

# Great Falls CONNECTION

The Langley High School Madrigals perform at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial during last year's Veterans Day ceremony.

# Remembering 9/11

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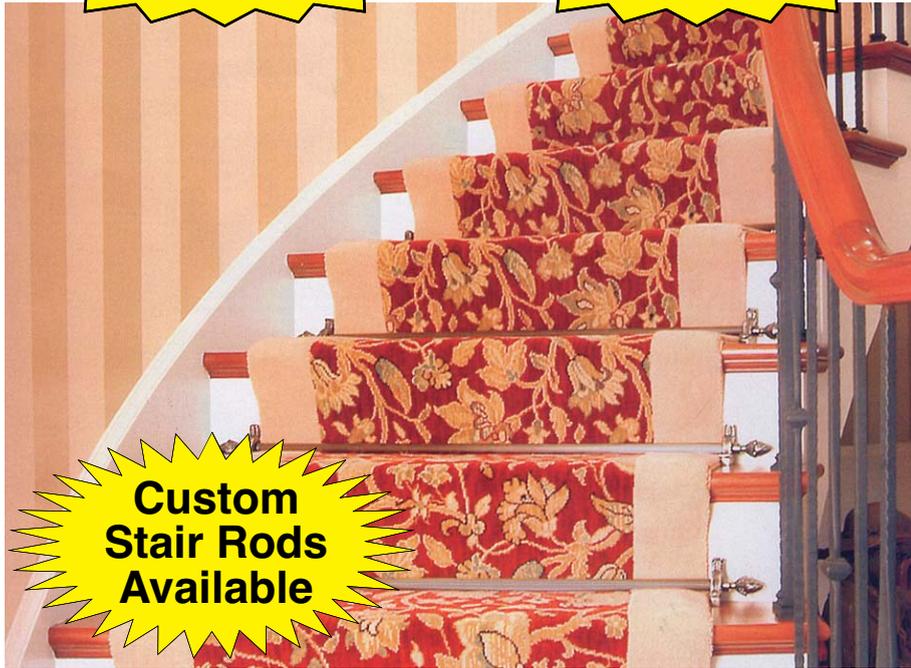
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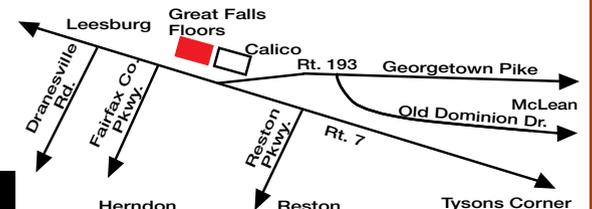
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# REMEMBERING 9/11

Community members recite the Pledge of Allegiance at this year's Memorial Day observance at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial.



PHOTOS BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION

## A Place to Reflect and Remember

Great Falls Freedom Memorial dedicated to those who have served.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Laura Dryden of Great Falls takes her daughter to the Great Falls Library at least once a week. And while Nicole, 7, is interested in picking up the latest children's book and going home to start it, once in a while her mom takes her on a detour. They don't have to walk far from the entrance to the library, just a few hundred feet on a path that leads to the Great Falls Freedom Memorial.

"Sometimes I'll just get the urge to take Nicole back there, and we sit on the benches and just take it all in," Laura Dryden said. "For me, it's a chance to really remember how things have changed over the past decade. Ten years ago I was in college, dating the man who would become my husband, and Nicole wasn't even here yet."

Dryden, whose grandfather and great-uncle served in the Navy in World War II, says one of the reasons she enjoys the Freedom Memorial is that it pays tribute to men and women like her ancestors, but also to the newer generation of Americans who serve their country.

"So much changed that day for so many people. Young men and women who had only seen maybe the Desert Storm conflict all of a sudden realized that there was a real conflict out there," she said. "Obviously there are conflicting opinions on the war itself, but the fact that so many people felt the need to serve their country after it was attacked is certainly admirable. And I look at

my daughter, who has never been alive when the World Trade Center stood, and I hope that the memorial helps her to appreciate all the people who have served this country, even as she grows older."

**THE PATH TO THE MEMORIAL** winds around the library, and six weeping cherry trees are along the path, representing the six Great Falls residents who died Sept. 11, 2001.

Retired Marine 1st Lt. Richard Gabriel, Ann C. Judge, Barbara K. Olson, Lisa J. Raines, Diane M. Simmons and George W. Simmons were all on American Airlines Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon that morning.

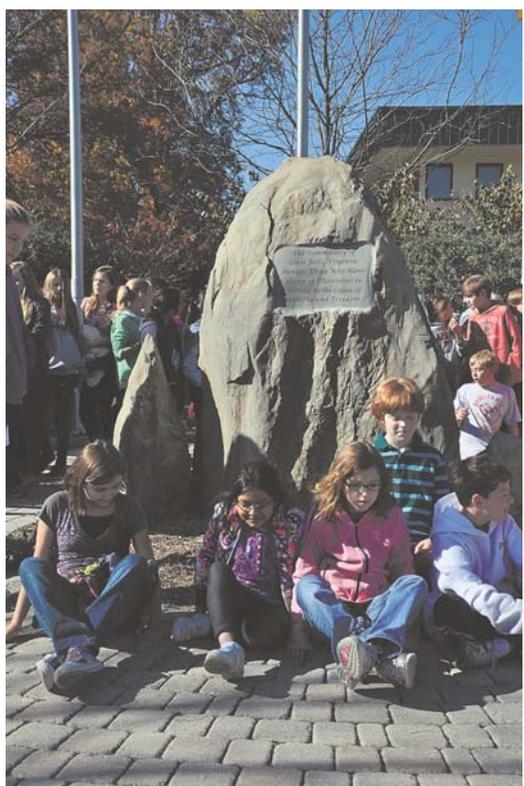
Pavers surround the center stone in concentric circles, and the plaza itself is bordered with granite blocks with words like "hope," "love," "honesty," and "grace." The words highlight virtues that people value the most when it comes to freedom.

Evan Blanda of Great Falls stopped by the memorial this past Sunday, taking some time from his Labor Day weekend to sit among the stones and trees.

"I was at a friend's yesterday watching college football kick off, and I'm getting ready to pick up my family for a barbecue, but as I passed by the memorial [going west] on Georgetown Pike, I felt compelled to stop by," he said. "Seeing the flags made me want to stop by and say, I guess, 'thank you,' to the people this place honors. We hear bad news shouted at us from every television, radio and newspaper these days, but when you stop and think about it most of the world

would love to enjoy the freedoms we enjoy every day, and sometimes it takes a random stop to a place like this to really appreciate it."

Dryden and Blanda are just two of hundreds of



Sixth graders from Great Falls Elementary School spend some time at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial.

SEE SEPT. 11, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY PAM BROOKS/THE CONNECTION

Pentagon, Sept. 11, 2001.

## Honoring Those Who Died

Sept. 11 ceremonies in our area.

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 11

#### Great Falls Freedom Memorial Committee Annual 9/11 Ceremony.

7 p.m. Great Falls Village Green, 768 Walker Road, Great Falls. Remembering especially the six citizens of Great Falls who died when Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. Choir members from Christ the King Lutheran Church, Great Falls United Methodist Church, and St. Francis Episcopal Church will join to pay tribute in song to those who died. Open to all. In case of rain, the ceremony will be held at the Great Falls United Methodist Church. eheberg@cox.net.

**9/11 Remembrance Ceremony.** 9:45 a.m. On the grounds of the Freeman House, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. With speaker Colonel David A. Lapan, USMC. Sponsored by American Legion Post 180 in cooperation with the Town of Vienna. 703-938-9535.

**9/11 Memorial Service.** 11 a.m. Antioch Christian Church Sanctuary, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. The public is invited to a service of remembrance and hope. Each guest will receive a special edition book titled "Never Forget." www.antiochdoc.org.

**Reston Association Tribute to Reston Victims and Servicemen.** 1 p.m. Freedom Grove near Brown's Chapel, Reston. Remembering and honoring all those who died in the events of 9-11. In tribute to the memories of four Reston residents, Norma Cruz Khan and Leonard Taylor who were aboard American Airlines Flight 77 that crashed into the Pentagon, Marine Lance Corporal Tavon L. Hubbard of the Command Element, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Division, four stones will be placed at Freedom Grove. Following the ceremony, there will be a musical tribute in the small pavilion at Brown's Chapel. Presentation of the Colors, live music and more. www.reston.org.

**Film Screening and 9-11 Commemorative Program.** 2 p.m. Sponsored by Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center at The Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States, local broadcast journalist Mike Walter will show and discuss his documentary film, *Breaking News Breaking Down*, examining the reactions and reflections of journalists. Free. 703-385-8414.

**The 10th Anniversary Patriot Day Ceremony.** 7-8 p.m. Veterans Amphitheater at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7850.

**Tenth Annual AARP-Wiygul Classic Car Show.** 10 a.m. Downtown Herndon at the intersection of Lynn and Station Streets. There will be a 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony as part of the Classic Car Show. Car show hours are 7 a.m.-3 p.m. www.aarpdulles.org/\_mgxroot/carshow2011/WebRegisForm.pdf.

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## REMEMBERING 9/11

### Sept. 11 Remembered

FROM PAGE 3

residents who stop at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial as part of their daily lives. The site hosts several annual events each year, but many people feel the need to stop by, sit on one of the benches and reflect in solitude.

"I have gone there a few times by myself, and sat on a bench, and wondered what it is all about, this thing we call freedom," said Glen Sjoblom, a member of the Great Falls Freedom Committee. "I have become more thoughtful about it since 10 years ago, and think the words that affect me the most are love, patience and perseverance. I also have thought about the boys who have gone into the wars, and hope they can all come home soon."

Sjoblom was the one who found the rock that sits in the center of the memorial. He saw it while driving on Riverbend Road, bordering a property.

"The rock symbolizes the ageless beauty of Great Falls and serves as a remembrance of all those who have given of themselves in the cause of liberty and freedom,"

reads the inscription of one of the signs on the path leading to the memorial.

**CARVED INTO THE ROCK** are the words "The Community of Great Falls, Virginia honors those who have given of themselves in service to the cause of liberty and freedom."

