

Concert at Clemyjontri

NEWS, PAGE 3

Elizabeth and Elayna Webber of McLean visit Clemyjontri Park with their dad, Eric. "I like the maze," said Elayna. "There's the carousel, and a lot more play sets."

PHOTO BY LORI BAKER
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Sending
Help to
Hometown
NEWS, PAGE 5

Roads Still Closed
Due to Floods
NEWS, PAGE 3

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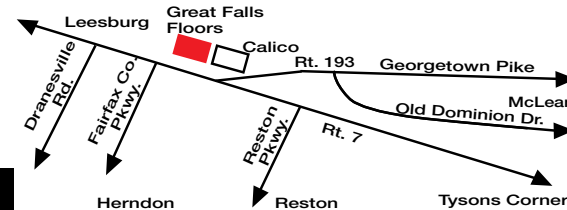
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Beach Mill Road over Nichols Branch in Great Falls: A contract will be awarded next week to install a temporary culvert. The posted detour is approximately 6 miles long.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VDOT

Roads Still Closed Due to Floods

Parts of Beach Mill, Towlston remain closed, repairs expected within six weeks.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

After the heavy rains that fell on Sept. 8, many roads and bridges were washed out by the rising waters. Two local bridges were destroyed by the floodwaters, the one on Beach Mill Road over Nichols Run as well as Towlston Road just west of Old Dominion Drive.

The bridge on Walker Road had pavement washed away by the rains, but was re-opened Sept. 13.

The Virginia Department of Transportation had planned a full replacement of the Beach Mill Road bridge in 2012, and according to a VDOT spokesperson, the timetable for the new bridge has not been altered.

According to VDOT, the temporary road will be replaced within six weeks, and temporary box culverts have been installed already. The road is currently blocked off at Utterback Store Road.

"The two box culverts should have the same flow rate as the existing bridge, and when opened, the temporary Beach Mill Road Bridge will still be single lane," said Eric Knudsen, co-chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association Transportation committee.

According to a recent traffic study conducted by VDOT, about 1,700 cars per day use Beach Mill Road. The detour around the blocked area is about six miles long.

THE BRIDGE on Leigh Mill Road was replaced in January, and though it was completely washed over with water during the storms, the bridge held up and is in working order.

"It's exciting that the Leigh Mill bridge held up, because that's the same kind of design they're planning for the Beach Mill Road bridge," Knudsen said.

Towlston Road is closed im-

mediately west of Old Dominion Drive and according to VDOT, the road will also be replaced within six weeks. According to VDOT's recent traffic study, it carries about 350 vehicles a day and the posted detour is about 2.5 miles long.

Garrett Moore, VDOT district administrator for Northern Virginia, said the damage throughout the area was extensive.

"Our initial assessment indicates that there could be up to \$10 million in damages to bridges and roads in Fairfax County," he said in a Sept. 11 press release. "We will make repairs as quickly as possible. We could even see more pavement and slope failures in the coming days, in addition to potholes."

At a Sept. 20 GFCA meeting, Nick Roper, Northern Virginia bridge engineer for VDOT, said there are literally hundreds of sites still being inspected in the area. He also said that they hope to get bids for the repair work in as soon as possible.

TO REPORT additional road problems, contact VDOT at 800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623). For current road conditions as of Sept. 15, visit www.511virginia.org and click "Road Conditions."



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Towlston Road remains closed west of Old Dominion Drive due to the Sept. 8 flooding. The road is expected to be repaired within six weeks, according to VDOT.



PHOTOS BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION

"Clemyjontri is a place where all can play and all are welcome," said Friends Group President Julie Clemente.

Under the Big Top at Clemyjontri

Clemyjontri Park to hold annual "Concert in the Park" Fundraiser.

BY LORI BAKER
THE CONNECTION

Anyone who has visited Clemyjontri Park in McLean knows it is a special place. But at the same time, it's likely that many visitors do not think it is special at all. "That's the point", says Julie Clemente, President of the non-profit, Friends of Clemyjontri, Inc. Though the park was designed to accommodate people of all abilities, including those in wheelchairs or with special needs, children of all ages and all abilities just think it's a fun place.

This Friday, Sept. 23, the park is holding its second annual "Concert in the Park" fundraiser. The black-tie event, which will have an "Under the Big Top" theme, will feature the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, and a sit down dinner presented by well-known White House caterer, Susan Gage. The fundraiser will be attended by Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife, Maureen, along with special guests Barbara Comstock, John Foust and others. The goal of the fundraiser is to purchase a large Big-Top style tent

SEE CLEMYJONTRI, PAGE 6



Sam Rice (left) and his father Peter Rice play with new friend Ryan Schaufelberger on wheelchair-accessible equipment. "It's just a place where people can have fun and be themselves," said Ryan.

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NEWS

Darla Marburger, a native of Bastrop, Texas and current resident of Alexandria, is working with Great Falls based charity Serve a Village to collect household goods for the more than 1,500 families who lost their homes in wildfires earlier this month.



PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Sending Help to Hometown

Great Falls based Serve a Village collects items for wildfire victims.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

A few weeks ago, Darla Marburger of Alexandria was planning to go back to her hometown of Bastrop, Texas for her 20th high school reunion. Now she's not sure how much of her hometown is left. Wildfires have burned more than 34,000 acres, including more than 1,500 homes in Bastrop County.

"It's difficult to see pictures of the place you grew up literally go up in flames," Marburger said. "My parents home is fine, but I've seen neighborhoods and the state park I grew up in reduced to ashes. But it made me determined to do something about it, even though I'm far away."

Marburger has found a way to help by teaming up with Great Falls based charity Serve a Village to help the families of Bastrop rise from the ashes. Marburger went to South Africa as part of Serve a Village's summer expedition.

"I had such a wonderful experience this summer with Serve a Village, it was so inspiring," she said. "It also served as a great reminder of the difference individuals can make. When people are experiencing difficult times, it produces a lot of hope when people come from far away to help."

Coming to help is Marburger's goal, as she will head down to Bastrop in mid-October with a truck filled with household items for the people who lost their houses. Serve a Village Director of Operations Christi Romney says they are collecting furniture,

cookware, functioning appliances and electronics, linens, clothing and shoes.

"We're looking for all those things that help make a house a home," Marburger said. "And we're looking for things in good condition. When people are moving back into houses, they won't have time to do repairs."

The fires began over Labor Day weekend and were so severe that they were visible from space. Astronaut Ron Garan tweeted photos of the fires that were visible from the International Space Station. As of Sunday, Sept. 18, almost 95 percent of the fires had been contained.

Bastrop Mayor Terry Orr says the response to his town has been "overwhelming," and that items that will help people rebuild their houses will go a long way to getting people back to their normal life.

"I think housewares will be much appreciated by almost everyone that is trying to restock their households," he said. "It will be some time before the houses are rebuilt, but when people start moving in, housewares will be in high demand."

Marburger says it's difficult to imagine what the victims have gone through.

"I think of my brother, his wife and their twin boys and how, when they evacuated a week before the fires, they had no idea what they'd be coming back to," she said. "When you lose 1,500 homes in one big swipe, it's a huge loss, and not even temporary housing can be built overnight. So the impact these items will make on people will be greatly appreciated."

Marburger is in the process of renting a storage unit to hold the donated items until she can bring them down when she goes to her high school reunion.

For more information on how to donate, visit www.serveavillage.org.

New Season Kick Off at River Bend Golf and Country Club

River Bend Golf and Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls, will kick-off a new club year with a Brunch, Activity Fair & Raffle/Auction on Thursday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Guests are welcome.

