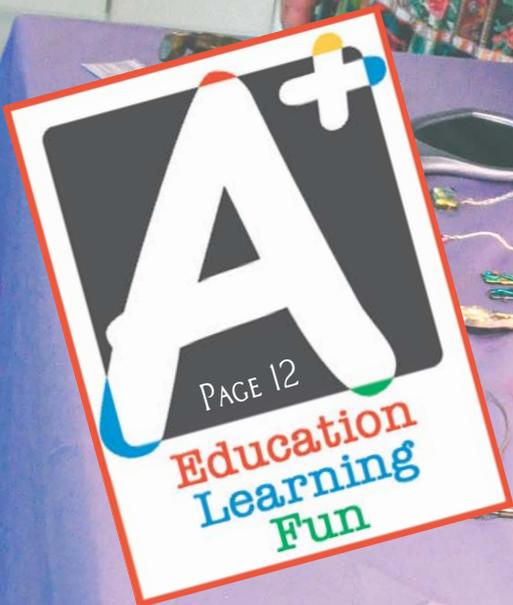


# Great Falls Studios Hosts Annual Tour

NEWS, PAGE 11

Sheila Lynch stands next to a display of her handmade jewelry, which she makes from wood, glass, silver and any other material that inspires her. Lynch, who works out of her Great Falls home, was one of 48 artists on display during the annual Great Falls Studios Tour.



## Candidates Face Off at Grange

NEWS, PAGE 7

## Foust, Husch Run For Dranesville Supervisor

NEWS, PAGE 3

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

PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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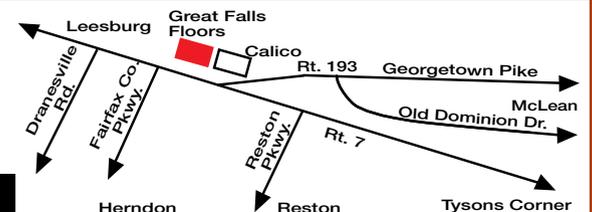
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From left, Republican challenger Dennis Husch and Democratic incumbent John Foust, candidates for Dranesville District Supervisor, speak at a forum at McLean High School.



## Foust, Husch Run For Dranesville Supervisor

Republican challenger Husch faces Democratic incumbent Foust, who was elected in 2007.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

### Meet the Candidates

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) will face Republican Dennis Husch this November for Dranesville District Supervisor.

Foust, who was elected in 2007, has lived in McLean since 1987. He currently serves as chair of the Fairfax County Economic Advisory Commission and the vice-chairman of the Chairman's Budget Committee.

**FOUST** says one of his goals in the upcoming term will be to "aggressively pursue" funding for the planned widening of Route 7.

"The Route 7 widening project from Tysons to Reston Avenue is something that I personally had added to the comprehensive plan for Tysons Corner," he said. "Aside from needing Route 7 widened today, Tysons will never work if the four lanes inside go to two lanes outside on Route 7."

As chairman of the Fairfax County Economic Advisory Commission, Foust says he recently helped prepare a plan to stimulate economic growth throughout the county.

"Essentially we're looking to diversify the industries we have. We rely very heavily on government contracting, but there's a lot of things that we can do," he said. "It sounds strange, but the number one thing we can do to improve our economy is continue to support Fairfax County Public Schools. Those schools are the magnet that draw the Fortune 500



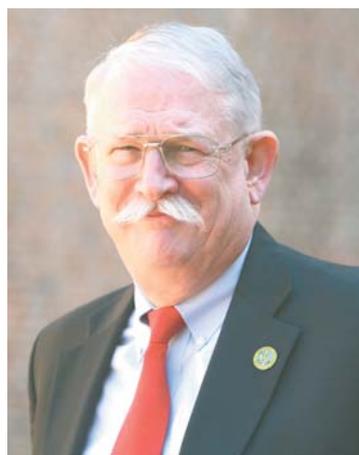
**John Foust**

John Foust is a native of Johnstown, Pa. and moved to Northern Virginia in 1977. He practiced law from 1981 until his election, and served as president of the McLean Citizens Association. He received his bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh, his Master's of Business Administration from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies and his law degree from George Washington University. He and his wife Marilyn have two sons.

companies to Fairfax County, they're a magnet to draw qualified, well educated people who will contribute to Fairfax County."

He also said his goal for Tysons Corner redevelopment is to "minimize public investment and maximize public benefit."

The Foust campaign has raised \$185,069, accord



**Dennis Husch**

Dennis Husch has lived in Herndon for the past 27 years, where he served on the Town Council for 16 years, and also on the Fairfax County Economic Development Task Force and the Commonwealth's Joint Commission on Technology and science. He currently works for System Planning Commission, a consultant for the federal government. He received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Strayer University. He is married to Nancy and they have one son.

SEE SUPERVISOR, PAGE 9



The Fairfax County Park Authority is beginning the master plan process for Langley Fork Park, located at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Colonial Farm Road. The park is currently owned by the National Park Service, the Park Authority has a yearly special use permit, which they have had since the original 25-year permit expired in 2006.

## Park Authority Plans Langley Fork Park

Future of park includes master planning process, possible land swap.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Park Authority is beginning the master plan process for Langley Fork Park, located at the corner of Georgetown Pike and Colonial Farm Road in McLean.

The 54-acre park currently has two diamond fields, two rectangular fields, basketball courts and trails. The land is bordered by the CIA at the east, residential to the south and west and Claude Moore Colonial Farm to the north.

The park is currently owned by the National Park Service, and was master planned in 1980. That process gave the park authority a 25-year special use permit to maintain the land. Since its expiration, the park authority has renewed the permit one year at a time.

The land is part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, which is maintained by the NPS. As part of the master planning process, the Park Authority would conduct a land swap, with nearby Langley Oaks Park going to the NPS.

Dottie Marshall, superintendent of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, says that the swap will help Langley Forks Park become more of an asset to the community.

"We've owned this particular property since 1972, but have really not operated or managed it since 1980, nor have we made any investments in it," she said. "We welcome this opportunity to work with the Fairfax County Park Authority because we believe it will bring greater accountability to the management and operation of the park. It

SEE LANGLEY FORK, PAGE 5

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# Langley Fork Park Discussed

FROM PAGE 3

will also provide the opportunity for the investment in the park.”

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), says McLean has been playing around with plans to improve the park for some time now, but it wasn't feasible under previously existing circumstances.

“Langley Fork is something we've been talking about for the past 10 years, when I was president of the McLean Citizens Association,” he said. “We just kept coming back to the fact that Langley Fork had so much potential, but the fact was the Park Authority didn't own it, and there was a reluctance to invest in property we had on a year to year lease.”