A candlelight vigil was held in Great Falls Sept. 11, 2002 and that's what inspired the idea of a memorial. Planning took several years, various designs were proposed and money was raised from local residents and businesses.

The first official ceremony at the memorial was Memorial Day 2005, and since then, each Memorial Day, Sept. 11 and Veterans Day people gather to pay their respects.

Inside the Great Falls Library, the Freedom Memorial Committee has compiled a book to honor Great Falls residents from throughout the years who have sacrificed their lives for their country.

This year, Great Falls will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks at a ceremony on the Village Green, Sunday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m.



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## BACK TO SCHOOL

# Keeping a Promise of Excellence

**School Board Chair, her opponent list school system priorities and challenges in a new school year.**

**A**t the beginning of the new school year, The Connection has asked the current Fairfax County School Board Chair Jane K. Strauss and her challenger in November elections as Dranesville District representative on the School Board — Louise Epstein — to respond to the same five questions regarding the county schools in 2011-12. Here are the questions and their responses.

**Q: How is FCPS system doing: What could be done better?**

**STRAUSS:** Student achievement, the most important measure of the success of FCPS, is at an all-time high. The Washington Post ranks all our schools in the top 6 percent nationally. Ed Week calculates that our graduation rate is 14 percent higher than would be expected given our student demographics. Overall student achievement continues to rise, as measured by SAT and SOL scores, AP/IB enrollment and pass rates and student earned industry certifications. The minority student achievement gap is narrowing and has closed in some schools. As for improvements, we need to place less emphasis

on high-stakes, fact-based standardized tests that tend to narrow the curriculum and stifle higher-level thinking skills.

**EPSTEIN:** FCPS has an excellent reputation. To be a world-class system, however, FCPS must provide better academic instruction to all students. Too many FCPS parents feel compelled to seek remedial tutoring and/or more advanced instruction outside of school. This makes it difficult for our children to enjoy activities like sports and music, to spend time with their family, or to get enough sleep.

**Q: What is the impact of budget reductions on quality of education?**

**STRAUSS:** Proportionately, more budget cuts were made in nonschool-based areas, such as central offices, maintenance and transportation. The central offices are at the lowest level in 10 years. Going forward, maintenance, equipment and bus replacement will eventually need more funding. Also the pay freeze must end if we are to keep quality in the classroom. Our teachers and staff will get a much-deserved raise this year.

**EPSTEIN:** Budget reductions affect schools differently. In some schools in Fairfax County, most classes have 17 to 25 students. However, our area has the largest classes

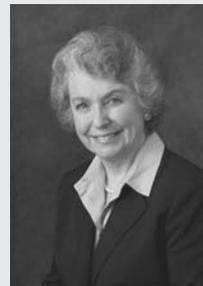
in the county. In some of our schools, classes routinely have 25 to 35 students. This inequity is due to FCPS-designed staffing formulas that my opponent supports, which divert FCPS budget resources away from our area.

Over time, FCPS has increased spending on equipment and initiatives called “instructional support,” while reducing funds spent on classroom instruction. FCPS did not have to increase class sizes, freeze teacher salaries, or charge high school athletes fees to survive the recession. We would be better situated if FCPS listened to teachers’ suggestions to reduce the use of eCART SOL-prep and other FCPS headquarters initiatives.

## Bio Note

### Jane K. Strauss

I have served 18 years on the School Board, am currently the Chairman and have been Budget Chair many times. I hold a master’s degree in teaching from Harvard and am a former classroom teacher, school PTA president and county PTA president. I am the mother of four FCPS graduates whose needs spanned special education, general education and advanced academics. I have 35 years of educational experience and advocacy in Pre K-12.



### Louise Epstein

is an experienced advocate who co-founded two bipartisan groups, FAIRGRADE and Fairfax Education Coalition, and is endorsed by Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform. Epstein also served as a PTSA and Booster president at TJHSST, PTSA budget chair at McLean HS, PTA vice president at Longfellow MS, Cluster 1 representative on the FCCPTA, and president of FCAG. Epstein graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School and lives in McLean with her husband and daughters.



**Q: What do you think is the single most important challenge for the school system at the beginning of the new school year?**

**STRAUSS:** The logistics of a smooth opening of the school year are critical. Our classrooms are fully staffed, equipped and ready, including the new 36 full-day kindergarten programs. Over 1,300 new teachers have been hired and trained out of an applicant pool of 30,000. Bus routes are established

and practiced and schools have held open houses. All is ready.

**EPSTEIN:** The biggest challenge is to make all students feel as comfortable as possible with their new teacher(s) and classmates.

**Q: What do you think of the recent controversy over the disciplinary policies in the county’s public schools: How did the School Board handle the public’s concerns?**

**STRAUSS:** After listening carefully to the community, we have made thoughtful changes to the disciplinary process. Parents will be called immediately if it is suspected that their child is involved in serious misbehavior. For the 1 percent of students who do go through the discipline process, immediate academic and social/emotional support will be provided, the entire process will be shortened and fewer transfers from neighborhood schools will be made. Parents who are going through the hearing process will be surveyed to gauge how the changes are working.

**EPSTEIN:** I am the only Dranesville School Board candidate endorsed by Fairfax Zero Tolerance Reform. After student suicides resulted in adverse press, School Board members initially denied that FCPS had a zero tolerance process and claimed that state law mandated FCPS’ punitive rules. When those assertions were discredited, FCPS fixed some problems. However, the School Board fell short on a critical reform — parental notification. My opponent voted no and I will fix this. If schools can call a parent when a child is ill, they should be required to call when a student may be suspended.

**Q: You are both running for the School Board in upcoming elections: What would be your top priorities if elected?**

**STRAUSS:** Class sizes need to be reduced by reversing the one-student increase in the staffing formula made early in the recession. Regular summer school must be restored and the remaining portion of the athletic fee eliminated. Over time, we must increase the use of online learning in order to maximize the high-value teacher/student face-to-face class time. A better mix of online and traditional courses would also give students more flexible use of their own schedules.

reaucrats — know best about what works and what doesn’t. Often, valuable improvements need not increase costs. For example, adopting FAIRGRADE’s proposals to bring back upper-level, high school honors courses in English and social studies should cost nothing.

I also will improve transparency and accountability. Information used to make decisions should be published without a Freedom of Information Act request. FCPS should also restructure its Audit Committee and internal audit and program evaluation programs, to ensure independent and objective evaluations of FCPS management.

**EPSTEIN:** My top priority will be to improve instruction by working closely with our classroom teachers. Teachers — not bu-



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

**The Langley High School Class of 2011 applauds before taking their seats for the graduation ceremony at DAR Constitution Hall on Thursday, June 16, 2011.**

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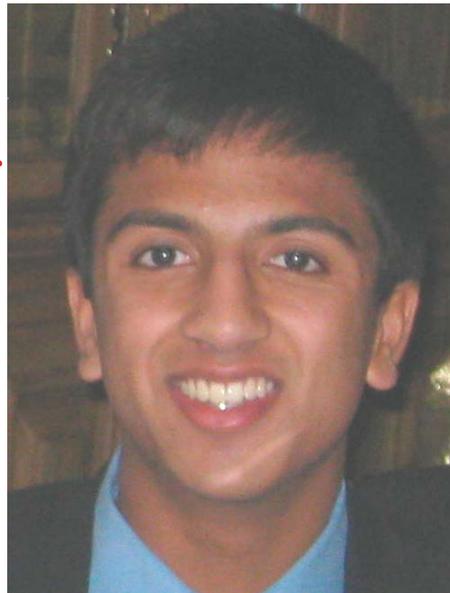
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## PERSPECTIVES

# History Preserved at Colvin Run

**Colvin Run Mill: An example of American innovation and success.**

BY GOVIND S. MATTAY



**Govind S. Mattay**

America experienced rapid growth in multiple sectors during the market revolution (1793-1909). In the upper South, agriculture boomed as many plantations switched from tobacco to wheat as the main cash crop. At the same time the industrial sector thrived in the north as factories used machines to curtail labor costs. Furthermore, railroads, canals, and roads built during the transportation revolution allowed goods to be transported to a wider populace. All of this growth and change is embodied in the quaint Colvin Run Mill, fittingly located at the geographic bridge between the North and South in Fairfax County. Colvin Run Mill represents the importance of both Northern and Southern technological contributions to economic success in a time period of rural and urban clash.

Even before the mill was created, some of America's greatest minds were involved in Colvin Run. George Washington recognized the property as an ideal location for a mill and owned this property for over a decade until his death. Oliver Evans, a man who was heralded by Washington and is now considered the father of American industry, invented the technology that served as a foundation for the construction of the mill.

**A LARGE WATERWHEEL**, 20 feet in diameter, was constructed to harness the current and power the mill, generating 26 horsepower. All of this power was converted by wooden gears in order to turn the one-ton grindstone. Evans' ingenious inventions, described in Young Millwright's and Miller's Guide, were used at Colvin Run and utilized gravitational energy to automate the process of grinding flour and transform it into one flowing motion. Prior to this, mills required the work of seven men. However, Evans' inventions only required that the miller adjust the machinery. This technology improved the efficiency of the mill and enhanced the quality of the flour.

Colvin Run Mill was initially used to support local markets, but its efficiency quickly allowed it to expand. From the time the mill was first built until it ended commercial grinding in 1934, Colvin Run Mill took individual orders from the local farmers in the surrounding neighborhood, a process known as custom milling.

These small farmers depended solely on Colvin Run to grind their wheat into flour and to convert their crops into cornmeal and

grits to feed their families. Colvin Run's support for these farmers and its economic success are demonstrated in the fact that the mill was the center of the community.

As the mill flourished, many shops and other community needs were built around the mill. A blacksmith, saw mill, general store, and post office were located in close proximity to the mill to support the growing community. The mill also became a center of commerce, a place where businessmen would meet and discuss transactions. Colvin Run Mill was an essential part of the local community, a center of social and cultural life, and its economic success allowed the community to expand and prosper.

The mill began to sell its flour internationally as technological advancements spurred economic efficiency and local infrastructure was improved during the transportation revolution. During Philip Carper's ownership (1811-1842), Colvin Run switched from being a custom mill grinding for the neighborhood to a merchant mill that bought and sold wheat and flour. Such a switch ensured economic stability, as the mill no longer depended solely on milling fees paid by local farmers.

