

# Great Falls CONNECTION

# Girl Power!

AT, PAGE 18

The girls from Kent Gardens Elementary School – and their ‘buddy runners’ are charged and ready to go for the May 15 Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia 5K at George Mason University. Pictured, in no particular order are: Alaanah Bhanji, Sereena Bhanji, Kayla Delta, Piper Gaudet, Hannah Haas, Alexa Jordan, Yasmina Khartami, Rachel Kirby, Caroline Klotz, Kara Macatuno, Emma Meehan, Hannah Meehan, Sarah Meehan, Isabella Proietti-Fehrenbach, Audrey Saliba, Sami Schneider, Hasti Sohrabi, Dabney Stuart, Eliza Stuart, Itzel Trejo-Hernandez, Katherine Walker, Madeline Walker, and Samantha Wayne. This represents only a portion of the 52-member team. Coaches: Aliceson Johnson, Caitlin Murphy, Tricia Root, Kristin Wilhelm and Caitlin Pyne.

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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



## Going Old School At Colvin Run

NEWS, PAGE 10

## Bridging Gap At Beach Mill Road

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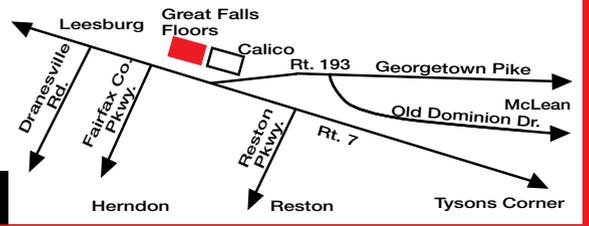
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**This sign, located on Beach Mill Road just before the bridge over Nichols Run, warns drivers that there is a one-lane bridge around the sharp curve. With the Virginia Department of Transportation planning on rebuilding the bridge, possibly with two lanes, local residents are concerned that the lack of a sign will not give drivers warning to slow down.**



PHOTO BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION

## Bridging Gap at Beach Mill Road

**Residents oppose widening of bridge during rebuilding.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Beach Mill Road bridge over Nichols Run is one of several bridges in Great Falls that narrows into one lane, forcing drivers to yield to cars coming from the other direction. Nearby residents agree that with sharp curves within 100 yards of the bridge on either side, the one lane bridge could be the only thing separating drivers from head on collisions as they whip around the turns.

"It's critical we keep the one-lane bridge, because at the rate of speed cars go around that curve, they naturally go over the center line," said Giselle Schneider of Great Falls. "The single lane and the signs force drivers to slow down around the curve, it serves as a traffic calming device and prevents people from using Beach Mill Road as a [Route] 193 bypass."

The Virginia Department of Transportation plans to replace what they call a "structurally deficient" bridge, saying that a new bridge will have a projected service life of 50-75 years.

"The need is related to the corrosion of the steel beams underneath," Roper said. "It's important to make sure a new bridge isn't just an easy fix for today, but will last for the next three or four generations. But we want it to be as small as possible, so we stay within our existing right-of-way, as well as match the context of Great Falls."

Roper says corrosion of the steel supporting the bridge has begun, and VDOT is trying to be proactive in replacing it.

"You can see heavy pitting and section loss of the structural steel underneath, and we haven't reached the point where the bridge is posted [with a weight limit] yet, but I guarantee it's coming," Roper said. "Corrosion can advance very quickly on the structural steel and we want to try and stay ahead of it when we can, and that's what we're trying to do with this particular bridge."

### Bridge Hearing

There will be a public hearing on the Beach Mill Road bridge configuration and appearance Monday, June 27 at Forestville Elementary School, 1085 Utterback Store Road in Great Falls from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. The goal is to obtain community comment on the single-lane versus double-lane option.

There will also be comments accepted on the bridge's appearance, such as a rustic appearance (timber deck supported by steel beams), modern appearance (pre-cast concrete with asphalt wearing surface) or other alternatives.

Each alternative will include cost estimates and an assessment of safety and adequacy for current and future use.

**THE ORIGINAL PLAN** called for the bridge to be widened to two lanes, which Roper says is just standard practice to match the two-lane road.

"The bridge was originally planned as a two-lane bridge because Beach Mill Road is a two-lane facility, it's that simple," Roper said.

The bridge is currently approximately 16.5 feet wide, and a two-lane option would widen it to 24 feet, with two 11-foot lanes in each direction and an extra one-foot buffer on each side. But residents are concerned that widening it and removing the "One Lane Bridge Ahead" sign would remove any motivation for drivers to slow down.

Jim Calm lives about 1,000 feet from the bridge, and has for 20 years. He often walks along the bridge and says that not only is widening the bridge unsafe, it's unnecessary.

"As a driver, I have never seen more than a car or two and usually none backed up at the bridge," Calm said. "As a walker, I have never felt a risk crossing the bridge, but I would with the increase in traffic speed encouraged by bridge widening."

A design exception must be approved by the state bridge engineer for the rebuilt bridge to stay at one lane, since one lane varies from the two-lane road the bridge serves. Justification for such an exception includes: the need for additional costs to meet the standards, an explanation to why the standard could be met (which would include letters of support from community organizations and officials) and any safety reasons.

**THE COST** for the new bridge is estimated at \$1,276,529. The cost for the one-lane option would be about \$250,000 less, Roper said, which means that there would be no additional cost to have the one-lane bridge.

According to VDOT, there have been 12 accidents within 0.2 miles of the bridge since 2004, five within sight of the bridge and none directly at the bridge. In comparison, the bridge on Walker Road over Piney Run has had five side-swipe (opposite direction) and nine off-road accidents, as well as three head-on and three rear-end collisions, according to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

"A high density of accidents at or very close to the bridge means

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 7



PHOTOS BY JEAN T. JIANOS/THE CONNECTION

**Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Fairfax County Board Chairman Sharon Bulova with Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Great Falls resident Richard Hanlon at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.**

## Living the Joe Cassella Way

**Memorial overlay street signs honor the late Joseph P. ("Joe") Cassella Jr.**

BY JEAN T. JIANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he intersection of Colvin Run and Walker roads establishes one of the four corners of the Great Falls community. At this crossroads, the past, present and future intersect in many ways, and on Friday morning, May 13, that intersection was further commemorated by the installation of privately funded memorial overlay street signs honoring the late Joseph P. ("Joe") Cassella Jr. for his contributions to the community of Great Falls. Cassella, who founded Elite Fitness Concepts in Great Falls, passed away July 11, 2009 after a 10-month battle with mesothelioma, an aggressive form of lung cancer. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), who together made a motion for the Board's approval of the requested designation last year, were on hand for the ceremonial ribbon cutting, as was Virginia State Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34). Jack Davies and Richard Hanlon, Great Falls residents and members of the Board of Directors of the Joe

Cassella Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization offering financial assistance to families in the Washington, D.C. Metro area with children affected by medical conditions, spoke to the appropriateness of this special tribute.

"Joe never for a moment lost sight of his own direction," said Hanlon. "He made us better for the journeys we took with him, and more determined to go that extra mile in our own lives. The world would be a better place if everyone could live their life the Joe Cassella Way."

Representatives of some of the sponsors of the 2nd Annual Joe Cassella 5K Run/Walk gathered with three generations of the Cassella family for a reception at Sisson Landscapes following the ceremony, including Mike Kearney, owner of The Old Brogue and Board Member of Celebrate Great Falls (successor organization to The Brogue Charities and the Great Falls Charitable Foundation), as well as Jason Stavish, Maggie Geuting and Diana Sievers of Elite Fitness Concepts, the business located on Colvin Run Road founded by Joe Cassella.

SEE ELITE RUNNERS,  
PAGE 22

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## NEWS

# Bulova Launches Campaign

**May 15 event draws regional Democratic Party power players.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**D**emocratic power players rallied around Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) Sunday, May 15, as she kicked off her campaign for a second term.

Terry McAuliffe, former gubernatorial candidate and chairman of the Democratic National Committee, U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-11), Del. Mark Keam (D-35), State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), and the seven Democrats on the Board of Supervisors gathered with 200 other supporters at the Mason Inn on the campus of George Mason University in Fairfax.

The message of the day: Bulova is a strong leader who, despite the



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**Power players in the Democratic party, including former gubernatorial candidate Terry McAuliffe, turned out on Sunday, May 15, at the Mason Inn on the campus of George Mason University to support Sharon Bulova as she kicked off her campaign for a second term as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.**

economic free-fall of the past few years, has preserved Fairfax County's status as the best place to live with an A-plus school system and progressive transportation plans.

McAuliffe got a loud round of applause and cheers when he bounded onto the stage and said, "Let's hear it for Sharon Bulova, the greatest chairman in our history."

"She has been a great leader," McAuliffe told the crowd, noting that Bulova has sustained the county's status as a vibrant economic center. McAuliffe announced that he and other partners recently purchased the shuttered International Paper Plant in Franklin, Va. "We put our headquarters here because of Sharon Bulova. She is good for business, and she's the leader for the future."

**WHILE THE MASON INN** was decorated like a political rally with dozens of signs and slogans, the kick-off had the feel of a family reunion cum political roast.

SEE BULOVA, PAGE 5



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# Bulova Kicks Off Campaign

FROM PAGE 4

"I'm here to complain about my assessment," Connolly said, to laughter as he took the stage to introduce Bulova, who succeeded Connolly as chairman in 2009. He received mock jeers when he called McAuliffe, "the state's greatest new-car salesman," referring to McAuliffe's quest to find a site for an electric vehicle factory that could create 3,000 to 5,000 jobs

Bulova took the stage to raucous cheers, chants and applause. The longtime supervisor and community leader was relaxed and conversational. She introduced her family members, including her father, sister, grandchildren and son, Del. David Bulova (D-37), and she talked about the importance of her personal relationships with supporters.

