

Great Falls CONNECTION

Newcomers & Community Guide

Insiders Edition 2011-2012

OPINION 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 19 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 20

Madhan and Mala Chakravathy enjoy the view of the Potomac River at Great Falls Park. Great Falls features more than two square miles of parks, which offer a variety of outdoor activities.

**Nature is First
In Great Falls**

INSIDERS GUIDE, PAGE 3

**Rhythms of
Great Falls**

INSIDERS GUIDE, PAGE 12

**Great Falls:
The History
Of Place**

INSIDERS GUIDE, PAGE 10

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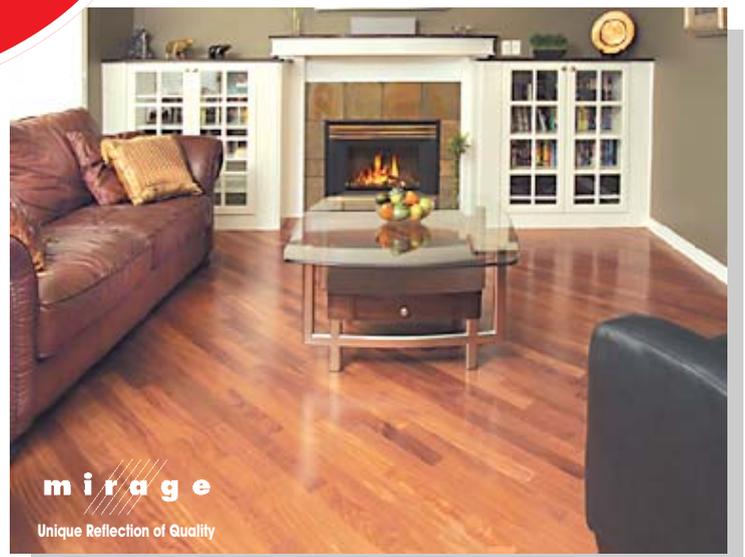
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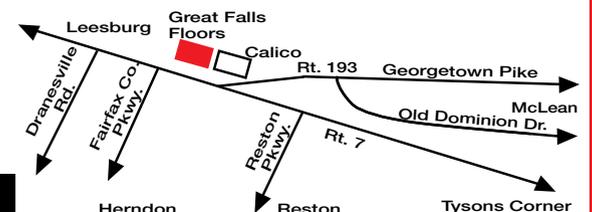
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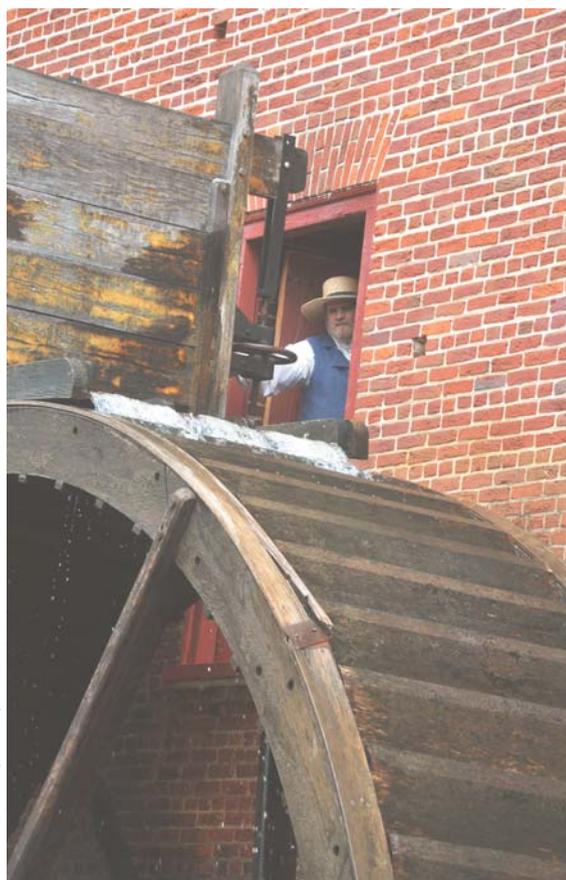


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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Ashley DeWolfson rides in a horse show at Turner Farm, which features numerous equestrian facilities.



Mason Maddox, miller at Colvin Run Mill, starts the mill wheel by allowing the water to flow over it. Colvin Run Mill is more than 200 years old, and sits on land once owned by George Washington.

Nature is First in Great Falls

Parks offer multitude of ways to enjoy the outdoors.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

According to the 2010 census, Great Falls has 15,247 residents spread out over 17.9 square miles, making it one of the least dense communities in Fairfax County. Great Falls's density is 861.8 people per square mile, compared with the average density for Fairfax County, which is 2,738.5 per square mile.

The semi-rural nature of Great Falls is its claim to fame, as many residents moved here to be around less development and several citizen groups work to keep it that way.

With so much land undeveloped, it's no wonder that Great Falls contains many parks that bring visitors from around the country. More than two square miles of Great Falls is designated parkland. The Potomac River runs along the west side of the area, separating it from Maryland and creating many destinations.

Riverbend Park is located on the upper part of the river, along the Potomac River Gorge. The 418-acre park, which is run by the

Fairfax County Park Authority, features 2.5 mile trail along the river, as well as three different ecosystems: river, forest and meadow.

"I've always found the park to be a great place to just watch nature. If you walk along the Potomac Heritage trail, you've got the river on one side and the forest to your left," said Paul Hollander of Sterling. "I walked about a mile down and back today, and while watching the water, I saw a snake slithering through the muck by the river. I also saw some beautifully colored birds on the other side, flying above the forest."

THE POTOMAC HERITAGE TRAIL connects Riverbend Park with Great Falls Park, run by the National Park Service. Here the river cascades over rocks creating the falls themselves, as well as pools for kayaking and the Patowmack Canal for hiking and exploring. The park also contains several miles of riverside trails.

"I've been coming to Great Falls Park since I was really young," said Sean Arklay of Great Falls. "First my parents walked me along the trails, and when I got older, it's where I took my first kayaking trip

and went rock-climbing for the first time, and those hobbies have been a part of my life for a long time now. Hopefully my kids can have the same experiences and learn to love the outdoors like I did."

While the Potomac has been flowing for hundreds, if not thousands, of years, Great Falls features more "recent" additions as well, such as Colvin Run Mill, which celebrated 200 years of operation in April. Located on land once owned by George Washington, the mill still functions today and is one of the oldest brick mills in Virginia.

"Thousands of school children come to see this old mill at work," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova (D-At large) at the mill's 200th anniversary celebration in April. "They have a chance to study engineering; they gain new insight into how water power and machines work and they view what was once cutting-edge innovations for automated milling."

Turner Farm, located on 52 acres that were previously home to a dairy farm, offers almost 40 acres of open fields designed for horseback riding. The fenced in area



The Great Falls Freedom Memorial hosts several ceremonies each year dedicated to remembrance. This year's ceremony commemorating 10 years since the Sept. 11 attacks will take place at the Village Green.

Annual Events in Great Falls

*Sept. 11 Memorial Ceremony: Usually at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, this ceremony recognizes those who were lost in the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, including six residents of Great Falls. This year's ceremony, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the attacks, will take place at the Village Green.

*Halloween Spooktacular: Every Halloween the Great Falls Village Centre hosts this annual event where children can trick-or-treat at local businesses and show off their costumes.

*Veterans Day ceremony: The Great Falls Freedom Memorial hosts this annual event to honor those who have served in the Armed Forces.