**AS A MERCHANT MILL**, Colvin Run increasingly depended on the Alexandria-Leesburg turnpike, which connected it to the fertile wheat farms of Loudoun County and the port of Alexandria. New Southern farming techniques that prevented erosion and soil exhaustion resulted in large increases in wheat output.

Simultaneously, the opening of foreign markets resulting from the lift of embargoes that came with the end of the War of 1812 allowed farmers to make more money by exporting their crops internationally. Both of these factors contributed to thriving business as farmers hauled their wheat along

SEE PRESERVING HISTORY. PAGE 9

## Shop Great Falls

# Great Falls Village Centre

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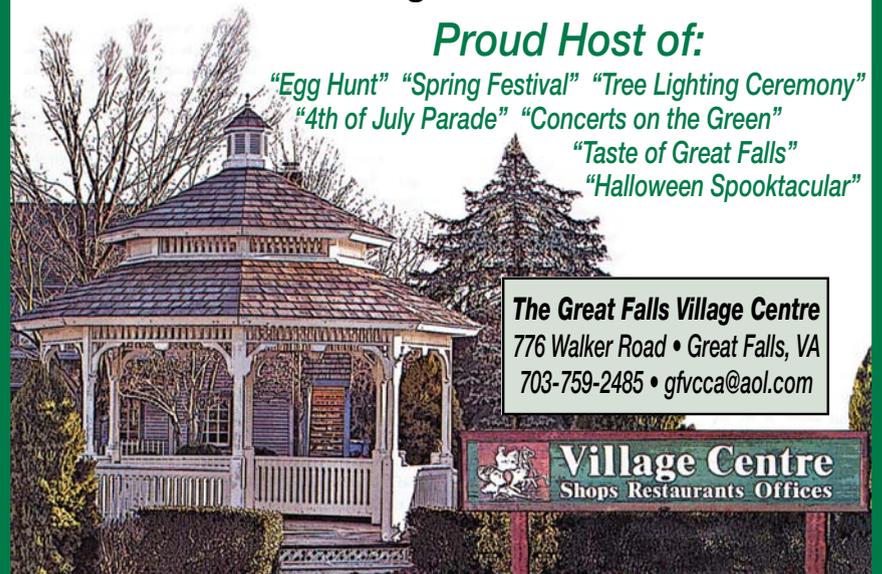
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## Remembering Local People Who Died on 9-11

Excerpts from <http://pentagonmemorial.org/learn/911-pentagon>:

“Sept. 11, 2001 was a warm, sunny day in Washington, D.C. That morning, five hijackers passed through security at Dulles International Airport at approximately 7:35 a.m. They boarded American Airlines Flight 77 bound for Los Angeles. At 8:20 a.m., Flight 77 departed Dulles International Airport 10 minutes delayed. When the plane took off, it had 64 people on board: a crew of six plus 58 passengers, including the five hijackers with their weapons.”

“The last routine radio communication with American Airlines Flight 77 occurred at 8:51 a.m. It seems likely that between 8:51 and 8:54

a.m. over eastern Kentucky, the hijackers made their move and took over the plane.

### EDITORIAL

“Immediately following the takeover, Flight 77 made an unauthorized turn to the south. At 9 a.m., the plane turned eastward from a point near the junction of West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky.

“Tracking Flight 77 would not have been easy, even if controllers had been able to identify which plane to follow. Its transponder, a transmitter that broadcasts the course, speed, and altitude of the airplane, was turned off at 8:56 a.m. For air traffic controllers, the lack of a transponder signal meant they could not find the Boeing 757 until it crossed the path of a ground-based radar.

“At 9:33 a.m., Flight 77 turned south and

headed for the Pentagon. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport tower passed to the Secret Service Operations Center in Washington, D.C. the alarming word that ‘an aircraft is coming at you and not talking with us.’ A minute later, the plane turned south below Alexandria, circled back to the northeast, and flew toward Washington again.

“At 9:37:46 a.m., American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.

“The Pentagon’s on-site firehouse responded immediately to the crash. Firefighters from nearby Reagan National Airport and Arlington County Fire Department arrived within minutes.

“One-hundred-and-eighty-four lives were lost at the Pentagon that day.”

## Local People Who Died in Sept. 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks

The following list of people who lived in Connection Newspapers coverage area and died in the Sept. 11 2001 terrorist attacks, is compiled from multiple sources, including news reports, and is likely not complete. The Pentagon Memorial website offers photos and biographies of most people who died at the Pentagon. <http://pentagonmemorial.org/explore/biographies>

Spc. Craig Amundson, 28, Fort Belvoir, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Lt. Col. Canfield D. Boone, 54, Clifton, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Charles Burlingame, 51, Herndon, employed by American Airlines, died on AA Flight 77

Rosa Maria Chapa, 64, Springfield, employed by Defense Intelligence Agency, died in Pentagon

Eddie A. Dillard, Alexandria, employed by Philip Morris, died on AA Flight 77

Capt. Robert Edward Dolan, 43, Alexandria, employed by U.S. Navy, died in Pentagon

Charles A. Droz III, 52, Springfield, employed by EM Solutions Inc., died on AA Flight 77

Gerald P. Fisher, 57, Potomac, Md., employed by Booz Allen Hamilton, died in Pentagon

1st Lt. (Ret.) Richard P. Gabriel Sr., 54,

Great Falls, employed by Stratin Consulting, died on AA Flight 77

Diane M. Hale-McKinzy, 38, Alexandria, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Stanley R. Hall, 68, Centreville, employed by Raytheon, died on AA Flight 77

Brady K. Howell, 26, Arlington, employed by U.S. Navy, died in Pentagon

Lt. Col. Stephen Neil Hyland Jr., 45, Burke, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Bryan C. Jack, 48, Alexandria, employed by Department of Defense, died on AA Flight 77

Steven D. Jacoby, 43, Alexandria, employed by Metrocall, died on AA Flight 77

Ann Judge, 49, Great Falls, employed by National Geographic Society, died on AA Flight 77

Norma Cruz Khan, 45, Reston, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Assn., died on AA Flight 77

Terence M. Lynch, 49, Alexandria, employed by Booz Allen Hamilton, died in Pentagon

Ada L. Mason-Acker, 50, Springfield, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Lt. Gen. Timothy J. Maude, 53, Fort Myer, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Mark McGinly, 26, Vienna, employed by

Carr Futures, died in World Trade Center

Patricia E. Mickley, 41, Springfield, employed by Department of Defense, died in Pentagon

Khang Ngoc Nguyen, 41, Fairfax, employed by Navy contractor, died in Pentagon

Barbara K. Olson, 45, Great Falls, attorney, died on AA Flight 77

Maj. Clifford L. Patterson Jr., 33, Alexandria, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Capt. Jack D. Panches, 51, Clifton, retired from U.S. Navy, died in Pentagon

Lisa J. Raines, 42, Great Falls, employed by Genzyme Corp., died on AA Flight 77

Todd H. Reuben, 40, Potomac, Md., attorney, died on AA Flight 77

Charles E. Sabin, 54, Burke, employed by Department of Defense, died in Pentagon

Marjorie C. Salamone, 53, Springfield, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Cmdr. Robert Allan Schlegel, 38, Alexandria, employed by U.S. Navy, died in Pentagon

Mark E. Schurmeier, 44, McLean, employed by Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp., died in World Trade Center

Janice M. Scott, 46, Springfield, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Michael L. Selves, 53, Fairfax, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Diane M. Simmons, Great Falls, died on AA Flight 77

George W. Simmons, Great Falls, retired from Xerox, died on AA Flight 77

Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith, 55, Alexandria, retired U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Norma Lang Steuerle, 54, Alexandria, died on AA Flight 77

Lt. Col. Kip P. Taylor, 38, McLean, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Leonard E. Taylor, 44, Reston, employed by XonTech Inc., died on AA Flight 77

Sandra C. Taylor, 50, Alexandria, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Sandra D. Teague, 31, Fairfax, employed by Georgetown University Hospital, died on AA Flight 77

Karl W. Teepe, 57, Centreville, employed by Defense Information Agency, died in Pentagon

Meta L. Waller, 60, Alexandria, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Ernest M. Willcher, 62, North Potomac, Md., employed by Booz-Allen Ha.m.ilton Inc. died in Pentagon

Maj. Dwayne Williams, 40, Lorton, employed by U.S. Army, died in Pentagon

Vicki C. Yancey, 43, Springfield, employed by Vredenburg Co., died on AA Flight 77.

### VIEWPOINTS



**Cindy Stewart, Vienna**

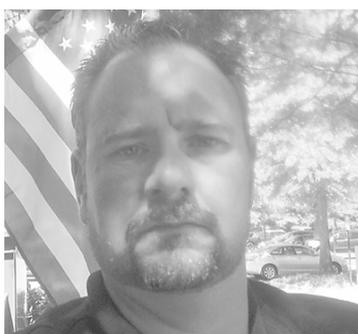
“I am more anxious about big crowds and using mass transportation. However, I find myself more conscious of the preciousness of life — of the ordinary and soothing routines that comprise each day. I also value in a deeper way the connection to family and friends and the blessings bestowed upon me.”

## How has your world changed since 9/11?



**Diane Abel, Vienna**

“I was in New York watching the finals at the U.S. Open on Sept. 10 with a good friend. We took the train home on Sept. 10. The next day I was cleaning, watching TV, and saw the plane going into the Twin Towers. I went back to the U.S. Open again last year but I just can’t go this year, it being the 10th anniversary of 9/11. I wouldn’t say it’s scary but it’s a feeling.”



**Brian Cramp, Vienna-raised**

“September 11th affected me on a very personal level. I lost my long-time friend Mark Ryan McGinly. Mark was on the 92nd floor of the North Tower of the World Trade Center. What I’ve learned since Sept. 11 is to not take life for granted. Each and every day I tell my family and friends how much I love and miss them.”

— DONNA MANZ



**Ingrid Knowlton, Reston**

“The security, all the security, everywhere. For me, it’s being prepared for an attack the best you can, and stressing the importance of it to your children without frightening them. You have to be prepared the best you can but you can’t stop living your life.”

