

# Great Falls CONNECTION

Shadow, one of Joan Brady's subjects. Brady - a Great Falls pet photographer - says dogs are naturals when it comes to using props.

# Catching Pets At Their Best

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## Battling Over Brightview

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PET CONNECTION

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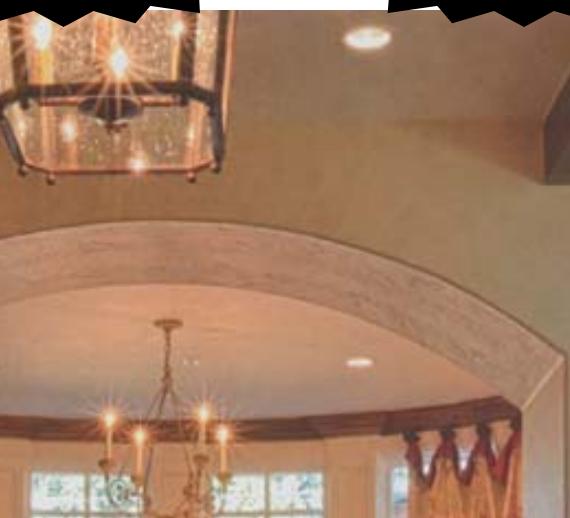
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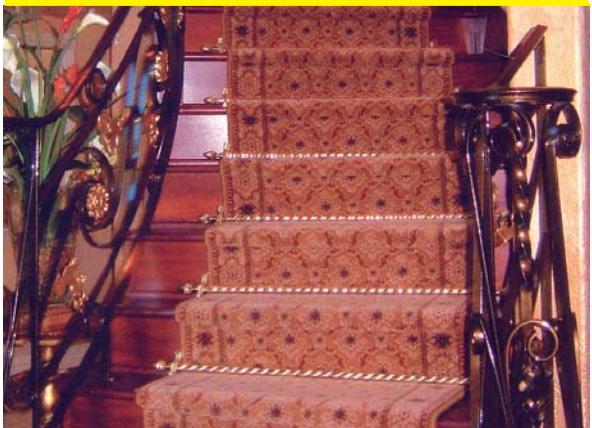
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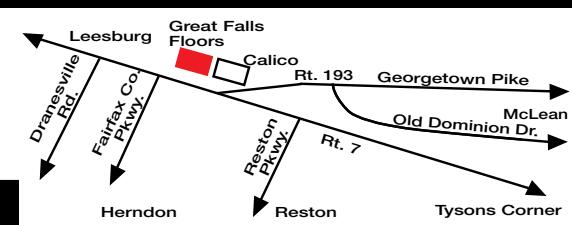
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# NEWS

## Battling Over Brightview

Residents debate merits of proposed assisted living facility.

By ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Supporters and opponents of the proposed Brightview Assisted Living Home turned out to voice their opinions Thursday, July 21, at a public forum at Forestville Elementary School. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will vote July 26 on whether or not to grant Shelter, Inc. a special exception for the facility, which would be located on Colvin Run Road, at the site of the former Thelma's.

The 3.56-acre property only has 1.44 acres zoned commercial, meaning the exception would be needed for Brightview to be built on the property. After dozens of residents expressed their concern with the design at a June 1 meeting in Great Falls, Shelter was asked to redesign the building to assuage residents' concerns.

**THE REDESIGN** includes a reduction of 5,000 square feet on the residentially zoned portion of the property, a 36 percent reduction from the originally proposed 57,000 square feet. The facility would have a maximum of 94 residents.

"We told Brightview to go back, get the facility off the [residential], contain it to the [commercial], make the facility smaller and reduce the number of beds," said Joe Sartiano, a Great Falls resident who spoke at the meeting on behalf of the No To Brightview group. "Brightview told us, 'we heard you loud and clear, we heard the citizens of Great Falls loud and clear.' Based on what they're showing, they only met one of the three conditions, they made it smaller by 5,000 square feet."

Sartiano and his group, which has collected approximately 250 signatures of residents against the facility, say that the facility as currently designed will reduce property values around the facility, doesn't fit with the rural nature of Great Falls and doesn't fill a demonstrated need within the community.

Andrew Teeters, development director with Shelter, said there are "compelling demographics"



**Michael Yu, who lives on the property next to the proposed Brightview Assisted Living Facility, shows a photo of the view from his property as it is currently, and what it could look like if the facility goes in. Yu was one of dozens of community members that spoke at a public meeting on Brightview at Forestville Elementary Thursday, July 21.**

which led to the company selecting Great Falls.

"The facilities draw people from a radius of about three to five miles," he said. "We focus on the 75-plus age demographic, and our typical market has 5,000 people, there are 5,800 in this area."

John Ulfelder of the Great Falls Citizens Association says that, despite what the No To Brightview group claims, granting a special exception will not violate the Comprehensive Plan. He said Brightview could be compared to facilities like schools and churches that are also built on residential property in Great Falls, and were able to do so via special exception.

"This particular application falls into a category called quasi-public uses.

Also in that category are churches, schools, museums, childcare centers, these are the

private uses that fall in the same category," he said. "All currently operating assisted living facilities in Fairfax County are required to get a special exception."

Dianne Van Volkenburg, co-chair of the GFCA's Land Use and Transportation Committee, said they approved of Brightview because it allowed them to dictate certain conditions in the development that they wouldn't be able to if an exception wasn't needed. She said that the facility's low traffic use will cause much less of an impact than a proposed office park on the property.

"The Fairfax County Department of Transportation and Virginia Department of Transportation were mandating that this road be widened. They were mandating full curb and gutter. They were mandating removal of the trail and

SEE DIVIDED, PAGE 7

## Fish Folly

BY MELODEE  
BOOS  
GREAT FALLS

"We've got a winner," the Carny shouted. And that's how the Boos family became the proud owners of two goldfish. I admit it, I'm a sucker for carnivals, especially the games. We always end up carting home several stuffed animals and schlocky dollar-type toys that cost us 20 bucks to win. Most of what we bring home ends up in the junk pile never to be seen again. However, at our last carnival my 7-year-old daughters won two goldfish.

I have a history with carnival fish. It's a short one (usually about two days). I figured that our current fish would follow that same mournful fate. I figured wrong. Here's one of my missteps, I let the girls name the fish (Bubble and Swimmy). Once they had names, it was all over. I think it's the naming process that helps create that special feeling of tenderness. It separates the fish that the girls and I catch at Riverbend Park from the fish that are pets. I mean if we saw a floating fish in the Potomac, there would be no tears or angst, but woe to the parent that must explain the floating fish in a bowl.

Two weeks passed and we still had two very lively fish. Frankly, I hadn't believed it was possible. Maybe it was the fact that the girls included their fish (by name) in their nightly prayers. Whatever the case, the fish were living, and thriving in the free fish bowl that the Carny provided. It's about the size of a half a loaf of bread.

Unfortunately, during the second week, one of the fish started turning black. Normally, I would let nature take its course, but I



**Gloria Boos, 7, and her fish — Bubble.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

felt like I needed to make some effort for little Bubble (there's that name again). So the girls



**Rose Boos, 7, and her fish — Swimmy.**

and I headed to the pet store. I planned to buy a snail or a plant, drop it in the bowl and call it a day. But oh no, it's not that easy — it never is! Apparently for every inch of goldfish, you need a certain amount of water; otherwise the fish get bacteria on their scales. Who would have thought? Obviously, I hadn't. So where does that leave the Boos household? With two fish, each of which needed a much bigger environment. Although I was skeptical, we still walked away with two fish tanks (see pictures). Notice how small the fish are compared to the tank.

The story does have a happy ending (so far). Three days after the pet store adventure, Bubble's scales cleared right up. So our girls have been the proud owners of two carnival goldfish for over a month and counting. According to the pet store salesperson, once the fish get larger, we'll need to get larger tanks. At that point, my story could be published in Miraculous Tales.

## New High-rises Coming Metro on the horizon spurs new growth.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK  
THE CONNECTION

**D**espite office conditions being flat in Northern Virginia in the second quarter of 2011, there are major new office and mixed use projects under construction or about to break ground.