*Christmas Tree Lighting: The Village Centre is the site of the community's Christmas tree, which will be lit up by none other than Santa himself. The event also features performances by local school choirs and other live entertainment. This year's lighting will take place Friday, Dec. 2.

*Easter Egg Hunt: The Village Green is covered in 5,000 eggs as children scramble to find them. Hosted by the Great Falls Optimist Club, the event has been held in Great Falls for the past 27 years.

*Great Falls Spring Festival: The Great Falls Village Green will feature booths and activities from local businesses, organizations and nonprofits, as well as live entertainment, children's games and food.

*Memorial Day: The Great Falls Freedom Memorial hosts a Memorial Day remembrance each year, remembering those who have given their lives in service of their country, including 24 Great Falls residents.

* July 4 Parade and Fireworks: The parade begins in the morning every July Fourth, as organizations, individuals and classic cars make their way around the Great Falls Village Centre. Later in the evening fireworks commence at Turner Farm.

includes a novice cross-country course featuring water, ditches and banks, a round pen and a 200 by 300-foot all-purpose arena with all-weather footing.

"Turner Farm is a great place to actually learn how to ride your horse at a comfortable pace," said Denise Okun, 19, of Leesburg, who has been riding for more than 10 years. "I remember when I started riding I was so scared, because everyone you saw at the arena or on TV looked so perfect, it's hard to believe you can ever learn to do that. But I learned on these fields, and I was able to get better because there's so much to work on at the facilities here."

FOR THOSE INTERESTED in a higher view than is available while on a horse, Turner Farm is the site of Observatory Park, which features a celestial telescope and weekly opportunities for visitors to examine the night sky.

"You mention Fairfax County and you think 'Is there anywhere that light pollution doesn't block out the wonders of the sky at night?' and that's what you have here at the Observatory Park," said Jerry Ogden of Vienna, who regularly attends the Friday night viewing sessions. "Right now it's an open field where you can set up your telescopes in peace, but from what I hear, that's only the beginning for this place."

Plans for observatory park include equipment such as a radio telescope and cosmic ray detector, as well as an international sundial garden, featuring designs from all over the world.

Charles Olin, founder of the Analemma Society, which operates in partnership with the park authority to supply equipment for the park, has already gotten started on the sundial garden, the flagpole is a gnomon (the part that casts the shadow) for the first planned dial.

INSIDERS GUIDE

Eggstravaganza' Continues

Jorge Adeler has an additional inspiration to continue supporting annual Egg Hunt and Festival: His own five grandchildren.



Jorge Adeler with his five grandchildren.

Jorge Adeler and the Easter Bunny have one thing in common: they both love a good hunt. For 27 years now, those who have participated in the Adeler Jewelers/Great Falls Optimist Club Children's Egg Hunt and Festival know that what you find inside the eggs could very well be a "gem" of a find. Adeler, who owns Adeler Jewelers, realized that he could share his interest in the mystique of hidden treasure with thousands of children by stuffing, not only candy into each egg, but also \$5000 worth of genuine gemstones into many of them as well. The Great Falls Optimist Club is the recipient of 100 percent of the proceeds from this event and has, through the years,

been proud co-sponsors and volunteers. When Adeler decided to partner with a charity to donate the proceeds to, he could not think of a better group than the Optimists. "We share a love and dedication to the youth in our community and as a proud member of the GF Optimist club for over 25 years it has been an incredible partnership".

Adeler and the Optimists do not only raise money (the event costs \$10 per child who participates, parents are free) but they bring a family friendly, healthy and fun activity to the children in Great Falls and its neighbors. Over the years this event has turned

into a full-fledged "eggstravaganza" with moon bounces, mazes, giant slides, a hay ride, popcorn and cotton candy preceding the Egg Hunt.

Many local merchants have stepped in through the years to help grow the event by sponsoring rides and games to make this a true Great Falls Community endeavor. Asked if he minded the hours spent planning and organizing to ensure that this will turn out to be the best festival yet, Adeler said, "No. I had a woman call me months ago, to ask the date of this year's egg hunt and festival, so that she could plan to have

Daily Surprises

Shopping at Cathy's Corner, Wendy's Window

Love Old Stuff, Antiques, do you want the Shabby Chic look? Stop by Cathy's Corner to see what Wendy has added to the Window. She adds new items daily or weekly. Items are shabby chic or vintage, dating back from 1950 and earlier.

Phone for the shop (Cathy's Corner) and Wendy's Window is: 703-759-4975

Address is: Village Center, behind the Old Brogue, 766-C Walker Road, Great Falls.

her son's birthday party there. As soon as I heard that, I had all the reassurance I needed. People have now come to expect it once a year. It is a tradition... and one we are thrilled to keep doing."

His bonus these last few years? He now has 5 grandchildren who get to enjoy the day and Egg Hunt as well.



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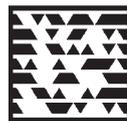
Adam Golka, piano

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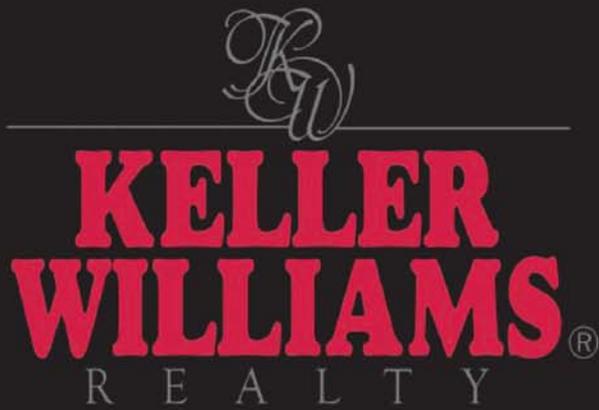
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MLS # FX7602459 - \$1,199,000 - 630 Utterback Store Rd, Great Falls
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of windows bring the outdoors in, pool, detached garage, sport court



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In Lyon Park, walk to Clarendon Metro, Craftsman style,
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Join us on for dinner on August 29 at our next
Military Appreciation Monday (MAM) event at
The Old Brogue in Great Falls.

We will be hosting the Navy SEALs Foundation in
honor of those lost on August 6.

The Old Brogue is located at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road in Great Falls.

Call (703) 759-3309 to reserve your table at either the 5:30 or the 7:30 seating,
and please RSVP to Bob@BobNelsonTeam.com.

Bob and his co-sponsors will each make a 10% matching donation of your dinner tab!

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INSIDERS GUIDE



Inova Fairfax Hospital.

CONTRIBUTED

Center of Excellence

Inova Fairfax Hospital: Nationally recognized regional medical center.

Inova Fairfax Hospital, Inova Health System's flagship hospital, is an 833-bed, nationally recognized regional medical center serving the Washington, D.C., metro area. Inova Fairfax Hospital offers Northern Virginia's only level 1 trauma center, has one of the nation's most-sought-out obstetrics programs and offers the highest level neonatal intensive care unit. The hospital was the first in the area to receive the prestigious Magnet designation for nursing excellence. The Fairfax campus is home to Northern Virginia's only pediatric ter-

tiary care center, Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children, and the region's only dedicated cardiac care facility, the Inova Heart and Vascular Institute.

Geared toward the unique treatment of children, the 186-bed Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children offers a full-service pediatric emergency department, the region's only pediatric intensive care unit and the first Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the nation to receive the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Prematurity.

The 204-bed Inova Heart and Vascular Institute is the area's leader in heart and vascular care, providing services for every stage of life. From pediatric cardiology patients to adults requiring minimally-invasive surgical procedures and heart transplants, the Institute's world-class specialists provide the most advanced technology dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 24

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.