Known for being consensus-driven, Sharon Bulova called up the other Democratic members of the board to stand with her during her speech.

"My remarks will take exactly 8 minutes, unless you interrupt me with loud applause," she said, be-

fore listing the challenges and accomplishments she has overseen as chairman.

"There is much that we can be proud of," Sharon Bulova said. "Throughout this term, our board has worked with our residents and workforce to navigate the most serious economic downturn in most of our lifetimes. And we did so in a way that held the line on taxes, protected our excellent public school system, maintained our status as one of the safest communities of our size ... encouraged economic development, and protected the quality of life we value."

"Our board has worked together as a team," she said, pointing to accomplishments achieved with each Democratic board member.

She ended her remarks by saying that "continuity matters."

"To maintain our excellence it is important that we never stop peddling. There is work yet to do. ... I look forward to working with our Fairfax County community as we provide more lifestyle choices for our current and future generations, compact, walkable and transit oriented communities," she said.

Lauded as an advocate for important regional issues, supporters pointed to her experience as chair of the board's budget committee will be invaluable in navigating the fiscal crisis.

"She knows how to manage a budget like nobody else," said Sandra Klassen, co-chair of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee and co-chair of its National Affairs group. "She shows masterful judgment on many issues, and she takes care of the community."

**WHEN ASKED** how she would define herself politically, Sharon Bulova said "I'd say I am a fiscal conservative with a social conscience."

A resident of Northern Virginia for 45 years, Sharon Bulova became active in local government in the 1980s, first serving as president of the Kings Park West Civic Association, and then becoming the Braddock District supervisor, a position she held for 21 years before being elected Board of Supervisors chairman in 2009. She faces Republican challenger Spike Williams in the general election on Nov. 8.

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## NEWS

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### Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

*Name of Event:*

*Day of the Week, Date and Time:*

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Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome.

All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

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**Langley High School senior Nick McDonough gets down on one knee and asks junior Chaffee Duckers to prom Saturday, during the Langley Theatre Honor Society's car wash to raise money for victims of natural disasters.**



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Langley High School junior Caroline Callahan washes a car during the Langley Theatre Honor Society's car wash to raise money for the American Red Cross Saturday.**

## Cleaning Cars for Cause

### Langley Theatre Honor Society raises funds for disaster relief.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hile members of the Langley High School Theatre Honor Society planned to spend their Saturday washing cars at the Exxon Station in Great Falls, junior Chaffee Duckers got a little more than she bargained for. Just after 1 p.m., she was approached by senior Nick McDonough, who got on



**Langley High School juniors Caroline Callahan and Ryan Painter dry a car during the Langley Theatre Honor Society's car wash Saturday at the Exxon station in Great Falls. The car wash was one of two held every year by the society, and the \$1,011 raised went to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund.**

one knee and presented her with a small ring-sized box. But there wasn't a ring inside, just a folded piece of paper with seven words on it: "Will you go to prom with me?"

"I had it planned days in advance," said McDonough, who, after the surprise wore off, got the affirmative from Duckers. "She's perfect. She completes me."

Duckers said she had no idea and was "very surprised" when she turned around to see a kneeling McDonough.

Prom plans aside, the Theatre Honor Society was able to raise \$1,011 for the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, which will go to aiding victims of recent natural disasters.

"We usually do two of these car washes a year, one at the beginning to raise funds for ourselves, and one at the end of the year for a charity," said senior Tess Higgins, president of the society. "It's going really well, except for about a 15-minute lull. But we had more than \$600 by 1 p.m."

The day was overcast, but that didn't stop drivers flagged down at the intersection of Walker Road and Georgetown Pike from stopping by. Paul Goldberg, who graduated from Langley in 2010, got his Volvo cleaned as a way to support his former school.

"I used to be in theatre, so I know when these things happen. They did a pretty good job, but there are a few wet spots they didn't dry," he said with a laugh.

Some students managed to stay away from the hoses, soap and towels by working the intersection itself. Senior Allison Simmons spent the time waving drivers to the Exxon station, or collecting donations from drivers.

"I chose the corner because I thought it was the best chance to stay dry," she said. "I'm glad I did though, the people were very nice, and a lot of them donated money without even getting their car washed."

# NEWS

## Residents Question Need for Two-lane Bridge

FROM PAGE 3

a bridge is not a good candidate to remain a single lane," Roper said. "But in terms of accident history, there are good conditions for a design exception for the Beach Mill bridge."

Candace Burt and Lynne Simmons, whose driveways are close to the bridge, conducted their own unofficial traffic survey over several weeks, counting the cars traveling over the bridge at certain times of day. Burt says they noticed most cars head east in the morning and west at night, and watching from Simmons' driveway (which is less than 100 feet from the bridge), it was clear that cars slowed down knowing there was

a single lane bridge ahead.

"We do not think VDOT has presented any evidence to support the widening of the bridge. It's their proposal, so it's their burden to demonstrate that it's needed," Burt said. "In all our time watching, the biggest queue we saw of cars waiting was two at a time, and that was only once in a while. This isn't exactly Hunter Mill Road we're talking about."

If the bridge was to remain one lane, the plan would be to widen it by a maximum of 2.5 feet. There would be a 10-11 foot travel lane, as well as four feet of buffer space on each side.

More information can be found at [www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/beach\\_mill\\_road\\_bridge\\_replacement.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/beach_mill_road_bridge_replacement.asp).

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### THURSDAY/MAY 19

**Screening of "Race to Nowhere."** 7 p.m. Saint Luke Catholic School, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Tickets are \$10, available at [www.Racetonowhere.com](http://www.Racetonowhere.com).

#### TUESDAY/MAY 24

**Sierra Club Great Falls Group Meeting.** 7 p.m. McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Stella Koch will talk about stormwater, how runoff after rainfall gathers pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, motor oil, and heavy metals, and the Fairfax County Watershed Plans. 703-757-9518.



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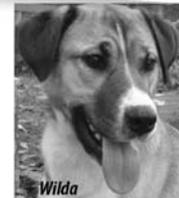
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## Reminder on Preparedness

While images of most natural emergencies — hurricanes, floods, tornadoes — seem remote from the D.C. suburbs, last month more than a dozen tornadoes touched down in our area.

Many households in our area have suffered through multiple-day power outages related to snowstorms and thunderstorms.

Virginia's annual hurricane preparedness sales tax holiday is next week, May 25-31, 2011. During this seven-day period, purchases of "hurricane and emergency preparedness equipment" will be exempt from the Virginia sales tax.

As long as they cost \$60 or less each, items including batteries, flashlights, tarps, rope, duct tape, smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, bottled water, first aid kits, and many others,

will be tax-free. Portable generators priced at \$1,000 or less are also included.

This is one of three tax holidays in Virginia; a three-day sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing begins on the first Friday in August, and the four-day holiday for Energy Star qualified products is in mid-October.

For good information on emergency preparation, see [www.readyvirginia.gov](http://www.readyvirginia.gov); for details on the sales tax holidays, see [www.tax.virginia.gov](http://www.tax.virginia.gov).

### Father's Day Photo Gallery, and More

Father's Day is Sunday, June 19, and once again the Connection will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Send in photos in jpeg format as soon as possible, including the full names of all 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.

**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.

We're also interested in other events at your school, church, synagogue or mosque, milestone events, etc.

Email photos to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com).

#### EDITORIALS

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The End of Great Falls as You Know It

To the Editor:

For decades, developers have chomped at the bit to get into Great Falls/Western McLean (GFWM). The only obstacles have been lack of sewer, Zoning Ordinances, and citizen opposition. Until today...

There is a fight on Colvin Run Rd in southern Great Falls where neighbors are battling the proposed construction of an Assisted Living facility. This facility, if built, sets the precedent for higher density building throughout the GFWM.

Disguised in sheep's clothing, tugging on the heartstrings of us all, is the 58,000-square-foot Brightview Assisted Living Facility. A structure much too large for the parcel, a Special Exception was requested to waive off all the requirements that were put in place to protect us from such development.

Approved by the Planning Commission on May 11, 2011, the Special Exception will be voted on by the Board of Supervisors in June, where it will pass easily. (just check out the voting record on Special Exceptions by the current Dranesville District Supervisor Foust).

Once this Special Exception is approved, no one and no property is safe in the GFWM area. If you think you are safe from over-development because you don't live next to, or close by commercially zoned property, think again. County ordinances allow for a myriad of diverse uses on R-1 & R-2 property through the special

permit and special exception process. You will cringe when you realize that the open land next to your multi-million dollar home can be a cemetery or "congregate living facility" (whatever that is).

Some argue that you cannot have High Density Commercial/Residential without sewer, the arterial vein for developers. Isn't sewer planning to go into the Great Falls Village? The argument "that sewer is only for the use of the Village Center and we will put enough restrictions in place to make sure that no one can tap into it" is false! I have learned the hard way that land use laws in Fairfax County mean nothing! Especially if a developer or a developer's law firm makes "contributions" to election campaigns or provides "contributions" like the \$90,000 "contribution" Brightview is making to the county for improvements. That's right, a \$90,000 "contribution" to the County by Brightview. Looks like a duck, walks like a duck...draw your own conclusions.