Gayle Hooper, project manager for the Park Authority said Langley Oaks Park “is a natural wooded area, it hasn't been developed except for a few power lines that run through.”

She said the swap would not change the nature of Langley Oaks, but would provide the Park Authority the ability to invest in Langley Fork.

“By changing ownership of Langley Oaks, it would remain a wooded area under the care of the National Park Service,” Hooper said. “Langley Fork would remain an athletic and recreational site, with any improvements the community believes are worthwhile.”

**THE TRANSFER PROCESS** would require the NPS to conduct an environmental assessment of Langley Fork, which would give the Park Authority more information in regards to the natural, wa-

ter and cultural resources at the park.

“The beauty of this, as far as the master plan process goes, is that this will give us a much broader range of information,” Hooper said. “We'll have all the environmental assessment information, and we'll combine that with public input to come up with a plan of what we think is the best usage for Langley Fork Park.”

Ben Helwig of the NPS said that the assessment and the master planning process would work together to shape the future of the park.

“We're actually running two separate processes,” he said. “The master planning for the site, and hopefully whatever gets decided during this process will be able to feed into the environmental assessment process, so for our needs we'll be able to say when we give this park away, this is what [the Park Authority] is planning on doing with it.”

Kevin Fay, Dranesville representative on the Park Authority Board, said Langley Fork “has some of the greatest potential we have for active park development in the area, both in terms of refurbishment of the existing fields and potential expansion of additional fields.”

**AT A COMMUNITY MEETING** Thursday, Oct. 13 at Franklin Sherman Elementary School, community members gave their initial feedback on what they hoped to see at Langley Fork.

Joel Stillman, president of McLean Youth Athletics, said he would like to see the process result in increased playing fields for

outdoor and indoor sports.

“Improving the fields there will be a great help to a very bad situation,” he said. “We also represent indoor sports like basketball, wrestling and volleyball, and resources are just as scarce for them to participate in the sports they want to do. An indoor facility, a field house, if you will, where all types of things could happen, could be basketball, volleyball, art shows, many different things the public could use.”

Alex Aguilar, a sophomore at Oakcrest School in McLean, says she hopes the plan also involved improvements to the present fields at Langley Fork Park.

“My vision for Langley Forks Park is the improvement of the fields currently there,” she said. “My soccer team practices there every day and we play our home games there, and the need for improvement is apparent. There are a lot of dangerous conditions. There's a dirt area completely covered in rocks... also there are dips and ditches in the field, and our team is constantly facing injuries such as sprained ankles.”

The Park Authority hopes to develop a draft master plan over the next few months and present the draft to the board in January. After another public comment meeting in February and a 30-day public comment period, the revisions will be included in the plan and submitted to the board for approval.

More information on the process, as well as updates on the project status, can be found at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/langleyfork.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/langleyfork.htm).

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/OCT. 20

**Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc.** 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Carl J. Beisel of the SAIC Corp. will discuss the report on the Arlington National Cemetery Assessment and Findings regarding the cemetery's grave management. Free admission, general public and all veterans invited. 703-255-0353 or [222.vva227.org](http://222.vva227.org).

**Potomac Rose Society October Meeting and Rose Growing Program.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Jerry Amoroso, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Sales Manager for Weeks Roses, will describe new roses and more. Free. Light refreshments. 301-869-4948.

**Avoiding Divorce Court II: Provisions of Settlement Agreements.** 6:30 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E.,

Vienna. This course picks up where Avoiding Divorce Court I leaves off, with a more thorough discussion of separation, custody, and property Settlement Agreements. \$30-\$70. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-4928.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 22

**Social Media 2.0.** 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. How to use Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook and more. Laptop suggested, not required. Free. Register at [ap@uucf.org](mailto:ap@uucf.org).

**Yes I Can: Learn to Read Music Workshop.** 10 a.m. Steinway Piano Galleries, Tysons Corner. Lunch included. \$35, seniors \$25. Learn to read music notes, improve your voice, count rhythm and more. Register at [www.kesselministries.com](http://www.kesselministries.com).

**The Smart Split: Legal Aspects About Separation and Divorce.** 10 a.m. McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Learn the rights and responsibilities involved in separation and divorce from experienced practicing family

law attorneys. Learn how the legal process works in the Virginia courts and how to work with your lawyer. A support group will be available. \$55 non-members, \$45 members. [komeara@thewomenscenter.org](mailto:komeara@thewomenscenter.org).

### TUESDAY/OCT. 25

**Candidates' Debate.** 7 p.m. Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike. Great Falls. Each candidate will give a five-minute presentation followed by Sheriff and Dranesville School Board candidates debates. The School Board Bond issue, pro and con, will be briefly explained. [bcanis@yahoo.com](mailto:bcanis@yahoo.com).

- ❖ County Sheriff. Stan Barry vs. Bill Cooper.
- ❖ Dranesville School Board Member. Janie Strauss vs. Louise Epstein.
- ❖ County School Board At-Large Members. Ilryong Moon, Sheree Brown-Kaplan, Lin-Dal Kendall, Lolita Mancheno-Smoak, Ryan McElveen, Steven Stuban and Ted Velkoff.
- ❖ Northern Va. District Soil & Water Conservation Directors. Johna Gagnon, George Lamb, John Peterson, Tom Crammer, and Peter Marchetti.

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## REAL ESTATE

# Hope 'Around the Corner'

## McLean and Great Falls housing market update through 3rd quarter 2011.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

**"D**etour (There's a Muddy Road Ahead)" by Paul Westerland is a western swing song that in my view best describes the current housing market in McLean and Great Falls. The title of the song says it all – the road is not smooth or straight – best course of action is to "detour." How I wish that was a possibility for the current housing market – but it seems we are going to have to work our way through, no possibility of going around it.

All price brackets had similar number of sales in the first three quarters of 2011 compared to 2010. The best news again occurred in the \$1.25 to \$2 million bracket with 126 homes changing hands, up



from 119 in the first half of 2010. As you may recall, the recovery of this price range began in the first half of 2011 and fortunately carried over into the third quarter. The total number of sales for McLean and Great Falls was 684, which is down from 708 in the same time period in 2010, a drop of 3.5 percent.

My prediction for the last quarter of 2011 is much the same as the first three quarters of the year: recovery of the housing market will continue, but in a bumpy fashion. Dr. Stephen Fuller, Director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis is the foremost authority on the economy for the Washington, D.C. metro area. Fuller spoke at the Economic Summit for the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors on Sept. 16, 2010 where

he anticipated a rocky recovery. "Recession is over when you stop declining," he said, "not when you get back to where you were." He predicted that it will be 2012 before we will be in an accelerating economy. Thankfully 2012 is just around the corner.