Raffle tickets will be sold for chances to win prizes while helping a variety of local worthwhile organizations. This year, the participants can write their raffle/auction checks payable to their choice of charities: Artemis House, ChildHelp, Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department, and/or FACETS.

A live auction will offer a donation of a week's stay at 3-bedroom beach-front patio in Siesta Key, Fla., thanks to Co-President, Lisa Spoden. Last year, there were more than 70 sponsors with abundant items. Highlights last year included: 14-K gold and pearl earrings, David Yurman bracelet, Prada leather handbag, several beach house stays, private yacht cruise, original oil painting, original sculpture, as well as donations from restaurants, wine merchants, spas, retailers, etc. For Raffle/Auction questions, donations, and/or

to volunteer, contact Judy Smith, 703-430-2048, judyfrank3@verizon.net.

There will also be an Activity Fair featuring all of the eclectic pursuits the club provides. Contact Jean McNeal at 703-759-9456, jpmcn@cox.net for additional information.

For questions or additional information about the Brunch, contact Co-Directors of Hospitality, Jackie Culhane, 703-421-8637, jackieculhane@yahoo.com; or Maggie Mobley, 202-744-3745, maggie.mansourkia@verizon.com.

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Langley Dance Team Begins Season

The Langley High School Dance Team kicked off the Saxons' football season with two halftime performances. The first, a hip-hop medley of fun party songs, was the team's debut against Thomas Jefferson High School on Sept. 9. Their second performance was a stunning high-kick routine to "Edge of Glory" by Lady Gaga. A crowd favorite from the moment the music began, the team will perform an encore presentation of the same routine on Oct. 6 when Langley plays Stone Bridge at home. The team, comprising 21 members, specializes in hip hop, jazz, pom and high kick and can



be seen at all Saxon home games during halftime. The Langley Saxon Dance Team is choreographed and directed by coach

Ellen Shatzen. To view past performances by the team, visit their YouTube page (keyword: Langley Dance Team).

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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:

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Clemyjontri Hosts 'Concert in the Park'

FROM PAGE 3

for the park. Though the fundraiser is sold out, Friends of Clemyjontri is still accepting contributions.

The plan is to have the big-top tent provide a shady place for visitors to sit or have a picnic. The tent will also be available for party rentals. Currently a small tent and the large pavilion at the entrance to the park are booked a year in advance for parties.

Last year, proceeds from the first fundraiser helped purchase the first Liberty Swing in Virginia. It is one of only 13 wheelchair accessible swings in the world. Clemente told of a visit from Ms. Wheelchair America, who hadn't been on a swing since she was 4 years old. "It was amazing to watch her," Clemente said. "She started to cry." Last year's proceeds also helped fund a new Drum Circle for the park, which is currently under construction.

This type of playground has

higher upfront and maintenance costs than the typical playground. And that's where the Friends of Clemyjontri and the annual fundraiser come in. There is often a need to replace swings or other equipment. Nadia Ruiz and her

"They're always making improvements and updating. It's so big, everyone can enjoy it."

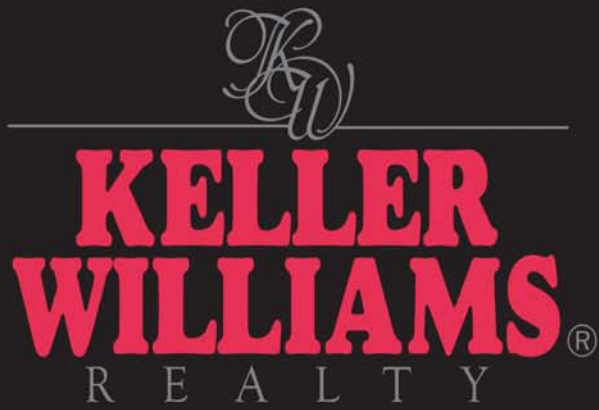
— Nadia Ruiz

daughter McKenzie are frequent visitors from D.C. "I love it," Ruiz said. "They're always making improvements and updating. It's so big, everyone can enjoy it."

The 18.5-acre parkland was donated by Adele Lebowitz, who with her husband, Mortimer, started Morton's department stores in the 1960s. They donated the land to Fairfax County with certain caveats. The agreement

was that a playground would be built on the property for children with and without special needs. They wanted it to be built within five years, and they wanted to continue to live on the property. Lebowitz, who is now 95 years old, still lives on the property. And according to Clemente, she spends time at the window every day watching children play in the park.

Joe Bullis was visiting the park from Vienna with his wife and two children, Danny and Matthew. "Obama should make more of these parks," he said. "The universal access is special, and the grounds are safe." Though building parks may not be on the President's agenda these days, Clemente tends to agree. "We think every park should be like this," she said. "No matter who you are, you can come here and be like anybody else. That creates self-esteem...If there were more places like this, you would feel enfranchised. That's the whole point."



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OPINION

A Lesson in Civil Discourse?

What we say and do can be a powerful example for our children.

Election season is upon us and with only six incumbents of the 12-seat Fairfax County School Board running again, whatever the result, the county will have a very different looking School Board following the Nov. 8, 2011, General Election.

Change is good and the possibility of a new direction for the School Board should certainly hearten those citizens who have decried the current School Board for its inflexibility and unresponsiveness to the people who voted them into office.

It's important to note that School Board members provide an important public service for very little compensation. Even though some parents may be dissatisfied with a particular decision from the current board, this leadership oversees a school system that is the envy of much of the nation. Just ask any politician or business leader and they'll tell you that one of the things that draws people to Fairfax County is the reputation of its public schools.

As the editor whose coverage area was largely affected by last year's Southwestern

Boundary study, I was witness to a great deal of public discourse on the School Board's decision to close Clifton Elementary School and redraw the boundaries of many FCPS elementary schools.

Those affected by the workings of any School Board know that the most potentially divisive process that the body undertakes involves redrawing attendance boundaries.

But in 2010, the discourse surrounding the School Board's decision to close Clifton Elementary and redraw school boundary lines turned ugly very quickly. Citizens and School Board members — we know because their e-mail conversations were released thanks to a Freedom of Information Act request — shot angry barbs back and forth at each other which were sometimes uncomfortably vicious and personal.

It's difficult to say who fired the first shot. I liken it to a pie fight in a Three Stooges movie. It's not important who threw the first one, by the end, everyone's covered in pie filling and looks just as bad as the next person.

Many citizens submitted letters during the School Board debates, highlighting important concerns and raising questions that sometimes deserved better answers than they received. But some were not published because they were harsh, personal attacks against individuals.

While emotional debate is inevitable when

the School Board is making decisions that can change where children will be able to attend school, I don't know if all the negative emotion accomplished anything. It's easy to understand the resentment of some who feel slighted. After all, the decision involved their families, children and neighbors. One hopes that the communities affected can move on. I suspect they will, in time.

With so many seats open on the School Board, this is an opportunity for real and meaningful change. The at-large race alone has seven candidates vying for three spots.

For those who are dissatisfied with some decisions of the School Board, this is the opportunity to be heard. Whether your concerns are school boundaries, start-times, honors classes, curriculum choices, school discipline or other issues, take the time to find out what the candidates stand for. Go to meet-the-candidate events. Visit their websites. Read local news stories about the races. Also, let the candidates — and the Connection — know what matters to you.

The Connection welcomes thoughtful letters about school issues and School Board candidates. No one needs to "get personal" to accomplish that. Let's teach our children about civility in political debate.