Do you think that the County will spend millions of taxpayer dollars to put in a sewer line because they don't want the Great Falls Sunday Evening Summer Concert series to be ruined by the smell of a failing septic system? Think of the tax revenue they can generate by allowing increased development in Great Falls. Western McLean is next.

Let me set the stage: a precedent has been set for high density construction in a low density area. Next, sewer is installed to the Great Falls Village Center. The incremental outgrowth will start around the small commercial centers because of the sewer and will expand rapidly. The older homes and small "ugly" commercial

buildings around the Great Falls Village Center will start falling like dominoes to high density commercial/residential construction. Are you going to be the homeowner who draws the line in sand to stop this while they build a townhouse cluster next door or are you going to take the money and run? Imagine the traffic on Georgetown Pike. If you think that you will be able to keep G'Town Pike at two lanes, you are crazy.

Americans are good at connecting the dots to determine why an event has happened after the fact. Well, let's start connecting the dots now before the event happens so we can leave the GFWM area the way it is for our children and grandchildren.

The battle is today and it is on Colvin Run Road. We didn't pick that location but that is where it is. Help say no to what is about to happen because if you don't, this type development is coming to you.

The real issue has never been about Brightview. It has always been about high density development. We have been so focused on saving the tree that we didn't realize they were destroying the forest. Some will argue that I have the most to lose if Brightview is built because of my property's proximity to it. Actually, I have the most to lose if Brightview is not built next to my property. Imagine the value of my R-1 zoned land next to a commercial property with a sewer line less than 100 yards away. But then again, the more I think about it, please don't do anything, but please don't raise a ruckus when my neighbor and I develop our combined 6 acres next to Brightview, tap into the sewer, and build 35 Independent Senior Independent Living Townhouses

(tugging at your heart strings the whole way!). We think we can make a killing at \$700K starting price per townhome! If my neighbor and I have thought of this, don't you think the developers have as well? I wonder how much money I would have to "contribute" to make sure my townhouse complex gets through the county Special Exception process? I am sure there is a developer in Great Falls that can tell me.

**Colonel Joe Sartiano**  
U.S. Army, Retired  
Great Falls

### Neighborhood Hijacked

To the Editor:

The recent articles and letters to the editor on the placement of a 58,000 square foot, 24-hour assisted living medical facility in the middle of Colvin Run historical district really made me think about our history as a country and how we had to fight to achieve democratic rule. I say this because a small group of people on the GFCA board have recently overstepped an important boundary by imposing their will on a matter that is important to the whole community. They are not my elected leaders so I don't understand why they feel they can do this to us, but they have. And for almost a whole year Supervisor Foust has kept all of us in the dark on this and has only dealt with the GFCA. He is also to blame for giving them some special power that they don't deserve. So here is my question: Have elites with vested interests suddenly hijacked our neighborhood and de

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

# MILITARY

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

Army National Guard Pfc. **Joshua B. Atkins** has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Randy Atkins of Weant Drive in Great Falls, and a 1990 graduate of the Blue Ridge Preparatory School of Dyke, Va.

Cadet **Anthony Kotoriy** of Great Falls successfully completed Cadet Basic Training (CBT) at the U.S. Military Academy on Aug. 14.

Army Pfc. **Bo J. Buffkin** has graduated from the Basic Field Artillery Cannon Crewmember Advanced Individual Training course at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

Navy Seaman Recruit **Alex J. Phillips** of Great Falls has completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

stroyed our democracy?

Make no mistake we are going to be adversely affected by this giant business, especially those of us who live close to it! The historic character of Colvin Run that we all cherish will be overtaken by a mammoth facility on just a little over three acres: 58,000 square feet is the size of 11 Great Falls houses! At least half of this will be built on residential property (about 2.12 acres is residential and only 1.44 is zoned commercial).

Even more troubling is that GFCA evidently doesn't care what the community thinks and only tells us we shouldn't have chosen to buy homes close to commercial property. Actually, my family was here first. The commercialization of Colvin Run came sometime after that.

Indeed, my family has lived continuously on Colvin Run Road since the 1700s. In those days, we owned the land all the way to Route 7 and, in fact, George Washington was our neighbor. I hope the fact that General Washington spent years battling and then running tyrants out of our country so that we would no longer be subject to arbitrary elite rule was not all in vain. But it makes you wonder whether there has been some back-sliding and we once again have to do some work to re-establish our democratic rights as citizens of the United States. Great Falls is not a colony to be run the way a few elites wish. If our elected official Supervisor Foust only wants to represent large law firms, big corporations, and elite interest groups, then I for one will be voting for someone else in the next election!

**Robert Tracy**  
Great Falls



# Community Cookout

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754 Walker Rd. • Great Falls, VA  
(703)757-5817

**When: 05/21/2011**  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm • Walk-ins only!!!

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On this special day we offer free consultations for new patients, free adjustments for existing patients, free seated massage, free mini acupuncture treatments, free healthy snacks, free balance and posture testing and much, much more. Also kids can enjoy bouncing in our castle moon bounce and having their face painted!



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## Million Dollar Pottery Sale

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## SUN DESIGN INVITES YOU TO OUR VIENNA OPEN HOUSE!

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211 Mill Street NE, Vienna, VA 22180




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**Directions:** From I-495, merge onto exit 46A VA-123 S. Turn right onto Mill St NE. The location will be on your right hand side, just past Church Street.

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# Williamsburg



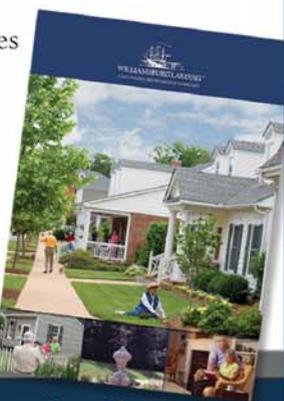
Williamsburg was just named one of the nation's best places to retire by *Money Magazine*. And who was voted the best retirement community in Williamsburg for the last three years?\* We were. Enjoy the best of life every day at Williamsburg Landing:

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\* By readers of the *Virginia Gazette* 2007-2009



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## NEWS



Petunia the Clown hands Elisabeth Anderson, 6, a unicorn made of balloons at the Colvin Run street fair Sunday, May 15.

## Going Old School at Colvin Run

### Historical Society hosts street fair on Colvin Run Road.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

The past became the present Sunday along Colvin Run Road as the Great Falls Historical Society hosted a historical street fair from noon to 4 p.m. Whether it was the Colvin Run Schoolhouse (which itself is more than 100 years old) being filled with

artifacts or the games and food provided by local businesses, almost every one who attended walked away with a better understanding of the area's history.

The schoolhouse featured displays of Civil War artillery, turn-of-the-century farm equipment and other household items and photos from past residents of the area. Historians and collectors from McLean, Reston and beyond came out to show off their finds.

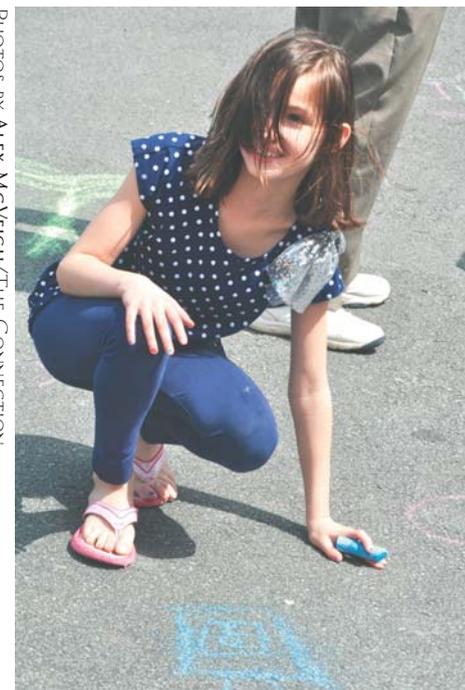
"It's amazing to see just how many pieces of history we were able to get together in one place," said Kathleen Murphy, president of the Great Falls Historical Society.

**FOR SOME LOCALS**, it was gratifying to see the schoolhouse being used for community activities again.

SEE STREET FAIR, PAGE 15



From left, "student" Erin Maxwell, 10, presents her work to "teacher" Rebecca Wichman, 12, during a reenactment of an 1895 classroom at the Colvin Run street fair in Great Falls Sunday.



Amanda Ugone, 10, admires her sidewalk chalk drawing during the Colvin Run street fair Sunday in Great Falls.

PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

# SCHOOLS

## Young Poets Share Their Talents at Poetry Luncheon

For 29 years, the Great Falls Woman's Club and Great Falls Elementary have been partnering to promote poetry with an annual poetry contest. Students in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades submit poems and a panel of judges select three winners in each grade. As part of National Poetry Month, the top poets were honored by their parents, teachers, school administrators and club members at a luncheon at the Riverbend Country Club on Tuesday, April 26. Tina Mather, Great Falls Woman's Club president, welcomed everyone and Ernest Leighty, Great Falls Elementary School principal, spoke and shared a poem given to him.

After lunch, Joanne Schilling, reading specialist at Great Falls Elementary, announced the winners.

Sixth grade winners were Tasmia Haq (1st place), Lauren LaTeef (2nd place) and Parker Rhee (3rd Place).

Fifth grade winners were Bennett Norris (1st), Benjamin Johnson, (2nd), and Martina Bucheli (3rd).

The fourth grade winners were Lily Wildman (1st), Marisa Mihori, (2nd), and Taiana Ahmad (3rd).

The young poets received a certificate and a cash award of \$50 each. The highlight of the event was the students reading their original winning poems.