*The writer is the Principal, Huckaby Briscoe Conroy Realty Group.*

## McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales: 1<sup>st</sup> 3 Quarters of 2011 compared to 1<sup>st</sup> 3 Quarters of 2010

(Based on Final Closed Price)

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$750k-\$1.25 Mil.	<\$750k
<b>1<sup>st</sup> 3 QTRS. 2011</b>					
22101	3	11	52	129	110
22102	5	6	32	54	135
22066	3	3	42	68	31
Total:	11	20	126	251	276
<b>Combined Total:</b>		<b>157</b>		<b>527</b>	
<b>All Sales 1st 3 Qtrs. 2011: 684</b>					
<b>1<sup>st</sup> 3 QTRS. 2010</b>					
20101	5	6	45	123	118
22102	5	13	19	57	145
22066	1	8	55	84	24
Total:	11	27	119	264	287
<b>Combined Total:</b>		<b>157</b>		<b>551</b>	
<b>All Sales 1st 3 Qtrs. 2010: 708</b>					

## REAL ESTATE NOTES

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

Bruce L. Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced Sales Associate **Patricia E. Stack** of the Vienna 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 special-ist can be reached in Weichert's

Vienna office at 156 East Maple Avenue or by phone at 703-938-6070.



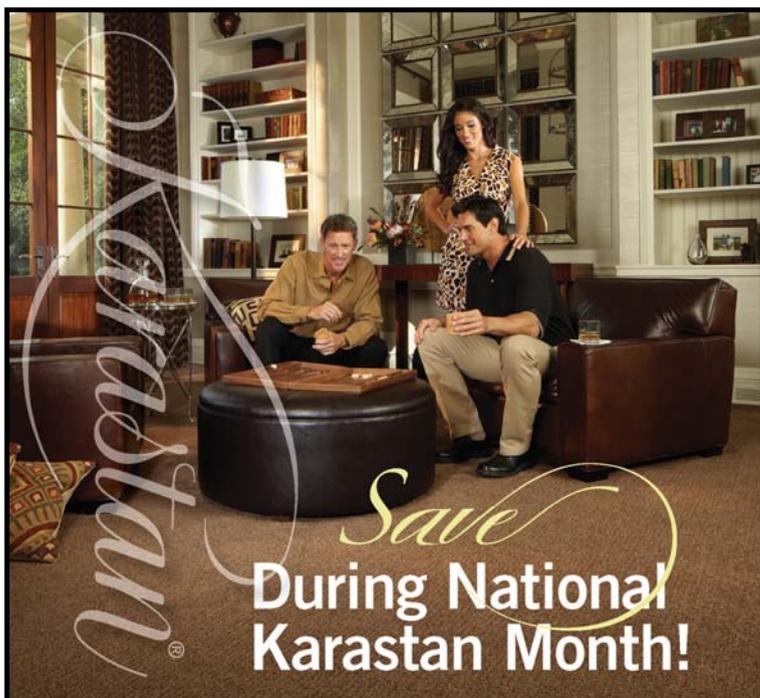
**Patricia E. Stack**

**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.

**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.



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# Candidates Face Off at Grange

**GFCA hosts first of two candidates forums.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Citizens Association hosted a candidate's forum Tuesday, Oct. 11 at the Grange. Candidates for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chair Democratic incumbent Sharon Bulova and Republican challenger Michael "Spike" Williams and Dranesville District Supervisor Democratic incumbent John Foust and Republican challenger Dennis Husch addressed local issues.

General assembly candidates also spoke at the forum. Republican Caren Merrick and Democrat Barbara Favola are facing off for the open 31st Senate district seat, while 34th delegate district incumbent Republican Barbara Comstock and Democratic challenger Pamela Danner were present.

Bulova, who previously served as Braddock District Supervisor, was elected chair in 2009. She cited several examples of the work she has done in Great Falls.

"I worked with John [Foust (D-Dranesville)] on making sure we received funding for the fire station, and it was designed in a way that would be a success for the Great Falls community," she said. "I've also enjoyed working with your community on historic preservation. That's one of the things I especially care about and believe in."

Williams currently lives in Oak Hill, and is a realtor as well as a project manager with a multinational corporation with offices in the Dulles Corridor. He said he is running against what he sees as a "serious lack of leadership" in the county, as well as on a platform of increased transparency.

"As chairman, I would not vote for the \$1.7 billion transfer [from Fairfax County to Fairfax County Public Schools] unless an independent audit has been done, we can see where money is being spent," he said. "We do not have a revenue problem here in Fairfax County, we have a spending problem."

The proposed addition of a ropes course by the company Go Ape has been a hot button issue in Great Falls recently. The Fairfax County Park Authority awarded Go Ape an award for the development and operation of the course July 21, but local neighbors and residents believe they were shut out of the decision process.

"I believe that when a change is being proposed in our Fairfax County Parks that there should be and needs to be a public process," Bulova said. "That didn't happen in this case, it should have."

Williams said he was also against a process that minimized public input.

"I think if the Great Falls community had the opportunity to see this in the light of day, they would have come out in arms against it," he said. "I think it needs to be



**Michael "Spike" Williams, Republican candidate for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chair.**



**Sharon Bulova, Democratic candidate for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chair.**



**John Foust, Democratic candidate for Dranesville District Supervisor.**



**Dennis Husch, Republican candidate for Dranesville District Supervisor.**



**Barbara Favola, Democratic candidate for the 31st district senate.**



**Caren Merrick, Republican candidate for the 31st district senate.**



**Barbara Comstock, Republican candidate for 34th district delegate.**



**Pamela Danner, Democratic candidate for 34th district delegate.**

tabled and looked at with fresh eyes and the community needs to have the opportunity to give that input, so we can welcome it because it works or reject it because it doesn't."

The recent approval of the Brightview assisted living facility was another controversial issue in the community, and the candidates were asked how future controversies might be avoided.

"The problem in this circumstance is that we trusted that the developer was going to reach out in a good faith way to the community," Williams said. "This is a failing in the way that we trusted a private entity to execute a public action. If there's public notice needed, the government should take responsibility for that."

Bulova said her priority has always been to get information out as soon as possible to as many people as possible.