In Tysons Corner, long before the new Metro line is scheduled to operate in 2013, Lerner Enterprises broke ground earlier this month on a fifth office building at Tysons II. Dubbed 1775 Tysons Boulevard, it will be connected to the other Lerner properties by a climate controlled walkway. It will have 476,000 square feet of office space, a solar array on the roof and a one-acre park at Tysons Boulevard and Galleria Drive. The project, first reported by Bisnow, is the fifth office building at Tysons II.

Timothy Steffan, senior vice president at Macerich, said Macerich will begin a project in 2012 at the old Circuit City location in Tysons Corner. He said it will be three buildings, including a 20-story office tower, a 300-room hotel and 400 residential units. Macerich operates Tysons Corner Center, the largest shopping center in the Washington area with Macy's, Nordstrom, LL Bean and other major stores. Steffan said the new project will be connected to Tysons Corner Center with an elevated pedestrian walkway.

This expansion is contemplated to coincide with the opening of the Metro rail in Tysons. Metro rail has been the spark of growing development all along its routes.

Audrey Zale Cramer, vice chairman of Cushman Wakefield, said the Roslyn Metro station is a key factor in the 30-story building under construction at 1812 North Moore Street in Arlington. The Monday Properties building, she said, will be completed in 2013. It has some 580,000 square feet of space and is being developed with strong energy saving and other "green" attributes. Cushman Wakefield is handling the leasing of the building.

The Transwestern Outlook for Northern Virginia said office market conditions were flat in the second quarter of 2011, "as steady leasing activity was offset by tenants vacating space." But Transwestern analysts said "we expect conditions to improve during the balance of the year as Northern Virginia adds 19,300 new jobs to its economy in 2011 spurring demand for office space."

Transwestern reported that Boeing plans to break ground in Crystal City by the end of 2011. The plan calls for two buildings, totaling 456,000 square feet and will house some 500 Boeing employees.

## Murder-Suicide in McLean Area

**P**olice are investigating the deaths of two people in a home in the 8600 block of Tebbs Lane in McLean. Police were called to the home at approximately 4:15 p.m., Friday July 22 for a report of gunshots. Officers located the bodies of two people; a man and a woman on the premises.

The man has been identified as a 71-year-old Dr. Mark Lawrence, resident of the home where he lived and worked as a psychiatrist. The woman, Barbara Newman, 62, of 9694 Farmside Place, Vienna had been his patient. Detectives have preliminarily determined that the patient shot the doctor, then herself.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrime solvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrime solvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## Report Shows Decrease in County's Homeless Population

**F**ocus on rapid re-housing, business partnerships help prevent homelessness.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**A** newly released report on Fairfax County's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) reveals that during the past four years the county's homeless population has decreased by 15.6 percent, from 1,835 individuals in 2008 to 1,549 in 2011.

"The good news is that the 10 year-plan to prevent and end homelessness is working and that our housing program is working," said Michael O'Reilly, chairman of the Governing Board of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End homelessness. "To have such a significant decrease in this economic environment is phenomenal."

In 2007, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted a 10-Year Plan to end homelessness. In 2008, the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) was established to manage, coordinate and monitor implementation of the community's plan to end homelessness by 2018.

The new study, which examines homeless trends from 2008-11, brings into sharper focus the overall picture of homelessness by using new data collection methods.

For the first time, Fairfax County homeless advocates can track trends in the County's homeless population, rather than rely on traditional, but sometimes unreliable, "point-in-time" surveys.

"The point-in-time surveys used to be our only measuring tool, which was a one-day count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless individuals and families in the county," said O'Reilly, "It was a tally of who is homeless on any given night, and while it provided some valuable information, it did not allow us to monitor trends or see significant shifts from year to year," said O'Reilly.

By collecting data in a new way, according to Dean Klein, director of OPEH, the county can see measurable progress in preventing and ending what many consider an intractable problem.

Fairfax County's success in decreasing the homeless population runs counter to national trends. According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress, released last month, overall homelessness increased was up by 1 percent nationally from 2009 to 2010.

"Part of our success in preventing and ending homelessness is predicated on our strong partnerships with a broad coalition of nonprofits, faith-based communities, businesses, government agencies and individuals," Klein said. Partners include Reston Interfaith, Shelter House, United Community Ministries and the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development.



PHOTO BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH)**

While there has been a decrease in the number of homeless, the new study also indicated a slight drop in the average monthly income among adults in families who are employed, as well as a 2 percent drop in the number of employed adults.

"I think (the report) says that although we've been successful in new and innovative strategies to house the homeless, the ongoing economic factors that face every individual are daunting and we need to continue our commitment to find creative ways to support independence," said Klein.

The report also showed that a new housing initiative, Housing Opportunities Support Teams (HOST), prevented nearly 900 persons from becoming homeless in 2010. HOST, financed through \$2.14 million in federal stimulus dollars, focuses on getting people who enter homeless shelters back into housing as quickly as possible.

The money was part of \$14.7 billion in housing spending included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, passed in 2009.

Fairfax County aggressive emphasis on rapid re-housing has garnered national attention. Most recently, the OPEH received the Best Government Housing Initiative Award from the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND). Each year, HAND recognizes the finest in housing related projects, programs and organizations in Maryland, Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C.

The award was presented to Klein and deputy county executive Pat Harrison at HAND's 20th Anniversary Annual Meeting and awards luncheon on May 26. The event brought together more than 1,000 leading housing professionals from the region.

OPEH was one of eight award recipients to receive recognition at the event.

"Recognition such as this will support even greater momentum as we continue to decrease the number of children, families and single adults who are homeless or at risk of falling into homelessness," Klein said.

**"To have such a significant decrease in this economic environment is phenomenal."**

— Michael O'Reilly



## PET CONNECTION



### Mr. Frodo

"Mister Frodo is a shelter cat. He is part Maine Coon and part American Bobtail. When we first got him he had a fear of our ceiling fans. He now runs the house."

— Fairfax County Chair Sharon Bulova (D-At-large)



### Mr. Giant

Mr. Giant loves to go outside in the evening to pretend he is hunting on the Serengeti Plain like his bigger cousins. Weighing in at 20 pounds, he is a 6-year-old orange tabby adopted from the shelter five years ago. While outside, Mr. Giant is constantly on alert for sounds and movement. He loves to mew and coo at the birds and chase fireflies. He has without success been trying to capture the resident chipmunk all summer — writes the owner Jack Nutte of Great Falls.



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## WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

### Police Arrest Great Falls-area Jeweler

**A** 39-year-old Loudoun County jeweler has been accused of switching diamonds from his customer's rings following recent incidents at his Great Falls store.

Owner of Vima Jewelry store, 1025-D Seneca Road, Robert Mikail of Broadlands was charged with grand larceny, burglarious tools, and grand larceny with intent to re-sell on July 8. Police began their initial investigation after receiving a larceny complaint on April 6, 2011. A 23-year-old Vienna woman had taken her collection of jewels to Vima for appraisal. When she returned home, she checked her collection and noticed that a necklace and pendant were missing.

Police received another report on June 6, 2011. A 43-year-old Potomac, Md. woman reported that Mikail allegedly noticed the victim's large diamond engagement ring she wore as she browsed the store and offered to clean it while she waited.

Mikail reportedly took the ring to the back of the store and returned a short time later. When she arrived home, the victim noticed that the diamond appeared cloudy and damaged. She took the ring to an appraiser who determined that there was no diamond; the "stone" was made of glass.

A third incident took place on July 6, 2011 when a police employee took over a dozen items of jewelry to be appraised at the store. The items were left at the store; once retrieved the officer took the items to an expert appraiser for close inspection. He determined that one of the diamond rings had been altered; the diamond had been removed and a smaller, lower quality stone inserted.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



**Robert Mikail**

## Dulles Rail Moves Ahead

By NICHOLAS HORROCK  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Fairfax Board of Supervisors Tuesday voted to approve the new cost allocations for the Dulles Rail project, but it will reject the plan that Fairfax County pay for the construction of a Metro station at Route 28.

In a plan by Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood presented to the board at its July 12 meeting, one way to reallocate costs of the Dulles Rail project so it could move forward was to have Fairfax and Loudoun counties assume the cost of building parking garages at the rail stations. The plan also called for Fairfax to pay the cost of building a station at Route 28.

In the intervening weeks, the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority voted to abandon their

plan to build the subway station at Dulles Airport underground and close to the terminals and agreed to build it near the North Garage, providing a covered walkway to the terminal. Though this will save some \$300 million in estimated costs, DOT officials believe a whole range of other cost reductions will be necessary to make the project viable.