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

MOCONNELL@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Support of Janie Strauss

To the Editor:

We have a heated race between current Chairman of the School Board Janie Strauss and challenger Louise Epstein. It is important that issues are debated to ensure that we have a Board that seeks excellence in our schools. Going beyond a healthy debate into personal attacks is certainly not in the best interest of our kids, our schools, or our community.

Janie Strauss has served as a committed member of the school board for 18 years. She is more than qualified for this position as displayed by her 18 years of service on the Board; her ten terms serving as School Board Budget Chair; her current position as School Board Chair; her Masters Degree in Teaching from Harvard; her valuable experience as a teacher, school PTA president and county PTA president; and her role as a mother of four FCPS graduates whose needs spanned special ed, general ed and advanced academics.

More importantly, Janie Strauss has heart to go with her intelligence and depth of experience. I have known Janie for over 20 years as a friend and neighbor. I

have interacted with her on numerous issues relating to issues involving Franklin Sherman, Longfellow and McLean High School. She is a good listener, even-handed and more than thorough in addressing all sides of difficult issues. She has many constituents to please...taxpayers, parents, teachers and children...and that requires balance, vision and diplomacy. She is a strong leader and works tirelessly for our kids.

Part of Janie's strength is in her ability to work quietly behind the scenes to solve difficult problems. Often it is the one who is not the loudest or the most public individual that ends up being more effective and successful. Her diplomacy skills combined with her experience enable her to bring consensus to a very diverse board in a large county with varying needs. Janie is an advocate for all schools, students and parents in their quest to obtain the best possible education opportunities for our kids. It would be a shame to lose her as our advocate.

It is important to keep Janie's character and strengths in mind. In politics there are often things in print that stretch the truth or even mislead the public. If you have questions, ask Janie. She will answer your questions and be

there for you as she has been for me and all my children for the past 20 years. Vote with your mind and your heart on Nov. 8.

Laura Warren
McLean

Vote 'Yes' on School Bond

To the Editor:

Because Fairfax County can't afford not to, I encourage your readers to support the school bond referendum and vote "yes" on Nov. 8. The school bond will raise the necessary funds to initiate much needed improvements in our school facilities, athletic fields, security, and most importantly, classrooms.

There has never been a better time to make an investment in our schools. As a result of the economic downturn, interest rates and construction costs are at record lows. Combine that with Fairfax County's "AAA" credit rating, there is tremendous value right now to make this kind of investment that won't necessarily exist in the future if this much needed investment is put off. Furthermore, it is much better to do this now with no additional cost to the taxpayer, than later when

delayed improvements will cost more and may need to be funded through tax hikes.

Apart from the value, FCPS facilities are more than just places for our children to learn, they are staples of the community. More than 2,000 community organizations utilized FCPS facilities just last year; 242 school gymnasium courts and 532 school athletic fields were used for community recreation activities.

And over 180,000 meals were served to senior citizens last year in 37 different FCPS cafeterias.

It is clear that our public schools are vital not just to our children, but to our community, and that is why it is incredibly important to vote "yes" for the school bond on Nov. 8!

Krystle Weeks

Fairfax Citizens for Better Schools, Providence District

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Send to:

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NEWS

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ST. FRANCIS



The St. Francis Country Fair will feature the “Kitchen Cupboard” with a variety of baked goods and frozen entrees; the “Antiques & Uniques” market; a silent auction; and sales of gently used children’s clothes, books, and plants.

Country Fair at St. Francis

Church in Great Falls To Host Country Fair on Oct. 1

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls will host its annual Country Fair on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

St. Francis has held the fair, rain or shine, for more than 30 years. This year’s event will feature booths and activities for all ages, including:

- ❖ Quilt show — This year’s exhibit, “Threads of Color,” will display nearly 100 quilts and feature the art of internationally known quilters. The show also includes one of the Hoffman Challenge traveling exhibits of award-winning quilts titled “Treasures.”

- ❖ Quilt Giveaway — St. Francis quilters have created a handmade, queen-sized cotton quilt featuring the theme, “American Toile,” to be given away in a drawing on the day of the fair.

- ❖ Children’s games and activities—including the “Giant Slingshot,” hayrides, face painting, and a dunking booth

- ❖ Musical Performances — Difficult Run Jazz Band (10 a.m.-12 p.m.); Larry Rice (12-1 p.m.); JC and the HepCats (1-3 p.m.); and the children’s performer, the Great Zucchini (3-3:45 p.m.)

- ❖ Petting Zoo — (12-3 p.m.)

- ❖ Silent Auction — with opportunities to bid on tickets to sporting events, restaurant gift certificates, spa services, and many other items (10-2:45 p.m.)

- ❖ Antiques & Uniques — a market featuring antiques, gift ideas, and an assortment of household and other bargains

- ❖ Book Sale — with books, CDs, DVDs, and other items

- ❖ Children’s Clothing — gently used clothing

- ❖ Plant Sale — featuring plants, flowers, and garden accessories

- ❖ Kitchen Cupboard — featuring baked goods including pies, cakes, and cookies; as well as homemade frozen entrees, such as lasagna, casseroles, and chili

- ❖ Concessions — including donuts, snow cones, and cotton candy



Patty York, a teacher at the St. Francis Creche preschool, braves the dunk tank at the St. Francis Country Fair. This year’s fair will take place on Saturday, Oct. 1.

- ❖ Food Tent — with burgers, hot dogs, and more (lunch served from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.)

St. Francis Episcopal Church is located at 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, near the intersection of Georgetown Road and River Bend Road. Plenty of parking is available on site. Visit www.thecountryfair.org or call the church at 703-759-2082. To learn more about St. Francis Episcopal Church, visit www.stfranciscgreatfalls.org or the church’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stfranciscgf.

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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com & click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Great Falls

1078 Mill Field Ct..... \$1,850,000...Sun 1-4.....Jane Price.....Weichert..703-628-0470

Manassas

6400 Tinkling Springs.....\$465,000...Sun 1-4....Rachel Pullen.....Century 21..703-774-8800

McLean

1519 Pathfinder Ln.....\$1,249,900...Sun 1-4...Monica Gibson..Keller Williams..703-944-3434

Reston

1509 Autumn Ridge Cir...\$399,900...Sun 1-4.....Sheri Daniel..Keller Williams..703-489-2656

South Riding

25725 Howertown Dr.....\$739,000...Sun 1-4...George Azzouz..Samson Props..703-728-0843

Sterling

323 Felsted Ct.....\$289,900...Sun 1-4.....Sandy Loftis.....Weichert..703-444-4700

Vienna

2701 Bellforest Ct. #409..\$330,000...Sun 1-4.....Ron Fowler.....Weichert..703-691-0555

825 Ninovan Rd.....\$459,000...Sun 1-4....Evelyn Cheme.....Weichert..703-725-6622

9624 Prelude Ct.....\$720,000...Sun 1-4..Suzanne Burch.....Century 21..703-328-5606

**To add your FREE Realtor represented
Open House to these weekly listings,
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at 703-778-9421 or
salome@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.**