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# VOTE

## Vote on McLean Day

### MCC Governing Board Election

**Saturday, May 21, from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road**

### Your Vote is Your Voice!

All qualified residents of the McLean Community Center district (Small District #1 Dranesville) are encouraged to vote for members of the 2011-2012 MCC Governing Board.

- You need not be registered to vote in the general election
- Proof of residence, such as a driver's license, is required

#### Absentee Ballot

Vote now by absentee ballot and avoid the crowds! View the candidate statements on the Center's Web site: [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org). Call the Center or send an E-mail message to "elections@mcleancenter.org" to request a ballot package be sent to your home. Or, stop by the Center at 1234 Ingleside Avenue and pick one up. Completed ballots must be received by close of business (5 p.m.) on **Wednesday, May 18**, to be counted.



**The McLean Community Center**  
 703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
 Sign up for E-mail Updates:  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

## Humane Society of Fairfax County's

# Woof Walk



**Sunday, May 22**  
**8am-1pm - Rain or Shine**

At the Burke Lake Park Amphitheater

Registration starts at 8am ~  
 Demonstrations start at 10am

\$20 if pre-registered ~ \$25 at the door  
 \$5 for each additional family member

Exhibits - Contests - Food - Freebies  
 Demonstrations - Silent Auction

For pre-registration & more details visit  
[www.hsf.org](http://www.hsf.org) - registration online until May 21

- Well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome!
  - No retractable leashes
- Dogs must have ID & current rabies vaccine



Don't Miss the Fun!

## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### WEDNESDAY/MAY 18

**Empty Bowls Fundraiser.** 5-8 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Attendees will get a ceramic bowl to fill with ice cream. Proceeds benefit Stop Hunger Now. Sponsored by the Interact Club, Key Club, National Art Honor Society, Student Government Association and PTA. \$10. [awtaylor@fcp.edu](mailto:awtaylor@fcp.edu).

### THURSDAY/MAY 19

**9th Annual "Tips for a Cure" Guest Bartender Night.** 6:30-11 p.m. The Tavern at Great Falls, 9835 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. Proceeds benefit the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. [BEhrensaa@aol.com](mailto:BEhrensaa@aol.com).

**Book Discussion Group.** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560.

**"Les Misérables."** 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road Alexandria. Imprisoned for stealing a loaf a bread, Jean Valjean becomes an honest man and mayor of a prosperous town, but violates his parole. Snacks inspired by the musical sold before and after the show. \$10. [makhatches@fcp.edu](mailto:makhatches@fcp.edu).

### FRIDAY/MAY 20

**"By Jeeves."** 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A musical inspired by the P. G. Wodehouse stories of Bertie Wooster and Jeeves. \$30 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or [www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves](http://www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves).

**An Evening with Bill Kirchen and Too Much Fun.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

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

**West Shore Piano Trio.** 7 p.m. Harmonia School of Music and Art, 204-F Mill St., N.E., Vienna. Dvorak's "Dumky" trio, Foote's Trio No. 2, and Schoenfield's Café Music. Free. [www.westshoretrio.com](http://www.westshoretrio.com).

**"Les Misérables."** 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road Alexandria. Imprisoned for stealing a loaf a bread, Jean Valjean becomes an honest man and mayor of a prosperous town, but violates his parole. Snacks inspired by the musical sold before and after the show. \$10. [makhatches@fcp.edu](mailto:makhatches@fcp.edu).

### SATURDAY/MAY 21

**McLean Day 2011.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Dance demonstrations, live music, pony rides, crafts, two performances by Mutts Gone Nuts and more. MCC Governing Board Elections from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. 703-790-0123 or [sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Celebrating the service provided every day, often under challenging circumstances, and showing how EMS providers are dedicated to saving lives and limiting suffering. Partnering with the Park Authority, EMS providers will be available with displays, educational materials, blood pressure screenings, and apparatus displays. 703-877-3702 or fire-rescue.PA-LSE@fairfaxcounty.gov.

**Spring Hill Recreation Center,** 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. 703-827-0989.

# Party in the Park

## McLean Day 2011: Celebrating Our Hometown, Saturday, May 21, at Lewinsville Park.

Large amusement rides, live entertainment and festival treats are just a few of the energizing attractions at the McLean Community Center's (MCC) annual spring-time "party in the park." MCC Governing Board and staff members cordially invite Dranesville Small Tax District #1 residents and their guests to McLean Day 2011: Celebrating Our Hometown. The festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Saturday, May 21, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road. Admission is free.

Parking is not available at Lewinsville Park on the day of the festival, so MCC strongly encourages participants to use its free shuttle service. Starting at 10:30 a.m. and continuing throughout the day, shuttle



**Lewinsville Park provides a perfect setting for the McLean Day: Celebrating Our Hometown festival.**

PHOTO BY WILLIAM B. FOLSOM

buses will run from the park to McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd., Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, and MCC, 1234 Ingleside Avenue. Parking also is available at the Lewinsville Senior Center, 1609 Great Falls Street. Shuttle carts will run from the back of the building to Lewinsville Park.

For festival updates, driving directions, shuttle bus stop locations and a festival area map, visit: [www.mcleancenter.org/special-events/mcleanday.asp](http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events/mcleanday.asp) or call the Center at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711. The Center's telephone will be answered from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the festival.

**Oak Marr Recreation Center,** 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. 703-281-6501.

**Vienna Choral Society.** 7:30 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. 175 voices from VCS and the choruses of Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockyville and Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, performing Cliff Hardin's Requiem, Peter Knight's "You Are The New Day," the Navajo prayer inspired "Now I Walk In Beauty" and more. A portion of the proceeds benefits the non-profit Washington Home and Community Hospices, serving those with issues of aging and chronic or terminal illness. Tickets \$15-\$35. [www.viennachoralsociety.org/events](http://www.viennachoralsociety.org/events).

**"By Jeeves."** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A musical inspired by the P. G. Wodehouse stories of Bertie Wooster and Jeeves. \$30 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or [www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves](http://www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves).

**Yard & Craft Sale.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705 or [c.wright@longandfoster.com](mailto:c.wright@longandfoster.com).

**The Seekers.** 5 p.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

**Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.** 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice. Adults. 703-293-6227.

**18th Century Spring Market Fair.** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Period music, quilts and other games, children's puppet theater. Blacksmith, plant vendor. seamstress, millinery and stillatory stands. See Farm family and community members in character and costume. Adults \$6, age 3-12, seniors \$3. [www.saintlukemclean.org](http://www.saintlukemclean.org).

**"By Jeeves."** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A musical inspired by the P. G. Wodehouse stories of Bertie Wooster and Jeeves. \$30 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or [www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves](http://www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves).

**Paperweight Collectors Association Dealers' Fair.** 12-5 p.m. Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive in McLean. Make purchases or have a paperweights identified and valued. \$5 admission fee. Free lecture, "A Paperweight Primer," for new collectors at 1:30 p.m. 703-847-5000 or [www.paperweight.org](http://www.paperweight.org).

**Tea Tasting Seminar.** 1:30 p.m. Great Falls Foundation For The Arts, 1144 Walker Road, Great Falls. Green teas discussed and sampled. \$30. Registration required at [Laurie@greatfallsteagarden.com](mailto:Laurie@greatfallsteagarden.com) or 703-757-6209.

**Fiesta Latina.** 8 p.m. American Legion Post 180, 330 North Center St., Vienna. Live music by Grupo Cumbao and more. Proceeds benefit the Hispanic Committee of Virginia, providing case management and social services, legal and immigration-related assistance, workforce development programming, small business development assistance, and more for Hispanic immigrants.

**20th Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St., Reston. With over 220 artists, showcasing works in ceramics, decorative fibers, drawing and pastels, furniture, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, wood and more. Children's Art Tent, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. [www.northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org](http://www.northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org).

**"Les Misérables."** 7 p.m. Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road Alexandria. Imprisoned for stealing a loaf a bread, Jean Valjean becomes an honest man and mayor of a prosperous town, but violates his parole. Snacks inspired by the musical sold before and after the show. \$10. [makhatches@fcp.edu](mailto:makhatches@fcp.edu).

### SUNDAY/MAY 22

**Golden Jubilee Concert.** 4 p.m. Saint Luke Parish, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Saint Luke Festival Choir and the Church of the Little Flower Choir performing sacred music of the Catholic Church. Free. donations accepted. 703-356-0670 or [www.saintlukemclean.org](http://www.saintlukemclean.org).

**"By Jeeves."** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A musical inspired by the P. G. Wodehouse stories of Bertie Wooster and Jeeves. \$30 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or [www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves](http://www.1stStageTysons.org/jeeves).

**Tribute to Bob Dylan On his 70th Birthday: Jammin' Java's Songwriters Circle** Featuring Luke



**The pianist Hyun-Mi Chung will hold a Piano Concert at Steinway Recital Hall, Tysons Corner Mall, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Mclean on Sunday, May 22, at 6 p.m. [www.hyun-michung.net](http://www.hyun-michung.net).**

Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

**Piano Concert.** 6 p.m. Steinway Recital Hall, Tysons Corner Mall, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Mclean. Recital by Hyun-Mi Chung. [www.hyun-michung.net](http://www.hyun-michung.net).

**18th Century Spring Market Fair.** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Period music, quilts and other games, children's puppet theater. Blacksmith, plant vendor. seamstress, millinery and stillatory stands. See Farm family and community members in character and costume. Adults \$6, age 3-12, seniors \$3. [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org) or 703-903-9330.