In a report to Fairfax County citizens, Board Chairman Sharon Bulova called the demand that Fairfax "assume the full cost of the station... problematic."

She wrote "the Route 28 station will service both Fairfax and Loudoun Counties. The station pavilion on the north side provides for Loudoun and Fairfax transit connections to the station."

She said the north side entrance pavilion connects with land owned by the State of Virginia at the Cen-

ter for Innovative Technology and "will provide the State with significant development opportunities."

She said the county therefore "prefers that a State or Federal grant (or funding) be put toward the cost of the station and that the station remained funded through the project."

Fairfax will agree to building the garage in part because it can collect parking fees and in hope of getting federal transit assistance.

The Route 28 station would transfer about \$136 million in costs to the county. It would include two station entrances on both sides of the Dulles Toll Road. A pedestrian bridge would be built across the toll road and an airport access highway. There would be a bus drop and pick up at both entrances and a kiss&ride on the south side. There would be parking for 2,000 cars.

### SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Alexandra Puritz** of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2011 dean's high honors list at Connecticut College of New London, Ct.

**Bandar Al-Saif** of Great Falls has graduated from Choate Rosemary Hall of Wallingford, Ct. He is the son of Mr.

and Mrs. Khalid M. Al-Saif.

**Nicholas Larounis** of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at Villanova University's College of Engineering, Villanova, Pa.

**Nicolas Marro** of Great Falls has been named to the University of Virginia's Distinguished Majors Program in Foreign Affairs, the Distinguished Majors Program in Mandarin, and the

spring 2011 dean's list. He was awarded the 2012 MasterCard Asian Studies Scholarship. The 2008 Langley High School graduate is the son of Robert and Junaidah Marro.

**Michael Good** of Great Falls has been accepted into NYU Tisch School of the Arts' Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music, where he will major in music production/entrepreneurship. He is a 2009 graduate of Langley High School.



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## 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.

**Laura Romstedt** will be a guest vocalist at Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, on Sunday, July 31 at 10 a.m.

Romstedt is assistant director of the Mosaic Harmony and a featured soloist. [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org) or 703-938-6753.

**The Church of the Good Shepherd**, a United Methodist church at 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, will begin its "Champions of the Faith" series on Sunday, Aug. 28, in the 10 a.m. worship service. The "Champion the Dream" event will be on the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, the same day the Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial is to be unveiled. Wesley Theological Seminary Professor of Urban Ministry Fred D. Smith, PhD, will

lead the 9 a.m. Sunday school class then deliver a sermon at 10 a.m. on the "Beloved Community," the Biblical theme adopted by the civil rights movement. [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com).

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive in Vienna, will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special worship service on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. [www.epiphanyumc.com](http://www.epiphanyumc.com) or 703-938-3494.

## Divided Over Brightview

FROM PAGE 3

a concrete sidewalk, things that this community generally does not want," she said. "Fairfax County has determined that this application will not cause noise or light levels that will potentially devalue property."

**RESIDENTS WHO SPOKE** at the meeting were divided. Wendell Van Lare, vice president of the nearby Colvin Meadows Estates Homeowners Association, says his organization is strongly opposed to the Brightview Facility.

"Great Falls is the only community I know of that does not permit multi-family housing, and my family came here because we wanted this," he said. "They want

to bring in an assisted living facility when there's one right across the street that's in fact called Great Falls Assisted Living. Allowing this to happen is contrary to the community we live in and want to maintain."

Bob Lundegard, who has been volunteering at Colvin Run Mill for more than 10 years and served with the Friends of Colvin Run Mill, says the board has been following the development since its inception, and likes what it will add to the community. He also worked with the GFCA's senior committee to conduct a poll of local seniors and what their needs might be.

"Many of these people are in places that are too large, the lots

are too large, they're unable to take care of them. They're looking for alternatives, both unassisted and assisted alternative housing," he said. "This proposal fits into that need."

Elizabeth Watson, who has lived in Great Falls since 1986, says she is not opposed to the idea of an assisted living facility in Great Falls, but thinks the location would isolate the residents from most of the community.

"Put it down near the library, put it down where there's a school they can walk to, put it down where there's shopping so they're not basically warehoused at the end of Colvin Run," she said. "To me, this is just in the wrong place at the wrong time."

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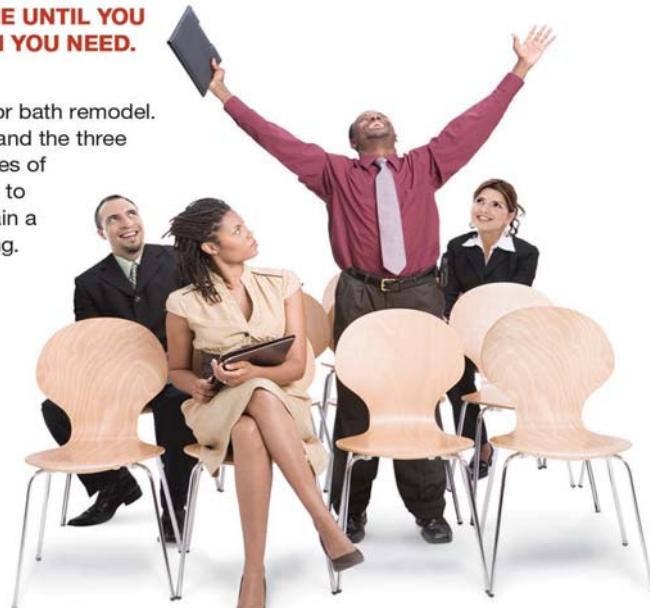
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# OPINION

# What's Your Advice?

Be part of the Connection Insiders edition.

The Connection staff and interns are already preparing the annual newcomers and community guide. We invite our readers to help with providing insiders' advice and information.

Below are several suggested questions, but we encourage you to participate in any way.

We'll print selections from the answers along with your name. Answer one question or all of them; give as many answers as you'd like to each question.

What "insider's tip" about your town would you share with a friend? Places to go, things to do, can't-miss events, ideas on what it means to live here.

What advice would you give new residents on how to make themselves at home and get involved here?

What tips do you have for someone new to your town? What interesting, almost secret, places would you like to have learned about earlier when you moved in?

We invite you to share the expertise you've gained in living in your hometown with your neighbors and with people new to the area.

Send us a short letter: what do you love

about your community? Tell us about one special place you've discovered. Does your family have different favorites in different seasons? How did you get involved in your town? Share your favorite park. Tell us about your favorite annual event. Send us a photo of your family at one of your favorite spots or engaged in a favorite activity.

We also ask for input from local arts organizations, civic organizations, houses of worship, clubs, schools, businesses and other community institutions. Send us information on dates and details for major events for the upcoming year, information on how to get involved in

nonprofits and charities, details about your club or other organization.

The Insiders Guide will publish the last week in August. Please send in your tips and answers by Aug. 17.

For Alexandria Gazette, Mount Vernon Gazette, Arlington Connection, Centre View or Potomac Almanac, send to [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Keeping a One-lane Bridge

To the Editor:

In a letter to the editor ["Debating the Bridge," Great Falls Connection, July 20-16, 2011] John Leary writes: "No exception or waiver of the regulations mandating a two-lane bridge in connection with a two-lane road should even be seriously considered."

We who prefer a one-lane bridge agree wholeheartedly! (Since no such regulation exists.)

Also: "Few things should be more fundamental than the obvious fact that any bridge — anywhere, under any circumstances — should be at least the same width as the approaching roads on either side of it."

At one moment she realized that most of the ladies at the Herndon Senior Center were widowed. She looked at herself all dressed in black, and she looked at all the lovely ladies dressed in pastels and bright colors. She realized that she shared the same pain in her heart as they felt. She asked me to take her shopping and she purchased several colorful blouses. She was so delighted and tremendously relieved to wear pink again!

After six months, she went home to her village wearing her pink

SEE MURPHY, PAGE 15

SEE POPPLETON, PAGE 15



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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### A Job Well Done

To the Editor:

There is so much misleading and inaccurate about the Letter to the Editor from Shelley Slade of McLean, (The Connection, July 6, 2011) it's hard to know where to begin. To start with, Ms. Slade fails to identify that the bill she complains about, SB 757, originated in the Senate with Democrat Senator Roscoe Reynolds, and deals with the use of paintball guns and air guns on private property with the permission of the owner of the property.