## PERSPECTIVES

# Preserving History in Great Falls

FROM PAGE 7

the turnpike, had it ground at the mill, and then ultimately sold the flour in the ports.

As more of the flour from Colvin Run was sold in the West Indies, New England, and the Mediterranean, the small community gained credit in domestic and foreign markets, which in turn resulted in more economic prosperity.

After Carper sold the mill in 1842, Colvin Run Mill enjoyed even more economic success under the initial ownership of John Powell. The transportation revolution yielded steamboats traveling along the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay, as well as an expanding network of railroads, and the base of customers for flour increased exponentially. This transportation boom also allowed the flour at Colvin Run to be transported more efficiently to warehouses in Fredericksburg and Alexandria before being sold.

As the years progressed and America's population steadily migrated away from the farms and towards the cities, milling was no longer a central service to the local community. Ultimately Colvin Run Mill's

access to water was cut off by the widening of the Alexandria-Leesburg turnpike. With no current to power the waterwheel, Colvin Run Mill was abandoned.

Ironically, the turnpike that had spurred the rapid economic boom at the mill was also the cause of its decline.

The Fairfax County Park Authority recognized the mill's central role in the community in earlier years and purchased the property in 1965. Three years later, work began to restore the dilapidated mill and still continues to this day. Presently, the waterwheel at Colvin Run turns once again and the mill is a local tourist site.

Colvin Run Mill serves as a significant example of the intersection between agriculture and technology. Now, Colvin Run Mill is the only surviving mill displaying Oliver Evans' technology and it stands as a testament to the importance of milling in American history.

*The author is a rising senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.*

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Ashley Wells, *Lost in Thought*, 18" x 12" acrylics on canvas

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# Who Makes Cancer Research Possible?

## An invitation to get involved.

BY JEAN CARD  
THE CONNECTION

**H**ow does a relatively shy person ask friends and family, let alone complete strangers, to donate their hard-earned dollars? We are all asked many times over to give to worthy causes. How do you ask people to make your cause their priority? I'm trying to figure that out right now.

In February, I was diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia (APL). It was quite a ride, but today I am in remission with fantastic prospects for a "normal" future. I am incredibly lucky.

It started with a lot of unexplained bruising ... actually two matching bruises on the back of my hands. A couple of weeks later, my partner Stuart pointed out a massive bruise that covered my entire lower back; so on a Monday morning I went in for a rou-

tine blood test.

That evening, I received a phone call from the advice nurse. After what seemed like a million questions, she had me go to the emergency room, with the following admonishments: I was not to drive myself, I was not to use anything sharp and I was under no circumstances to fall down. I had almost no platelets, the type of blood cells that clot, and so was at risk of severe, potentially life-threatening bleeding.

I was sent home that night with an appointment for a bone marrow biopsy in the morning. Everything seemed to go fine with the biopsy; we stopped for some lunch and by the time I got home, I was gushing blood from my biopsy site. While I was in the process of calling to find out what to do, the triage nurse from the oncology practice called to say they were booking a room for me in the hospital for transfusions. My platelets had dropped even more and I had absolutely no immunity to anything (my kind of leukemia features white blood cells that do not mature properly to provide natural protection to infection). I would



PHOTO BY STUART MOLL

**Stuart Moll and Jean Card. "Stuart cut his waist-length hair to support me, while I took the opportunity to play around as my hair thinned dramatically during chemotherapy treatment for leukemia. Happily, all the gray went first, and has yet to come back."**

probably be home that evening, she said, but pack a bag, just in case it ends up being overnight. One day shy of four weeks later, I left the hospital.

When I left the hospital, because I was immuno-compromised I saw very few people, beyond my family; I saw friends a couple of times

when I had confirmed my counts were good and they definitely felt healthy; had to limit what I ate (nothing fresh and uncooked); and avoided a lot of places, especially crowds. I was home from work for almost six months.

I am incredibly lucky. I responded to all treatments as expected and tolerated much of the chemotherapy with relatively mild side effects — at least as far as anything I have to compare it to. But there are many, many families still looking for their luck: the discovery that will make treatment easier, or more effective, or less scary.

In the case of APL, it turns out a form of super-charged vitamin A is the miracle drug. My mother and I have had more than one conversation about how it's possible for someone to figure that out. Who comes up with an idea like that? Who keeps coming up with the ideas to try this or that, in this or that combo, for this or that duration?

And it seemed like I had the most bizarre, specific chemotherapy treatment (it appears all cancers have their own bizarre,

specific treatments ... I didn't know that before). Four days of one medication intravenously, every other day. A month later, four days, in a row, of the same medication, at half the dose; then a month later, three days, in a row, of a different medication. And finally a month later, two days, in a row, of the original medication at the original dose. All the while, still taking my super-charged vitamin A.

And now I have an equally bizarre, specific maintenance routine. For four 90-day cycles I will take nine pills (five in the morning, four in the evening, with food) for the first 15 days. For all 90 days I will take another medication once a day (four pills, on an empty stomach) and once a week I will take another medication (12 pills, because it only comes in a small dosage, also on an empty stomach). Who figures this out so that I can have the best prospects for a leukemia-free future?

I guess I don't really care who, I just care that someone does. I care that they have money to fund re-

SEE SUPPORTING, PAGE 11

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 8

**Happy Hearts Senior Adult Fellowship Potluck Lunch.** 12:30 p.m. Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Discussion about the effects of 9-11 and games. Open to the public. Bring a favorite food dish. Chicken provided. \$2 donation. 703-938-6753 or [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org).

**Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Lunch in Luxury.** 11:30 a.m. 2941 Restaurant, 2941 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. With speaker John Evans, author of "Embrace the Tiger." \$40 members, \$50 non-members. [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

**VTRCC Young Professionals Mixer.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Sofios, 1477 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 201, McLean. Complimentary appetizers, wine and beer. Free, reservations required. [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 9

**Mothers First Monthly Support Group.** 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Support group for at-home mothers. Moms and children welcome. [www.mothersfirst.org](http://www.mothersfirst.org).

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

**Estate Sale.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Prints, paintings and other wall art, estate furniture including wicker, over 30 boxes of children's books, vinyl records

including entire set of Deutsche Grammophon Beethoven recordings and more. Farm's Book Store also open with 15,000 books sorted into 80 categories. Cash, checks, credit cards accepted. Free parking. Rain or shine. [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org).

**Vienna AAUW Open House.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Learn about upcoming lectures by noted authors and advocacy to fight sex discrimination; entertainment and local tours, book clubs, gardening and dining groups. Free. 703-321-7499 or [www.aauwofva.org/branches/vienna](http://www.aauwofva.org/branches/vienna).

**Avoiding Divorce Court I: How to Negotiate or Mediate a Property Settlement Agreement.** 10 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. An experienced divorce attorney on a comparison of mediation and negotiation and provide tips, strategies and pitfalls to avoid and a general discussion of issues commonly addressed in an agreement. \$30-\$70. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 11

**DivorceCare and DivorceCare for Kids.** 11 a.m. McLean Presbyterian Church, 1020 Balls Hill Road, McLean. First of thirteen weekly sessions. 703-821-0800.

### MONDAY/SEPT. 12

**Why Good Wills Go Bad.** 10 a.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A free presentation by attorney David G. Hoffman with a discussion of Virginia will law, organizing assets, when to change your will, talking to an

executor, reducing probate, will copies, do-it-yourself tax plans and more. 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Family Abuse – What Is It and What Can You Do About It?** 6:30 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Identify and learn how to deal with the pattern of coercive behaviors associated with family abuse, including physical and sexual violence, threats of violence, emotional and psychological intimidation, verbal abuse, economic and financial control, spiritual abuse, and destruction of property. Honorable Judge Thomas P. Mann, Chief Judge, Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, will speak on learning about the Protective Order court process from Intake through Trial. Free. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 13

**Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Meeting.** 9:30 a.m. Fairfax County Government Center, Board Auditorium, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903.

**Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce TIPS Luncheon.** 12:15 p.m. Shula's Steakhouse, 8028 Leesburg Pike, in the Tysons Corner Marriott. Every Tuesday. 703-862-4895.

**NARFE Vienna Chapter 1116.** 1:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. With Nancy Scesney, who helps plan decluttering projects. Free. 703-938-6580.

## 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.

**St. John's Episcopal Church,** 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean, will hold their Homecoming Celebration on Sunday, Sept. 11. The Worship service is at 10 a.m., followed by the annual Homecoming picnic, Church School registration, and Ministries Fair on the front lawn. There will be a moon bounce for the children. 703-356-4902 or [www.stjohnsmclean.org](http://www.stjohnsmclean.org).

**Christ the King Lutheran Church,** 10550 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, will mark the beginning of the Sunday School year for all ages on Rally Day, Sunday Sept. 11. To celebrate, the Church will host a Rally Day BBQ on the front lawn following the 11 a.m. service. Members and visitors are invited to join in the fun, including burgers and dogs and all the fixings. [www.gflutheran.org](http://www.gflutheran.org).

**Epiphany United Methodist Church,** 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, has an Adult Sunday School class that will begin studying John B. Cobb's book *Spiritual Bankruptcy: A Prophetic Call to Action* on Sunday, Sept. 11. Coffee at 9:30 a.m., class at 9:45 a.m. [office@epiphanyumc.com](mailto:office@epiphanyumc.com) or 703-938-3494.

**Antioch Christian Church,** 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, is hosting a Memorial Worship service for the 10 year Anniversary of 9-11 on Sunday, Sept. 11 at 11 a.m. in the church sanctuary. The public is invited to this service of remembrance and hope. Each guest will receive a special edition book titled "Never Forget." [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org).

**Unitarian Universalist Congre-**

**gation of Fairfax,** 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, seeks female actors for production of "Mother Wove the Morning", a play by Carol Lynn Pearson. All ages and types needed. Play will be performed Oct. 21-22 and proceeds benefit The Fistula Foundation. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, Sept 13. Schedule an audition appointment at [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org) or [scbennett@cox.net](mailto:scbennett@cox.net) 703-281-4230.

**Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church,** 9201 Leesburg Pike in Vienna, has a 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service through Sept 4. Beginning Sept. 11 Worship is 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., and Youth Fellowship at 6 p.m. September study groups are Monday night's 'Companions in Christ', and Tuesday 10 a.m. Bible Study. Bell Choir practice is Wednesday at 7 p.m. and choir practice at 8 p.m. Call 703-759-3722 to register for Preschool and Mother's Day Out. 703-759-3508.