FRIDAY/AUG. 26

Equal Employment Opportunity Technical Assistance Seminar. Crowne Plaza Tyson's Corner Hotel, 1960 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Presentations on EEOC policies and procedures, including legal updates and emerging EEO issues, new ADAAA regulations, national origin

and immigration discrimination in the workplace, equal pay and the law, using social media, credit checks and more. This seminar meets the yearly refresher training requirement for Federal agency EEO investigators. \$319-\$349. 703-291-0880 or eeoc.traininginstitute@eeoc.gov.

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like best about living in Great Falls?

— ALEX McVEIGH

Caroline Mahoney, Langley High School senior

"I've lived here my whole life, and I like the feeling that you can go anywhere, whether a restaurant or the Safeway and see people you know, and they always say hi, because we all have something in common living here."



Drew Rodey, Falls Hardware

"It's nice and small, we don't have the hustle and bustle of the bigger towns here. I also love the falls themselves, they're very peaceful and I like to do some climbing there."



Mia Belotti, Maison et Jardin

"Besides my mom's house, which is always a great place for Sunday dinner, I like that Great Falls has a small town feel to it. Our honorary mayor Mike Kearney, is a great part of Great Falls, he helps out with the Concerts on the Green, the Christmas Tree Lighting and a lot of things that keep Great Falls home-y and quaint."



Chat Grosvenor, personal trainer

"I love the Concerts on the Green. They're like a big picnic, you bring your own food, sit down on the lawn and see your neighbors at the same place every time."



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INSIDERS GUIDE

Join the Club

Optimist Club makes valuable contributions.

BY T.R. COOK,
PRESIDENT,
THE GREAT FALLS OPTIMIST CLUB

The Great Falls Optimist Club, celebrating 29 years of service to our community, is dedicated to meeting the needs of young people in our community; supporting activities that contribute to a better future for our children; promoting an active interest in good government; encouraging community service among young people; and developing optimism as a philosophy of life.

The activities and contributions of the Great Falls Optimist Club are funded by such fundraising activities as the sale of photographs by Hill Portrait Studios at the Fall Festival; ticket sales at the Optimist/Adeler Jewelers Childrens Egg Hunt & Spring Festival; an annual barn dance; and generous contributions from individuals, business and professional organizations.

Our activities focus on aiding and encouraging the development of local youth, and enhancing the sense of community in Great Falls and include an annual Oratorical Contest; funding family activities at homeless & women's shelters, and hospitals; supporting under-privileged students who are preparing for college; supporting

Kidz Clubhouse, a Great Falls non-profit organization that serves the needs of children and adults with disabilities, their families and caregivers; the Club has launched a Great Falls Teen Center at Langley High School; providing Thanksgiving dinners to families in need in the community; orchestrated the funding and construction of the Great Falls Playground which is located between the Library and The Grange; support Special Olympics and participated in coaching the Special Olympics Softball Team as well as local Scout troops and Little League Teams; contributed to the Analemma Society in support of their work to develop an astronomy education center and year-round activities for our community; contributed to the funding of Leo Santabello Park, which is located next to the library; contributed to the International Optimists "Pave the Way" Foundation, which provides ongoing scholarships for higher education; and contributed to and participate in Habitat for Humanity, Save the Farm and Turner Farm Park, Brogue Charities, the Fourth of July Celebration and Great Falls Friends, all of which undertake activities to benefit local youth; among many, many other activities. For more information, please visit us at www.greatfallsoptimist.org



Great Falls Optimist Club Oratorical Contest winners.



Optimist Club and Friends Annual Barn Dance, hosted by Linda Thompson at her barn, will be held on Oct. 1.



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OPINION

Getting Inside the Connection

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to be a part of providing more reader input. Let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an e-mail or call us, contact us on Facebook or send us a tweet.

We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an e-mail with feedback about our coverage.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc.

Email us a photo and a note about the event.

Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events.

EDITORIAL

We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public. In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers.

WHO TO CONTACT:

For Alexandria Gazette, Mount Vernon Gazette, Arlington Connection, Centre View or Potomac Almanac, contact Steven Mauren, smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

For Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon Connections, contact Kemal Kurspahic, kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

For Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connections, contact Mike O'Connell, moconnell@connectionnewspapers.com

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— MARY KIMM,

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LETTER

Welcome to Fairfax County

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Hello and welcome to Fairfax County! Congratulations for finding the best place in the country to live, work and play. Fairfax County is home to a fantastic public school system, top tier businesses, and some of the best parks and open spaces in the DC Metro region.

The Fairfax County Public School system, with a budget this year of \$2.2 billion, is consistently ranked among the best in America. In the June 2009 edition of Newsweek magazine, all eligible FCPS high schools were listed in the top five percent of public schools in the nation.

Fairfax County is also home to George Mason University, recently named one of the top five "Up-and-Coming Universities" by U.S. News and World Report. Mason is also recognized as one of the country's best value universities by Kiplinger's and one of America's

Best College Buys by Forbes magazine.

Fairfax County is home to 22 of the 50 fastest growing companies in the Washington, D.C., area. We are also home to eight Fortune 500 company headquarters: Capital One Financial, CSC, Freddie Mac, Gannett Corporation, General Dynamics, Science Applications International Corporation, Booz Allen Hamilton and NII Holdings. Hilton, Volkswagen and Northrup Grumman have all moved their corporate headquarters to Fairfax County in the last five years.

But it's not all big business here. About 97 percent of the companies in Fairfax County are small businesses with fewer than 100 employees and less than \$1 million in annual revenue. Fairfax County is a great place to start a business; over 1,600 companies opened their doors here last year alone.

Our business community is also diverse. Fairfax County is home to more than 350 foreign-owned firms, more than any other juris-

diction in the Washington area. There are 3,923 Asian-owned businesses in Fairfax County, with \$4.6 billion in sales and receipts, 30,688 employees and \$1.5 billion annual payroll.

Fairfax County is home to more than 48,000 acres of parks and open space. In 2010, our Park Authority won the coveted Gold Medal for Parks and Recreation from the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration — edging out New York City, Miami-Dade County and Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Fairfax County offers over 500 miles of hiking and biking trails, the majority of which are asphalt paved (although some remain natural). All of the Fairfax Connector buses are equipped with bike racks so commuting by bicycle has never been easier.

We also have a vibrant arts community. The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton allows visitors to watch artists in action, and hosts many wonderful events such as the Block Party coming up on September 3.

As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I am elected at-large by all registered voters in Fairfax County. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov or call my office at 703-324-2321. Thanks for making Fairfax County your home.

THE CONNECTION

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WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

9/11 Remembrance To Be Held at Village Green

On Sunday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m., the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Committee will hold its annual 9/11 Ceremony, which especially remembers the six citizens of the Great Falls community who died when Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. This year, the 10th Anniversary of 9/11, the ceremony will be held at the Village Green, where a "Remembrance Service" was held in 2002. Choir members from Christ the King Lutheran Church, Great Falls United Methodist Church and St. Francis Episcopal Church will join together to pay tribute in song to those who died.

This ceremony is open to all and ample parking is available at the Village Centre. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at the Great Falls United Methodist Church.

'A Taste of Austria' Comes to Great Falls

Chef Jacques Haeringer is presenting a special wine tasting dinner, Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 p.m. Michael Hoeffken will discuss the fine wines of Hillinger while dining on Chef Haeringer's special five course tasting menu of:

- ❖ Canapés served with Hillinger Secco
- ❖ Salmon Soufflé, with Pinot Noir Sauce paired with Hillinger Pinot Noir Eveline 2008
- ❖ Grilled Quail with Harvest Vegetables Gateau paired with Hillinger St. Laurent 2007
- ❖ Beef Wellington served with Hillinger Blaufrankisch Leithaberg 2008
- ❖ Fresh Raspberry Napoléon served with Hillinger Small Hill Sweet 2006

The cost is \$125 per person, all inclusive. To reserve space go to www.ChefJacques.com or call the restaurant: 703-759-3800.