Permission is also needed from the owner of the land on which the paintball or BB pellets are expected to land.

It's odd that partisan Democrats would attack Delegate Comstock for voting for a bill that was supported not only by Democrat David Englin of Alexandria, but by Senate Democrat leaders such as 2009 Gubernatorial candidate Creigh Deeds, Senator Chuck Colgan, and House Democrat leader Ward Armstrong.

That's what desperate partisans do when they don't want to acknowledge the fact that Delegate Comstock has worked in a strong

bipartisan manner on Northern Virginia's top priority issues of the economy, roads, and schools, and produced a strong record of leadership.

Barbara's record has already resulted in her receiving the strong endorsements of Northern Virginia businesses and leaders across the political spectrum from the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce to the Northern Virginia Technology Council, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors, the Associated Builders and Contractors and the National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB). She already has been selected as the Chairman of the Housing Subcommittee as a freshman member.

I know personally that Barbara has also received the current support and even donations of individuals who previously supported her 2009 Democrat opponent. It is telling that many of them have looked at Barbara's record and they support her on her legislative achievements such as her signature telecommuting bill and her instrumental role in passage of Virginia's Research and Development Tax Credit — both top priorities of Northern Virginia's tech-

nology community — and her strong work on the Governor's Economic Development and Job Creation Commission.

I know they also appreciate her work on local transportation issues such as the Georgetown Pike/Route 7 two lane issue and securing funds to widen Route 7. They also know that she fought the budget of former Governor Tim Kaine that would have cut Northern Virginia school funds by over \$120 million and increase our taxes by \$2 billion.

With Barbara's help, the budget reversed those cuts, got more money in the classrooms, and eliminated that \$2 billion tax increase, which would have been the largest tax increase in history.

She also worked this year to get funding for all day kindergarten to all of our schools instead of leaving McLean and Great Falls schools behind as they had been for years. Now all of our schools will have all day kindergarten in the Fall.

Delegate Barbara Comstock has delivered results for the 34th District and deserves our thanks for a job well done.

Steve Mullins  
Great Falls

## The Remedy

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6:00-  
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## PET CONNECTION



Joan Brady and her husband Jim, with (from left) Fred and Hank.



From left, Jim and Joan Brady's dogs, Hank and Fred.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Catching Pets at Their Best

Pet photographer Joan Brady tries to show subjects 'a good time.'

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Ten years ago, Joan Brady of Great Falls thought she had it all figured out. While working for AOL in the fall 2001, she decided to take a sabbatical, and her first day off was Sept. 10, 2001.

"After 9/11, I really started thinking that I could do more meaningful work, and I never went back after my sabbatical," Brady said.

Always a shutterbug, she began hanging out with a wedding photographer friend of hers and taking some photography classes, all while moving from a simple point and shoot camera to professional equipment.

After numerous photo sessions with children, her clients began to ask her about other family members.

"People just started asking me about pets," she said. "And I thought, if I can do kids, why not pets? With kids, it's all about having a good time, and it's the same thing with pets."



A puppy from Paws for People, an organization that breeds and trains service dogs.



Thor, a rescue dog, poses outside of the Pentagon.

PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY

**"With kids, it's all about having a good time, and it's the same thing with pets."**

— Pet photographer Joan Brady

"I like to take shots with natural light, in big open spaces," Brady said. "I try very hard not to make them do anything but enjoy themselves."

Brady says she has different approaches when it comes to cats and dogs. She said dogs are much easier when it comes to having fun, cats are better to photograph in their natural environment.

"I can't picture many pet photos

of lizards, which makes me really want to try," she said.

Brady also takes photos for Paws for People, an organization that breeds and trains service dogs.

So far Brady has done all cats and dogs, mostly dogs, but she says she would love to photograph a lizard.

While Brady says she had dogs

growing up, it wasn't until her husband wanted one that they ended up with the two they have now.

"We've traveled cross country with them," she said. "And of course, they're very well-photographed dogs."

More information on Brady can be found at [www.joanbradyphotography.com](http://www.joanbradyphotography.com)



### Blackjack and Lucy

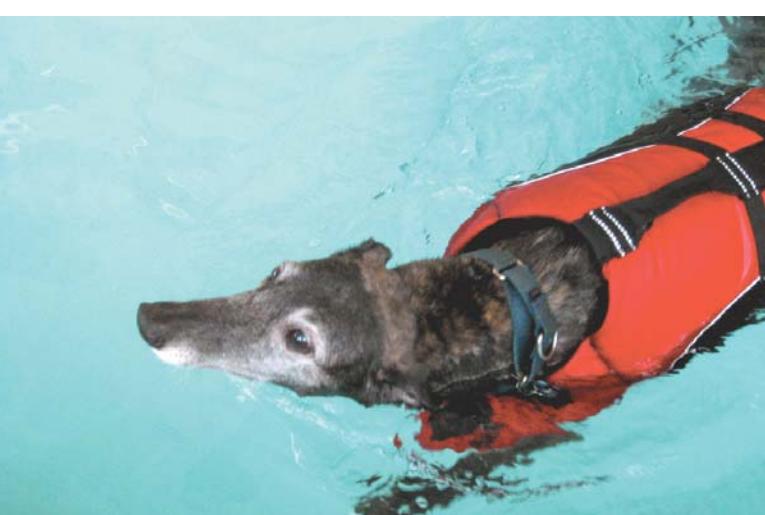
Russ and Audrey Ray of Great Falls sent us these photos of their pets Blackjack and Lucy. Lucy was the runt of the litter. Turns out she was very playful.



Blackjack and Lucy, named after a famous Texas bank robber and Linus's girlfriend.



Blackjack and Lucy: "How long do we have to sit here waiting for him?"



### Star Enjoys the Pool

Melodee Boos of Great Falls writes: Our family went to the Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort & Spa open house and I took some pictures of our dog, Star, swimming in their pool. She's an 11-year-old "senior" greyhound.

[www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Oh, Those Summer Days In the Dog Park

Dog owners get their doggies out and about at dog parks throughout Northern Virginia.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Just like people, dogs look forward to recreation time. That's why owners often utilize the local 'dog parks' to give their pets the exercise, fresh air, and socialization with other dogs that they are craving for.

Throughout Northern Virginia, dog parks — spacious areas of grass or dirt, often next to or part of local parks run by the Fairfax County Park Authority — are a popular attraction for dog owners who wish to see their canine release some of his or her energy. Dog parks are often equipped with benches for a dog's owner, as well as doggie toys (rubber or plastic balls, tough plastic or nylon tug-of-war grippers), baby sized plastic swim pools for the hot days, water bowls to quench a doggie's thirst, and hard plastic tunnels of 10-12 feet that dogs can squirm their way through.

Dog park visits are a way to get dogs to mingle and play with other dogs. Often, a group of dog owners will make it a point to visit dog parks at set times throughout a week in order that both people and dogs can enjoy their respective acquaintances.

Last week throughout Fairfax County, dog owners and their canine friends battled the hot weather and enjoyed a half hour or so of fun times at dog parks. Owners came prepared with lots of water for themselves and their dogs to offset the high 90s-plus temperatures.

Sarah Yusko of Reston spent some of her mid-morning Thursday, July 21, with her two Weimaraner's — 4-year old twins Hector and Rupert — at the dog park on the grounds of Baron Cameron Park in Reston.

Yusko and her husband, Chris, recently moved to Reston from Nashville. Sarah said she used to have to drive 30 minutes to get to a doggie park from her former residence in Tennessee. Now, she walks a half mile from the couple's Reston apartment complex to the dog park at Baron Cameron Park. There, across from a softball diamond, are large areas for both big dogs and little dogs. Sarah's dogs were in the big dogs' park, running, jumping and having a good time

Ventre, an Oakton resident, had his 17-month old enormous black lab, Buddy, with him.

"We call him 'Big Buddy,'" laughed Ventre, who said Buddy has grown from 35 pounds when



Russell, a 3-year old beagle mix, spent part of Saturday at the dog park at Baron Cameron Park in Reston.

PHOTOS BY RICH SANDERS/THE CONNECTION



Dogs get excited when they realize they are approaching a local dog park.

he first got him to his current 125 pounds.