"I've always made it my practice, as does Supervisor Foust, to try and share as much as possible and as broadly as possible, information about the land use applications. Sometimes folks don't become as aware as they should have been until you've got the public hearings advertised," she said. "Development is something that is going to be with you for a long time. When land uses change, it's important that the time be taken in order to engage the community."

**FOUST IS WRAPPING UP** his first term as Dranesville district supervisor.

"I love the semi-rural character of this community, and I've worked very hard over the past four years to preserve that semi-rural character and to respect the historic value of Great Falls," he said. "One of the biggest challenges we've had is the Route 7 widening project at Georgetown Pike. When I took office the Board of Supervisors had voted years ago to support the dual left-turn lane [from Route 7 onto Georgetown Pike]. In December 2009 I wrote a letter to VDOT asking them to reconsider, and they said only with board approval, and that's what we got."

Foust said he first heard about the Go Ape proposal Aug. 18, at which point he said he told the Park Authority staff to speak with groups such as the Great Falls Citizens Association, Great Falls Trailblazers and the Friends of Riverbend Park and the residents nearby.

"They started that process, and that's how the community became aware of it. But I think the bottom line is, the Park Authority should have come to the community before they got anywhere with this thing," he said. "I have spoken to the Park Authority director and told him I expect him to stop the project now, and to continue the community outreach process. I have spoken to the count attorney and asked him to research on whether it is true that the Park Authority has no regulation that would govern them with respect to public outreach and approval on a project of this significance. I think it's on hold, and the community will

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 18

# OPINION

## More on Deer

Sharing anecdotes from readers;  
No easy answers.

Last month, we noted the beginning of the annual bow hunting season as part of deer management in Fairfax County. We invited readers to share their experiences with deer, and we've had interesting responses.

Among the comments: people shared their experience with Lyme disease, families with experiences with deer-vehicle collisions, nature lovers who were dismayed to run into bow hunters in their local parks, bow hunters who sincerely want to be part of the solution, and one letter outlining one family's negative experiences with bow hunters. We end with a report from the Fairfax County police, which notes the death of an Arlington man when his motorcycle struck a deer in Clifton.

Here are a few excerpts:

### From Springfield

"It's been almost two years since I was diagnosed with Lyme disease. I woke up one morning ... and I quickly realized that I couldn't hear anything in my right ear. It was almost two months later before I learned it was Lyme Disease which caused the hearing loss. While it's still a rare manifestation of the disease, the hearing specialist I saw said he's seeing it more frequently in recent years. ... I never got my hearing back."

### From Centreville

"I am one of the archers in the county's bow hunting program. ... Thanks for giving a bal-

anced view and pointing out the inherent dangers of having such a massive concentration of deer and the associated problems."

### From Oakton

"My son has hit (or been hit by) two deer, causing several thousands of dollars of car damage and raising our insurance rates. We are thankful that neither he nor his friend were injured. We saw a van flip rounding a downhill curve on Oakton Road when Bambi leapt out of the brush. The car was totaled, luckily the driver miraculously was not seriously injured. [This writer's daughter also had Lyme disease.]

"Also we have lost several thousands of landscape dollars even though we always bought supposed shrubbery and plantings deer did not eat. ... We now pay \$80 every two weeks to have a noxious deer repellent sprayed in our yard. It does seem to work."

### From Fairfax Station

"We are not happy with the destruction deer bring and we both have had automobile damage because of deer, but our experiences with hunting and its questionable efficacy make it unsupportable.

"Our first experience was ... two unsupervised boys approximately 12-14 years old walking through our yard with hunting bows while our [Golden Retrievers] ran around. It's more than a little disconcerting to come across unsupervised children carrying deadly weapons across your property.

### EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Why Is Go Ape Needed?

To the Editor:

I am writing to clear up the many distorted facts that have circulated about the Go-Ape contract with Riverbend Park. I am not a neighbor to the park, but I am one of the few people who have stood before the Board of Supervisors and the FCPA on many occasions to fight for the viability of this park threatened numerous times by budget cuts. For years, I have gone monthly to the scarcely populated meetings of the Friends of Riverbend to brainstorm ideas on how to finance this underfunded pristine resource in Great Falls that supports 390,000 visitors a year. I have sat with the FCPA on many evenings since 2005 to discuss the benefits of a ropes course in Riverbend and I am encouraged by the prospect of bringing this resource to the Park. The park is there to be used by everyone. If we try to isolate it, the park may not survive at all.

I sure hope the people who fight this proposal are planning to sit beside me at future Friends meetings to come up with substitute

proposals that can earn the revenue that the Go-Ape project has the potential to earn. If they can find ways to raise money for these public lands that don't bring traffic and people to the park, power to them. I have not been able to do that. However, talk of neon "Hot Dog" signs and "circus-like amusement park" distorts the truth about Go-Ape and hurt the park. I have outlined some of the facts below for people who want to give this proposal the consideration it deserves. You don't have to agree with me, but base your decision in fact.

1. Doing business with commercial enterprises: the FCPA policy manual requires the park to pursue opportunities to collaborate with private sector entities to maximize existing public facilities (Policy 105 from the FCPA policy manual, page 100.24). Go-Ape is not Brightview. FCPA is not selling the land to a commercial enterprise that will develop it forever. They are leasing the land for five years to a company that can disappear without a trace at the end of the contract term if we are unhappy.

2. About the money: the FCPA has had their budget cut 25 per-

cent in the past three years, which threatened to close the park, cut its staff and reduce its hours of operation. FCPA now needs each park to earn 40-60 percent of their operating budget. That is big money and I am not going to raise it holding a native plant sale. The revenue from Go-Ape is very welcome under such circumstances, especially when other concerns (below) were satisfactorily met.

3. Process: the FCPA has no statutory requirement to hold public hearings for new programs. They followed all rules with this process. We could argue to change the rules and require public hearings for new programs, but this is likely to result in a paralyzed park service. FCPA starts new programs all the time (i.e. canoe rentals, astronomy, school programs) all of which bring traffic and people to the park. Very few neighbors took interest. It was hugely unexpected to find people suddenly interested and questioning a new program. At the Friends meetings, we have been kicking around the idea of a ropes course for years. Our meetings are open and transparent and the FCPA was always there discussing it right along side us. There was plenty of transparency for

"The last experience occurred when my wife entered our development in her car. A freshly shot deer was dragging itself across the road in front her and ended up collapsing on the side of the road in a neighbor's yard. ... While we stood there, the hunter came down from his stand, walked to the deer and shot it several times with arrows until it finally died." [This writer also relates observing two deer living with arrows protruding from them, had their "no hunting" signs torn down, and had someone butcher a deer on their property, leaving the entrails behind.]