OpenTable.com voted L'Auberge Chez Francois one of the 50 Best Restaurants in the United States for 2010.

Election Coverage

Follow all of the Connection's Tuesday, Aug. 22, primary coverage online at www.connectionnewspapers.com and on Twitter at @FollowFairfax.

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703-795-6943

The Safe Community Coalition's vision is a community where youth learn to make responsible, ethical decisions and where they are safe, healthy and free from alcohol and drug use.

Join us as we work together for our youth, our families, and our community!



INSIDERS GUIDE

The Artists Atelier, located in a Great Falls loft, is operated by the Great Falls Foundation for the Arts to provide affordable studio space to local artists. The Atelier currently serves 16 artists, most of whom are members of Great Falls Studios, a network of 101 artists who live or work in Great Falls. Most art displayed on the walls is for sale.



PHOTO BY
AL REITAN

Community Embraces Art, Artists

Great Falls is home to more than 100 working artists, and their impact is increasing

New arrivals to Great Falls will encounter a creative community of artists whose impact has become significant within the village—and the entire DC metro region.

More than 100 painters, photographers, potters, jewelry designers, quilters, sculptors, printmakers, weavers, wood carvers and other artists call Great Falls home. They are members of Great Falls Studios, a network of creative people that works to promote artistic expression and make Great Falls a more artful place. They are buttressed by efforts of a local non-profit community group called Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, which promotes arts education and is otherwise working to develop art opportunities and to reach out to non-artists in Great Falls.

“Quality of life improves in a community that embraces creativity, and some people are moving here in part because of the town’s artistic life,” says Laura Nichols, a potter who is president of Great Falls Studios. “We want to invite new residents to join us and take part. Our member artists have moved here from many parts of the US and from around the world, including creative people originally from Sri Lanka, South Korea, China, Pakistan, Iran, England, Israel, India and Argentina. We welcome new members because their distinct creative experiences lead to mutual growth.”

The first community arts event of fall is a big one: The Eighth Annual Great Falls Art Studios Tour. It is a free driving experience that takes visitors to the home-based studios of local artists to meet the artists where they work. This celebration of creativity has become a major regional event and will take place Oct. 15 and 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last year it generated more than 7,300 studio visits as art lovers from across the Metro area traveled to Great Falls, purchasing more than \$44,000 in high-quality art “Made in Great Falls.”

HERE IS A SUMMARY of what’s available to new residents (old ones, too) in Great Falls:

- ❖ Artists in our community. Great Falls Studios (GFS) is an all-volunteer membership organization of 101 working artists who live or work in Great Falls.

It encourages artistic expression, serves the professional interests of its members and functions as a community service organization. For more information, go to www.GreatFallsStudios.com. To join, call Laura Nichols at 703-901 7002.

- ❖ An arts foundation. Great Falls Foundation for the Arts (GFFFTA) is a non-profit organization working to expand opportunities for art education, expression and professional development. It administers an art school, gallery, and shared studio workspace, and is raising money to bring an art center to Great Falls. The group was founded by the board of Great Falls Studios, but operates independently, with its own board of directors. For more information, go to www.greatfallsfoundationforarts.org.

- ❖ Opportunities for learning. The Great Falls School of Art is a non-profit teaching facility founded by GFFFTA to offer art instruction to children, teens and adults. For more information, including a list of classes and workshops, contact the director, Terri Parent at parent.terri@gmail.com or visit the GFFFTA website. More than a dozen individual artists in Great Falls also teach in their home studios. Check the GFS website for names, contacts and artistic specialties.

- ❖ Space for artists to work. A large loft called the Artists’ Atelier provides 16 local artists with affordable studio spaces in a collaborative work environment. The artists sublease the space from GFFFTA. There is currently a short waiting list. For more information, contact Elaine Elinsky at elinsky@erols.com. The Atelier, at 1144 Walker Road, is open to the public. For hours, see the GFFFTA website.

- ❖ Annual Studio Tour. Great Falls’ signature art event is an annual free driving tour to visit artists in their home studios on back roads throughout Great Falls and at other venues across town. The tour, which is run by Great Falls Studios, has established the village as a “go-to” place for quality art. Over the past seven years, it has generated more than 17,000 visits to Great Falls art studios. This year the tour will be held on Oct. 15 and 16.

- ❖ Art exhibits and festivals. In addition to the annual Studio Tour, GFS organizes two annual art festivals where work by Great Falls artists is sold. These take place at the Village Green Day School—just before the holidays and in spring. GFS also hangs art exhibits year-round in Katie’s Coffee, Great Falls Community Library, The Tavern, Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Resort & Spa, and at other venues. Events are listed on the GFS website.

SEE ARTFUL PLACE, PAGE 18

Great Falls: The History of Place

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY
PRESIDENT/GREAT FALLS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Welcome to Great Falls! We gather together in a geographic cluster, united under a common zip code within the Dranesville District of Fairfax County. We call this place “Great Falls,” and view it as “our” semi-rural village with an identity, a sense of community, a vision for the future — and a sense of place. It is the history of this place that grounds us, gives us roots, and joins us together in a spirit of community that is substantial.

Some residents have a lineage and heritage in this place that reaches back to the very founding fathers and before. Most are fairly recent transplants, having come here in influxes of intelligence community hiring, the automation of government, the dot-com boom, militarization and aerospace initiatives, IT start-ups, entrepreneurs and providers of consulting services to business and government, etc., over the last 35 years. Originally a village of English, then Dutch and German settlers, followed later by the Irish and others, we are evolving into a melting pot of neighbors that probably represent every U.S. state and, very likely, most countries in the world.

LIKE THE HUGE OAK TREE (some heritage trees in Great Falls have lived longer than our nation’s union), the magnificent canopy of our daily expressions within this community extend and expand only as broad and wide as the mirror image of the roots we share together with those who have come before us. Our connection with the past educates our present and enlightens our future, binding us into a community on a journey toward a shared destiny. By regarding and honoring the ancestors of this place we call home, we sink our roots in and are nourished and fertilized by the stories of days gone by when “neighbor” was a sacred calling, and belonging to a specific physical “place” really mattered.

The Great Falls Historical Society (GFHS) is the keeper of the historical narrative for our community of Great Falls: “To

feel the pulse of earth where man has trod, and for the future, keep the past.”

A society of “history lovers,” we welcome your participation in gathering the story of “how things used to be” through personal oral history interviews, historic photo and artifact collections, the preservation of historic properties, publications of historic research, and the nomination of historic properties to the county, state, and national registers of historic places.

TAKE A TOUR around town to see the signposts of days gone by... In addition to the historic houses you can see peppered throughout Great Falls, noteworthy places include The Colvin Run Mill, The Colvin Run School House, Dante Restaurant & Leigh House, Fitzgerald’s Store & Sisson’s Landscaping along Colvin Run Road; The Grange and School House, Cornwell House, The Turner Farm, The Salem Baptist Church along Georgetown Pike; The Riverbend Park and Nature Center at Riverbend Road; the many dairy barns, historic houses and churches along Seneca Road and the canals along the Potomac River pointing to 19th Century water transportation along the river.