Buddy, Ventre said, looks forward to his daily, one-hour visits to the park, usually from 11 to noon.

"He starts bugging me to go about a half hour before we leave," said Ventre, of Big Buddy's enthusiasm to go to the dog park. "He gets mopey when we can't go. He's very sedate, easy going and he likes to play with the other dogs. He likes to play tug-of-war with a rope and keep away with a stick."

Two baby-sized swim pools were accessible for the dogs on the steamy day.

Ventre said there are certain features which help make up a good dog park.

"You've got to have shade in a good park, seats to sit in, and water is especially essential," he said.

A 3-year old lab-hound mix named Ranger, Pyatt's dog, was not as lively as usual on the hot July late morning. But he was still jaunting around, taking in the day with his friends. Pyatt, who resides in Fairfax city, said she got Ranger when he was 9 weeks old from a Forever Home Rescue League.'

Pyatt said walking Ranger, who weighs 65 pounds, around her neighborhood is difficult. "When I take him for a walk, he's too energetic for me," she said. So to release some of that pent-up doggy zeal, Pyatt brings Ranger to the Vienna park three or four times a week.

He gets in here and runs and runs and runs, exercise he wouldn't get from a walk," said Pyatt. "Plus, it's good socially for him."

Pyatt said that Ranger, on the car ride from Fairfax to the Vienna park, begins getting excited when they get near to the park on Nutley Street in Vienna.

"Once we get to a certain place on Nutley, he goes berserk," said Pyatt, smiling and shaking her head. "He's very excited when he comes here."

Ranger, on this day, was not as bouncy and exuberant as usual but still seemed to be in his element around the other dogs.

"He's slow today because the heat bothers him a lot," said Pyatt. "It's getting so hot I'll have to adjust and come in the early morning or later in the evening."

Pyatt said some recent upgrades and new additions to the Vienna park, the result of hard work and dedication of a local Vienna girls' scout troop, had made the park even more attractive. The troop had fixed up the wooden ramps used for dog agility as well as added some long plastic tunnels the dogs can play in.

"They run in and around the tunnels and hide, and get toys," said Pyatt, of the dogs' delight in the black tunnels.

Pyatt said the park is quite busy on the weekends and when temperatures are down in the high 50s, low 60s.

**GARY McDERMOTT** and his daughter, Corlyn, paid a visit to the Vienna Dog Park with their four dogs — two Irish wolfhounds named Molly (8 months old), who was born last October, and 6-month old Gilmore. Molly, with her bright white hair, sported a blue bandana around her neck, while Gilmore wore a red bandana.

The two other dogs were Desie, an 8-month-old chocolate lab, and 7-year old Riley, a yellow lab.

Molly, the white Irish wolfhound, and Desie, the chocolate lab, were both born on the same day, Oct. 26 of last year.

Gary and Corlyn only recently began bringing their dogs to the Vienna park, waiting for Gilmore to turn six months.

"We try to bring them every day to socialize and they love it," said Corlyn, a graduate this past spring of Longwood University.

SEE SUMMER DAY, PAGE 18

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 27

**Atlast, Fight Cloud, No Blitz and Michael Butler.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**An Evening with Lynyrd Skynyrd.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Classic rock ballads. \$48 in-house, \$35 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

## THURSDAY/JULY 28

**City of Fairfax Concert Band.** 8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater, City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. A pops-style concert of light classical, Broadway, jazz, film, and patriotic selections. Weather permitting. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and a picnic basket. Free. 703-757-0220 or www.fairfaxband.org.

**Stuntology.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Sam Bartlett, musician, artist and author of Stuntology, presents pranks, tricks and stunts to amuse yourself and amaze your friends. 703-242-4020.

**Rubblebucket.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**NSO at Wolf Trap: The 5 Browns.** 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Emil de Cou, Conductor. The National Symphony Orchestra is joined by five Juilliard-trained siblings from Utah. Tickets \$20-\$52. www.wolftrap.org.

## FRIDAY/JULY 29

**"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."** 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students. www.mcleancenter.org.

**Author Maurita Corcoran.** 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble Tysons Corner, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center. "A House Interrupted," the story of the realization that her successful physician husband was a sex addict. 703-506-2937.

**The Bigger Lights, Divided By Friday and Fourth Quarter Comeback** at 6 p.m., followed by **The Bigger Lights, For The Foxes and Aim For The Weekend** at 9 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**NSO at Wolf Trap: Marvin Hamlisch, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Stephanie J. Block.** 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. The National Symphony Orchestra in an evening of showtune classics. Tickets \$20-\$52. www.wolftrap.org.

**Singer/Songwriter Ray Bennett.** 7 p.m. Caffe Amouri, 107 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Donations accepted for the Lamb Center of Fairfax. Items needed include new socks and underwear, deodorant, soap, toothbrushes, paper towels and more. www.caffeamouri.com or www.thelambcenter.org.

## SATURDAY/JULY 30

**"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."** 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$19 adults, \$17 seniors and students. www.mcleancenter.org.

**The Folsom Prisoners.** 5 p.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445



**"Her Majesty," photographed by Terri Parent**  
**"Sweet Liberty" is a collection of photographs by Terri Parent, on display through July 30 at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road in Great Falls. 703-433-5359.**

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 to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-6227.

**Author Sophia Nelson.** 2 p.m. Barnes & Noble Tysons Corner, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center. "Black Woman Redefined," an intimate look at the stereotypes, lives and images of successful black women. 703-506-2937.

**Summer Lovin': A Hot Night of Cool Stories.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Better Said Than Done, a community of professional storytellers, present stories for grownups about summer romance. \$10. www.bettersaidthanone.com, www.jamminjava.com or 703-255-1566.

**Feed God Cabbage, DC Flow and Feel Free.** 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**NSO at Wolf Trap: Casablanca.** 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. With conductor Emil de Cou and host Ben Mankiewicz. The film will be shown on large screens both in-house and on the lawn, with the film's full score played live by the National Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$20-\$52. www.wolftrap.org.

## SUNDAY/JULY 31

**Dolly Parton: Better Day World Tour.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Country music. \$60 in-house, \$35 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

**The Remedy.** 6 p.m. Concerts on the Green, Great Falls Village Center, Great Falls. Rock. www.gfvcca.com/concerts.

**Rebecca Loebe, Jenee Halstead and Sam Friend.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**Artist's Reception.** 1-4 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. "Birds of a Feather" by Ruth Ensley. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

## MONDAY/AUG. 1

**Benefit for NOVACO.** 7-10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.

Local artists Birds of Mauze, The Improviliars, Bradley Perrow, West Potomac Improv, Poi, Jamie Fredrickson's Mad Hoop Skills, The Fair Sons of Robin Fax, Alice Boyars, Julian Rosen and more. A portion of the proceeds benefits NOVACO, offering affordable housing, education, childcare, counseling and mentoring to survivors of abuse. \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door. www.novaco.org or

## TUESDAY/AUG. 2

### TUESDAY/AUG. 2

**Jolie Holland and Sallie Ford & the Sound Outside.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 3

**California Tortilla Battle to Break Out: Semi-Finals Round #1.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 4

**Folksinger John McCutcheon.** 7:30 p.m. Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 5

**Shakespeare in the Park.** 7 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. The Traveling Players Ensemble performs Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." Free. www.travelingplayers.org or 703-987-1712.

**Deep River Summer Revival with Seth Glier.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 6

**Jody Marshall & Friends.** 5 p.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

**Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Books, magazines, media and more. TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com or 703-790-8088.

**Deep River Summer Revival with Larkin Poe.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

## SUNDAY/AUG. 7

**Summer Tour of the Potomac Valley Native Plant Collection.** 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Enjoy Eupatorium, sunflowers, Liatris, milkweed, obedient plant, purple coneflower and more. Free and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

**Book Sale.** 1-4 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Books, magazines, media and more. TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com or 703-790-8088.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 10

**Cash Cash, Breathe Electric, For the Foxes and The Baby Grand.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

# Playing Shakespeare at Riverbend Park

**T**raveling Players Ensemble performs Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet on Friday, Aug. 5, 7 p.m. at Riverbend Park.

Founded in 2003, Traveling Players Ensemble has been invited to perform at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Colonial Williamsburg, Shenandoah National Park, Reston's Multicultural Festival, and the International Children's Festival at Wolf Trap. In 2007, Traveling Players Ensemble was recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) by being selected as one of 25 of the nation's "Summer Schools in the Arts."

