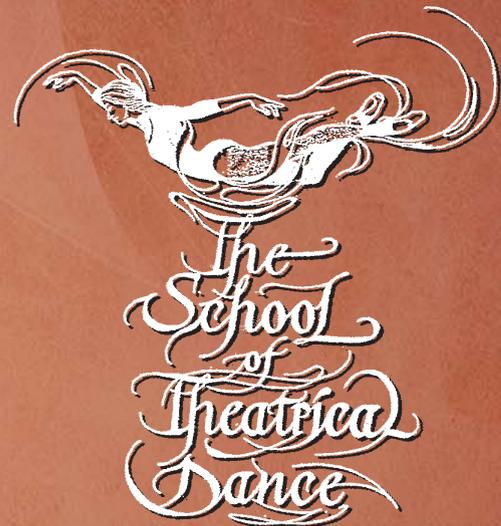
Paul VI, under longtime head coach Milt Papke, has now won 12 state titles in school history.

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Bridget Hott in rehearsal for her solo in "Imagine...One Day"

Rehearsing 'One' from 'A Chorus Line' for May performance: Dylan Murphy, Sam Zimmerman, Page Tofil, Gabrielle White, Karsyn Lawler, Holly Lundeen, Sara Warrington. (not pictured- Mary Hagen Grow, Alex Grieco, Emily Hines, Adrianna Lundgren, Maddy Neuberger)



photos Theresa D'Alessandro

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