### From Great Falls

A woman called to recount her discomfort at finding a bow hunter up in the tree when she was hiking in River Bend Park.

### From Clifton

Fairfax County police report that Timothy Ray Schleeter, 50, of Arlington, died in August the day after he collided with a deer while riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle on Compton Road near the intersection of Balmoral Forest Road.

We welcome your stories about deer, and invite you to send your photos. You can find more on our website, [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) by searching with one word: deer.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM, ON  
TWITTER, @MARYKIMM

people who were looking for it.

4. Traffic: Plenty of solutions exist to deal with the traffic and smart people should be able to figure out how to solve this problem. Two of the better suggestions I've heard include asking VDOT for a turn lane into the park or using a shuttle from the grange on those crowded summer weekend days. There are very few days when traffic backs up out of the park. As for speed on Jeffery Road, VDOT can install speed bumps at places that have blind curves or hills. Go-Ape is contractually obligated to reduce the number of customers on days where it affects traffic. Use Go-Ape to get your traffic issues resolved, don't kill Go-Ape.

5. Nature Preserve: Lots to say here but basically, the park is required to keep 97 percent of the park in a pristine state. With 418 acres, the park can offer a visitor's center, a nature center, parking and a ropes course all in the 3 percent remaining. Even so, Go-Ape removes no trees, the cable system has no impact on the existing trees, an independent arborist checks the trees each year to ensure good health, they remove

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

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# Supervisor Race Preview

FROM PAGE 3

ing to the Virginia Public Access Project. Of the money raised, \$133,762 has come in the form of cash contributions of more than \$100; \$35,125 has come in cash contributions of less than \$100; and \$12,622

as in-kind contributions of more than \$100.

More information is available at [www.foustforsupervisor.com](http://www.foustforsupervisor.com).

**HUSCH** served on the Herndon Town Council from 1994 to 2010, where he served on the council's Finance Ad Hoc Committee, the Hispanic Task Force and the Mayor's Sports Field Inventory Task Force among others. He also represented the town on the Fairfax County Regulatory Process and Legislative Committee.

"I have a long history of local government involvement and making the hard decisions that need to be made," he said. "A public official has a responsibility to listen first, engage stakeholders and then make a decision, not the other way around."

Husch says his main concerns in the Dranesville District are the committed funds for Tysons Corner redevelopment and Phase Two of Dulles Metrorail

**"It sounds strange, but the number one thing we can do to improve our economy is continue to support Fairfax County Public Schools."**

— John Foust

**"I have a long history of local government involvement and making the hard decisions that need to be made."**

— Dennis Husch

and lack of information about where the money will come from.

"Currently there's a commitment to pay \$991 million, soon to be \$1 billion, soon to be \$1.7 billion and we know it will go to \$2 billion for infrastructure development in Tysons Corner," he said. "There's no plan on where that money is coming from. We deserve better than that. There's a commitment to pay \$400 million or more for Phase Two of the Silver Line. There's no indication about where that money is going to come from, and how it's going to be funded. We deserve better than that."

The Husch campaign has raised \$30,304, according to VPAP. Of that money, \$17,021 has come in the form of cash contributions of more than \$100; \$9,998 in cash contributions of \$100 or less; and \$1,467 from in-kind contributions of more than \$100.

More information about Husch can be found at [www.dhusch.com](http://www.dhusch.com).

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PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Guests on the Great Falls Studios Tour examine the artists and art on display at the Atelier, a shared studio space in Great Falls. The Atelier was one of many local art spaces on display during the annual tour.

Guests tour the pottery studio of Laura Nichols during the annual Great Falls Studios Tour Sunday, Oct. 16. The tour featured 48 local artists who displayed their work, and many of them welcomed guests into their personal studios.

# Great Falls Studios Hosts Annual Tour

## Local artists display works, workspaces.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Great Falls artist Sheila Lynch began her career at an early age, drawing on walls with crayons when she was only a year old. Since then, she has been “collecting experiences,” which lead her to explore creative expression in many avenues.

“I learned how to stain glass at the Torpedo Factory, which led me to learn about

fusing, which led me to jewelry and to painting and drawing,” she said.

Lynch was one of 48 artists who shared their art with hundreds of visitors during Great Falls Studios’ annual tour. Her workplace is her home, off Riverbend Road, and every corner of the house displays her eclectic interests.

One table contained jewelry she makes, creating pieces of colored glass in her studio. She also makes cufflinks out of wood, metal and glass, and has a process where she can turn pictures into stained glass portraits.

“I like things that are more than one thing,” she said. “I come up with my ideas whenever they come to me, I write them down, and sort of work backwards until it comes to life.”

Another section features a table filled with rocks that appear normal until an ultraviolet

light make the zinc in the rocks glow in vivid colors. In front of her fireplace is a mosaic made up of rocks, beads, glass and other materials. Nothing on the piece is glued down, so Lynch can adjust as she sees fit.

“I just sort of started it and went where it took me,” she said. “It comes from the Buddhist notion that says ‘just let things happen.’”

Betty Ganley paints mostly water scenes, and her work has won more than 70 awards and have been published in many art books.

“I don’t sail or boat, but I love the scenery,” she said. “I started painting the coasts of Maine, and sort of worked my way down the East Coast.”

Ganley says she enjoys the Studios Tour, now in its eighth year, because it allows more people to see what local artists are capable of.

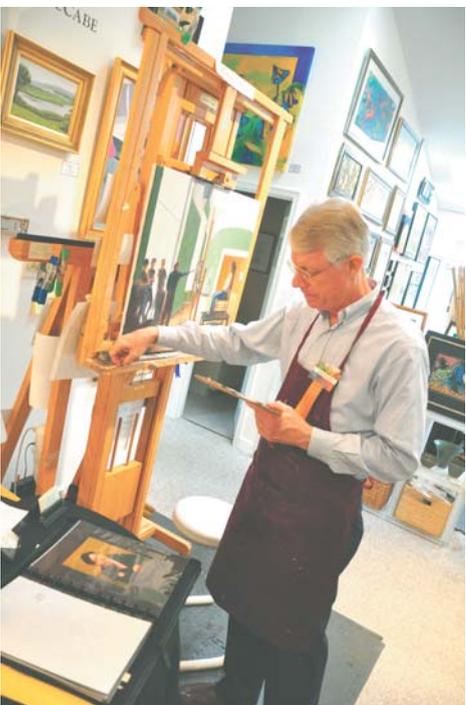
“This is the best event of the year for artists in this area, a lot of people will be seeing our work, people who might otherwise

never see it,” she said. “I love when the map comes out every year, because you can just discover the people who have studios on all these back roads and see interesting areas of Great Falls where they create.”