Traveling Players Ensemble's mission is to bring great theatre into the great outdoors. Romeo and Juliet is presented by the camp's most advanced program: the Traveling Troupe. The group rehearses a full-length Shakespearean play for five weeks, then hits the road for a tour throughout Virginia, camping, hiking and performing outside for two straight weeks.

This performance marks the end of the troupe's long tour. Other stops on the tour include Colonial Williamsburg, the theater at Lime Kiln, and Douthat State Park.

This is the third time that the Traveling Troupe has performed at Riverbend, after 2009's Macbeth and last summer's Love's Labour's Lost.

The play is directed by Traveling Players Ensemble's Producing Artistic Director Jeanne



**Traveling Players Ensemble performs Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet on Friday, Aug. 5, at 7 p.m. at Riverbend Park.**

Harrison, assisted by Jessica Lynn Rodriguez and Kristin Pilgrim, with costumes by Adalia Tonneyck and set by Sasha Goldstein.

The play features the talents of Kari Barclay (Bethesda, Md.), Katie Baughman (Great Falls), Maresca Brand (Arlington), Allegra Caldera (Bethesda, Md.), Heather Courtenay (Arlington), Grace Housman (Falls Church), Garrett Jansen (Arlington), Gwen O'Brien (Oakton), Maddy Pages (Arlington), Noah Pilchen (Arlington), Ellie Robb (Washington, D.C.), Patrick Smith (Germantown, Md.), and Max Sparta (McLean).

Traveling Players Ensemble hosts several summer camps at The Madeira School in McLean. Throughout the school year, they teach weekend classes in classical acting, improvisation, mask, and movement.

For more information, visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

and cavalry. Visit the weekend encampment and discover a soldier's lifestyle during this turbulent time in America's history. Enjoy live music and a fashion show. House tour includes artifacts rarely on exhibit belonging to the Haight family, mid-19th century residents at Sully. \$8 adults, \$6 seniors and children. 703-708-0861.

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

**The Fabulous Mary Ann Redmond Band.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**VVFD Scrapbooking Weekend.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Food available for purchase. Admission \$35. 703-981-4504 or lisaelemon3@verizon.net.

**Saturday/Aug. 13**

## SCHOOLS



**Jeff Hiday talks about media careers.**



**Chef Ciarin Devlin of Marshall Academy speaks at Career Day.**

### Career Day at Langley High

The Junior class and more than 30 parents from Langley High School community enjoyed the first Career Day on June 10. Career Center Specialist Betty Schneider along with parent volunteers, Karen Alden and

Laura O'Connor, spearheaded the event. Schneider opened the event by welcoming the junior class followed by keynote speaker, Nicholetta P of the CIA who addressed internet and social networking safety. Each of the stu-

dents then rotated into three different 20-minute sessions with speakers.

The speakers shared their own path to success, an average day on the job, and offered career advice to the students.




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PHOTOS/FRANK MCPARTLAND

**Bogans has campers all around him in this group shot taken during camp week, which took place July 11-15.**

## Pro Player Bogans Returns to His Old School

**N**BA star Keith Bogans was in McLean last week running a basketball camp at his alma mater, The Langley School.

Bogans, an NBA veteran, returned to his alma mater to run a week-long basketball camp July 11-15. The sold out camp for youngsters grades three through nine was held in Langley's Solomon Athletic Center.

Now beginning his ninth season in the NBA, Bogans is currently a starting guard for the Chicago Bulls. Since he was first drafted by the Milwaukee Bucks in the second round of the 2003 NBA draft, Bogans has played for Orlando, Charlotte, Houston, Milwaukee, and San Antonio, appearing in more than 580 games, including more than 300 starts.

A 1995 graduate of The Langley School, Bogans played basketball under current Langley Athletic Director Jim Gleason during seventh and eighth grades. He went on to become a McDonald's and Parade All-American player at DeMatha High School, leading the team to a 34-1 record and a third-place national ranking in 1999.

The 6-foot-5-inch Bogans went on to star at the University of Kentucky, where he led the team to an SEC Tournament title and an Elite Eight finish in the NCAA Tournament in 2003. Among his many honors, Bogans was named SEC Player of the Year, First Team All-SEC, SEC Tournament MVP, and Third Team All-American during his distinguished college basketball career.

**AT THE LANGLEY CAMP**, students worked on a variety of basketball skills and drills, including dribbling, shooting, and passing, while learning the fundamentals of sportsmanship and teamwork. The class was broken into small groups by ability to ensure individualized attention from Bogans, Langley coaches, and staff.

"We were thrilled to welcome Keith back to Langley," said Coach Gleason, who remembers Bogans as being an extremely competitive, hard-working player with a great sense of humor. "We are so proud of all that he has achieved on the court and it was wonderful for him to share his expertise with our students."

Bogans has fond memories of his days at The Langley School.

"Langley was a true blessing to me," says Bogans, who had been attending a public middle school before coming to Langley. "When I arrived in seventh grade, I struggled academically at first because the academics were so far ahead of what I was used to."



**NBA player Keith Bogans demonstrates a jump shot during basketball camp at The Langley School. Bogans, a 1995 graduate of the school, is currently a member of the Chicago Bulls.**

But wonderful Langley teachers provided me with an academic foundation and helped me build habits that made school a lot easier for me from then on. Even though the Langley campus has changed through the years, the memories still hit me when I turn the corner onto Balls Hill Road."

Bogans added that he wanted to run the camp at Langley in order to give back to the school that made such an impact on his life.

"In addition to having fun and learning basketball skills, one of the goals of the camp was to let kids know that NBA players like me are real people who once started out as kids with dreams just like them," he said.

Founded in 1942, The Langley School is an independent, co-ed day school for students in preschool through eighth grade.

## Swim Teams Wrapping up Regular Seasons

**F**or the third consecutive year, the RiverBend StingRays won the DCCL Relay Carnival (Blue Division) with a point total of 186. Finishing behind RiverBend were the follow teams: Westwood Country Club (172), Country Club of Fairfax (150), Trump National (128), and International Country Club (80).

RiverBend's 9 to 18 mixed age/mixed gender, 400-meters free relay team set a new league record with a time of 4:09.65. The record-setting swimmers were: Micaela Grassi, Anna Phillips, Amanda Maruca, Eliza Pastore, Will Koeppen, Ryan Windus, Jake Trautwein and Jack Hall.

In addition, the following RiverBend team records were broken at the Relay Carnival: boys 9-18, 200-meters free, 2:00.06 (Will Koeppen, Ryan Windus, Jake Trautwein and Jack Hall); girls 9-18, 200-free, 2:08.37 (Eliza Pastore, Micaela Grassi, Anna Phillips, Amanda Maruca); girls 11-12, 200 medley, 2:28.00 (Micaela Grassi, Sabrina Slavin, Kate Hall, Lauren Bell); girls 11-12, 200-free, 2:14.75 (Micaela Grassi, Sabrina Slavin, Kate Hall, Lauren Bell); girls 13-14, 200-free, 2:15.06 (Emma Volanth, Anna Phillips, Natalie Peele, Caroline Maruca); boys 13-14, 200-free, 2:04.15 (Tommy Rogers, Grant Youngkin, Conor Wesolowski and Jake Trautwein).

This Saturday, the StingRays will be looking to defend their division title when they go up against visiting Westwood.

The Highlands Whomping Turtles completed an undefeated swim season with a 231-171 victory over the Fairfax Station Flyers.

Double winners from Highlands included Scott Callander, Diego Cruzado, Xenia de Cazotte, Hayden Evans, Chuck Katis, Jayme Katis, Olivia Tripodi, and Helen Yablonski. Highlands' single winners were Ben Charles, Stephane de Cazotte, Chris Hylton, Adam Kunz, Allison Martin, and Griffin Romanek. Scott Callander set a new team record for the boys 13-14, 50-meters butterfly with a time of 29.08.