HOME SALES

In August 2011, 16 Great Falls homes sold between \$1,600,000-\$700,000.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
11385 SENECA KNOLL DR	6	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,600,000	Detached	1.73	22066	SENECA KNOLL
754 ELLSWORTH AVE	6	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,565,000	Detached	0.71	22066	GREEN ACRES
10351 CAROL ST	5	4	3		GREAT FALLS	\$1,550,000	Detached	1.72	22066	TIMBER POINTE
11209 RICHLAND GROVE DR	5	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,470,000	Detached	5.06	22066	SENECA FARMS
10208 COLVIN RUN RD	5	5	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,465,000	Detached	0.94	22066	COLVIN RUN
1108 MARLENE LN	6	5	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,430,000	Detached	1.01	22066	COLVIN MILL RUN
10510 WYNFIELD WOODS DR	4	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$1,300,000	Detached	0.93	22066	FOX RUN
9102 WHITE CHIMNEY LN	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$950,000	Detached	0.92	22066	LEIGH MILL COMMONS
11307 ENGLISH MILL DR	5	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$942,500	Detached	5.03	22066	VAN PATTEN PROPERTY
506 SCENIC WAY	5	3	2		GREAT FALLS	\$925,000	Detached	1.91	22066	BEACH MILL ESTATES
11693 HOLLYVIEW DR	5	4	1		GREAT FALLS	\$880,000	Detached	0.79	22066	HOLLY KNOLL
534 WALKER RD	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$875,000	Detached	2.00	22066	BEAUTIFUL SETTING
1168 KETTLE POND LN	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$828,000	Detached	0.77	22066	LOCKMEADE
922 HOLLY RUN CT	4	2	1		GREAT FALLS	\$795,000	Detached	0.49	22066	HOLLY KNOLL
989 MILLWOOD LN	4	3	1		GREAT FALLS	\$735,000	Detached	2.48	22066	OFFUTT HOME TRACT
902 MAN O WAR LN	4	2	1		GREAT FALLS	\$700,000	Detached	0.49	22066	LEXINGTON ESTATES

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REAL ESTATE

To have real estate information listed in the Connection, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced Sales Associate **Patricia E. Stack** of the Vienna



Patricia E. Stack

office was individually recognized for her exceptional industry success during the month of July. She led the region in resale listings. The region comprises

offices throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties.

This top neighborhood specialist can be reached in Weichert's Vienna office at 156 East Maple Avenue or by phone at 703-938-6070.

REACS, Inc., a minority owned commercial real estate company in Tysons Corner (Vienna) has been named the property management company for Soapstone Center in Reston and Pemberton Square Shopping Center in South Riding. REACS, Inc. is a full service commercial management company providing

brokerage, property management, construction and maintenance services to commercial property owners in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington D.C. For more information contact Steve Anderson at (703) 734-0880.

Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors announced that the McLean/Old Dominion office was recognized for outstanding results and industry success in 2010. In 2010, the McLean/Old Dominion office, managed by Steve Gaskins, led the region for new homes dollar volume, sales and resales. The region consists of offices throughout Virginia. The Weichert's McLean/Old Dominion office can be reached at 703-821-8300 at 6257 Old Dominion Drive.

Harper McDaniel, associate broker with the CENTURY 21 New Millennium McLean office recently earned the CENTURY 21® System's CENTURION Producer, President's and Quality Service Pinnacle Awards again this year following her 2010 sales success.

"Harper is a leader and innovator in delivering powerful home buying and selling choices to her clients because she knows the community she serves," said Todd Hetherington, CEO and co-owner of CENTURY 21 New Millennium.

Harper McDaniel has more than 10 years of experience in the real estate industry.

"Achieving CENTURION, President's and Quality Service Pinnacle Producer status is a great milestone in my professional career and with a continued effort and focus on my clients, I hope to continue on this path of success," said Harper, associate broker with CENTURY 21 New Millennium.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in McLean has announced its sales associates who have earned the company's International President's awards. The winners include - Individual Achievements: President's Club - Linda Knowles and Sue Jin Song.

tranzon AUCTION

LUXURIOUS MCLEAN HOME

Minutes to DC and Tysons Corner, this architectural gem is nestled in privacy. The gated entry and gatehouse lead to a magnificent home with 5 bedrooms, 6 full baths, 3 half baths and 8,000 sf of luxury living space. The stucco and stone exterior are reminiscent of a Northern Italian Villa and the wrap around porch provides a lovely place to relax in the shade. The gate house is currently configured as office space with 2 offices, a reception area, kitchenette and 1/2 bath along with a 1 car garage. Additional 4 garage spaces and a circular driveway. The 1.75 acre wooded lot is bounded on 2 sides by passive parkland known as Greenway Heights.

Thurs., Oct. 20th @ 11am

8146 Old Dominion Dr, McLean, VA

MCLEAN BUILDING LOT

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In April this year, the Langley High School band performed at the Lincoln Center in New York City.

Langley High Band to Hold Tag Day Fundraiser

On Saturday, Sept. 24, band members from Langley High School will participate in "Tag Day" throughout neighborhoods in McLean and Great Falls. Each year, the Langley High School Band raises money through door-to-door fundraising, "tagging" neighbors for their monetary support. In return, band members are personally "inviting" donors to come and enjoy one or all of Langley HS Band's free concerts held in the school auditorium in the winter and spring: Winter Concert - Dec. 8, 2011; Spring Concert - March 1, 2012; and Spring Concert - June 5, 2012.

The Langley Marching Band also provides music and half-time entertainment at all Langley HS Football home games. (www.langleysports.org)

The monies raised during Tag Day help Langley Band to replace and restore concert instruments and provide specialized training through professional musicians for band students. In addition, some of the funds raised will be put toward offsetting costs

related to performance tours.

The 2010-2011 performance tour was a special event for Langley Band. In April 2011, the band performed at the world famous Lincoln Center in NYC. Few high school band ensembles receive such an honor and invitation to perform within the halls of Lincoln Center. Langley Band's attendance at the Lincoln Center was a "first" for Fairfax County Public Schools and Virginia State Bands.

Although Langley band members have been hard at work raising money throughout July and August with car washes in McLean and Great Falls, Tag Day remains the biggest fundraiser for the band. On Tag Day, Sept. 24, band members at Langley High School are counting on the support from the community to help them achieve their fundraising goals. Langley Band's website, www.langleybands.org has more information on the Bands of Langley, upcoming events and how to provide financial support.



Langley Band's performance at the Lincoln Center was a "first" for Fairfax County Public Schools and Virginia State Bands.



Danny Sullivan, Vienna, helps out as volunteers bathe Mocha at the charity dog wash Sept. 17, on the grounds of McLean Bible Church on Leesburg Pike. The dog wash benefited Jill's House, an outreach of the church dedicated to families with special needs children.



Gavin Brodie with best friend, Piper, showing off Piper's paw prints, created by Paws4Hearts.



It took two to calm Lucy down long enough for a photo. Michelle Robinson of Summit Animal Therapy Services used her gentle technique while companion Charlotte Ellis held on to Lucy's leash.

McLean Bible Church Welcomes the Dogs

Paws4Hearts sponsors dog wash to benefit church's Jill's House.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

On Sept. 17, McLean Bible Church went to the dogs. Truly and literally, to the dogs.

The church, on the Vienna side of Leesburg Pike, hosted a "dog wash" sponsored by Paws4Hearts, to benefit Jill's House, an on-site respite center that serves special needs children and their families. Chilly and drizzly, the weather was not conducive to an outdoor event, but a steady stream of dogs and their humans made their way to the charitable dog wash. Paws4Hearts is a ministry devoted to the integration of therapy animals into the lives of human beings who are enriched by the companionship of the animals.

While a large number of the human customers were church members supporting the church and Jill's House, some did come off the street. Church volunteer Ray

Woods of Vienna said he even put fliers up at the Vienna Inn.

Many of the dog wash customers were dogs bonded to special needs children.

"He has a nonjudgmental companion," said Jerry Sullivan of Vienna, talking about his son Danny and canine best buddy, Mocha, a sheltie who has been a part of the Sullivan family for five or six years. Shelties, Sullivan said, are particularly loyal to one member of the family and Danny is that special person.