**LIKE MANY ARTISTS** on the tour, painter Alicia Sommers began her artistic endeavors at a young age. She started playing the harp at 5, and when she moved to the area 32 years ago, she started taking painting classes.

“I just love color,” said Sommers, who mostly paints with acrylic on canvas and paper. “And I’m very into abstraction. I’ve

SEE ARTISTS, PAGE 15



Painter John McCabe works on a piece at his studio, which he shares with many other artists who are a part of Great Falls Studios during the annual tour Sunday. McCabe was one of many Great Falls artists who created and displayed their works over the weekend.



Donna Barnako stands next to one of her necklaces, “Crossroads,” at her home studio during the Great Falls Studio Tour.



Artist Sheila Lynch displays an example of how she goes from a photograph to a drawing, and then turns the drawing into a piece of stained glass. The project pictured is part of a self-portrait project she is working on.

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Churchill Road fourth grader Sophie Stitt and Langley seniors Devon Clark and Lydia Fernandes lead the pack on the groups' run around the Churchill track.



Churchill Road Ready to Run participants Leah Damelin, Eliza Young, Elena Shklyar, Sarah Das, and Julia Jones begin by learning to stretch properly before taking to the track.

## Ready to Run at Churchill Road

In September, Langley High School seniors Devon Clark and Molly Bremer, conducted the first Ready to Run class for girls in Churchill Road's 4th-6th grade classes. Devin and

Molly wanted to share their love of running and organized the activity because they wanted to encourage girls to start running at an early age. Ready to Run provides an opportunity for girls to gain confidence, cultivate social skills, and

develop healthy lifestyles by participating with their peers in a running program. Langley's cross country coaches, Jessica Cardosi and Gifford Krivak, as well as Langley classmates Annie Cross, Lydia

Fernandes and Allie Pivik, are assisting with the group, too. The season's grand finale for the group will be participation in a local 5K run.

## Casting the Ballot

Langley SGA students assist Churchill Road students with voting.

Langley High School Student Government Officers formed a partnership with Churchill Road Elementary School SCA sponsor Alex Mantel to assist with the Churchill Road student government elections. Langley seniors Sean Ahearn, Molly Bremer, Holly Dodd and Annie Snitman came to Churchill Road on election day to answer questions about the voting process and the role of student government, as well as to assist with the voting process itself. Churchill Road students voted electronically for each of the six key positions. CRS technology specialist Erik Dahlin created the electronic ballot, which featured photos of each of the candidates. Mimicking real-life voting experiences, students were presented with "I voted" stickers following the completion of balloting.



Langley SGA representative Sean Ahearn and CRS SCA sponsor Alex Mantel assist first graders Brooke Washington and Noor Golesorkhi with the electronic voting process.



Langley High School SGA officers and representatives Molly Bremer, Holly Dodd and Annie Snitman present CRS 5th grader Lauren Cain with an "I voted" sticker at the conclusion of the balloting session.

PHOTOS BY  
KIM MORAN

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Langley High School junior and Great Falls resident, Morgan Ladd (third from left), on the set of Nickelodeon's Worldwide Day of Play, filmed in Washington. Michelle Obama, LeBron James and Victoria Justice were some of the celebrity guests.



For his Eagle Scout project, Brent Yarnall managed the construction of a new outdoor classroom for the St. Francis Creche in Great Falls. Yarnall joins Thomas Shanmugam in the Tree Cookies natural building block area of the classroom at the Oct. 2 dedication.

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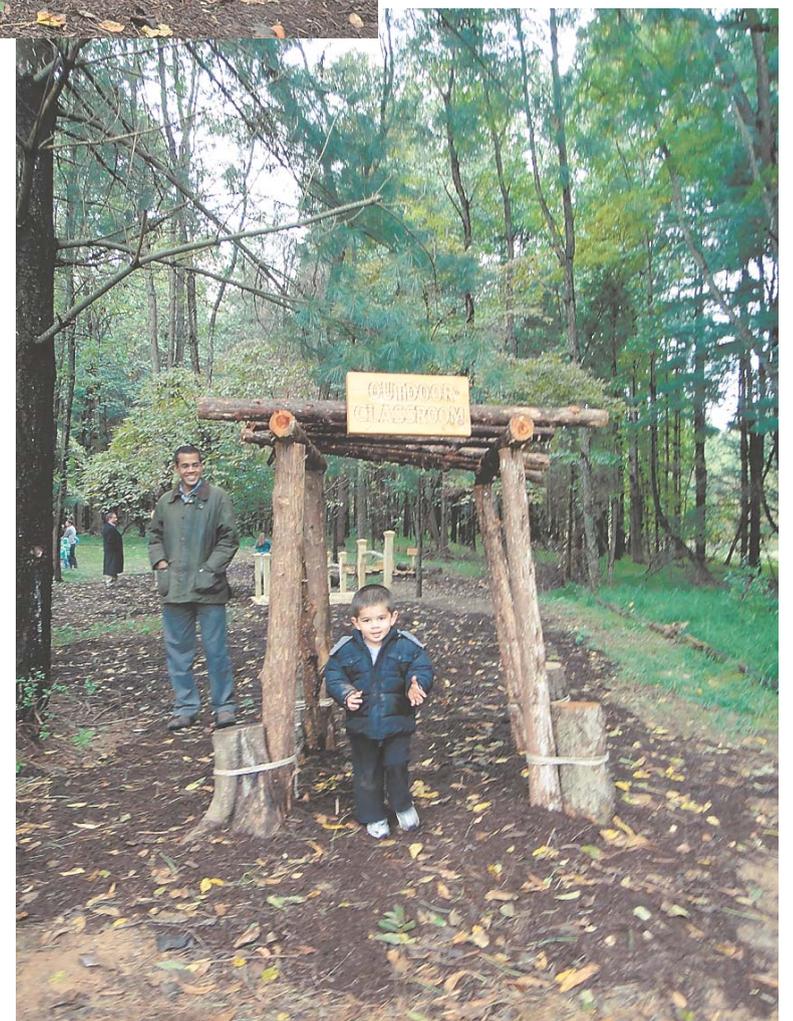
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### A New Outdoor Classroom

In celebration of the St. Francis Creche preschool's 10th anniversary, parishioners at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls joined in a special blessing on Oct. 2 for a new outdoor classroom for the school's young students. Parishioner Brent Yarnall, an Eagle Scout with Troop 1530, managed the construction of the outdoor classroom with the help of fellow scouts, troop leaders, and friends. The classroom area includes an entranceway, several stations for playing and exploring nature, and a three-tier platform deck.