The Great Falls Rapids swim team finished with a winning season by beating the Brookfield Breakers last Saturday. New team records were set by Will Kemmerer in the 13-14 backstroke (30.69), beating his previous records and also the standing 15-18, 50 backstroke team record; and the 8-under girls (Paige Hall, Carolyn Amano-Dolan, Caitlin Manley and Sophie Smith), which broke a 1991 record in the 100-freestyle relay (1:19.65). Double first place winners included Eric Eichler, Mary Liz Elliott, Joseph Fallon, Will Kemmerer, Marina Smith, Andrew Vinter, Max Wingo and Alexandra Zeidan. Single first place winners included Julia Bullock, Paige Hall, Jack Heaps, William Long, John Mulligan, Charlotte Smith and Sophie Smith.

The McLean Marlins sent 12 relay teams to compete at the All Star Relay Carnival. Seven of the McLean relays finished in first place. The Boys 8-under medley relay team of Ellison Soobert, Quin Frew, Nick Loria and JJ Horsfield set a new team record with a time of 1:23.03, breaking the previous record set in 2004. The girls 8-under freestyle relay team of Natalia Rongione, Abby Lucas, Skylar Tennant, and Dora Wu set a new team record with a time of 1:14.29, beating their own record set earlier in the season. The Marlins finished fourth place overall at the Relays.

At the last dual meet of the season, the Marlins beat the Oakton Otters, 223-179. Double winners for McLean were: Natalia Rongione, Isabella Rongione, Libby Ulrich, MJ Ulrich, Timothy Wu, Andrew Seliskar, and Dereck Charles. Single event winners for the Marlins were: Ellison Soobert, Will Soobert, Stephen Seliskar, JJ Horsfield, Jack Saunders, Karynne Baker, Nick Loria, Christopher Murphy, Dora Wu, and Jake McCarron.

Andrew Seliskar set a new team record in the 13-14 boys 500-backstroke with a time of 27.96, beating his own record set earlier in the season.

The Langley Wildthings (1-4) lost their last Div. 4 swim meet of the season to the Hunt Valley Stingrays (2-3) by a score of 179 to 223. Double event winners for Langley were Jinwon Bailar, Schuyler Bailar, Meghan Overend, Elena Shklyar and Audrey Wallach.

Single event winners for Langley were Sammy Bennett, Alexandra Cramer, Jack Hoeymans, Nathan Johnson, Katie Robinson, Emily Wallach, Kate Walter and Vincent Watson.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Voting Record

To the Editor:

In her letter to the editor [“Maximum Flexibility” Connection, July 20-26, 2011] Sherry Wells disagrees with the statement in my letter to the editor on June 30, that “FCPS School Board incumbent Jane Strauss voted never to require Fairfax County public schools to notify parents before their children are questioned by school officials.” Sherry Wells was described as a “former Longfellow PTA president and parent of four FCPS graduates.”

As a former Longfellow PTA vice president, parent of three FCPS graduates and a graduate of Harvard Law School, I suggest that

Ms. Wells review the minutes from the FCPS School Board meeting of June 9, 2011. Our community deserves to receive accurate information, and voting records are a matter of public record.

On page 156 of the School Board minutes for the June 9th meeting, Ms. Strauss voted against a motion to require a principal to “make a reasonable effort to notify parents or guardians at the earliest opportunity regarding student disciplinary actions, and to require school officials to notify a student’s parent or guardian “prior to questioning by school officials or a school resource officer unless there is an immediate danger to others” when “school officials believe that a student committed an offense for

which a report to law enforcement is required.”

When that motion failed to pass, School Board member Evans moved to require school officials to inform students of their rights to not incriminate themselves and to give students an opportunity to contact their parents or guardians “before questioning,” when “school officials believe a student has committed an offense for which a report to law enforcement is required.” Ms. Strauss also voted against that motion.

#### Louise Epstein

Co-founder and budget chair of the Fairfax Education Coalition; Co-founder of FAIRGRADE

The writer is Candidate for School Board, Dranesville District.

### Heartfelt Endorsement

To the Editor:

As an Air Force veteran, I know strength, passion and vigor in a man when I see it. We have lived in Fairfax County for almost 50 years and in the Great Falls community for over 25 years. Over this time, we have had the absolute pleasure of watching our nephew, Jaime Areizaga-Soto, acquire these traits. We write to our community to introduce Jaime. He is running for the expansive newly drawn 31st State Senate district.

Jaime visited our family in Great Falls almost every weekend during his college years in Georgetown from 1987 to 1991

and regularly since then. He appreciates our community because it is his own.

Jaime studied at the prestigious School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where he completed the Army ROTC program. After graduating with honors, he attended Stanford Law School. He is an Eagle Scout, a JAG Lieutenant Colonel in the Army National Guard, and a former White House Fellow. Most recently, he was a Senior Obama appointee at the United States Agency for International Development.

When we see Virginia nationally mocked because of the extreme actions of AG Cuccinelli in Richmond, we became determined to find a candidate to support who would earn back our trust and be

a fighter for our progressive values. Jaime is running for the State Senate to fight against the narrow-mindedness that threatens to thwart progress. Our future is worth this fight, and it is one that Jaime is ready to lead for us. We have seen him grow from a student to a very successful attorney, from a cadet to a Lieutenant Colonel, and as someone who came to Virginia, grew to love our Commonwealth and wants to do a lot more for it.

Now, almost in our 80s, we are honored and proud to urge our neighbors in Great Falls and Fairfax County overall to support Jaime Areizaga-Soto in the Democratic Primary on Aug. 23.

**Don and Lucy Juncal**  
Great Falls

### Murphy

FROM PAGE 8

blouse. The next day she saw her neighbor who was widowed at age 40 glance amazingly at her. The following day, her neighbor was wearing pink socks under her black dress. The day after that, there was very little black to be seen on her neighbor.

**MY MOTHER-IN-LAW** did not immediately take to Great Falls. She felt that it missed the buzz of her village. No one took walks outside. You could not see people around or randomly meet people along the street or in town (this was before Katie’s and the Great Falls Farmer’s Market, which she would just love!). She called Great Falls the “Sahara Desert.” After her excursion to the Senior Cen-

ter each day — pick up was at 10 a.m. and drop off was at 3 p.m. — her social needs for the day were met and she was then able to enjoy being surrounded by nature.

After she returned to Greece she called to say that her village was not like it used to be. People are working, watching television and staying on their computers. Hardly anyone was taking a walk in the street any more. She had not noticed that her village had become developed, very slowing and insidiously, before her very eyes. She called to say that she had to return to Great Falls. There are no birds, no squirrels, no deer, and no fox in her village anymore. They are all gone. Too many buildings and too many people chased them away. She missed all the crit-

ters terribly and realized how much all the activities of our wildlife neighbors enriched her day.

She died suddenly in her village at the age of 81 years, before she had the chance to return. Her funeral was filled with hundreds of people who had experienced her new loving affection and exuberance after her return from America. She had learned that her life is hers to live and enjoy and that she had just the personality and the spirit to shower her love and delight upon everyone she met. If you were in her path, it was meant to be — her light would be shined upon you!

Who cares if it took 81 years to become so magnificent! Thank you, Herndon Senior Center, for your loving presence.

### Poppleton

FROM PAGE 8

Since 2004, there have been 17 (reported) accidents within 300

yards of the bridge, and, in recorded history there has never been an accident at or on the

single-lane bridge.

**Jim Poppleton**  
Great Falls

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## Clothes to a Decision

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

To say that I have a tired wardrobe is an affront to all wardrobes, tired or otherwise. To say that my clothes could use a bit of an update is a bit like saying Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie were undermanned at The Alamo. My lack of initiative with respect to such purchases has been a problem my entire life, beginning with my involvement in the "Husky" department at a very young age. It was primarily my mother's problem until I left home to attend college. College presented its own unique set of circumstances which prevented any significant clothing evolution (maturation?) – on my part. Marriage, a few years later, further complicated these clothing indecisions. Though I held fast and firm to my lack-of-clothing instincts – and deferred my purchases as much as possible, eventually, there were fissures and newer clothes occasionally were purchased, against my worse judgment. However, my wardrobe was never one to be proud of; it was – simply put, one that couldn't be avoided, by my wife, Dina, which of course presented all kinds of discussions.

Time passed. Heck, decades passed; there were some good clothing purchases and some not so good. Generally speaking, it wasn't pretty. After so many years, it became apparent – even to my wife, that perhaps she didn't have the proper training to deal with my preference for "casual attire," shall we say. Juxtaposing the fact that she always dressed nicely and appropriately for the situation, my clothing appearance left a lot to be desired, to put it kindly. To put it succinctly: it was atrocious. But I didn't care too much. I always rationalized that "It's what's inside that counts." I was never a clothes-make-the-man kind of person. I was more of a clothes-cover-the-man kind of person.