**Antioch Christian Church,** 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, is celebrating National Back to Church Sunday on Sept. 18 at 11 a.m. worship. Antioch is participating in Back to Church Sunday, a national movement of churches to encourage formerly churched people to rediscover church and try it again. [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org).

**Epiphany United Methodist Church,** 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a special worship service on Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. Reserve by Sept. 10 for luncheon after services. [office@epiphanyumc.com](mailto:office@epiphanyumc.com) or 703-938-3494.

# WELLBEING

## Fashion's Night Out at Galleria Promotes Healthy Living

On Thursday, Sept. 8, from 4 to 7 p.m., Saks Fifth Avenue Tysons Galleria celebrates Fashion's Night Out with DC Magazine, the March of Dimes, The Office of Minority Health and "A Healthy Baby Begins with You" celebrity spokeswoman Tonya Lewis Lee to celebrate the beauty of healthy living at a celebration dubbed "In Good Taste and Health."

Party-goers will shop the newest fall collections, bid on unique experiences and rare items, sample gourmet goodies as top chefs prepare folate-filled food live. Saks Fifth Avenue will donate 10 percent of the evening sales and all auction proceeds to March of Dimes.

From 5 to 6 p.m. Laurent Amzallag, former trainer for Oprah Winfrey's "Live

Your Best Life" tour and Dr. Jen Faber, owner of Kinetic Health Alternatives who has served as chiropractor to Lady Gaga's dancers, deliver fitness tips that everyone can incorporate into daily life, on the first floor of the store.

Throughout the evening on the second floor, attendees will enjoy mini makeovers while student health ambassadors give you tips on healthy living. Sample gourmet goodies from top area restaurants, including Chima Brazilian Steakhouse, Bar Manager Jo-Jo Valenzuela from Jack Rose Dining Saloon and Vegan Chef Levita Mondie. Saks will also unveil the newly launched collection from B By Brian Atwood. Party-goers can immortalize themselves

trying out the new and much anticipated shoe line, tag themselves on Facebook and take home their pictures from the B by Brian Atwood Photo Booth.

Beginning at 6 p.m., the finale of the party will take place on the third floor, where attendees will learn how to prepare healthy gourmet foods filled with folic acid. Tonya Lewis Lee will partner with: Former "Top Chef" Contestants Tamesha Warren of The Oval Room; Timothy Dean of Prime Steak House and T.D. Burger, LLC; and Vegan Chef Levita Mondie.

Interested attendees can RSVP to rsvptysons@s5a.com or call 703-269-1206 for more information.

## Supporting Cancer Research

FROM PAGE 10

search. I care that amazing ideas keep happening. I care that miracles keep coming our way.

So, here I am, asking for your hard-earned dollars: My team, The APL Dumpling Gang (named after a favorite childhood movie), will be walking in the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's annual Light The Night walk at Reston Town Center on Oct. 1.

I hope you'll support my "gang." I know we all get lots of requests

for a variety of causes to support ... so no pressure to make this particular one your priority. But, if you are looking for a place to put that \$5, \$10, or \$25 donation, please send it our way.

Or, just as important as finding new miracles, share one you already have at no cost: donate blood or platelets. I always knew it mattered, but until I was watching bag after bag going into my body, helping save my life, I didn't really know. Visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org/gcp> or

[www.inova.org](http://www.inova.org) and click Get Involved and then Blood Donor Services.

Learn more about the event or The APL Dumpling Gang at [www.lightthenight.org](http://www.lightthenight.org), click on Donate, and search Jean Card or APL Dumpling Gang.

And if you'd like to know more about my personal adventures with leukemia, e-mail me at [jcard@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jcard@connectionnewspapers.com).

*Jean Card is production manager at Connection Newspapers. She lives in McLean.*

## SUN DESIGN INVITES YOU TO A REMODELED HOME TOUR!

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**SATURDAY, SEPT. 10**

## Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

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McLean Governmental Center  
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Household Hazardous Waste from residents will be accepted at no charge. We will **not** accept business or commercial waste, lead acid batteries, automobile batteries or propane tanks.

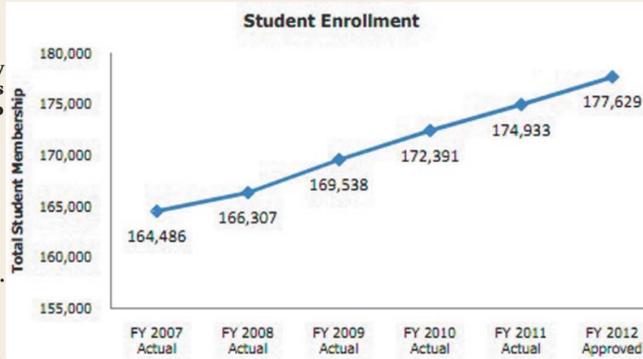
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Fairfax County Public Schools is projected to have 177,629 students this year, a 2,696 increase over last year, which will require 629.9 new positions.



CONTRIBUTED

## Fairfax County Heads Back to School

New year brings employee raise, full day kindergarten, but issues still remain.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

As the 2011-12 school year begins, 177,629 students are projected to attend the 194 Fairfax County Public Schools. This represents an increase of 2,696 from Fiscal Year 2011, leading to a requirement of 629.9 new positions. FCPS is the largest school system in Virginia and the 11th largest in the country.

According to a Feb. 26 Fairfax County School Board report, Virginia ranks seventh in the country in per capita income, but 38th in state support for K-12 education. Since Fiscal Year 2009, state support has been reduced by almost \$1 billion, from \$5.6 billion to \$4.8 in Fiscal Year 2012.

Despite these numbers, Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale says this year FCPS was able to give employees a 1 percent cost-of-living salary increase after a two-year salary freeze.

The county's Capital Improvement Program for FY2012-2016 kicks off this year, and the new plan calls for acceleration of their renovation schedule, because of the closing of Pimmit Hills Alternative High School and Clifton Elementary schools, as well as lower construction costs. According to FCPS, they have saved \$31 million in capital improvements over the past three years, and Dale said he expects that trend to continue.

"We're fortunate we got the votes from the Board of Supervisors to continue with the CIP," he said. "With the economy down, we've gotten some very low bid prices which allows us to do more projects."

**THIS YEAR** is the first school year where all 138 elementary schools will be offering full day kindergarten. Before this year there were 36 schools, mostly in the Dranesville district that did not offer full day kindergarten.

Dale called the countywide full day kindergarten "a great accomplishment that will benefit the entire system."

Since students aren't being split over morning and afternoon kindergarten, new staff was hired at many of the schools, 152.2 positions overall. According to FCPS's FY2012 budget, the total cost for implementation is \$8.2 million. But the implementation also saved around \$900,000 with the elimination of the no-longer-needed kindergarten School Age Child Care program as well as the sav-

ings of eliminating half-day bus runs.

Ann Malekzadeh, whose daughters attend Colvin Run Elementary School in Great Falls, was a vocal proponent of full day kindergarten.

"We're very excited the school board found a way to make sure we all have full day kindergarten," she said. "A lot of kids are excited they'll be able to be in school with their older siblings all day long, and my daughter is excited about being able to actually eat in the cafeteria, which kindergartners couldn't do when they were split."

Several community groups still have issues to work on in future years, and many of them say those issues will be key in this November's school board elections.

**FAIRGRADE**, part of the Fairfax Education Coalition (FEC), is still working to fight the phasing out of upper-level, high school honors courses for English and Social Studies. This year, FCPS will give high schoolers a chance to take World Studies and English classes online. These courses are called honors courses.

"We're offering these classes as a scaled-back option for students, so they don't have to take an AP exam or attend classroom courses," Dale said. "For those who take it, the online courses will allow them to customize their opportunities." Catherine Lorenze of the FEC and FAIRGRADE, says these new online options do not solve the problem.

"I think it's a very last-minute solution that had zero input from the school board," she said. "We're asking for honors versions of these classes, not AP Light."

Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal (SLEEP) hopes to make school start times later, saying that early start times are causing high school students to suffer from sleep deprivation. Phyllis Payne of SLEEP says that early hours are interrupting natural sleep patterns and school with earlier start times show higher car crash rates for 16-18 year olds than ones with later times.

"I don't think the school board will truly address this problem this year, but hope administrators do something immediately to help the students who literally can't function with the status quo," she said. "Some students who are dropping out, frequently tardy or absent and/or suffering from depression or other illnesses need relief sooner rather than later."

## BACK TO SCHOOL

# School on Cutting Edge

Named best public school in the country for the past four years, Thomas Jefferson offers students chance to expand their boundaries.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

A silver sculpture featuring two circles and two triangles bisecting each other is a familiar sight about a half-mile south from the intersection of Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike. It's the logo for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. While the sculpture itself might catch drivers' eyes, it's the work being done in the school that has the attention of educators from around the country.

Thomas Jefferson has been named the best public school in the nation for the past four years by U.S. News and World Report. Founded in 1985, the school's population is made up of six local jurisdictions. Eighty percent of the school's approximately 1,850 students come from Fairfax County, with Loudoun, Fauquier, Arlington and Prince William counties and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church making up the remainder.

"We offer a unique curriculum tailored to emphasize science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)," said Principal Evan Glazer. "We pull in students from across the region because we offer a curriculum no other school can. Say there are two students in Herndon who are interested in robotics. They wouldn't have a place to study that locally, but here we can take them in with other students from around the area who also might be interested."

**THE SCHOOL** has 13 different labs within its walls, with applications as diverse as the students' interests. One lab could easily be mistaken for an auto body shop, with car parts strewn about. It's the school's Energy Systems lab.

Just down the hall, the Oceanography and Geophysical Systems lab is abuzz with aquariums and terrariums containing a host of animals and plants to study. Further down, in the Biotechnology and Life Sciences lab, thousands of dollars of genetic imaging equipment is there to satisfy students with questions about the building blocks of life.

"The mindset we have here isn't just to help students pass their tests, but to get them excited about the joy of investigation and discovery, the critical aspects of learning," Glazer said.