We invite you and your family to come, enjoy history with us at the following upcoming events:

- ❖ **Sept. 17, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, Oct. 8** - Celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War: Civil War Movies – Four Saturday Nights, The Great Falls Village Green, at Sun Down
- ❖ **Sept. 14** - Mosby’s Combat Operations in Fairfax County, Va., Presented by Charles Mauro, GF Library, 7-9 p.m.
- ❖ **Oct. 22** - Oktoberfest Potluck Dinner at The Colvin Run Mill: Colvin Run Oral Histories, Historic Music, Great Food, Colvin Run Mill, Barn & Picnic Area, 3-5 p.m.
- ❖ **Nov. 13** - Historic Colvin Run: Autumn Historic House Tour, Colvin Run Road, 1-5 p.m.
- ❖ **Dec. 18** - Battle of Dranesville – Dec. 20, 1861 – Memorial Service: Remembering the Battle, Praying for Peace, Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 7-9 p.m.
- ❖ **Jan. 11** - Seneca Road and the Potomac River, GF Library, 7-9 p.m.
- ❖ **Feb. 8** - The African-American Community At Seneca Road, GF Library, 7-9 p.m.
- ❖ **March 14** - Dairy Farmers Along Seneca Road, GF Library, 7-9 p.m.
- ❖ **April 11** - The Tibbetts Award Dinner & Tibbetts Award, Riverbend Cty Club, 2-4 p.m.
- ❖ **May 26** - Great Falls Day: The Seneca Area, TBD, 12-4 p.m.

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Cell-like Ice Formations in the Potomac

This type of ice formation forms during an early cold snap and it is remarkable how the form is developed. The reed sticking up out of the water into the cold air allows ice to form around the area of the reed at the surface. Since the water is constantly moving the edges of the ice are rounded resulting in a form that appears almost cell-like.

PHOTOS BY WALT LAWRENCE



Eastern Bluebirds Feeding Their Young

If you ever see a bluebird house in spring watch it carefully because it is probably occupied. Once the young arrive the parents seem to fly all day and night just trying to keep the young ones fed. This image was captured with a female perched on top of the house and the male headed out for more groceries.

INSIDERS GUIDE



Powdered Sugar-like Ice Formations on the Falls

This type of formation occurs when a dry snow falls and there is little, if any, other snow or ice on the rocks which can provide for some dramatic black white contrast.



Reflections of the Changing Colors of Fall

When the Potomac is flowing smoothly it provides a near perfect mirror for the ever-changing colors of fall foliage along the banks.

Rhythms of Great Falls

Something about Great Falls that I cannot show to my out-of-town guests.

BY WALT LAWRENCE

There is something about this place called Great Falls that I would like to show my out-of-town guests but it would be virtually impossible unless they are willing to make a commitment to live here for a number of years. As a long-time resident I have grown so familiar with the seasonal rhythms of the area, that they have become a part of me. It is these rhythms that remind me every day, not of a date on the calendar, but of a seasonal period in which I know what nature is doing and what I can expect to follow. These rhythms also move me to go out with my camera to capture the ever-changing landscapes of the Great Falls area.

WE HAVE ALL LEARNED that when "fall" arrives people will return from their summer vacations, the schools will reopen and the traffic will resume its nasty snarl. But on another level I have learned that the Potomac will slowly begin to recover to its more normal water levels as the fall rains arrive and the occasional storm or hurricane moves through. I also know that the river can take on an almost cappuccino-like color immediately after a storm, but it will slowly re-

turn to its more mirror-like black-green color, which reflects the changing colors of fall along its banks. The dogwoods will change colors early with the other trees

soon to follow. The deer will start to move around more in anticipation of mating season and that herds will begin to form and move through the area. Some of our birds will migrate south, and others will stop to rest or take up winter residence on the river from more northern climates.

IN "WINTER" with daylight getting shorter and temperatures

dropping the Potomac will begin to freeze. I know that the ice formations can take on many forms from simple cell-like formations around reeds that extend into the air from the bottom of the river to artful powdered sugar-like formations over the falls. As the river freeze extends into the winter the ice forms along the banks and forces

SEE COLORS. PAGE 15



Low Water After a Dry Summer

When we have an extended period of dry weather and the water levels are down significantly the river bed begins to offer new subject material for photography. I have heard stories that the water level has been low enough that people have walked or waded across the river at different times above the falls.



Spring Fishing for a Great Blue Heron

This image was taken in spring at the base of the falls. The great blue herons arrive in droves to enjoy the feast and sometimes they seem to get more fish than they can handle. The bird hit this fish then dropped it and the fish got away.



About the Author

Walt Lawrence maintains studio space, along with several other local artists, at the Atelier located at 1444 G Walker Road in Great Falls behind Dante Restaurant. If you would like to see Walt's collection of images of Great Falls call him at 703-757-6762 to arrange for an appointment.






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INSIDERS GUIDE

Changing Colors of Great Falls

FROM PAGE 13

the birds to congregate in the center of the river, which does not freeze completely.

Unfortunately for me this phenomenon moves the birds further away from my camera lens. Since the foliage and grasses have disappeared, the deer, fox and other animals will range further from their comfort zones in search of food and at certain times of the day I can expect to see specific types of animals on the move in the area searching for food. Their rhythms can practically be programmed into my calendar and clock. The birds too will need to work harder just to survive and are quite willing to accept offerings from every back yard feeder they can locate.

IN "SPRING" the Potomac will take on a much more threatening and dangerous flow as melting snow and spring rains drive the river deeper and faster. I have learned that the water will also take on a beautiful greenish white color as it has been enriched with oxygen on its swift trip down to the Chesapeake. The birds will return as they seem to know that the table has been set for them across the area. The herons, the cormorants and others seek out the fish that are running in the highly enriched water.

I know that in May and June I can expect to find a dozen or more great blue herons jockeying for position around the base of the falls as they seek out the best fishing spots. I can watch cormorants diving and bringing up fish several yards away as they toss their catch up into the air to ensure they swallow them head first. Young animals will be born and I can expect to see them hugging their mothers' sides as they move from one area to another or as they bed down in deep grasses. I have learned to expect to see young birds being fed by their parents and as they stagger into the air until they become accomplished flyers.

IN "SUMMER" I have come to expect the flows of water in the Potomac to subside and even dry up in places. Islands, previously unreachable on foot, will become accessible so I can extend my walks along the banks. As the water slows down it takes on a darker color and as the foliage along the banks thickens it blocks out the sun as well as the views along the banks. The animals grow quickly and they too begin to disappear as the foliage allows them to hide and the heat begins to slow down their movements. But I know that the views along the river will return as the seasonal rhythm begins to repeat itself and the leaves fall again.



Cappuccino-like Water After a Storm

If we get a significant rain in Great Falls or west of here then a day or two later we will see a major rise in the water levels going over the falls. In some cases the amount of the flow will be so deep that little, if any, of the falls is visible. The river picks up a lot of silt and debris under these circumstances and the water looks almost like cappuccino.

PHOTOS BY WALT LAWRENCE



Rare Piebald Buck

Piebald deer are rare in this area and this is the only one I have ever seen. He was very skittish and started to run as soon as he spotted me.

After living in Great Falls for many years and coming to appreciate these seasonal rhythms of the place I call home, I realize they have become a part of me. It is this that I wish I had some way to show my out-of-town visitors. I guess they will just have to either listen to my stories and look at my photographs or they could move here and experience it for themselves.



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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 24

Opera's Greatest Hits From Wolf Trap Opera's Alumni Stars.

8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Stephen Lord, conductor. Performers include Stephanie Blythe, Matt Boehler, Lawrence Brownlee, Tracy Dahl, Mary Dunleavy, Richard Paul Fink, Oren Gradus, Denyce Graves, Alan Held, Robert Orth, Eric Owens, Emily Pulley, Carl Tanner, and James Valenti. Tickets \$20-55. www.wolftrap.org.