**20th Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Reston Town Center, 12001 Market St., Reston. With over 220 artists, showcasing works in ceramics,

decorative fibers, drawing and pastels, furniture, glass, jewelry, leather, metal, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, wood and more. Children's Art Tent, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. [www.northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org](http://www.northernvirginiafineartsfestival.org).

**Traveling Players Open Mic Night for Teens.** 5:30 p.m. The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The evening begins at 5:30 with an improvisation jam showcasing Traveling Players Ensemble's spring improv classes, with high-energy improv games and scenes. Open mic begins at 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. [www.travelingplayers.org](http://www.travelingplayers.org) or 703-987-1712.

### MONDAY/MAY 23

**A Madhatter's Mommy & Me Tea Party.** 1:30-3 p.m. Kent Gardens Elementary, 1717 Melbourne Drive, McLean. Tea snacks, face painting and balloon creations. All proceeds benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. \$10 per person. [www.caretolunch.org](http://www.caretolunch.org).

### TUESDAY/MAY 24

**James Madison HS Symphonic Band and Wind Symphony.** 7:30 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Music by Rimsky-Korsokov, John Mackey, John Philip Sousa, Frank Ticheli, Claude T. Smith and more. 703-620-3179.

### WEDNESDAY/MAY 25

**Luke Mitchem, Alexe Colbus and Katherine Thorsey.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

**Summer Class Registration**  
 Began **May 16**, for district residents  
**May 23**, for all others

MCC is offering an exciting assortment of classes, community events, youth activities and visual and performing arts programs from May through August. Jump in!

**Summer's Sensational!**  
 Camp Registration is Ongoing

Your children can pick their own adventures this summer. MCC offers a wide variety of special interest camp programs for all ages.

**Travel and Adventure Film Series**  
**Discovering the Dutch**  
**Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.**  
 \$10/\$8 district residents

Journey beyond the tulips, windmills and gabled houses into the fascinating stories of Dutch history.

**James C. Macdonald Arts Scholarship Final Competition**  
**Friday, May 20, 8 p.m.**  
 Free admission

Local high school musicians will compete for awards.

**It's the Place to Be!**  
**McLean Day 2011**  
**Saturday, May 21**  
**11 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
 Lewinsville Park  
 Free admission

Come out and enjoy the community's biggest annual party in the park. Vote for MCC Governing Board candidates from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Rocknoceros**  
**Sunday, May 22, 3 p.m.**  
 \$12/\$8 district residents

From Tin Pan Alley to the shores of Jamaica, Rocknoceros hops from genre to genre like a toad on summer asphalt. For ages 4+.

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

# What The Future Holds

Students pursue college and careers after high school.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**S**arah Locke applied to Howard University, George Mason University and a few other colleges. In the end, however, she just couldn't see herself going anywhere besides The United States Military Academy, better known as West Point.

"I also looked into R.O.T.C or enlisting but this seemed like a better deal to me. I like the structure," said Locke.

West Point is not for the faint of heart. The academy is highly competitive, with just a 12.65 percent acceptance rate.

Out of the 1,300 people who start out each academy class, only 1,000 or so will make it through the four-year program, according to its website.

Just 10 days after her graduation from high school, Locke will have to report on June 27 for the beginning of Cadet Basic Training at West Point, also called "Beast Barracks."

Women tend to outnumber men in higher education, but West Point is an exception to that rule. Females usually make up just 15 percent of the cadets in each class, according to the academy's website.

Locke said she was inspired by her mother, an African American who was among the first 62 women to graduate from West Point in 1980.

Pat Walker Locke was already in the U.S. Army as an enlisted soldier when West Point opened its doors to women in the late 1970s. At the time, Pat Locke — who was from inner city Detroit — had never heard of West Point, but her battalion leader had encouraged her to apply for a slot at the school.

"There are more women there now than when we were there ... and people are trying to help you instead of keep you out," said Pat Locke, who is extremely pleased to see her own daughter attending the service academy.

"She was so excited. She was running around the house dancing when I got the letter," said Sarah Locke, who attends Mount Vernon High School.

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA** typically sends a large cohort of students to the military service academies each year.

Virginia's 11th congressional district, which includes Fairfax and Prince William counties, had 49

## 2011 University of Virginia Acceptances By High School



The following data are based on information provided by the University of Virginia's Office of Institutional Assessment, Fairfax County Public Schools, Arlington County Public Schools and the City of Alexandria.

School	Number of Students Accepted To UVa.	Number of Seniors (April 2011)	Percentage of Seniors Accepted To UVa.
Thomas Jefferson High School	223	425	52.4%
H.B. Woodlawn High School	16	93	17.2%
McLean High School	50	406	12.3%
James Madison High School	53	454	11.6%
South Lakes High School	37	357	10.3%
Marshall High School	25	286	8.7%
Lake Braddock Secondary School	51	588	8.7%
Langley High School	41	487	8.4%
Oakton High School	44	532	8.2%
Robinson Secondary School	50	624	8.0%
Fairfax High School	39	496	7.8%
Centreville High School	39	507	7.7%
Washington-Lee High School	33	431	7.6%
West Potomac High School	32	422	7.5%
Yorktown High School	31	444	6.9%
West Springfield High School	32	525	6.1%
South County Secondary School	25	442	5.6%
Chantilly High School	32	587	5.4%
Westfield High School	35	669	5.2%
Herndon High School	21	450	4.6%
T.C. Williams High School	29	632	4.5%
Lee High School	18	399	4.5%
Edison High School	16	370	4.3%
Annandale High School	23	557	4.1%
Wakefield High School	12	291	4.1%
Hayfield High School	16	443	3.6%
Mount Vernon High School	6	346	1.7%
Falls Church High School	5	300	1.6%
Stuart High School	0	305	0%
Woodson High School	0*	449	0%*

\* The University of Virginia sent data to The Connection Newspapers that indicated no students were accepted into as freshman into its undergraduate program from Woodson High School this year. Members of the Woodson community have said this is not the case, pointing to at least six students who have reported they will attend the school in the fall.

students accepted to academies in 2011, the most of any congressional district in the country. Virginia's 10th congressional district, which includes northern and western Fairfax County, ranked second in the number of students attending military academies next year.

Several of the students attending one of the academies next year have a family connection to the military already.

"I was influenced by my dad, who is over in Iraq right now," said Jason Ko, a Robinson Secondary School senior who will be attending West Point next year.

In Fairfax County, the number of students attending service academies also appears to be on the rise. In 2005, a total of 40 students from Fairfax County Public Schools attended the five academies. By 2009, that number had increased to 54.

"That is just the kind of lifestyle that is appealing to me," said Lisa Marie Junta, a Springfield resident who is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Perhaps it shouldn't be surprising that Northern Virginia high school students interested in joining the military would pursue a career through a service academy that provides a college education.

A much larger percentage of Northern Virginia high school students attend four-year colleges in general. Last year, more than 60 percent of high school graduates in Arlington and Fairfax counties enrolled in four-year college programs, compared to just 46 percent of Virginia high school graduates overall.

Graduates from the Fairfax County Public Schools overwhelmingly choose to go to school within the commonwealth, which rivals California as having the best public higher education in the country. In 2009, 75 percent of Fairfax high graduates attending college choose to enroll in the Virginia school, according to a school system report.

U.S. News and World Report regularly ranks the University of Virginia and College of William & Mary among the top 10 public undergraduate programs in the United States. The schools' stellar reputation has been double-edged sword however, creating an incredibly competitive admissions environment in which several high-achieving Northern Virginia students are vying for admission.

## Steep Competition

This year, the University of Virginia saw record-breaking 24,005 applications for its freshman class. William and Mary had 12,820 applications, according to a New York Times database.

The commonwealth's most prestigious universities ended up with similar admission rates of 32.2 percent and 34.6 percent respectively. Private colleges such as Carnegie Mellon (30.4 percent), Connecticut College (31.5 percent) and The George Washington

University (32 percent) have comparable admission rates.

**STILL**, several Northern Virginia families complain about their children's ability to get admitted to the commonwealth's top tier schools. At three Fairfax high schools, fewer than 10 students were admitted to UVa. this year, according to data released by the university.

Yet UVa's own data also shows that students applying from Northern Virginia localities were accepted at higher rate than average. The school acceptance rate for applications from Fairfax County (45 percent), Arlington County (43.1), City of Alexandria (40.1 percent) and the City of Fairfax (39.5 percent) was much more generous than the normal 32 percent.

In fact, it is often the next tier of Virginia public schools where students face more trouble getting accepted than average applicant.

For example in 2009, Fairfax County Public Schools reported that the school system's graduates were often accepted at a lower rate than the average applicant to George Mason University (59.5/63.3), James Madison University (50.2/59.3) and Virginia Tech (51.1/66.7).

One reason that the Northern Virginia community may perceive a shortage of slots at the commonwealth's most selective college, UVa., is because a large share of the students admitted come from one school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Nearly 18 percent of all the students admitted to UVa. from Fairfax and Arlington this year attend Thomas Jefferson. The university accepted 223 Jefferson students into its freshman class next year, which is more than half of the number of students in Jefferson's 425-person senior class. The next largest cohort of accepted students came from the Maggie L. Walker Governor's School in Richmond, where 75 seniors were admitted. Madison High School in Vienna was next, with 53 students.

A fair number of Jefferson graduates choose to attend UVa. Ninety-three students in the 2010 freshman class came from Jefferson, according to the university.

But some parents believe

SEE PURSUING, PAGE 18

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

# NEWS

## Street Fair at Colvin Run

FROM PAGE 10

"I'm glad to see the building open again, we've been looking for ways to use it for a while, but it's only in the last few years we've seen dances and activities going in here," said Joe Money, who served as one of the panelists discussing the area's past. "It's a building that is meant to be used by the people."