Kannon Shanmugam and his son William enjoy the new outdoor classroom for the St. Francis Creche preschool in Great Falls.

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

# Artists Display Their Work

FROM PAGE 11

worked in almost every medium, but painting is my favorite.”

Donna Barnako found her calling later in life. She owned a yarn store in McLean for many years, and began taking art classes after her retirement in 2001. She now makes her jewelry, which consists of metal, glass and other objects she creates or discovers, at her home studio, which she built five years ago.

“I like to do metal work, etching, and adding parts of things I find, such as parts of a watch or a belt buckle,” she said. “I sort of let the pieces speak to me, and I really enjoy finding new processes to color or etch metal, and I’m always looking for new and interesting tools.”

Much of Barnako’s work is centered around a piece she discovered somewhere, and then built the jewelry around it in a complimentary way. One necklace she took her seven years to complete as she waited for the right aquatic related pieces to come to her.

Paula Wexford of Great Falls says she was amazed at seeing the spaces in which the artists work.

“I went to one house where Laura [Nichols, a potter] had her kiln and shelves of her work just out on

display in her basement. I’d never seen a kiln before, or even imagined the process it takes to create something as seemingly simple as a bowl,” she said. “I just think it’s neat to see how these people have found a way to make sure they are as close as possible to their work, and can work at their own pace and not have to commute.”

Painter Michele Mansuino says she always finds her inspiration in the same place: Italy.

“I went to Florence when I was younger, and that was it,” she said. “I keep going back because of the constancy of the light, color, weather and architecture, which just doesn’t change.”

Mansuino says she paints every day in the studio she shares with several other artists on Walker Road, except when she is in Italy. Jim Rodney of Vienna said seeing so much art on display and under construction was an inspiring sight.

“It’s like a beautiful factory, where these creative people work together, side by side and create amazing pieces,” he said. “This is the kind of art I’d put up against any gallery I’ve ever seen, and it’s amazing that it’s created by our friends and neighbors.”

**MORE INFORMATION** on Great Falls Studios can be found at [www.greatfallstudios.com](http://www.greatfallstudios.com).

**“This is the kind of art I’d put up against any gallery I’ve ever seen, and it’s amazing that it’s created by our friends and neighbors.”**

— Jim Rodney of Vienna

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meet Bosco and make his dream of a home of his own a reality. Attributes: Big Lover Boy!



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## HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

### 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**

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Calendar, Connection Newspapers  
 1606 King Street  
 Alexandria, VA 22314.

For more information, call 703-778-9410.



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## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 19

**Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com); and [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com). [www.disneyonice.com](http://www.disneyonice.com).

**Model Investment Club of Northern Virginia.** 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Learn more about investing. Adults. 703-790-8088, TTY: 711.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 20

**The Alternate Routes: A Benefit for Music 4 More and Delta Rae.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com); and [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com). [www.disneyonice.com](http://www.disneyonice.com).

**"Auntie Mame."** 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. An eccentric aunt introduces her nephew to a life of madcap parties, silly escapades and more. \$128 adults, \$15 students and seniors. [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org) or 703-425-6782.

**The Battle of Lewinsville.** 7 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. The "battle" is a little known skirmish that took place at Lewinsville on September 11, 1861 involving notable Civil War figures. Adults. 703-356-0770, TTY: 711.

**Book Discussion Group.** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call for title. Adults. 703-757-8560, TTY: 711.

**Ollabelle with Kris Delmhorst.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Roots music. \$20. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**"Amadeus" Fall Concert.** 7 p.m. Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Each of Langley's five orchestras will present music from the motion picture soundtrack. The Concerto in d minor, K.466, will feature senior pianist Michelle Kim, and the Concerto for Flute and Harp features Allysa Katahara. Free. 703-864-9173 or [smcquade2002@yahoo.com](mailto:smcquade2002@yahoo.com).

### FRIDAY/OCT. 21

**The Milk Carton Kids and Gaby Moreno** at 7 p.m., **Big O and Dukes Live** at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream.** 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com); and [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com). [www.disneyonice.com](http://www.disneyonice.com).

**"Auntie Mame."** 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. An eccentric aunt introduces her nephew to a life of madcap parties, silly escapades and more. \$128 adults, \$15 students and seniors. [www.providenceplayers.org](http://www.providenceplayers.org) or 703-425-6782.

**Hurray for Halloween!** 2:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Come in costume for stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-356-0770, TTY: 711.



## Langley's Orchestras in Concert

Each of Langley's five orchestras will present music from the soundtrack of the motion picture **"Amadeus"** on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Concerto in d minor, K.466, will feature senior pianist Michelle Kim, and the Concerto for Flute and Harp features Allysa Katahara (pictured). Free. 703-864-9173 or [smcquade2002@yahoo.com](mailto:smcquade2002@yahoo.com).

**Friday Afternoon Chess Group.** 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Players of all levels welcome. No registration necessary. All ages. 703-757-8560, TTY: 711.

**Battlefield Band.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Scottish revival music. \$24. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**"Mother Wove the Morning."** 8 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. One woman's search for the feminine face of God. Proceeds benefit the Fistula Foundation. \$20, \$10 students, seniors, and low income. Advance tickets available at [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org).

**MPA Art Appetizers.** 7-9 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A discussion of "Seth Rosenberg: The Cleveland Years; Accidentally on Purpose: Paintings by Carolyn Case" and "Encaustic Paintings by Georgia Nassikas." Silent auction, refreshments and more. \$20. [info@mpaart.org](mailto:info@mpaart.org).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 22

**Archaeology Day.** 12-4 p.m. Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Celebrate Virginia Archaeology Month by participating

in activities, tours, and more. No digging will occur but a variety of artifacts will be displayed including Civil War artifacts. Free. 703-591-6728.

**Johnny Reb and Billy Yank.** 2:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Storyteller Gary Lloyd shares true tales from both sides of the Civil War. Cosponsored by the Erie and John Hopkins Educational and Charitable Trust through the Fairfax Library Foundation. Age 6 and up. Free. 703-356-0770.

**McLean Remembers the Civil War.** 11 a.m.-5 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Sponsored by McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia. Reenactors, speakers, displays, music, and more detailing the impact the Civil War had on McLean and the surrounding area. Historian and broadcaster Roger Mudd, will be the honorary event chairman and keynote speaker. Free and open to the public. 703-356-8223.