The Influence and The Good Fight.

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 25

An Evening with The Greencards.

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

Patrick Henry Book Club.

1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. "Alphabet Juice" by Roy Blount, Jr. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Portrait Painting Demonstration.

7 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Jonathan Linton will select one of the audience to be his model. Free. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

The Temptations and The Four Tops.

8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. R&B hits. \$38 in-house, \$22 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/AUG. 26

Movies in the Park.

8:45 p.m. Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St. N.E., Vienna. Call for film and weather information. Free admission, bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. 703-255-7842.

Banjo Man.

10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Joe Pernice and Frank Padellaro at 7 p.m., Shawn Sky, JFK, Nando and Hunit Grand at 10 p.m.

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

English Conversation Group.

10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. English conversation group. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Pokemon League.

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

Writing Group.

11 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Freewriting. 703-790-8088.

John Prine with Richard Thompson.

8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Bluegrass, country, and folk. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 27

Billy T's Time Machine.

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

Kids Show: Ryan Buckle & Friends: Science You Can Sing To!

10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Ben Tufts and Friends: Craig Tufts Memorial Fundraiser.

4 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

The Pietasters and The Thrilltones.

9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.



"Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Yellowstone National Park" by Jan Bender. "American Grandeur," an exhibit of photographs by Great Falls photographer Jan Bender, is on display Sept. 2-29 at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The images of Yellowstone, Grand Teton, and Glacier National Parks were handcrafted with an old-fashioned camera and sheets of film and printed in a traditional darkroom. www.janbenderphoto.com or 703-430-9566.

Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association, Inc.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice. 703-293-6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Horticultural tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

Mary Chapin Carpenter with Loudon Wainwright III.

8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Contemporary folk and country. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

SHARE Food Drive.

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. At the Pimmit Hills Safeway, 7401 Colshire Drive, McLean and the Chesterbrook Safeway, 6244 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. SHARE's food pantry provides food and basic household supplies to needy families and individuals. steve.j.ni@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 28

Roger Henderson Memorial Benefit.

1 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Hot August Night: A Tribute to Neil Diamond.

7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. With Jammin' Java's Songwriters Circle featuring Shane Hines, Todd Wright, Anthony Fiacco and Luke Brindley. www.jamminjava.com.

Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers with Punch Brothers.

8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts,

1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Spanning rock, bluegrass, country, and jazz.

\$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 29

Fishing Fun for Kids.

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. For ages 6-8. Learn to cast a fishing rod, reel in a fish and practice fishing safely. Make a lure to take home. Catch sunfish and bass. Learn how to care for aquarium fish. Bring snacks, lunch, and a bathing suit and towel for the fish water maze. \$75 per child. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ or 703-222-4664.

The Great Zucchini.

10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Andy Davis, Josh Hoge and Kevin Daniel.

7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

English Conversation.

10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Karl Anthony Jazz Jam Mondays.

8 p.m. Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Straight ahead jazz by drummer Karl Anthony with guest musicians. If you play, bring your ax. 703-281-0070.

TUESDAY/AUG. 30

Goodnight, Sleep Tight.

7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Come in pajamas for stories and songs. Age 1-5 with adult. 703-938-0405.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN TUFTS

Craig Tufts, who shared his passion for nature at the National Wildlife Federation for more than 30 years, was most in his element when he was surrounded by nature. He "knew everything" about nature, a former colleague said.

Local Musicians Perform at Benefit

Benefit raises funds for Craig Tufts Environmental Education Award.

Craig Tufts was Chief Naturalist at the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) when it was housed in Vienna, and, then, Reston. For more than 30 years at NWF, Tufts shared his love of nature with children, families, audiences and colleagues. He promoted NWF's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program into national prominence, authored a book on wildlife and gardening, and appeared on television. His death in the summer of 2008 from brain cancer stilled the voice of someone who was passionate about nature and music. To those who knew him and worked with him, Tufts left a legacy that lives at NWF today.

His family and friends celebrate the life of Craig Tufts with an annual NWF scholarship for children to attend nature "summits," eco-tourist vacations held around the country.

On Aug. 27 at Jammin' Java, Craig's son Ben hosts a concert to benefit the scholarship fund. The Craig Tufts Environmental Education Award provides an award to a participant aged 8 to 18 and an accompanying adult. The award provides travel, room and board, and program fees.

"He is inimitable, one of a kind," said NWF coworker Ellen Lambeth of Vienna, who refers to Tufts in the present tense. "Anything you need to know, he knows about. Craig's thirst for knowledge is tremendous. He's still with me."

Tufts, who lived in Reston for several years, passed on his love of music to his oldest son, Ben. Now a band director for area

high schools, Ben Tufts has played for local bands, as well. On Saturday, Ben Tufts brings to Jammin' Java more than 20 musicians from the area to perform at the concert to benefit the Craig Tufts Environmental Education Award.

Now in its third year, the scholarship, funded by Tufts' family and the Wildlife Federation staff donations, continues to be awarded by NWF through an application selection process.

"Personality-wise, he [Craig Tufts] was one of the kindest, nicest and wittiest people I ever knew," said NWF colleague and librarian Sharon Levy, Vienna. "He knew everything. He was amazing."

"Craig knew the Latin names of plants as well as the common name," Levy said. "He was so eager to share his knowledge with everyone. He looked to everybody as a friend, he remembered everybody."

The Aug. 27 benefit concert at Jammin' Java on Maple Avenue, Vienna, begins at 4 p.m. and is for all ages. Tickets are \$10.

To learn more about the environmental education award, go to http://www.childrenandnature.org/news/detail/nwf_family_summits_craig_tufts_educational_scholarship_award_for_youth_8-18/.

"Every time I look around, I think of Craig," said Lambeth, who was on the committee to select recipients. "You can't beat the idea of scholarships in his name. The first recipients did very well. We think of them as the new Craigs of the world."

— DONNA MANZ

INSIDERS GUIDE

Brennan Maher, one of the Great Falls Historical Society's Summer Interns, interviews Jean Shea, a resident of Great Falls for more than 50 years — who, by the way, is his grandmother.



Discovering The Way Things Used To Be

Local GFHS interns learn the art of the Oral History Interview.

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY

Participants in GFHS' mini-summer intern pilot project selected "oral history" as the single most important way that the unique story of our community's past could be gathered. The oral history interview gathers spontaneous first-person commentary of life in the old days. A collection of oral histories allows us to weave together a narrative about daily life at a certain point in time in our place based on first-hand accounts. Tanya Beauchamp and Karen Washburn, two masters of the oral history research method and both noted local historians, provided training as well as guided practice to demonstrate the factors that make for an effective, insightful, and most important of all, respectful, interview.



Vince Marcoantonio, Audrey Bashar and Brennan Maher discuss ways to invite Great Falls seniors to share their experiences of life in Great Falls.

Beginning in mid-September, a team of interns including Audrey Bashar, Vince Marcantonio, Brennan Maher, and others, will be present at the Great Falls Farmers' Market every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so that residents who have lived in Great Falls for more than 50 years and all residents over 70 years of age may sign up to be interviewed about their memories of life in the early days in Great Falls. Please come by, sit with our team and your

neighbors and have a chat about what you love about Great Falls. Let's all participate in a collective effort to write the local narrative about our place, remembering and sharing the past so that those ahead of us can interpret life's markers, benefiting from the insights that only a collection of personal stories of life in this community can reveal.