"Danny's the most compassionate person you'll ever meet. Other kids in the neighborhood had dogs. Now, Danny is like the other kids," Sullivan said.

Piper, a rescue, came to Gavin Brodie's household five years ago to become Gavin's pal. The fluffy pet sits close to 10-year-old Gavin, alert ears perked up. "A dog is a good tool to provide a comfortable setting for the kids," said George Brodie, Gavin's dad. "Dogs are an instrument to relax kids.

"And dogs don't make judgments," he said. Paws4Hearts requested a donation of \$15

for the bath, dry, brushing and bandana. Even the friskiest of pooches — Lucy, for one — calmed down once they sat in the bath, massaged by volunteers. Michelle Robinson of Summit Animal Therapy Services, made ink paw prints of family pets to take home.

"Danny's the most compassionate person you'll ever meet. Other kids in the neighborhood had dogs. Now, Danny is like the other kids."

— Jerry Sullivan of Vienna

JILL'S HOUSE is a 501(c)(3) arm of Access, the disability ministry of McLean Bible's Church. Guests of Jill's House do not have

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

White Deer in Great Falls

These pictures were taken behind the house on Riverscape Run on Sunday, Sept. 18. At first, the house owners thought it might be a goat, but others have suggested that it clearly is a deer. The photos show it definitely has the ears and tail of a deer. It is, however, significantly smaller than the other young deer in the group.



PHOTOS BY PAUL KIRCHNER

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

Park Director to Host Listening Forum. 7 p.m. McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Park Authority Director John Dargle Jr. visits the Dranesville District for an open session where residents can informally speak to the agency director about topics which concern them, ideas for new facilities, programmatic issues or other park-related items. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/listeningforums.htm or 703-324-8662.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Lisa Semeiad, a professional artist and teacher. 703 790-0123.
MOMS Club of McLean Open House. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. FunFit Family Fitness demonstration and fall service project kick off. Refreshments provided. momsclubopenhouse@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Community Yard Sale. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Children's toys and clothes, sporting goods and more. Refreshments available for purchase. 703-356-3312.

MONDAY/SEPT. 26

Candidates Night: Supervisor and School Board Races. 7:30 p.m. McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. Hosted by the Greater

McLean Chamber of Commerce. rhjackson@cox.net.

McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia. 5:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group is planning an event for Saturday, Oct. 22, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. If interested in taking part in the event contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

McLean AAUW Open House Reception. 2:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Refreshments and a discussion of upcoming branch programs, special-interest groups, local scholarships and more. 703-356-6498 or www.mcleanaauw.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 27

Monthly meeting of McLean Chapter of Quilter's Unlimited. 10 a.m. Mclean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. mcleanquilting@gmail.com

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Sheriff's Children's ID Program. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Community Room, McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The Fairfax County Sheriff's office provides a free laminated card about the size of a driver's license, including a photo, thumbprints and other vital information for authorities to use in case a child goes missing. The ID process takes less than four minutes and uses clean, inkless technology. The Sheriff's Office recommends that parents tuck away the card for safekeeping and have it updated with a new photo once a year. 703-246-3673 or Stacey.Kincaid@FairfaxCounty.gov.



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Firefighters from Tower-Ladder Unit 401, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Station 1, McLean Volunteer Fire Department with Langley High School Seniors Alicia Underhill and Sarah Warack.

Remembering 9/11

Langley High students hold second annual flag memorial.

BY JEAN T. JIANOS
THE CONNECTION

Despite having to reschedule twice because Fairfax County Public Schools closed due to recent flooding, the Langley High School Young Republicans club was committed to remembering the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks with their second annual flag memorial. When school grounds were reopened on Saturday, Sept. 10, club Co-Presidents Alicia Underhill, Class of 2012, and Matthew McCann, Class of 2013, together with Great Falls resident Sarah Warack, Class of 2012, spent all of the sunny afternoon planting 2,958 American flags in the shape of “9/11” and painting the Langley Rock with “Never Forget,” as part of the Young America’s Foundation “9/11: Never Forget Project.”

Speaking for the Young Republicans club, Underhill said, “It was really important for us to do this not only for the club, but for Langley High School as a whole, to show that we too as students will always remember that fateful day. Being only in 2nd grade myself when the attacks occurred, I feel like my age group is the last to remember what actually happened. We want to show that we too will never forget, and that we are proud to stand up next to our fellow Americans and show that the American spirit will never be broken.”

Fellow Senior Warack agreed that, having experienced them as an 8-year-old, the events of 9/11 are a vivid early memory. Her dad, a United States Air Force officer, left the Pentagon that morning, traveling on the same roadways that the hijackers of American Airlines flight number 77 would dive over just 30 minutes later. “The memory of my dad in his blues, standing in the lobby of my elementary school is so clear,” says Warack. “When he came and picked me up from school, and we walked home, I remember thinking, ‘Something is totally weird.’”

McCann was only a first grader in 2001 and had

PHOTOS BY ALICIA UNDERHILL



Memorial of 2,958 American flags planted by the Langley High School Young Republicans club.



PHOTO BY JEAN JIANOS

Alicia Underhill, Langley High School Senior and Co-President of the Young Republicans club; Sarah Warack, LHS Senior and Great Falls resident; and Matthew McCann, LHS Junior and Young Republicans club Co-President, plant 2,958 American flags in shape of “9/11.”

not yet left home for school at the time of the attacks, so he doesn’t have the same kind of first-person account of 9/11. As co-president of the Young Republicans club, he was asked by other students whether the club would be planting flags as it had last year. He says that he will continue with the memorial next year, as well. “It is important to all of us.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 22

Big Apple Circus. 7 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

Miniature Tigers and The Blackberry Belles. 8:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Ikenoba Ikbana Society Flower Show. 3 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Over 20 traditional Japanese fresh flower. Free and open to the public during regular park hours. 703-255-3631.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

"Social Security." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. An adult comedy about the shattering of yuppie bliss, romance and an aged Jewish mother. \$10-\$15. www.mcleancommunityplayers.org.

Big Apple Circus. 7 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

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

The John Jorgenson Quintet. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.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.1ststageTysons.org/jeeves or 703-854-1856.

Ikenoba Ikbana Society Flower Show. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Over 20 traditional Japanese fresh flower. Free and open to the public during regular park hours. 703-255-3631.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 24

Harvest Happenings. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Family festival with face painting, live entertainment by RocknocoS and Kidsinger Jim, games, arts and crafts and more. \$5, free for age 36 months and under. www.mcleancenter.org.

"So You Think You Can Dance." 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. The 10 finalist dancers from the television show. Tickets \$38.50-\$58.50, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. www.fox.com/dance or www.patriotcenter.com.

"Social Security." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. An adult comedy about the shattering of yuppie bliss, romance and an aged Jewish mother. \$10-\$15. www.mcleancommunityplayers.org.

Big Apple Circus. 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

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

Adrian Belew Power Trio with Stickmen featuring Tony Levin & Pat Mastelotto. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

Liz Dutton, Joshua Dick and Katie Nigsch-Fairfax (right rear) in the 1st Stage production of 'Don't Dress for Dinner.' Runs through Oct. 2. Fridays at 8 p.m.; Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$15-\$25. Log on www.1stStageTysons.org or call: 703-854-1856.

"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.1ststageTysons.org/jeeves or 703-854-1856.

Northern Virginia Parents of Multiples Consignment Sale. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Strollers, furniture, books, games, maternity and more. Not stroller accessible. www.nvpom.com.