While there were plenty of artifacts, maps and photos to pore over, there was also a piece of living history. Girl Scouts from Herndon's Troop 2677 used a corner of the schoolhouse to re-enact a class session from 1895.

"It was a lot of fun, but also a lot of hard work grading the tests I gave out," said Rebecca Wichman, 12, who played the teacher. "There's was only one student who had to be kept in line. I thought of it more like a play, I like to do drama at school, so I know how to stay calm in a role. But I liked being able to ring a real bell to start class, instead of the fake ones we have at school."

Erin Maxwell, 10, said she found the "curriculum" during the 45-minute skit much easier than her fourth-grade studies at Clearview Elementary School.

"It seemed like we were learning a lot of stuff I learned in second grade," Maxwell said. "But that's probably because we had older and younger girls all together, not separated by grade like we have now."

While Wichman said in the future she would like to try the "student" experience, Sophia Bojokles, 10, said she hopes to play the teacher.

"I would like to have a chance to boss the kids around," she said. "And it doesn't seem like it would take them as much time to learn every

SEE STREET FAIR, PAGE 17



**Griffin Khan, 7, and Delaney Ross, 6, were the winners of the Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher look-alike contest at the Colvin Run street fair Sunday.**

PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



**Madeleine, 8, and Avi Steppel, 5, and their grandfather Sam admire Sam Rentsch's 1930 Ford Model A at the Colvin Run street fair Sunday.**

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43173 Tall Pines Ct. ....\$1,085,000.....Sun 1-4.....Cindy Glacken.....Long & Foster... 703-606-5094

### Falls Church

411 W. Broad Street.....\$319,850.....Sun 1-4....Troy Sponaugle..Samson Properties... 703-408-5560

### Great Falls

991 Falls Ct.....\$1,395,000.....Sun 1-4.....Eileen Dubose.....National Realty ... 703-403-6030

### Herndon

12007 Meadowville Ct.....\$754,900.....Sun 1-4.....Karin Ebner.....Weichert... 703-899-7952  
2713 Viking Dr.....\$499,900.....Sun 1-4.....Tony Yeh....United Realty, Inc... 202-257-0830

### McLean

1707 James Payne Cir...\$1,289,000.....Sun 2-4.....JD Callander.....Weichert... 703-606-7901  
6505 Divine St.....\$669,000.....Sun 1-4..Cecelia A. Lofton.....Weichert... 703-508-3968  
6533 Sunny Hill Court ..\$1,195,000.....Sun 1-4.....Stephanie Sirh.....Weichert... 703-216-6451

### Oakton

12001 Wayland St.....\$498,000.....Sun 1-4.....Pat Stack.....Weichert... 703-597-9373

### Reston

11500 Fairway Dr. #506...\$400,000.....Sun 1-4.....Peter Burke.....Weichert... 703-786-3334  
10816 Oldfield Drive.....\$509,900.....Sun 1-4.....Debbie Kent....Cottage St. Realty... 571-276-0430

### Sterling

21927 Thompson Sq.....\$324,900.....Sun 1-4.....Photini Riner.....Weichert... 703-606-1878  
45607 Grand Central Sq. . \$335,000.....Sun 1-4.....Nilsa Rivas.....Weichert... 917-294-2546

### Vienna

1804 Kilbarray Ct.....\$1,579,990 ..Sun 12:30-4 ..Barbara Di Tullio.....Coldwell Banker ... 703-405-6691

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

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**Madison High boys' tennis player Dan Sablik** won the Liberty District singles championship last Thursday, May 12, defeating Jefferson No. 4 seed Stephen Hu, 6-3, 6-1, in the finals at Lewinsville Park in McLean. Sablik was the tournament's No. 2 seed. Brandon Lee of Langley finished third by default in the boys' singles event.

In the district girls' singles finals, top-seed Megumi Chen of McLean defeated No. 2 Rena Liu of Jefferson, 6-2, 6-0. Anna Pelak of McLean finished third by defeating Kitty Branche of Langley, 8-4.

In the boys doubles championship match, top-seeded Chris Vrabel and Ben Rosenblum of Jefferson defeated No. 2 Nik Padmanabhan and Louis Gruber of McLean, 6-1, 6-2. Josh Cooper and Vincent Ning of Langley finished third in the boys doubles tournament by defeating Langley teammates Brandon Lee and Jimmy Fang 7-5, 5-7, 3-3 (7-0).

In the girls doubles championship match, No. 3 Anna Pelak and Savanah Graham of McLean defeated top-seeded Katheryn Emery and Kitty Branche of Langley, 7-6 (7-3), 6-0. Rena Liu and Allie Meng of Jefferson finished third in the girls doubles tournament by defeating teammates Steffie Pitts and Natalie Cheng, 10-4.

The winners and runners-up in all four tournaments were set to advance to this week's Northern Region Individual Singles and Doubles Tournaments at Jefferson District Park.

**In what turned into quite a good day for the McLean High crew club**, four Highlander boats finished in first place in their races at last Saturday's Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association Championship Regatta, held on the Occoquan Reservoir at Sandy Run Regional Park.

Heavy rains held off as coach Chris Gordon's McLean women claimed three first place medals with the Open 4, Lightweight 8 and Junior 4 boats racing to capture gold.

For the first time in almost a decade, the McLean men's lightweight eight won the race. Men's coach Zach Stimart led the young men to victory. The elated McLean champions posed for a picture at the end of the day.

**Three members of the Georgetown Prep Hoyas' baseball team**, which finished the regular season with a perfect 10-0 record, are residents of Great Falls. Those players are: junior left fielder Eric Ramsey, the Hoyas' clean-up hitter; senior first baseman Mikey Norton, the team's leadoff hitter; and sophomore pitcher Blake Coolidge. Georgetown Prep, a private school, competes within the Interstate Athletic Conference (IAC).

**On Monday, May 23, the Mike Windsor Memorial Golf Tournament** will be held to benefit the Brain Tumor Institute at Children's National Medical Center. The Tournament, to be held at the International Country Club in Fairfax, will begin at 11 a.m., followed by cocktails and an Awards Dinner at 5:30 p.m. A silent auction will be held during the dinner. The

tournament is in honor of Michael B. Windsor, a long time native of the Washington D.C. metropolitan area who spent over 40 years in the Commercial Real Estate industry. On May 1, 2010, Mr. Windsor found out he had a brain tumor and died only a few weeks later on May 27. Mike was a family man who loved children and was a consistent supporter of Children's National Medical Center. Every holiday season, he personally purchased, wrapped and delivered Christmas gifts to the children there in hopes it would bring them some joy. To register for the tournament, or to be a sponsor, please visit: [www.mikewindsormemorial.com](http://www.mikewindsormemorial.com).

**The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO) committee** has announced the 2011 competition for senior adults 50 years of age and over will be held Sept. 17-28. The Thomas Jefferson Community Center (3501 S. 2nd St., Arlington) will host opening day, Saturday, Sept. 17 with welcome ceremonies at 10 a.m. followed by indoor track events. Virginia Hospital Center will sponsor a health fair from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and the Traveling Bicycle Museum will be open from 9 a.m. to noon.

Over 25 events will take place during the 10-day competition at various venues throughout Northern Virginia. Participants must be 50 years old by Dec. 31 and live in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions: cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church; counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William.

In addition to track and field, events will include swimming, diving, bocce, fencing, tennis, table tennis, bowling, golf, miniature golf, pickleball, racquetball, board games, card games, horseshoes, men's 3-on-3 basketball, team line dancing, yo-yo tricks and more. New events in 2011 are volleyball, badminton, cycling and the 1600 meter run. Registration is \$10 plus \$1 per event. Registration forms will be available at senior centers and senior residences or by calling 703-228-3600, ext. 9996, and can also be downloaded at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us). Online registration will be available after June 1. Registration deadline is Sept. 1.

**Sixteen of Virginia's top senior football players** have been nominated to play in the 2012 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Those nominated will have the chance to showcase their talents on Saturday, January 7, 2012, in the annual East vs. West match-up. The Northern Virginia area players nominated were Centreville High linebacker Ken Ekanem and South County Secondary linebacker Devin Vandyke.

Athletes nationwide were nominated by the U.S. Army All-American Bowl Selection Committee, which consists of All American Games' network of regional coaches throughout the country and Rivals.com. Of the more than 440 nominees, 90 are ultimately selected and invited to the Bowl.

The U.S. Army All-American Bowl is the premier high school football game in the country held each January in the Alamodome in San Antonio.



PHOTO COURTESY/LANGLEY TENNIS

**The Langley High girls' tennis team captured the Liberty District regular season title two weeks ago by defeating district guest Jefferson, 7-2, on Thursday, May 5. The Saxons finished 13-1 during the regular season. Langley, coached by Sara Vincent, competed in Liberty District tournament action last week and is taking part in the Northern Region team tournament this week, beginning Wednesday, May 18. A year ago, Langley finished second in the region behind McLean.**



PHOTO COURTESY/MCLEAN CREW

**The McLean High crew program, shown here at last week's states regatta meet, captured four gold medals at the prestigious postseason event held at Sandy Run Regional Park.**



PHOTO COURTESY/LANGLEY LACROSSE

**The Langley High boys' lacrosse team captured its fourth straight Liberty District tournament title last Thursday, May 12. The Saxons, in the finals contest played at Marshall High School, defeated the Madison Warhawks, 12-4. Langley (13-2) was set to begin play in the Northern Region tournament this week with a home game versus T.C. Williams on Tuesday, May 17.**

# Street Fair at Colvin Run

FROM PAGE 15

thing.”