We look forward to greeting you and chatting with you at the Great Falls Farmers' Market.

Helping Children Succeed

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a Chapter of Assistance League, is a nonprofit, all volunteer organization dedicated to promoting literacy and well-being through community-based philanthropic programs.

Our programs Operation School Bell Weekend Food for Kids, New Clothing for Kids, Reading and Math Readiness and Reading Express may interest you if you enjoy working with children and helping them succeed in school. Other programs

in the community are Operation Hugs Pillow Program, Assault Survivor Kits and Lullaby Program.

Contact Darlene at 703-848-0623 or Linda at 703-476-4650 for information about the next scheduled meeting or questions. We conduct a chapter meeting once a month and we are on Facebook. Be sure to visit our website: www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org that displays a calendar of upcoming events. You may also email: ALNorthernVA@yahoo.com.



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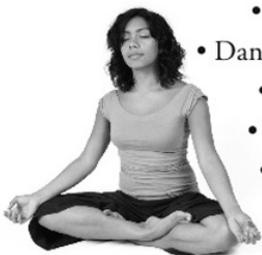
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INSIDERS GUIDE

Strong and Diverse Growth

BY GERALD L. GORDON

The last few years have brought the worst overall economic and financial situation this nation has faced since the Great Depression. Yet, at its height, the unemployment rate in Fairfax County never topped about 5.5 percent. Office space absorption continues and the vacancy rates have declined to about 13.3 percent, well within what is considered the healthy range.

This has been the case, despite the fact that several federal actions and pronouncements have had dampening effects on the county's economy. These include the uncertainties surrounding continuing resolutions, plans to in-source contracts from the private sector, and decisions to reduce Defense Department procurement over a three-year period.

The county's economy has remained stable throughout this difficult period because its economic base is not as dependent as it once had been on direct federal employment and government contracting. The most recent additions of non-traditional businesses (for Fairfax County) include the head-quarter operations of Volkswagen North America and Hilton Worldwide. Growth in the bio sector and other



FAIRFAX COUNTY ECONOMY

private-sector-oriented technologies complement the federal-related growth and the result is an economic base that is better able to withstand the shifting fortunes of one or a few industry sectors or even the economy as a whole.

This is not to say that the federal sector is not important. Fairfax County benefits in a great many ways from being

part of a "government town." We are proud also to have added in the last few years the global headquarters of CSC, SAIC, and Northrop Grumman to the list of extraordinary companies that call Fairfax County home.

As the population continues to grow and become increasingly diverse, the cost of public services continues to increase. However, in Fairfax County, given the growth in, and stability of, the economy, the Board of Supervisors continue to provide high quality public services while reducing the real estate tax rate that residents pay. Business growth has been strong and diverse, and all of the county's constituents — both businesses and residents — are the beneficiaries.

The author is President and CEO, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

Artful Place

FROM PAGE 10

❖ Online gallery. Residents can check out a gallery of locally created art on a new virtual gallery curated by Great Falls Studios. A new exhibition is posted at the start of each month. Go to the GFS website: www.GreatFallsStudios.com, where you can also explore web pages of many of the organization's artist members, complete with samples of their work.

❖ Serving Great Falls. GFS members give free talks to community groups about the stories behind their creations and organize periodic programs at the library

on the arts and art-related issues. To arrange for an artist to talk to your group, call Jan Bender at 703-430 9566. GFFFTA attracts regional talent to the community by organizing guest artist workshops at the Great Falls School of Art and sponsoring solo shows in the GFFFTA Gallery

❖ Special events. As part of their service to the community, artists in Great Falls organize special events that incorporate creative expression. This year,



PHOTO BY AL REITAN

Weaver Vad Moskowitz works at her loom, where she creates wearable art, in the form of special-occasion bags for women. Moskowitz is one of 48 local artists who will take part this year in annual Great Falls Art Studio Tour sponsored by Great Falls Studios. Since the tour began in 2003, it has generated 17,000 visits to home-based art studios in Great Falls. This year's tour will be held October 15 and 16.

GFS sponsored "Vote 2011: Wings Across Great Falls," a community-wide event to select a bird symbol for Great Falls. The art group enlisted the National Audubon Society, two elementary schools and seven other local organizations to partner with it in a series of events that included art exhibitions, natural history activities and art in the schools. As a result, Great Falls is now represented by a newly elected bird symbol: the Eastern Bluebird.

Sports Titles Abound at Langley, McLean High Schools

Once regarded as afterthoughts, Highlanders and Saxons have emerged as forces throughout the Northern Region.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

It used to be, not so long ago, that sports teams from McLean and Langley high schools were, for the most part, afterthoughts when it came to winning district, region, or state titles.

Well, that has changed in recent history as the overall competitive balance of the Northern Region, comprising four districts — the Liberty (of which both McLean and Langley are members), Concorde, Patriot, and National — has become more even across the board. No longer are schools with such rich athletic traditions as Robinson, Centreville, and West Springfield so far ahead of the rest of the region pack. Schools such as Langley and McLean, which in the past were less regarded athletically, have grown into consistent winners.

Three of the Great Falls-McLean area's top teams in recent years have been the Langley High boys' lacrosse program, as well as both the McLean High girls' softball and soccer teams.

The McLean girls' softball team captured its first-ever state AAA title two spring seasons ago in 2010. Head coach Maurice Tawil, during his prior years as the Highlanders' head coach, had seen the Highlanders become better and better with each passing year.

Finally, in 2010, the team got over the top and qualified for the state playoffs for the first time. Although that year's team lost in both the Liberty District and regional tournament finals to Madison, McLean won three straight games at states, including a 4-2 finals win over Lee-Davis High of Mechanicsville at Westfield High School, to win the state title. That team was led by junior ace pitcher Jamie Bell.

This past spring, although McLean did not reach the same heights, the Highlanders did make it to the region championship game, where it lost to Westfield, and qualified for states.

ANOTHER LOCAL powerhouse team has been the Langley boys' lacrosse squad under head coach Earl Brewer. The Saxons won their third straight state crown this past spring when they soundly defeated region rival Chantilly, 17-8, in the finals at

Westfield.

It had not been an easy postseason for Langley, which lost in a region semifinals game to Annandale. That meant the Saxons would have to beat West Springfield in

a third place consolation game in order to qualify for states. The Saxons did beat the Spartans and would, once again, have the chance to defend their state crown. They edged Battlefield High, 6-5, in a

Langley High School

Address: 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean
Phone (athletics): 703-287-2750
Mascot: Saxons
Colors: Dark green/gold
District: Liberty

McLean High School

Address: 1663 Davidson Rd., McLean
Phone (athletics): 703-714-5861
Mascot: Highlanders
Colors: red/silver
District: Liberty



The McLean High girls' soccer team won its first-ever state AAA title last spring.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



The Langley High boys' lacrosse team has won three consecutive state championships.

quarterfinals round game, then defeated the same Annandale squad that had beaten them a few days earlier. That set up a rematch with Chantilly for the state crown. The Chargers played Langley to overtime in the 2010 state finals. But the 2011 rematch was not that close a game as the Saxons prevailed.

"We've worked hard and come together as a team," said Langley senior attack player Mike Adams, who scored nine goals to lead the three-time champions. "This feels awesome. I knew when we stepped up nobody could beat us. And we definitely stepped up tonight. It wasn't any one individual. It was a team win."

THE MCLEAN GIRLS' soccer team broke through this spring to win its first state title. The Highlanders lost in the region finals to Woodson, 1-0, at Madison High School. But at states they defeated both Grassfield High of Chesapeake and Battlefield High to qualify for the finals versus Cox High of Virginia Beach.