Then two-and-a-half years ago, I was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer, "a terminal disease," according to my oncologist, if there ever was one; rather convincingly when he suggested that perhaps I should take that trip I've always dreamed of taking. "WHAT!" At that point, normal had left the building, and whatever "normal" life I thought I had – good or bad, was over and subject to major re-evaluation. There was a new sheriff in town and his name was cancer. Everything changed, especially priorities. And new clothing was hardly a priority, and unlikely to move up the list of things I now cared about, given the seriousness of my diagnosis/prognosis. And when I stopped working and began chemotherapy the next week, followed soon thereafter by a deteriorating physical condition, my house-bound status didn't seem to necessitate much of a clothing upgrade.

Eventually I got off the couch and out of the house and tried to resume/re-start a semi-normal life (the new "normal," diagnosed-with-cancer normal). I happily wore what clothes I had and didn't concern myself – too much, with my outward appearance, other than always wearing a ball cap to cover my bald head. More time passed and I lived (survived seems so negative) beyond the back-end of my oncologist's original prediction: "two years." Accordingly, Dina has started suggesting that since I'm still alive, perhaps I should buy some new clothes. After all, if I've lived this long, maybe I'm going to live a little bit longer, and dressing like I have a future might help me in the present. A present which I'm grateful to have and a future I always hoped to see.

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



## PET CONNECTION

# Summer Days at Dog Parks

FROM PAGE II

"At home they run and chase each other," said Gary. "Here, they can socialize with other dogs. They like the fact that there are different dogs here."

Gary, a 19 year resident of Oakton, said the four dogs do just fine at home. It is not the whirlwind of chaos one might expect with four dogs.

"They're actually pretty easy in the house and get along pretty well," he said.

**DOG PARKS** bring variety and recreation to a dog's life. Trips to the local dog park become a way of life for owners and their dogs. Most of the dogs at local parks are fun loving and enjoy the company of other dogs.

Fairfax resident Laura Gray was spending part of her Saturday morning at the dog park at Baron Cameron Park in Reston, watching three-year old beagle mix Russell romp around and do his thing.

"He's a lover, not a fighter," said Gray. "He loves everybody, especially squirrels and cats."

**Cash, a 1-year-old boxer-shepherd mix, is a rescue dog.**



PHOTOS BY RUCH SANDERS/THE CONNECTION

**Coco, 4, enjoyed his surroundings Saturday at the dog park at Quinn Farm in Chantilly.**



## BULLETIN BOARD

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

703-324-9300, TTY 711

### FRIDAY/JULY 29

**Electoral Board Meeting.** 9 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Room 315-C, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-4735, TTY 711.

candidate for State Senate, 37<sup>th</sup> District. \$15 per person. [www.stevehunt.org](http://www.stevehunt.org) or [kanehickey@verizon.net](mailto:kanehickey@verizon.net).

### SATURDAY/JULY 30

**Balletone.** 8 a.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Instructed by Maria Spearman. Free. 703-288-9505.

### TUESDAY/AUG. 2

**Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS).** 6 p.m. St Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Lower Level, Herndon. A noncommercial network of weight-loss support groups with tools and programs for healthy living and weight management. Meetings are Tuesdays. [www.tops.org](http://www.tops.org).

**Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce TIPS Lunch.** 12:15 p.m.

Shula's Steakhouse, 8028 Leesburg Pike, in the Tysons Corner Marriott. Meets every Tuesday. 703-281-1333 or [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

**Senior Fall Prevention Classes.** The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m., Mondays and Fridays from 2-3 p.m. Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles in order to prevent injuries and falls. Instructor now certified in Back and Hip Rehab. \$10 per class. Pre-registration required at 703-667-9800.

**Avoiding Divorce Court I.** 6:30 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. How to negotiate or mediate a property settlement agreement: a comparison of mediation and negotiation, tips you can use, strategies, pitfalls to avoid and more. \$35-\$80. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

### WEDNESDAY/JULY 27

**History Commission Conference Committee.** 7:30 p.m. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Meeting to discuss matters related to the planning of the 2011 History Conference. 703-324-1380, TTY 711.

**McLean Community Center Governing Board Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123, TTY 711.

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

**Pauline Shirley Toastmasters Club Meeting.** 6:45 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Meets second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. 703-893-5506 or [paulineshirley.freetoasthost.info](http://paulineshirley.freetoasthost.info).

### THURSDAY/JULY 28

**Mosaic Community Development Authority.** 1:30 p.m. Providence District Supervisor's Office, 8739 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Update of Special Assessment role.

### SUNDAY/JULY 31

**Fundraising Reception for Steve Hunt.** 2-4 p.m. Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Fundraising event for Steve Hunt,

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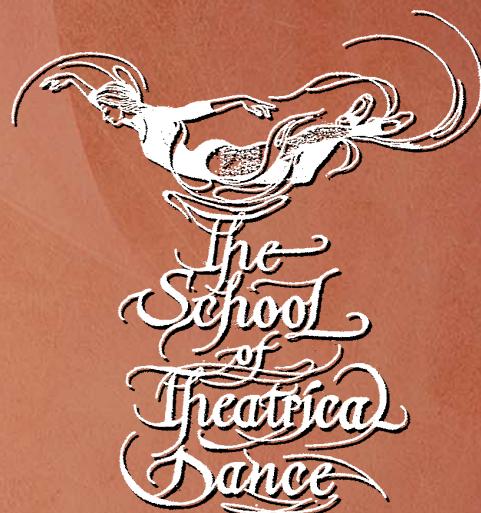
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Rebecca Anger,  
Bridget Hott,  
Ashley O'Banion,  
Lauren Megrue,  
Katherine Boruff.  
*photo Terry Wingfield*



Members of  
Jazz VI in One,  
from A Chorus Line:  
Samantha  
Zimmerman, Adriana  
Lundgren, Gabrielle  
White, Mary Hagen  
Grow, Holly Lundeen,  
Sara Warrington,  
Dylan Murphy,  
Karsyn lawler, Maddy  
Neuberger, Alex  
Grieco, Emily Hines.  
*photo Vihao Pham*

Members of Ballet V  
in Sapphires:  
Joanna Lundquist, Sarina Prasad,  
Kaitlyn Pham, Aya White,  
Sonia Prasad, Isabella Clapp.  
*photo Tuan Pham*



Members of Modern II  
and III in: Imagine ...One Day  
Gabrielle White, Emily Hines,  
Dylan Murphy, Lauren Megrue,  
Bridget Hott, Leah McSteen.  
*photo Vihao Pham*



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Age 12 and up (or by special permission)

#### Hip Hop 2-4pm

2-3:30 Beg/Int Hip Hop- basic hip hop/funk movements including isolations, waves and tutting!

3:30-4 (an additional half hour for more experienced dancers) a mixture of House dancing, popping, locking, and b-boying along with some commercial hip hop

#### Jazz 4:30-6:30pm

4:30-6 Beg/Int Jazz- warm up, stretch followed by basic jazz technique in the center and across the floor.

6-6:30 (an additional half hour for more experienced dancers) turns and leaps with more advanced jazz patterns!



### VOLTAIRE WADE-GREENE

Voltaire began his dance training at the age of 10 with the Civic Dance Center in Bakersfield, California. Since then he has trained with The Orange School of Performing Arts (under Ricardo Porter and Heather Powell), San Francisco Ballet (Jeff Lyons), The Rock School for Dance Education (Bo and Stephanie Spassoff, Christopher Fleming, Jorge Laico, Violette Verdy, and Natasha Barr), Dance Theatre of Harlem (Arthur Mitchell and Keith Saunders) and University of The Arts (Scott Jovovich). Voltaire has trained in Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Lyrical, Hip-Hop, Tap, Breakdancing, and Musical Theatre. He was a Principal dancer in the Contrast Dance Theatre under the direction of Christopher Fleming (former New York City Ballet Principal) and has been a guest artist for the Metropolitan Ballet Academy, Civic Dance Center, Bakersfield Regional Ballet, Orange School of Performing Arts, West End Academy of Dance, and Les Jeunes. He now resides and teaches in Virginia for Orange School of Performing Arts, West End Academy of Dance and School of Theatrical Dance.

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