**THE PARKING LOT** next to the schoolhouse was filled with games such as chess and checkers, and an adjacent parking lot featured food and an opportunity for children to draw on the pavement with sidewalk chalk.

The fair included a Tom Sawyer and Becky Thatcher look-alike contest, where children dressed up in their finest 19th century garb. There were no rafters to hide in, but the wannabe Tom Sawyers still got into some mischief, many of them running across the stage to give the judges second and third glances while they tabulated their scores.

Griffin Khan, 7 won as Tom Sawyer and Delaney Ross, 6, won as Becky Thatcher.

Both contestants received a complete volume of the works of Mark Twain, as well as a gift certificate. Khan began frantically rifling through the large book's pages immediately upon receiving his prize, but it wasn't "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" he was looking for.

"How much money is in here?" he asked.

The closest thing to state-of-the-art at the street fair was built when Herbert Hoover was in the White House. Sam Rentsch brought his blue 1930 Ford Model A and parked it right in front of the schoolhouse.

"There was a lot of enthusiasm from everyone who walked by the car," said Rentsch, who has owned the car since 1947. "The kids didn't recognize it, but liked the way it looked. But everyone from my generation recognized it, everyone from back then knows what a Model A looks like."

## FAITH NOTES

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

**Vienna Baptist Church**, 541 Marshall Road S.W. in Vienna, is holding a 40th Anniversary Celebration of Vienna Baptist Children's Center. A child friendly service will be held May 22 at 11 a.m. to celebrate. Past teachers, parents and children are invited to attend. A birthday cake will be served at the end of the service. [vbcdirector@vbc-va.org](mailto:vbcdirector@vbc-va.org).

**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](mailto: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

The **Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church** Bell Choir 25th Anniversary Celebration will be May 22 at the church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. A pot luck dinner begins at 6 p.m. followed by the bell performance. [www.andrewchapelumc.org](http://www.andrewchapelumc.org) or 703-759-3509.

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive in Vienna, announced their sermon for May 22 at 11 a.m. will be "Good Theology Has a Way of Doing That." 703-938-3494 or [office@epiphanyumc.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:marjorie.cole@gmail.com).

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## Pursuing College, Careers

FROM PAGE 14

Jefferson students are also more likely to get into other prestigious schools that it is difficult for students from base high schools to access.

From 2005-2009, Fairfax schools sent approximately 100 of its students to Ivy League universities every year, less than one percent of the number of seniors than normally apply to college.

### Out-of-State Decisions

Despite the strong reputation of the Virginia's public universities, many Northern Virginia students still decide to go out of state for school.

Fairfax graduates who are going outside the commonwealth tend to stay close by, according to a school system report.

The popular destinations for seniors include Pennsylvania, North Carolina and New York in 2008 and 2009. West Virginia University (95 students), Pennsylvania State University (73 students) and East Carolina University were the most popular out of the state schools two years ago.

Some Fairfax seniors may also need to go outside of Virginia to get what they need. For example, one of the most popular out-of-state schools for Fairfax residents is Brigham Young University, the flagship college of the Mormon Church in Utah.

### Forgoing College Altogether

Several students also decided a four-year college is not the right choice for them, even in a highly-educated community like Northern Virginia.

Beth Clapsaddle is one of the 30 percent of Fairfax County students that has decided to pursue an associate's degree instead of a traditional four-year college. She has won two scholarships to the New York Conservatory for the Dramatic Arts, where most of her classmates will either have already attended college or worked professional in the performing arts world already.

"I know it sounds silly but I really want to be on Saturday Night Live. I want to become part of Second City in Chicago," said Clapsaddle, who has been active in the theater and music departments at West Springfield High School.

The New York City-based program will take two years, during which Clapsaddle will live on her own, since there are no student dorms connected to the conservatory.

The high school senior said her parents have been surprisingly supportive of her decision to forego college, though it may have helped that she landed a scholarship to a well-known prestigious arts program.

"I told them that I would really be excited to go away to college," she said.

### High School Is The End of The Line

Though Northern Virginia has a higher-than-average rate of students attending four-year and two-year college programs, there are also a fair number of students for whom education stops after high school.

"I want all kids who can excel to the highest level to get to highest level but not all of our students are going to go to college," said School Board Member Brad Center (Lee). Center said one of his own son's is considering going into automobile repair,

which would require some more school but not college-level coursework.

"I do want all kids to get some kind of education after k-12 but it doesn't need to be college," said Center.

Yet students who are Black or Hispanic in Northern Virginia are much more likely to graduate high school with "no plans" for further education — including trade school or apprenticeship programs.

While only 11.7 percent of all Arlington County students graduate high school with no plans, 17.4 percent of its Black students and 18.6 percent of its Hispanic students fall into that category. And only 38 percent of Hispanic students and 53 percent of Black students that graduated from Arlington high schools last year planned to attend a four-year college.

In Fairfax County, the situation is similar. Eleven percent of Hispanic students and 7.3 percent of Black students who graduate from high school have "no plans" for pursuing higher education. Hispanic (26.5 percent) and Black (48.1 percent) students are also far less likely to be attending a four-year university or college.

## Girl Power!

Girls on the Run 5K celebrates healthy eating, fitness.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

Months of training paid off as thousands of young girls from throughout the region — accompanied by running buddies, parents and friends — took to the streets of George Mason University May 15 for the Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia 5K race.

"This is an incredible event," said celebrity chef Spike Mendelsohn, who ran the race alongside 7,500 other participants. "There is such a happy vibe here and it's exciting to be a part of it."

Also participating in the race, which drew an additional 2,600 spectators to the GMU campus, were local politicians and dignitaries.

GOTR of Northern Virginia is a non-profit organization that uses running as a mentoring tool to educate young girls on self-esteem and healthy eating and lifestyle choices. The 10-week program, which currently serves more than 6,500 girls in 200 schools, combines lessons that help adolescent girls in grades 3 through 8 build confidence and develop healthy lifestyles with training for a 5K race.

"These amazing girls are the future powerhouses of our nation," said Mendelsohn, who works closely with First Lady Michelle Obama and the Let's Move healthy eating initiative in schools. "We need to start teaching healthy eating and lifestyle choices at a young age and this organization perfectly complements that."

The 3.1-mile race, sponsored by United Healthcare, Inova Hospital, Verizon, Running Brooke, Washington Gas and George Mason University, ended with a finish line festival that included rock music provided by Studio Rock of



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION

**More than 7,500 Girls on the Run participants take to the streets of the campus of George Mason University during Sunday's 5K race.**

Northern Virginia, hair coloring and healthy food and training booths.

"This gives a whole new meaning to the term 'running for office,'" laughed Del. David Bulova (D-37) following the race. "I wish everyone could experience this because there is nothing more inspiring than seeing what these young girls have accomplished out here today."

For more information on Girls on the Run, visit [www.girlsontherunofnova.org](http://www.girlsontherunofnova.org).



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

**Polly Myers and daughter Dabney Stuart are a little less than one mile into the Girls on the Run of Northern Virginia 5k at George Mason University's Fairfax campus on May 15th. Stuart runs for Team Kent Gardens.**

# Helping America's 'Superheroes'

## Our Military Children provides grants to children of deployed service members.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls resident Bob Nelson was listening to the radio about three years ago when he heard a commercial about Our Military Kids. Since then, Nelson has hosted Military Appreciation Mondays at the Old Brogue, and celebrated Our Military Kids for the third time May 9. The McLean-based charity provides grants for children of National Guardsmen and Reserves of all branches of the armed forces to participate in activities such as sports, the arts and tutoring.

"When I first started hosting these events at the Brogue, it was called 'Charity Tuesday,' but when I decided to focus on the military, I realized that the military isn't a charity, so we changed the name and day," Nelson said. "Our Military Kids will always hold a special place in my heart, because it was the first one we've done."

**LINDA DAVIDSON AND GAIL KRUZEL** founded Our Military Kids in 2004, with the goal of providing for children of Reserve and National Guard members who are deployed as well as children of service members wounded in the current Middle East conflicts. Unlike active duty service members, more than 60 percent of Reserve and Guard families live at least 25 miles away from a military installation and the support groups located there.

"We're trying to help children who are coping with separation from deployed parents, or whose parents have been wounded," Davidson said. "It's a simple program, but it's effective."

The grants awarded by the foundation can be up to \$500, and go to helping the child enroll in activities, or perform other activities that help take the stress out of their life. Grants have gone to such things as prize-winning cattle for students at a 4-H Club to covering the cost of Driver's Education or SAT preparation courses for high-schoolers.

"That's what makes this program so unique, people can use it for whatever they want," said Gregory O'Brien of Our Military Kids. "Whatever way families can reduce stress, we can help."

Davidson recalled one boy who lived in Jamaica, N.Y. who filled out his own grant application to take hip-hop and jazz dancing classes. The boy later told the foundation that taking the classes helped distance himself from troublemakers in the neighborhood, and he was awarded Most Improved Student his senior year before be-



**Linda Davidson, co-founder and executive director of Our Military Kids and Bob Nelson, a realtor of Great Falls, welcome guests to Military Appreciation Monday at the Old Brogue. The May 9 Military Appreciation Monday raised money for Our Military Kids, which provides grants to children of deployed National Guard and Reserve service members.**

coming the first member of his family to attend college.

Children of deployed service members are 80 percent more likely to show signs of stress and act out, according to a survey conducted by Our Military Kids. In addition, many Guard and Reserve members receive a cut in pay when their unit is activated.