Gardening with Butterflies. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Tour the Butterfly Garden with its host plants and nectar plants. Get tips to help increase butterfly populations, and learn which plants to grow and their upkeep. \$5. Reserve at 703-255-3631 ext. 0.

Ikenoba Ikbana Society Flower Show. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Over 20 traditional Japanese fresh flower. Free and open to the public during regular park hours. 703-255-3631.

Civil War Stories with Gary Lloyd. 11 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Johnny Reb and Billy Yank - true tales of the Civil War from storyteller Gary Lloyd. 10 and up. 703-757-8560.

Plant Clinic hosted by the Master Gardeners. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Masters Gardeners from the Fairfax County Cooperative Extension answer your gardening questions. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Local Author Suzi Weinert. 2 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Author Suzi Weinert will present her McLean-based mystery "Garage Sale Stalker," answer questions and have copies of her book available for purchase and signing. 703-790-8088.

Irish Folk Festival. From 12-6:30 p.m. at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, and from 12-8:30 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Live traditional Irish music and dance. Performers include the band Teada, Billy McComiskey and Brendan Mulvihill, The Narrowbacks, Lilt, The South Roscommon Singers Circle, The Irish Breakfast Band, sean-nós step-dancer Shannon Dunne and more. Sponsored by the Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann (CCE) O'Neill Malcom Branch and the Fairfax City Commission on the Arts. Free. www.ccepotomac.org or 703-919-1031.

Munich in McLean. 6-10 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. in McLean. An authentic

German Oktoberfest dinner with bratwurst, knackwurst, pork schnitzel, German potato salad, potato pancakes, sauerkraut and red cabbage. Beer, wine and soft drinks sold separately by the Friends of the McLean Community Center. Participants are asked to bring their favorite beer steins. Live entertainment by The Rhinelanders. Tickets \$10-\$25. 703-790-0123, TTY 711 or www.mcleancenter.org/special-events.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 25

"Social Security." 2 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. An adult comedy about the shattering of yuppie bliss, romance and an aged Jewish mother. \$10-\$15. www.mcleancommunityplayers.org.

Big Apple Circus. 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Dulles Town Center, 21100 Dulles Town Circle, Dulles. Performers from around the globe. 888-541-3750 or bigapplecircus.org.

An Evening with Tom Russell. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"Don't Dress for Dinner, or Pajamas for Six." 2 p.m. and 7 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.1ststageTysons.org/jeeves or 703-854-1856.

Butterflies at Meadowlark Round-Table Discussion. 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Compare notes and photographs of butterfly sightings. Bring photos in PC-compatible format. Free with regular admission to the Gardens. Reserve at 703-255-3631 ext. 0.

Ikenoba Ikbana Society Flower Show. 10 a.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Over 20 traditional Japanese fresh flower. Free and open to the public during regular park hours. 703-255-3631.

Wine Tasting and Silent Auction Benefit. 6-8 p.m. Maison du Vin, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Proceeds benefit heart transplant recipient Eric Sanson. Silent auction and a raffle. \$50 per person. EricSansonFund@gmail.com.

Jump for Joy. 2-4 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean. Preschoolers with parents and elementary age children invited. Giant inflatables will fill the gym. Popcorn and other snacks provided. Free. 703-893-5330 or www.providencetoday.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 26

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

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to make a donation

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Colvin Run Mill Hosts Conference on Mills

Colvin Run Mill will host the 2011 annual convention of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills (SPOOM) on Sept. 22 through 24. More than 120 people from more than two dozen states and Canada are registered for the conference, which will include a keynote address by Dr. Robert K. Sutton, the chief historian for the National Park Service.

Conference topics will include the entrepreneurial skills of President George Washington, the mapping of historic mills through geographic information systems, and interpretation essentials for mill volunteers.

Colvin Run Mill is a historic, water-powered gristmill owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority that still grinds flour and cornmeal today. SPOOM is an international organization of more than 1,000 people who are dedicated to preserving and pro-

moting interest in old mills.

Mills are a significant part of Northern Virginia history. There were hundreds of them in Fairfax County, including more than 70 along the Difficult Run Stream Valley. The flour trade was at its peak in the mid-Atlantic area from 1785 to 1830, and Baltimore was the center of America's flour trade.

Colvin Run Mill, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year, is located at 10017 Colvin Run Road in Great Falls. More information about the SPOOM conference is available by calling Colvin Run at 703-759-2771 and online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/crm/spoom/

Observatory Park Ribbon Cutting Slated for Sept. 24

The public is invited to join with local officials at the dedication of the renovated Observatory Building in Observatory Park

at Turner Farm on Saturday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m. Working in partnership with the Analemma Society, and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Park Authority Board is helping to develop a park and observatory at Turner Farm in Great Falls. This is the only observatory in the Park Authority.

The Observatory Park portion of Turner Farm Park was previously owned by the U.S. Government and used by the Army Defense Mapping Agency for an assortment of functions including NIKE missile monitoring and other radar functions. The observatory building is a converted radar tower. The United States Geologic Service established monuments on the property to help geolocate objects in space in an application that was a precursor to modern-day GPS applications.

Programs are already in full swing at the site with the Analemma Society hosting viewings of the night sky in Observatory Park on Friday evenings.

The Park Authority has currently completed roll top observatory renovations, con-

sidered to be the first phase of a multi-phase improvement and expansion program. The \$175,000 program includes a new exterior finish, new observatory dome with automated controls, addition of a second HVAC unit, purchase and installation of computer equipment allowing for remote use, interior paint and sealing, perimeter drainage improvements and assorted furnishings, fixtures and equipment to support the use. The Analemma Society donated the telescope, mount, related equipment and technical expertise worth more than \$25,000.

Helping Maintain Great Falls Trails

Great Falls Trail Blazers will hold a work day on Saturday, Sept. 24. Area residents are invited to help with general trails maintenance at Riverbend Park. The participants will meet at 9:15 a.m. at the Visitor's Center. Wear sturdy shoes and gloves. Families welcome.

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Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516
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NEWS



“Grandma’s Kitchen,” an oil painting by Great Falls artist Naz Akbar, typifies the theme, “Feelings of Home,” at a new exhibit now online at the Great Falls Studios virtual gallery.

New Online Art Exhibition Evokes ‘Feelings of Home’

Great Falls artists mount September ‘virtual’ show on website gallery.

“You’ll find happy, cozy interiors, moody outdoor scenes, home facades and more than a few unexpectedly clever and creative visualizations of feelings of home,” said printmaker Will Tuthill. Tuthill serves as curator of the gallery on behalf of Great Falls Studios.

The virtual gallery was established earlier this year as a way for local artists to share their work with the community. It changes monthly, and twice a year it will feature the artwork of children in Great Falls schools.

There are more than 100 artist members of Great Falls Studios. They supply art to be considered for the gallery and for other hanging exhibitions in Great Falls. Other real-world hanging venues include Katie’s Coffee, the Tavern, Great Falls Community Library, the Artists’ Atelier, and Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Resort & Spa.

A painting by Great Falls artist Naz Akbar, called “Grandma’s Kitchen,” evokes memories and warm feelings and typifies the paintings, photos, sculpture, pottery and other art in a new exhibition mounted online by the artists of Great Falls.

The virtual exhibition, “Feelings of Home,” can be seen throughout September at the website of the Great Falls artists’ group, Great Falls Studios: www.GreatFallsStudios.com. In all, the exhibit comprises 40 pieces.