In addition to normal sources of funding, the Thomas Jefferson Partnership Fund helps fund programs at the school through donations, corporate partnerships and capital campaigns.

Other technology organizations and companies have taken notice of the aptitude of Thomas Jefferson students. The Siemens Foundation, a nonprofit which provides STEM education grants and scholarship, named two members of TJ's Class of 2011 with their annual Advanced Placement Award, and not for the first time.

"Thomas Jefferson is an example of a school that is really working and educating its students, we almost always have an [Advanced Placement award] winner from there every year," said Jennifer Harper-Taylor, president of the Siemens Foundation. "It's a phenomenal platform for moving students forward and immersing them in partnerships with top research labs and organizations."

While the school's name features the term "science and technology," the humanities also have a place



Students from Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology perform an experiment during a Fairfax County Public School summer course on Biotechnology.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

at Thomas Jefferson. For example, freshmen spend their early time at TJ in a Biology, English and Technology course that helps them form a multidisciplinary approach.

"With Biology, they learn how to do the research, the Technology teaches them about the instrumentation needed to collect and analyze information. The English part teaches them to communicate what they find, to the right audience, in a coherent way," Glazer said. "And it's great socially, these freshmen who are coming from all over get to spend three-eighths of their schedule with the same 70 to 80 person group."

This combining of the disciplines has proven successful for many of TJ's alumni. A.J. Smith, who graduated in 2009, is currently

studying Computer Science and Music Composition/Film Score at New York University.

"At Thomas Jefferson, I was able to really create a connection between music and technology, two things I love," he said. "I also learned to love the theater while at TJ, learning to step outside myself and take over somebody else's mind for a bit."

Smith is well on his way, he recently won a talent competition using a blend of computer-programmed music and his own singing and playing.

**GLAZER SAYS** the school is also dedicated to working with other Fairfax County Public Schools with their outreach efforts, and students constantly travel off-campus to

work with other schools, such as Dogwood Elementary School in Reston, Centre Ridge Elementary School in Centreville, Garfield Elementary School in Springfield and more.

"As a regional school, we're not only educating the 1,850 students who attend school here, we want to provide outreach that inspires the community," Glazer said. "People don't come to Thomas Jefferson as a destination, but to inspire the communities they come from with a love of STEM."

Every year the school has a "One Question" that students, faculty and staff try to answer with their work throughout the year. This year's question, "How can we, the TJ community, take action to help prepare students to confront difficult moral and ethical decisions, both now and in the future?" was submitted by senior Andrew Martin.

"I'm inspired every single day by the students and the teachers here, they're constantly on the cutting edge of whatever they're working on," Glazer said.

This year's \$252.7 million school bond referendum that will be on the ballots for the Nov. 8 election includes \$84.6 million for a renovation of Thomas Jefferson.

"Our building is way past due for improvements and our community is very excited and grateful at the prospect of being able to attend classes and work in a school that is up-to-date and designed for our unique needs," said Denise Bunting, president of the Thomas Jefferson PTSA.

More information on Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology can be found at [www.tjhsst.edu](http://www.tjhsst.edu).

## Teaching the Love of Learning

High schools' principals reflect on challenges, priorities this year.



Matthew J. Ragone, Principal, Langley High School,

"Langley High School's main focus this year is to improve upon an already excellent academic program. How to extend learning, stretch the potential of every student, and teach the love of learning so they are authentically prepared for the world is an extraordinary challenge especially in these hard times. However, Fairfax County Public Schools has provided us with the resources and expertise to do just that

while at the same time catering to our students' individual needs. Not stressing students out in the process is also a challenge we will be addressing this year.

Physical improvements will also be coming to Langley High School. We have a major effort on to install a turf field. Langley is one of a few schools that does not have this safer, more reliable playing surface. Please help the effort by visiting [www.langleyturf.org](http://www.langleyturf.org). Also, we have begun the planning process for a full-scale renovation of our school with ground breaking beginning sometime around 2014.

The second annual Langley Read is in full swing with Laura Hillenbrand's Unbroken. This community reading project spurs everything from art projects, intellectual discourse, lesson plans, and service learning ventures. Join the conversation by visiting our website starting in September."



Dr. Deborah Jackson, Principal, McLean High School

"McLean welcomes 2,021 students on Sept. 6, 2011. Academic excellence remains a priority at the school. To that end, when students arrive, they will first see renovations on campus and then some new faces. Academic excellence remains a priority. We will open a new computer writing lab to coincide with a new Advanced Composition Writing elective course. Another new humanities course is Project Enlightenment. Our world is more interconnected — socially, politically and economically — than it was even a few decades ago. At McLean, we are looking closely at what that means for our students. What do they need from their high school experience? How can we best prepare them to be global citizens? The school's School Improvement Team, comprising teachers, students and PTSA representative continues to examine the impact of these and other issues on how we educate today's high school students.

lightenment. Our world is more interconnected — socially, politically and economically — than it was even a few decades ago. At McLean, we are looking closely at what that means for our students. What do they need from their high school experience? How can we best prepare them to be global citizens? The school's School Improvement Team, comprising teachers, students and PTSA representative continues to examine the impact of these and other issues on how we educate today's high school students.



Jay W. Pearson, Principal, George C. Marshall High School

"Marshall enters a new school year with two significant changes. Over the summer, work started on the building expansion and renovation project. Students, parents, and staff will see a change in their routines with the addition of 26 trailers behind the building and the relocation of some staff members to new locations around the building. Everyone will need to be flexible, adaptable, and patient as the project

moves forward.

A second change for the coming school year is a new bell schedule. After eight years with Lunch and Learn, population growth and the renovation necessitated a change. Students now have four 45-minute Learn periods each week and a separate 30-minute lunch each day.

Our teacher collaboration is now held on Wednesday, not Friday. Change is never easy. However, I am confident students, parents, and staff will adjust as we remain focused on high levels of achievement for all of our students."

## PEOPLE

# Heading to Paraguay

Rebecca Cooper of McLean receives Fulbright Award.

**R**ebecca H. Cooper of University of Virginia has been awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarship to Paraguay in Economic Development, the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board announced recently.

Cooper graduated from Langley High School in 2007 as one of the valedictorians and has lived in McLean her whole life with her parents Wayne and Bonnie Cooper. She graduated in May from UVA's McIntire School of Commerce with a BS in Commerce (concentrations in international business and marketing) and a second major in Spanish. She became interested in international sustainable development, particularly micro-finance after a January term study abroad program with UVA professor Brad Brown in Nicaragua. They worked with and learned about sustainable projects in Nicaragua and around the world, particularly Bangladesh.

Last summer, Cooper applied for a grant and received money to fund an internship that she did in Cochabamba, Bolivia. She was placed with a small micro-finance institution giving loans primarily to small and medium-sized businesses through the San Francisco based organization, Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD). She lived with a host family for more than two months and commuted to work every day by bus. The internship assured her interest in micro-finance and made her consult Brown on how to begin a proposal for a Fulbright scholarship.

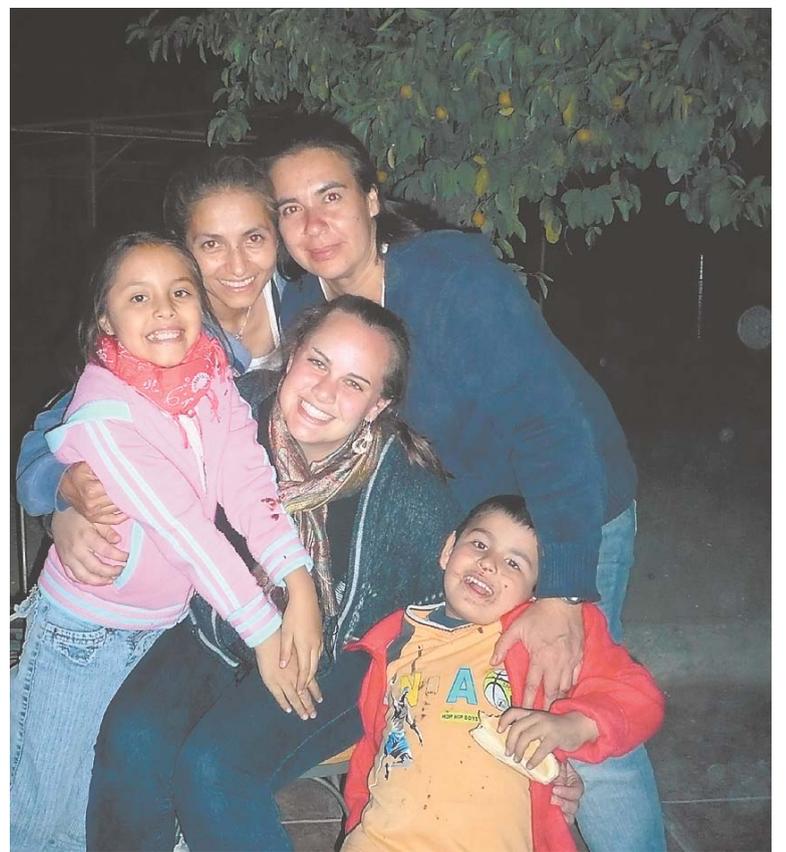
Cooper's project in Asuncion, Paraguay, the capital, starting in January will be to study the effectiveness and impact of micro-loans on different populations such as women or the indigenous Guarani population. Over 10 months, she will be following the quantity to which these groups become less "impoverished" over 50 different indices including health, self-empowerment, home condition, edu-

cation, etc. In the meantime, she has an internship with the US Advocacy Team at the ONE Campaign in D.C., which focuses on raising awareness in congress and on college campuses and subsequently action for eliminating extreme global poverty, particularly in Africa.

Cooper is one of more than 1,600 U.S. citizens who will travel abroad for the 2011-2012 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. The primary source of funding for the Fulbright Program is an annual appropriation made by the U.S. Congress to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide.

Fulbright alumni have achieved



Rebecca H. Cooper, of McLean (middle), 2007 Langley High graduate, with her host family in Bolivia.

distinction in government, science, the arts, business, philanthropy, education, and athletics. Forty Fulbright alumni from 11 countries have been awarded the Nobel Prize, and 75 alumni have received Pulitzer Prizes.