**"We're trying to help children who are coping with separation from deployed parents, or whose parents have been wounded."**

— Linda Davidson,  
co-founder and executive director of  
Our Military Kids

"It can be hard for children to talk about their feelings, fears and worries. In fact, they may not even be aware of the stress they are experiencing, they just know they don't feel great, are tired, find it hard to focus or keep up in school," said Jane Bandler, a Washington, D.C.-based counselor. "Besides coping with sadness and loneliness from missing a parent, children worry about the well-being of the parent-soldier. Imagine these children watching television reports of helicopters downed or battles underway. These images and reports can be deeply disturbing and confusing."

**OUR MILITARY KIDS** started locally, working with a National Guard unit in Winchester, and have now expanded into all 50 states as well as Washington, D.C., the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico. In 2005, they gave out less than 100 grants worth \$17,585. In 2010 they awarded more

than 10,300 grants worth \$4.2 million. To date they have awarded more than 29,000 grants totaling more than \$11.5 million.

Davidson says that knowing their children are being cared for also eases the burden on the deployed parents, helping them keep their focus. She recalled one family whose two daughters used grants to take ballet classes, and their mother would send the videos of their classes to her deployed husband every week.

## Military Appreciation Mondays

Military Appreciation Mondays are held every month at the Old Brogue to benefit military-related charities. The next meeting will be Monday, June 27 to benefit the Lift Me Up Back in the Saddle Program. The Great Falls-based nonprofit hosts the Back in the Saddle Program for wounded warriors, allowing them to take advantage of the benefits of therapeutic horse riding.

Sponsors pledge to donate a percentage of the total dinner bills from all attendees, which generally adds up to 100 percent of the bill amounts.

Seatings are at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. and reservations are recommended, they can be made by calling 703-759-3309.

"Lots of people don't understand the need for a program like this, they assume all families have access to resources on a base, but these families don't," she said. "Whether it's giving them a positive outlet for their stress, or just maintaining the normalcy in these children's lives, it's very important."

Despite the draw down of many deployed troops, Davidson says the number of deployed National Guard and Reserve members will not be reduced at least until after 2012, so there is still plenty of need. While Nelson says the men and women serving overseas are "heroes," he has another name for their children.

"The men and women serving are heroes, but these kids are superheroes," he said. "They're superheroes because they're dealing with the stresses that comes with being away from their moms and dads while they serve this country."

## Supporting Long Term Growth

### Students plant trees at the Grange Park for Arbor Day.

Great Falls celebrated Arbor Day May 7 by planting two new white oak saplings at the Old Schoolhouse in the Grange Park with the support of Fairfax County, which owns the facilities. Two large oaks came down last year, and these trees will replace them if they grow to maturity.

The Arbor Day tree planting was sponsored by the Great Falls Citizens Association Environment Committee to raise awareness among young people and the public about the importance of planting and caring for Great Falls' tree resources.

According to the 2006 Great Falls Tree Census, the white oak grows to be one of the largest trees in the community, in both height and girth. They can live for well over 200 hundred years, as evidenced by the section reserved outside



**Boy Scout Nick Hodge, a fourth grader at Great Falls Elementary School and Lexa Hummel, 10, a Girl Scout at Forestville Elementary School, kneel next to the saplings they planted May 7 in the Grange Park. The tree behind them fell last year, and its rings show it was about 250 years old.**

the Old Schoolhouse. The trees are bird habitats and oaks produce acorns that feed many types of wildlife.

— BILL CANIS

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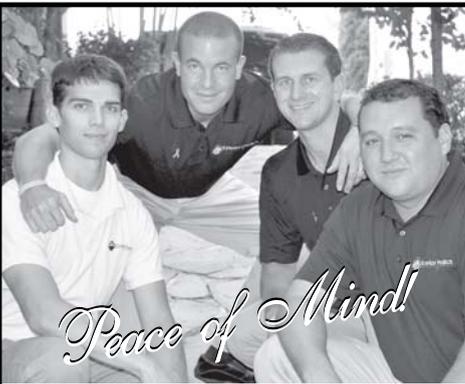
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**21 Announcements**

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

### NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA DURHAM COUNTY

In the Durham County Court  
 To the attention of: Bennett Kwaku Letsu  
 Re: Diane E Letsu vs. Bennett Kwaku Letsu  
 File No. 10 CVD 172 (Durham County)  
 The Plaintiff in the above referenced action, Diane E. Letsu, filed a Complaint for Absolute Divorce On February 21, 2011 in the General Court of Justice, District Court Division of Durham County, North Carolina. You are required to make defense to such pleading No later than 40 days after MAY 11, 2011 and, upon your Failure to do so, the party seeking service against you Will apply to the Court for the relief sought.  
 You may receive a copy of the aforementioned Complaint by contacting the law offices of Ann M. Credle, P.A. At (919) 688-6400. If you do not respond by the date specified herein,  
 A hearing may be held in this matter without your presence, which May affect your rights.  
 This the \_9th day of May, 2011.

Ann M. Credle, P.A.  
 Attorney for Plaintiff  
 400 West Main Street, Suite 505  
 Durham, NC 27701  
 (919) 688-6400  
 NC State Bar No. 20225

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**Notice of Availability:** Draft Environmental Assessment, Pentagon Sentry Program

**Agency:** Department of Defense

**Public Comment Period:** May 11 – May 25, 2011

**Summary:** Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 USC 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), and Department of Defense Instruction 4715.9, Washington Headquarters Services has prepared and issued a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of new Secure Access Lane (SAL), Metro Entrance Facility (MEF), and Corridor 8 (COR8) Screening Facilities on the Pentagon Reservation.

The overall purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide permanent, efficient, and appropriately sized facilities to support the Pentagon Force Protection Agency's (PFPA) security screening and vehicle inspection procedures at the Reservation. Construction of new facilities is necessary because the existing security screening and vehicle inspection procedures are performed in temporary, prefabricated facilities that are undersized and are not architecturally consistent with other buildings on the Pentagon Reservation. The Proposed Action would address this issue by constructing new screening facilities at the SAL, MEF, and COR8 pedestrian access point. A No-Action Alternative was also considered, whereby PFPA security screening operations would continue to be conducted in temporary, prefabricated facilities.

The Proposed Action would have the potential for minor, long-term impacts to architectural resources, stormwater runoff, greenhouse gas emissions, vegetation, topography, and infrastructure and utilities. The No-Action Alternative would not result in any environmental impacts.

Based on the Draft EA, the proposed project is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects or impacts on the natural or human environment. It is anticipated that this EA will result in a Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Action.

**Where Draft EA May Be Reviewed:**  
 Safety and Environmental Management Branch  
 Washington Headquarters Services  
 1155 Defense Pentagon  
 Room 5D325  
 Washington, DC 20301-1155

**Send Comments To:** Written comments should be addressed to Joe Eichenlaub, Environmental Manager, Safety and Environmental Management Branch, Washington Headquarters Services, 1155 Defense Pentagon, Room 5D325, Washington, DC 20301-1155.

**For Further Information Contact:** Joe Eichenlaub, Environmental Manager; telephone: 703-614-9583; email: Joseph.Eichenlaub@whs.mil

## COMMUNITY

**Team Elite, fastest team: Matt Drescher, Arlington; Carolyn Owens, Arlington; Jason Stavish, Sterling; Casey Filippone, Sterling; Tim Sievers, Great Falls; Vivien Stavish, Sterling; Nina Stavish, Sterling; Danielle Rickard, Sterling.**



# Elite Runners Set Pace at Joe Cassella 5K

BY JEAN T. JIANOS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith the addition of a ChronoTrack race timing system with disposable D-tags, the 2nd Annual Joe Cassella 5K Run/Walk, held Sunday morning, May 15, attracted elite runners from around the entire Washington, D.C. metro area to its USA Track & Field certified course in Great Falls. "I've been at 5Ks . . . with thousands of runners, and [in comparison] the set up here with registration, the massage tables [for athletes post-race] . . . is really impressive," said Carolyn West, a Great Falls resident who ran with her daughter, Kathryn West, first place winner in the Female 15 to 19 year old Age Group.

Many runners, such as Ryan Foster from Washington, D.C., the Overall Male second place finisher, sporting a Pacers Racing Team jersey, participated because the event is a competitive, timed 5K. Others were drawn to the goal of The Joe Cassella Foundation to provide financial assistance for medical expenses to the family of 16-month old Gracie Sweet, diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor. Children are a primary focus of the Reston Best Buy Tag Team, led on the course by General Manager Rick Anderson, and off the course by Employee Experience Director Veronica Kariuki and District Marketing Manager Helen Lerner.

Their team effort was rewarded by winning the designation, "most spirited" team. And, some, like "Team Elite," associated with event sponsor Elite Fitness Concepts, combine competitive running with a personal commitment to honor the memory of company founder Joe Cassella. Team Elite won the "fastest team" award based upon the accumulated times of its top three runners.

Delaney Burkart of Great Falls did run last year, but this year she and friend Jacquelyn Hulett, both eighth-graders at Cooper Middle School, decided to volunteer their time behind the scene, helping out during the race with, among other things, the re-



Cassella family "Little Deuces" rock out to Kukuwa Dance Workout.



Gracie Sweet and parents with ceremonial check for \$26,000 from The Joe Cassella Foundation.

freshments for the post-race party. The morning began with a rocking, pre-race Warm Up led by sponsor, Kukuwa Dance

Workout, and ended successfully with the presentation of a ceremonial check for \$26,000 to the family of Gracie Sweet.

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