Old Brogue Features Ed Behrens Photos

Ed Behrens, a member of the Great Falls Studios (GFS), will exhibit an eclectic collection of photographs at the Old Brogue in Great Falls throughout September. The exhibition continues the relationship between GFS and the Old Brogue featuring the work of a different local artist each month.

Behrens, an award winning photographer, will include images from Africa, Australia and New Zealand, locally from this area and elsewhere in the United States. He has been selected for a number of juried exhibitions in the Washington area, including the Art League Gallery in Alexandria and an award winning entry in the Torpedo Factory’s Target Gallery. One of his photographs hangs in the United Nations and another received International



Ed Behrens exhibits at the Old Brogue throughout September.

Recognition by Outdoor Photographer magazine. He authored a feature article on travel photography for élan magazine’s 10th Anniversary Edition in 2009.

Great Falls Studios is a network of more than 100 painters, photographers, potters, quilters, jewelry makers, sculptors, and

other artists who live or work in Great Falls. The group is a community-based civic organization whose mission is to support the artists of Great Falls and to bring art and art-related activities to the residents of this area.

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McLean Football Loses First Game of Season

Tough night for Highlanders, who fall to Fairfax in double overtime.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

There were the classic early season mistakes on display during McLean High's Liberty District high school football game at Fairfax last Friday night. The week three matchup, won by Fairfax, 19-16, in double overtime, was slowed down by numerous penalties and was a somewhat sluggish all-around affair with untimely turnovers and missed scoring opportunities by both teams. But the game was also riveting as both teams, playing with determination, kept those in attendance on the edge of their seats with a down-to-the-wire affair.

"There was so much hype and build-up for this game," said Fairfax head coach Kevin Simonds, whose team fell to McLean in a late season game last year when the Rebels could not hold onto a second half lead on McLean's homecoming. "A lot of what happened tonight came down to the idea that we weren't going to let each other down. This team is a family."

Fairfax junior kicker Zach Intermill, who missed badly on a 38-yard field goal attempt on the game's final play of regulation with the score tied at 13-13, came back to make a pair of kicks in overtime, including a game-winner in the second overtime from 23 yards out to end the game.



McLean running back Hunter Eckrod (22) breaks through a hole during the Highlanders game at Fairfax last Friday night. Blocking for Eckrod is lineman Greg Young (75).

Kicking from the left hash area of the field, Intermill, the JV team's starting kicker a year ago, said he knew the ball was going through the uprights as soon as he connected.

"I looked up for a second after I kicked it and saw it was [straight-on]," said Intermill. "When I knew it was going in I ran to the sideline."

Intermill, who had also kicked a 20-yard field goal in the first overtime to give Fairfax a 16-13 lead, said his teammates picked him up following his miss on the final play of regulation. That kick had been way too low.

"It was tough and hard to deal with," said Intermill, of that miss. "But my teammates all encouraged me."

LIKE INTERMILL, McLean kicker Chris Rosenbaum, also a junior, experienced his highs and lows in the game. He had given McLean a 3-0 lead with a 25-yard field goal on McLean's first possession

of the game. Later, on McLean's first possession of the second half, he nailed a kick from 35 yards to put the Highlanders ahead 13-6.

In the first overtime — after Intermill had put his team ahead 16-13 — Rosenbaum responded with a 23-yard field goal to tie the score at 16-16 and force a second overtime. The successful kick was Rosenbaum's third in three attempts on the night.

Rosenbaum, on McLean's second overtime possession, finally missed a kick. Moments later, Intermill, made his kick to give Fairfax the win.

"He was upset," said McLean coach Jim Patrick, of Rosenbaum's reaction to his lone miss of the season in five attempts. "But he's a real talented kicker. My message to him was he'd done a great job the whole game and we wouldn't have been in the game if it wasn't for him. If we take care of business we're not in that situation."

Most frustrating for McLean was



Quarterback Ryan McColgan (2) and his McLean teammates will be back in action this Friday night at home versus Madison.

a moment in the first overtime when it looked as if the Highlanders had won the game. Fairfax had gone ahead 16-13 on its possession and McLean had its set of downs from the 10-yard line to tie or win the game. On third-and-goal from the four yard line, McLean junior running back Hunter Eckrod took a handoff from quarterback Ryan McColgan and burst off the left side of the line and on into the end zone for the apparent winning touchdown. But the touchdown was called back as a result of a penalty. McLean ultimately settled for a field goal and the game moved into the second overtime.

BOTH TEAMS, in the fourth quarter with the game tied at 13, had their chances to score and avoid overtime. McLean had the ball on the Fairfax 14-yard line but lost the ball on a fumble on the first play of the fourth quarter. Fairfax then drove from its 15 all the way to the McLean 26 before

a lost fumble, recovered by McLean's Austin Jenkins, ended that threat.

In the final minute of the fourth quarter, Fairfax senior defensive back Abhishek Luthra intercepted a short pass thrown to the sideline. That gave the Rebels the ball at their own 40 with 35 seconds left. Two plays later, Fairfax quarterback Austin Perryman completed a 20-yard pass over the middle to Luthra down to the 25-yard line. After a four-yard run to the 21, Fairfax, following a timeout with two seconds left, set up for the field goal try. Intermill missed that one but would go on to make his two kicks in the overtime sessions.

Patrick said the Highlanders now need to put the game behind them and get ready for this Friday night when they host Madison.

"We need to move forward or we'll lose to Madison," he said. "We can't keep trying to play the Fairfax game again. We've got to do everything we can to focus on Madison."

Saxons' Girls' Volleyball Impressive Early On

Langley set to host Robinson, Woodson this Saturday.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Langley High girls' volleyball team, a young squad this season with one freshmen and two sophomore s in the starting line-up, began the season in impressive fashion over the Labor Day Weekend Sept. 2-3 by finishing fourth place in their division at the annual Virginia Volleyball Showcase Tournament, held at the Richmond Volleyball Club, in Henrico, Va.

The large tournament field consisted of the best girls' and boys' high school volleyball teams across the state. Overall, the Saxons, under head coach Susan Shifflett, went 3-2 at the Showcase, the wins coming over Chancellor High (Fredericksburg), 2-1; Blacksburg High, 2-1; and Flint Hill School, 3-0. The losses came to state powers Kellam High and Ocean Lakes, both schools from Virginia Beach.

Langley junior middle hitter Madeline Osburn was named to the All-Tournament Team for the Saxons.

Since the Showcase, Langley has won two of its first three matches in Northern Region play. In its home opener, the Saxons defeated Centreville High, 3-0, on Sept. 12; then won at Herndon two days later, 3-1, on Sept. 14.

Last Friday, Sept. 15, Langley lost at home to an improved Lake Braddock squad, 0-3. Going into this week, the Saxons were 5-2 on the season.

"They are much better than last year," said Shifflett, of Lake Braddock. "We are young and so I'm sure we will have many up and

down moments through the season. There is a lot of potential. Our goal is to be ready at the end of the season to challenge for [Liberty] District and [Northern] Regional titles."

Langley's young starters include freshmen outside hitter Rachel Andrejev and sophomores Lexy Donaldson (middle hitter) and Alex Andrejev (setter).

Langley was scheduled to play matches this week versus Westfield (away on Monday, Sept. 19) and Potomac Falls (home on Wednesday, Sept. 21). This Saturday, Sept. 24, the Saxons will host both Robinson at 9 a.m. and W.T. Woodson at 11:30.