For further information about

the Fulbright Program or the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, visit: <http://fulbright.state.gov> or contact James A. Lawrence, Office of Academic Exchange Programs, telephone 202-632-3241, or e-mail [fulbright@state.gov](mailto:fulbright@state.gov)

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### Calendar Listings

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

*Name of Event:*

*Day of the Week, Date and Time:*

*Name of the Place Event will Be Held:*

*Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:*

*Name and Phone Number for More Information:*

*Three Sentences Describing the Event:*

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

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

**[greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)**

or mail to:

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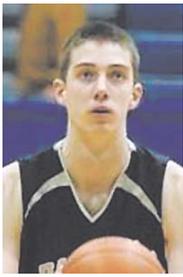
[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

## PEOPLE

# Timothy Higgins Commits to Cornell

Great Falls resident will play basketball in Ivy League.

**T**imothy Higgins, 16, a Great Falls resident and junior at Paul VI Catholic High School in Fairfax, provided his verbal commitment to Cornell University basketball coaches on Aug. 28, confirming that he will play for the Big Red. In doing so, Higgins is the youngest and earliest basketball commit in the history of the Ivy League. Higgins is 6'10", left-handed and plays basketball for two national powerhouse teams: Paul VI, a member of the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC), as well as Nike Team Takeover during the travel season.



**Timothy Higgins**

Higgins, who plays seven musical instruments, has always had a desire to play in the Ivy League. While many Ivy League schools were interested in Higgins, his interest in Cornell was piqued by Cornell's recent run to the Sweet Sixteen. In attempting to accelerate his goal, Higgins took the SATs during October of his sophomore year and scored 750s across the board for a 2250 (as well as perfect scores on various subject matter tests) and has taken many accelerated courses at Paul VI, earning a perfect 4.3 GPA. His very early academic success, coupled with his experience playing for Paul VI in the WCAC, as well as Team Takeover, made him an extremely attractive candidate for

the Ivy League teams, as well as other high academic schools.

Higgins chose to commit early to Cornell because of the academic environment, their coaching staff and the team's potential to return to the "Big Dance." Paul VI Coach Glenn Farello said, "Tim is one of those rare players who combines work ethic, intelligence and respect for all, in an unassuming way. Tim is as focused on academics as he is on basketball. Going to Cornell will give him the best of both. We are expecting great success for Tim when he suits up for games in the Ivy League, as well as in the classrooms on the Cornell campus."

Keith Stevens, CEO of Team Takeover said, "Tim has played with and against the most talented players in the country. That experience will have prepared him well and he will be ready to contribute at the D-1 college basketball level."

Higgins is ranked as the 10th best player in Virginia per Yahoo Rivals: <http://rivals.yahoo.com/virginiapreps/basketball/recruiting/rankings/rank-2763>

Higgins is ranked in the top 25 players in the Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia area by DMV elite: <http://www.dmvelite.com/dmvelite-player-rankings>

Higgins is ranked as one of the top 40 players in the mid Atlantic area: [www.midatlantichoops.com](http://www.midatlantichoops.com).

### SCHOOL NOTES

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

**Meggie Bentz** of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, Ky.

**Tarun Sharma** of Great Falls has enrolled at Hampden-Sydney College with the class of 2015 as a Patrick Henry Scholar. The Langley High School graduate is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Srinivas K. Sharma.

**Amy Peck** of Mclean has graduated from DePaul University in Chicago.

**Ella Moriarty** of Mclean has graduated cum laude from DePaul University in Chicago.

**Duncan Rudd Olsen** of McLean has graduated with a bachelor of science in geology from Clemson University of Clemson, S.C.

**Ovidiu Flavius Lasca** of McLean has graduated with a doctorate in economics from Clemson University of Clemson, S.C.

**Jenna R. Andrews** of Great Falls has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list and the president's honor list at the University of South Carolina.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 7

**Kyle Andrews, Ernie Halter and  
Taxicab Racers.** 7:30 p.m.  
Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E.,  
Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).  
**The Brothers Cazimero with  
Brother Noland.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap  
Foundation for the Performing Arts,  
1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Hawaiian  
chants, dances, and songs.  
Accompanied by the men of Halau  
Na Kamalei and the ladies of the  
Royal Dance Company performing  
hula dances. \$38 in-house, \$22 lawn.  
[www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 8

**Murphy's Kids, Future and Teddy  
and the Purple Funk.** 8 p.m.  
Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E.,  
Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).  
**"A Funny Thing Happened On the  
Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James  
Lee Community Center, 2855-A  
Annandale Road, Falls Church.  
Musical comedy about mistaken  
identity and young love. \$6-\$15.  
703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).  
**Vienna Arts Society Monthly  
Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Vienna Art  
Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW,  
Vienna. With a demonstration of still  
life oil painting by Jill Banks. Free  
and open to the public. 703-319-  
3971 [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).  
**Judy Collins with Shawn Mullins.**  
8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the  
Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road,



**"On the Half Shell," pen and ink by Teresa Ahmad. There  
will be an Awards Reception on Saturday, Sept. 10 from 6-  
8 p.m. at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W. in  
Vienna, for "Square It!," a display of original art judged  
by Lynn Goldstein. The exhibit will be on display through  
Oct. 1. Show hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
703-319-3971 or [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).**

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### FRIDAY/SEPT. 9

**Friday Night Steak Dinner.** 5:30-8  
p.m. American Legion Post 180, 330

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17



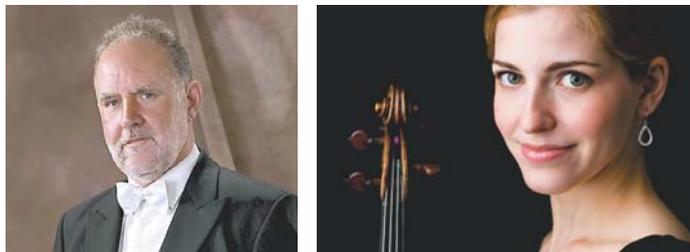
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### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

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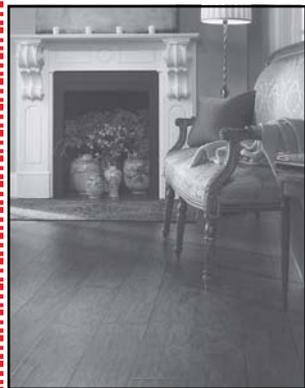
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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

North Center St, Vienna. Grilled rib-eye steak, baked potato and salad. \$9. 703-938-9535.

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

**We Were Kings CD Release and Dance Party, Big Hurry and Breaking Borders.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or zbleck@aol.com.

**"Don't Dress for Dinner, or Pajamas for Six."** 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tyson's Corner. A farce by Marc Camoletti about mistaken identity and infidelities with more twists than a corkscrew. Tickets \$25. www.1ststageysons.org/jeeves or 703-854-1856.

**Koi and Bonsai Show.** 12-4 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Koi displays, judging, informational

seminars, pond and koi vendors. Bonsai will also be on display. Free and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

**Eddie from Ohio with Martin Sexton.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. From folk to alternative to 1940s jazz. \$35 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

**Ongoing Book Sale.** 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Adjacent to the information desk on first floor. 703-293-6227.

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

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

**Virginia Indian Festival and Showcase for Native Arts.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Members of seven native tribes present a cultural demonstration of the arts and their ancient way of life. Tribal dancing, rhythmic drumming, pottery, crafts, food, hands-on activities and more. Use chopping tools to help build a dug-out canoe,

hit the mark at the archery range or throw spears with the atlatl. Admission \$5. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/ or 703-759-9018.

**Championship Boxing.** George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Jimmy Lange to fight Raul Muñoz for WBU title. Tickets \$35-\$500, available at www.ticketmaster.com and 703-573-SEAT.

**James Madison High School Marching Band Tag Day.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Instrumentalists, drum line and color guard members will walk through neighborhoods in the Madison school district handing out Tags with details about this year's competitions and concerts. Money raised on Tag Day helps pay for competition and travel fees, instruments, uniforms and more. Contributions can be mailed to James Madison High School Band Parents, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna Va. 22181. www.jmhsband.org.

**Kids Show: The Dignity Dudes.** 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**Ian Axel, Bess Rogers and Allie**

**Moss at 7 p.m., River City Extension and Mokey Dorris** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or zbleck@aol.com.

**"Don't Dress for Dinner, or Pajamas for Six."** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tyson's Corner. A farce by Marc Camoletti about mistaken identity and infidelities with more twists than a corkscrew. Tickets \$25. www.1ststageysons.org/jeeves or 703-854-1856.

**Ferns for Beginners.** 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Tour Meadowlark's fern collection and learn about their life cycles, propagation, and identification. Free with paid admission. Reserve at 703-255-3631 ext. 0.

**Koi and Bonsai Show.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna.

Koi displays, judging, informational seminars, pond and koi vendors. Bonsai will also be on display. Free and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

**Sing-A-Long Sound of Music.** 7 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. A screening of the classic Julie Andrews musical, complete with subtitles so that the audience can sing along. Tickets from \$15-\$38. www.wolftrap.org.

**Neighborhood Plant Clinic.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association gives tips and strategies. Cosponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. 703-242-4020.

**Ongoing Book Sale.** 10 a.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Adjacent to the information desk on first floor. 703-293-6227.

**Working Moms of McLean, Falls Church and Arlington.** 11 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Working moms get together to meet new moms and interact with our children. 703-356-0770.

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Guests at the 18th annual Middle Eastern Food Festival enjoy their meals in the shade at the Holy Transfiguration Church in McLean Sept. 4.

PHOTOS BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION

## Middle Eastern Culture on Display

### Holy Transfiguration Church hosts 18th annual Middle Eastern Food Festival.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

The Holy Transfiguration Church in McLean was the site of the 18th annual Middle Eastern Food Festival, where people of all backgrounds came to sample the bounties of Middle Eastern culture. Featuring live music, tours of the church and dancing groups, this year's festival brought hundreds of people to the church Sept. 4.

"Whether you have come to taste the delicious food, experience our rich cultural and religious heritage, jump on a moon bounce, or dance a Middle Eastern dance, we welcome you," said Protodeacon David Baroody, chair of this year's festival.

Inside the church, hungry guests could dine on roasted lamb, kibbeh (baked ground beef with spices and stuffed ground lamb, onions and pine nuts), loobyeh (green beans cooked with tomato sauces, spices and onions), or a variety of vegetables and sandwiches.