There, the Highlanders trailed 2-1 nearly midway through the second half before storming back with three goals to win 4-2. Coach Rob Bouchard's squad had gone an incredible 9-1 over the entire postseason.

Other great seasons last school year came from the Langley boys' soccer team which reached the region finals; the Saxon boys' basketball team which continued to dominate the Liberty District with another title to its name; the McLean field hockey team which won the district tournament and reached the region finals; the McLean football team which went 8-2 in the regular season; and the dominant Langley girls' tennis team.

Green Bay was once known as Title Town USA because of the success of the Packers. Well, the Great Falls-McLean area high schools might not have reached such heights in the Northern Region but they've come awfully close.

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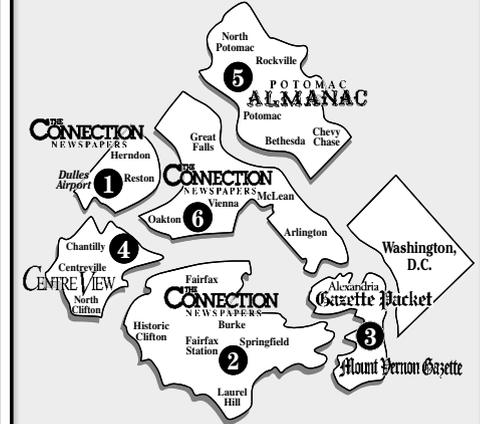
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SPORTS

The McLean MPS 94 Hotspur Green U17 boys' soccer team is looking for quality players. The team is coached by Ed Beach (B licensed), who has come to McLean to also coach the U17/18 U.S. Soccer Development Academy Program team in McLean. Beach's former Great Falls '91 Elite team won the last three consecutive Virginia State Cup titles. Interested players should contact Tom Hixon at 703-759-3805 or at tom.hixon@cox.net.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Great Falls boxer Jimmy Lange is scheduled to face "El Toro"

Muñoz of Topeka, Kan. for the World Boxing Union's (WBU) vacant 154-pound championship on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Patriot Center in Fairfax. The scheduled 10-round fight is set to begin at 7 p.m. Prior to the main event bout, there will be seven under-card fights featuring several local boxers.

Lange (36-4-2 record, 24 knockouts) has won his last five fights, including a unanimous win over Mike McFail this past June in Virginia Beach. The former star from season one of The Contender television show has headlined all 12 Patriot Center pro boxing shows dating back to September of 2005.

Lange's upcoming opponent, Muñoz (22-14-1, 16 knockouts), a native of Mexico, lost his last fight to undefeated top prospect Mike Jones in Philadelphia on June 25. Muñoz turned pro at age 18 and has faced world-class competitors such as Julio Cesar Chavez Jr., Hector Camacho, Austin Trout, Joel Casamayor, Yory Boy Campas and Alfonso Gomez.

The Mad 5K Run and One Mile Walk are scheduled to take place on Saturday, Sept. 24 at James Madison High School in Vienna. The event, scheduled to begin at 8 a.m., will benefit the Madison High cross country program. Awards will be presented to the top three male and female finishers, as well as age group award winners. T-shirts and refreshments will be available for all. Entry fee is \$15 for students, \$20 for adults. Register at: <http://www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS/> or contact Madison cross country coach Craig Chasse at craig.chasse@fcps.edu.

David Curtin, a golfer from Springfield, earned a silver medal at the recent Special Olympic World Games held July in Athens, Greece.

Curtin, at the World Games, represented Special Olympics Virginia for Team USA. He took silver in the men's 18-hole tournament with a cumulative 409 for his four rounds.

Curtin has participated in Fairfax County Special Olympics since he was a child, competing in golf, swimming, track and field, basketball, and softball. Last July, he won a gold medal competing in Level 5 Individual Play at the Special Olympics National Games in Lincoln, Neb. He recently played in the Azalea LPGA Pro-Am Invitational, teaming with LPGA golfer Stephanie Loudon.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Langley High football team is preparing for the upcoming new fall season under head coach John Howerton. The Saxons, who went 6-5 last year, open up the schedule with a game at Herndon on Thursday night, Sept. 1 at 7:30.

Brandon Kuter, a Robinson Secondary graduate and current baseball relief pitcher for George Mason University (GMU), was named Relief Pitcher of the Year of the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League (ACBL) this summer.

The ACBL is one of eight summer leagues sanctioned by the NCAA and is partially supported by Major League Baseball. Kuter's team, the Westhampton Aviators (N.Y.), is a part of the ACBL's Hampton Division.

Kuter, a hard-throwing 6-foot-7-inch right-hander and rising junior at GMU, was selected as the Hampton Division's Outstanding Reliever after posting 10 saves in 21 appearances. He allowed one run and struck out 36 batters in 22.1 innings for a 0.40 ERA. He recorded a save in the ACBL All-Star Game and was a key member of an Aviators' team, which captured the Hampton Division title. In the postseason division championship game, the Aviators defeated the North Fork Ospreys. Kuter was one of three Aviator pitchers who combined for the title game shutout.

The Third Annual Charity Hockey Classic, hosted by Inova Blood Donor Services, will take place on Saturday, Sept. 10 at Kettler Capitals Iceplex. The two contesting teams will be the Virginia Coaching Cardinals and the Booz Allen Minutemen.

The Minutemen will look to dethrone the Cardinals, last year's Charity Hockey Classic champions. Washington Capitals defenseman Jeff Schultz will be the special guest captain for the Minutemen.

The Cardinals, made up of youth hockey coaches from across Northern Virginia, handily defeated the NCR Eagles military team, 7-3, in last year's contest. The Cardinals roster includes coaches from local youth hockey programs, including the Ashburn Xtreme, Reston Raiders, Virginia Wild, NoVA Ice Dogs, Prince William Panthers, and Washington Little Caps. The Cardinals will be captained by Washington Capitals center and special guest Matt Hendricks.

Kettler Capitals Iceplex, home of the Washington Capitals, will host the event from 4 to 7. Other attractions and game entertainment will include a silent auction,

appearances by local celebrities, and a 'Mites on Ice' youth hockey exhibition. Tickets are \$10. For more information, contact Adam Bartholomew at Adam.Bartholomew@inova.org or visit www.charityhockeyclassic.com.

The Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) will be holding its annual Executive Board of Directors Election Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 8. The meeting will be held at the SYA Office, located at 5950 Centreville Crest Lane, Centreville, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The SYA Executive Board of Directors positions are for a one-year term and include the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Nominations are currently being accepted and may be submitted to the SYA Office at syaboard@verizon.net. Applicants must be in good standing with SYA and at least 21 years of age. The meeting is open to the community. For more information, contact the SYA Office at 703-815-3362 or go to syaboard@verizon.net.

The Virginia Diamonds AAU Girls Basketball Team for rising seventh graders will hold tryouts on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 28 from 3 to 4:30 at the Northern Virginia Sportsplex, located at 14810 Murdock St., in Chantilly. The tryouts will be held on court No. 2. Cost is \$10. For more information, call 703-463-6452 or go to vadiamonds@gmail.com.

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) has joined the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) effective for the upcoming 2011-12 academic year. With membership in the NJCAA, NOVA joins more than 500 two-year colleges with the opportunity to compete for national championships. In addition, the NJCAA awards prestigious academic and athletic All-American distinction to deserving student-athletes.

"We are thrilled to be joining the NJCAA," said NOVA President Robert G. Templin Jr.

For more information about NOVA's athletics programs, contact Brian Noweiler at 703-845-6206 or go to banweiler@nvcc.edu.

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