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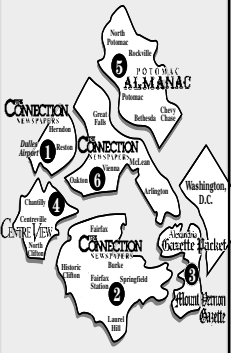
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"Cancer-nonymous"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Hello. My name is Ken. I have cancer. I have never been to a meeting before. I've seen a psychologist twice, but never before have I participated in any kind of public forum where my fellow cancer patients were in attendance. I'm not exactly sure what there is to gain from confessing – and admitting – my cancer-related sins, but I imagine denial is not a prudent long-range solution. Nor do I imagine there's a twelve step program for cancer sobriety; it's likely a two-step program: one foot in front of the other.

And for two and half years, that's how I've rolled: steadily forward. Trying to smell some roses as I went while attempting to stress less and live more. Aware of my rather ominous circumstances and terminal prognosis (which I have now exceeded, big time), but ever mindful of the infamous fat lady whose songs have often been heard but in whose name many predictions have failed to materialize. Not that my oncologist was predicting, back in Feb., 2009 when he told Team Lourie that my diagnosis was stage IV lung cancer, very serious; and that I had "13 months to two years" to live. It was more his very-educated opinion about an extremely unfortunate set of health circumstances that had begun to reveal themselves during the last week of Dec., 2008. That is when I first went to the Emergency Room complaining about a pain in my left rib cage that had migrated to the right (even I had to admit that seemed odd). Combined with the difficulty I was also having inhaling/breathing and bending at the waist, I consented to my wife, Dina's urging me to see a doctor so together we drove to the E.R. The rest is history I've rather not have made nor been a party to (some party!). But life goes on (don't I know it). Thank God!

So here I am, 30 months, post diagnosis, alive and not trying to count backwards. Trying as well to ignore certain facts – in evidence, and not consider other facts/eventualities/inevitable and presume somehow, that grim is sometimes just a collection of fairy tales and not relevant at all to my long-range (heck, make that short-term and/or medium-term) prognosis. Ignorance is not exactly bliss – for me, but it is a means to a hopefully not premature end. Although I don't see any of this as a beginning, either. It's more of a continuation. Still, as long as it's not an end, I can live with it. Duh!

In addition to taking one step at a time, one day at a time, etc., and thinking that no news is good news and it's nothing until it's something, I will continue to believe in statistical anomalies and exceptions that disprove the rule. Moreover, I can still pretend with the best of them/us (terminal patients) that somehow I'm different (and not terminal) and believe as well in the power of a positive attitude. The fact that I have cancer is not the first thing out of my mouth (though it is – more often than not – as you regular readers know, the first thing out of my pen), it is generally the last thing, and only if someone asks. As much as it is what I have, it can't be who I am (somehow).

Thank you for letting me share. I feel better already.

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

NEWS

Chamber Endorses Bulova

Chairman pledges smart growth, smart budgeting.

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Mere hours after the first debate between Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon S. Bulova (D-At-large) and Republican challenger Michael Spike Williams, the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce endorsed Bulova.

The Fairfax Chamber sponsored the televised debate on Thursday, Sept. 15, and announced its endorsement Monday, Sept. 19.

"The support of the Chamber of Commerce is not something that is easily earned," Bulova said in a statement released Monday. "In my first term as chairman during these tough economic times, we have created a climate in Fairfax County where businesses can thrive.

NOVABizPAC, the political arm of the Fairfax Chamber, cited Bulova's 20 years of experience in local government, as well as her grasp of the issues facing Fairfax County residents, in its decision to endorse the Democratic incumbent.

"This is an important election year in Fairfax County and Virginia," said Fairfax Chamber President and CEO Jim Corcoran. "The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors has an important impact on the issues that affect business most, like real estate development, transportation, telecommunication, taxation, privatization and more."

Corcoran noted that the Fairfax Chamber, with more than 500 member companies, has hosted a debate in every Board of Supervisors race.

THE ENDORSEMENT followed a polite, no-fireworks debate held at the Capitol One complex in McLean, where both candidates touted their pro-business accomplishments.

During opening statements, Williams described himself as a "family man and small-business owner." He noted that county spending and property tax bills have doubled in the past decade. "You should be getting twice the services in half the time. ... Are you getting that? I understand the need to tighten your belt to fight another day."

Bulova said the county's stellar bond rating, stable budgets and top-notch schools "didn't happen by accident." She promised "continued smart budgeting and a focus on community priorities."

The county's affordable housing program, Dulles rail, immigration, county services and big business topped the list of issues.

Bulova reaffirmed her commitment to the planned Metro line to Dulles International Airport, calling it her "number one transportation priority," and cited the importance of phase two, "to get all the way to Dulles



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) smiles after the conclusion of her Sept. 15 debate with challenger Spike Williams (R).

PHOTO BY
MICHAEL O'CONNELL/
THE CONNECTION

"The support of the Chamber of Commerce is not something that is easily earned... Fairfax County has become the most attractive place in the U.S. for Fortune 500 companies looking for greener pastures."

Sharon Bulova

Airport," Bulova said.

Williams countered that he thought Dulles Rail was more about economic development rather than solving transportation issues. "Let's not keep our eyes closed about it," he said.

The candidates diverged sharply on the topic of affordable housing, an issue that has sparked debate among members of the Board of Supervisors several times this year.

Williams criticized the county's affordable housing policies, saying that county government should not "dabble... in luxury affordable housing. ... We're providing luxury affordable housing to people who ... drive a Lexus and hang a plasma-screen TV on their walls."

Bulova confirmed her support of the county's housing policies, asserting that the county's "forward-thinking" policies have been successful in reducing the homeless population by nearly 17 percent in four years.

In 2010, the Board adopted the Housing Blueprint, which allocates \$10.1 million in FY 2011 to provide housing for the homeless as well as "workforce housing." As of March, 2011, there were 11,818 families and individuals on the waiting list for the county's three principal affordable housing programs, according to the county's Department of Housing and Community Development.

"It's critical for us to address affordable housing needs. [Affordable housing] spans people living in the woods and cars, and people in the middle who need help getting back on their feet," she said.

Williams said he agreed that it was critical to provide people "an opportunity to live near where they work." But he maintained the private sector should be responsible for affordable housing, not the government.

On illegal immigration, "We have a problem," Williams said, adding that he did not

want to the county to become a haven for illegal immigrants.

"I am all for people who are legal citizens ... getting the benefits of government. ... I celebrate diversity in Fairfax County," Williams said.

Bulova said she would never describe the county as a "sanctuary," or a "magnet" for illegal immigrants.

"We have a welcoming culture, but when someone breaks the law, our county police work with federal authorities [to identify those in the country illegally]," she said.

THE DEBATE ended cordially, with Bulova stating that her opponent is a "good guy," but lacks her range of political experience. "I will enjoy working with Spike in the years to come," she said.

Williams drew laughter when he said he also looked forward to working with Bulova, "in her role as a county resident."

After Thursday's debate, Williams' campaign released a news release stating that "What distinguishes Spike Williams is his loyalty to small business owners ... Spike is a proven conservative leader who will level with [residents]."

Bulova said the debate was a "good discussion of Fairfax County issues. I was pleased to make my priorities clear - to continue to maintain a quality of life in Fairfax County that our residents and businesses appreciate and value and to do so in a way that is affordable to our taxpayers."

Bulova has appreciably outspent Williams during the campaign, raising approximately \$425,000 to Williams' roughly \$75,000, according to the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP), a non-partisan organization that collects financial data of all candidates. In addition to the main party candidates, Bulova and Williams will be joined on the Nov. 8 ballot by two independents: Will Radle Jr. and Christopher F. DeCarlo.

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