Outside, bakers made thin flatbread by spreading dough over a heated dome just long enough for it to cook, and some bread was covered in za'atar, a condiment made with sesame seeds, sumac, salt and other spices.

Vendors also sold cooked chicken kebabs and roasted lamb and beef. For those with a sweet tooth, pastries and desserts such as atayef (nut or cheese filled small pancakes dipped in syrup) or awameh (fried dough balls dipped in Arabic rosewater syrup).

"I think this is a great opportunity to not just enjoy Middle East-

ern food, which you can do all year round at a number of local restaurants, but to actually immerse yourself in the culture for a bit," said Stephen Jeannette of McLean. "I came expecting to fill up on kebabs, which are one of my favorites, but found a few other dishes, especially the loobyeh with rice to be fantastic."

Nasser Al-Muwallad, a native of Saudi Arabia who currently lives in Vienna, said he was impressed by the authenticity of so many of the dishes.

"I've been to places that advertised Middle Eastern food before, and sometimes you can tell the grape leaves came from a can or the fattoush (an Arabic salad with lettuce, cucumber, tomato, mint,

garlic and more) came from some supermarket," he said. "But not here, I was amazed at how authentic everything was. I picked up some desserts for some relatives coming into town next week, and I think they'll be wowed when I tell them where I got them."

Right Reverend Joseph Francavalla, pastor of Holy Transfiguration, said that the church's main purpose was to provide hospitality for the community.

"Not only do we offer tasty food items and delicious sweets, but we offer our hospitality to one and all," he said. "For us, hospitality is a sacred duty. We are convinced that whoever welcomes a guest under his roof welcomes Christ Himself."



Lani Kankary prepares some pastries for a customer at the 18th annual Middle Eastern Food Festival at the Holy Transfiguration Church in McLean.



Hanan Moore packages some atayef (small pancakes filled with nuts or cheese) at the 18th annual Middle Eastern Food Festival at the Holy Transfiguration Church in McLean.

# Saxons, Highlanders Both Victorious in Week One Football

Both teams utilize strong running games to win low-scoring affairs.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

It was a victorious opening week of football for both the Langley and McLean High teams this past week. The Saxons of Langley, coming off a successful 2010 season which saw them qualify for the Northern Region Div. 6 playoffs, defeated Herndon, 14-7, last Thursday night, Sept. 1 in a non-district road win. Meanwhile, McLean, coming off an 8-3 season and a trip to the Div. 5 playoffs a year ago, defeated visiting non-district opponent Washington-Lee, 7-6, last Thursday.

McLean, under head coach Jim Patrick, won over a Generals' squad which went as far as the Div. 5 regional semifinals last year. The Highlanders also qualified for last year's Div. 5 playoffs. Both McLean and Washington-Lee lost to Hayfield in last year's postseason — the Highlanders losing in the quarterfinals and the Generals in the semifinals.

**“We were very fortunate to come up with a win against Washington-Lee. Defensively they were pretty strong.”**

— McLean High Coach Jim Patrick

So as expected, Thursday's week one meeting between the two playoff teams of a year ago was tightly contested. All of the game's scoring took place in the second quarter. McLean senior running back Ryan McColgan scored on a 61-yard run for the Highlanders' lone touchdown of the game. That was followed by a successful point-after kick by junior Chris Rosenbaum to make the score 7-0. Washington-Lee scored its second quarter touchdown on a pass play but did not convert the extra point and still trailed 7-6.

That was all of the game's scoring. For the night, McColgan rushed for



Langley running back Philip Mun rushed for 161 yards in the Saxons' 14-7 win.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Philip Mun reaches out for the end zone on this first quarter touchdown play.

157 yards on 23 carries. As a team, the Highlanders rushed for more than 260 yards.

Even with the success on the ground, Coach Patrick said there is room for improvement.

“We moved the ball inconsistently,” said Patrick. “We had a 61-yard run and a couple of other big runs but weren't able to consistently move the ball. We showed flashes of

what we could do but weren't consistent.

“Washington-Lee crowded the box [defensively] against the run on us which is what everyone does against us because we run the ball so much,” he said. “Washington-Lee did a real nice job.”

McLean hurt itself with 12 penalties on the night and the offense turned the ball over four times, hurting the Highlanders' chances of scoring more points.

“That's unlike McLean,” said Patrick, of the numerous mistakes. “We were very fortunate to come up with a win against Washington-Lee. Defensively they were pretty strong.”

McLean will travel to Falls Church High this Friday night, Sept. 9 for a non-district game versus the Jaguars. Falls Church is coming off a tough 37-0 loss at Jefferson.

**LANGLEY**, in its win at Herndon last week, scored touchdowns in both the first and fourth quarters. The host Hornets found the end zone in the third quarter.

A year ago, the Saxons had one of the region's best passing attacks behind quarterback Braden Anderson, who was a key factor in Langley's solid 6-4 regular season. Anderson graduated last spring and Langley's new signal caller is senior Austin Vasiliadis.

In Thursday's win, Vasiliadis, a key member of the Saxons' Liberty District championship boys' basketball team during the winter sports season, completed six-of-10 passes for 48 yards. His seven-yard scoring toss to senior receiver A.J. Holtberg in the final quarter broke a 7-7 tie and paved the way to the Saxons' 14-7 win.

While Vasiliadis was keeping the Hornets' defense honest with some completed passes, the biggest difference in the game was Langley's prolific running game which accounted for 230 yards. The Saxons' top ball carrier was Philip Mun, who rushed for 161 yards on 34 carries. Vasiliadis added 56 yards running the football on 16 keeper plays.

Mun scored the game's first touchdown on a one-yard run in the first quarter. Brian Ocha's extra point kick made it 7-0 Saxons.

Herndon quarterback Ky Gilmore-Parrott broke free for a 63-yard touchdown run in the third quarter as the Hornets tied the game at 7-7. But Holtberg's scoring catch in the fourth quarter proved to be the game-winner.

Langley, under head coach John Howerton, will be at home this Friday night to take on Jefferson, which won at home last week, 37-0, over Falls Church.

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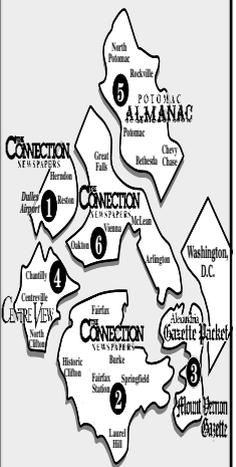
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## 2, 4, 6, 8; Who Do I Appreciate?

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



My parents. Why? Aside from all the obvious reasons; the trigger, most recently, was the television coverage of the Little League World Series on ESPN in August and seeing the parents in the grandstands watching their children play baseball. Not that any of the teams I played on ever made it to a Regional-type Championship, but I had my share of success – as a poised, right-handed, non-power pitcher. I made All-Star teams and pitched for City Championships on and off throughout my “wonder years.” And my parents accommodated that pursuit: planning meals early or late, depending; being driven to and from (and/or making the necessary pick-up, delivery and return-home arrangements); providing the required hardware (bats, balls, gloves, spikes, hats, uniforms, etc.) and most importantly, having a father who, whenever possible, was happiest being my primary practice partner: playing catch by the side of the house or hitting me grounders and fly balls while I stood up against the backstop at my Junior High School.

My father loved to watch me play baseball. (My mother was “too nervous about watching me,” she always said, and rarely attended – which I certainly understood.) My father more than made up for her absence, however. Whenever his work schedule allowed, there he was, front and center in the grandstands, encouraging me from a distance when I was pitching, and up close and personal between innings when I wasn’t, when he would come over to the team’s bench to talk with me – and offer more encouragement. Everybody knew Barry Lourie: the coaches, my teammates, even some of my opponents, and maybe a few of the umpires. (However, he never crossed the line; he wasn’t one of “those” parents.) If I was pitching, my father was sitting in the stands. I could always count on him being there.

Watching the Little League World Series these past few weeks evoked memories of a well-spent youth, centered around baseball. There was success and failure, the pursuit of a common goal, the melding together and camaraderie of a team, and most importantly, the involvement of my parents, especially my father. And 45 years later, baseball remains one of the most important aspects of my life. Throw in a cancer diagnosis and deceased parents – for a little context, and you see the past and your present priorities clearer than you ever have.

The “Baseball, Ray ...” speech by Terrance Mann (James Earl Jones) spoken in the movie, “Field of Dreams” sums up the emotion and connection of baseball between the generations far better than I ever could. Suffice is to say: It mattered to my father, it matters to me (if I had children, no doubt it would matter to them), and the longer I survive a terminal diagnosis/prognosis (stage IV lung cancer), the more I remember – and savor – the moments that matter to me. A significant portion of these moments included baseball and/or my father, all of which came rushing back to me while watching the kids – and parents, at the 2011 Little League World Series.

If I saw my father sitting/standing on the grandstands watching me pitch once, I must have seen him there 100 times – literally, from my age nine through 18; every spring beginning with Little League, through High School and during the summers as well on miscellaneous Babe Ruth League teams.

I was there. He was there. We were there. No wonder I miss him.

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

## COMMUNITY

# Heading to China

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/  
THE CONNECTION



**Tomoko Davis practices her hula moves with members of a local hula group, which travels to China to perform at two festivals; one in Shanghai and the other in Kuoyang. Members from two hula groups, Hui O Ka Pua Ilima from McLean and Hui Hula O Na Pualani from Arlington are combining into one for this trip. The group was invited to perform at the Chinese festivals by the George Mason University New World Bilingual Institute and is the third time that the local hula group has been invited.**



**Judy Titus and other members of a local hula group perform their last full dress rehearsal Monday evening before they leave for China on Sept. 7 to perform in China’s Gala Festivals. Members from Hui O Ka Pua Ilima and Hui Hula O Na Pualani join forces for the cultural trip as well as members of the Hawaii State Society Ukulele Hui, which provides the musical support.**



**Members of a local hula group, Tomoko Davis and Trippi Penland, practice their dance moves during a dress rehearsal on Monday evening in Arlington.**



**Members of a local hula group, Tomoko Davis and Trippi Penland, practice their dance moves during a dress rehearsal on Monday evening in Arlington.**

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