**McLean Symphony Orchestra's 40th Anniversary Season Opening.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Conducted by Dingwall Fleary, with pianist Carlos Ibay performing Rachmaninoff's

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 17

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 16

Concerto No. 2 and MacDowell's Concerto No. 2. 703-356-0089.

**The Downtown Fiction and Sing Me Insomnia.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream.** 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patrioy Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, www.ticketmaster.com; and www.patriotcenter.com. www.disneyonice.com.

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With the Alturas Duo. Sibelius' Tapiola, Farias' Commissioned Concerto, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, "Eroica." Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.

**Inova HealthSource Fight the Flu.** 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Shots \$30 or Medicare Part B; must be 18 or older. www.inova.org/flu or 703-750-8818. 703-790-8088, TTY: 711.

**"Bravo Mozart" All-Mozart Concert.** 4 p.m. Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. With Aaron Goldman and Dotian Levalier in Mozart's Concerto for Flute and Harp. Reception to follow. Adults \$20, seniors and groups \$18, on-line \$18. Students free. 703-758-0179.

**"Auntie Mame."** 7:30 p.m. James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. An eccentric aunt introduces her nephew

to a life of madcap parties, silly escapades and more. \$128 adults, \$15 students and seniors. www.providenceplayers.org or 703-425-6782.

**"Mother Wove the Morning."** 8 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. One woman's search for the feminine face of God. Proceeds benefit the Fistula Foundation. \$20, \$10 students, seniors, and low income. Advance tickets available at www.uucf.org.

**The Old Firehouse Teen Center 21st Anniversary Block Party.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Living history exhibit, rock wall, moon bounce, caricature artist and a "McLean Teens Got Talent" competition. Free admission. 703-448-8336, TTY 711 or www.mcleancenter.org/kids-teens/old-firehouse.asp.

**Oktoberfest Bazaar and Craft Fair.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Charles Wesley United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall and Narthex, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. Handcrafted jewelry, silk floral arrangements, hand carved birds, baked goods and more. Lunch served 11 a.m.-2 p.m. with bratwurst, sauerkraut, German potato salad, hot dogs, desserts and more. www.charleswesleyumc.org.

**Ayr Hill Garden Club at the Vienna Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. In the Caboose parking lot on Church St., Vienna. The club will be selling a wide selection of flower bulbs. Proceeds help maintain the W & OD bike trail garden, the garden at Patrick Henry Library, Salsbury Spring, Children's Discovery Garden and the Ayr Hill Learning Center Garden. plhweiss@yahoo.com.

**SUNDAY/OCT. 23**

**I.M.P. and Jammin' Java present The Civil Wars with Milo Greene.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream.** 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patrioy Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$70, available at 1-800-551-SEAT, www.ticketmaster.com; and www.patriotcenter.com. www.disneyonice.com.

**16th Annual Craftsmen's Fall Classic Arts & Crafts Festival.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Dulles Expo Center South Hall, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Original designs and work from hundreds of artists and craftsmen. Admission \$7, \$1 age 6-12, under age 6 free. 1-336-282-5550.

**"Auntie Mame."** 2 p.m. James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. An eccentric aunt introduces her nephew to a life of madcap parties, silly escapades and more. \$128 adults, \$15 students and seniors. www.providenceplayers.org or 703-425-6782.

**Wounded Warrior Salmon Run.** 2-7 p.m. American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. A salmon fish fry with two live bands to raise funds to support our Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed. \$15 per person. emilielarson@erols.com.

**Fall Festival.** 2-4 p.m. Vienna Adventist Academy, Vienna Adventist Academy, 340 Courthouse Road S.W., Vienna. Rock and velcro wall, bouncy boxing, soccer tournament, bake sale, vendors and more. vaamarketing@gmail.com.

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011**  
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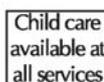


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Oakton Church of the Brethren ... 703-281-4411

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St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555  
St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

**Charismatic**

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777  
**Church of Christ**  
Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040  
**Disciples of Christ**  
Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

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Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521  
Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991  
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Christ The King Lutheran Church...703-759-6068  
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

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Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705  
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Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001  
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**Unitarian Universalist**

Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230  
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Unity of Fairfax ... 703-281-1767

# Candidates Address Hot Great Falls Issues

FROM PAGE 7

have the opportunity to speak.”

Foust also said he helped with new zoning ordinances to help preserve the nature of Georgetown Pike from over-development, especially after a few developers built too close to the road.

“I got the zoning staff involved, and we now have provisions in the zoning ordinance where that type of impact on Georgetown Pike will never happen again,” he said. “We’re working with the Great Falls Trailblazers and the Great Falls Citizens Association and our resident historian to make sure the trail projects along Georgetown Pike are stone dust trails rather than concrete,” he said.

**HUSCH SERVED** on the Town Council of Herndon for 16 years, and has worked as a defense contractor for the past 30 years.

“A public official has a responsibility to listen first, engage stakeholders and then make decisions, not the other way around,” he said.

Husch condemned the Brightview decision, saying the special exception granted by the Board of Supervisors to allow the facility was inconsistent with Great Falls.

It was approved with minimum public engagement. To make matters worse, the comprehensive land use plan was not followed,” he said. “In this case, two acres of that property was determined to be residential property and it should have stayed residential. The covenant with the community was broken, and that residential property was changed to commercial. There are ways to do that, but you don’t do it on the fly.”

He also said he was against the process that resulted in the Go Ape proposal, saying that the park should not be commercialized without public input.

“The lady from the Fairfax County Park Authority told us at a meeting last week that since their budgets were cut, they were given tacit approval to commercialize our parks, and that they didn’t have to go through any public hearing process to commercialize our parks,” he said. “That’s just wrong, that’s not the way we make decisions on how to use facilities, and we deserve better. To make matters worse, it did not even require an environmental study or traffic study.”

Husch also said he would work to protect the integrity of Georgetown Pike.

“Clearly the Pike is a relevant, historic asset,” he said. “Allowing development right up to the edge of the road is clearly not appropriate, changing the character of the road, clear-cutting trees or any other nonsense should not be allowed to happen.”

**FAVOLA AND MERRICK** are running for the open State Senate seat vacated by the retiring Mary Margaret Whipple, and Great Falls is a new addition to the district. Previously it included mostly Arlington, but now stretches from Arlington to eastern McLean, Great Falls and into Loudoun County.

Favola has been on the Arlington County Board for the past 14 years, and has lived in the area for the past 30 years. She was chair of the Arlington County Board in 2000, 2004 and 2009, as well as vice chair in 1999, 2003 and 2008.

“Since 2008, this entire region has created more jobs than any other in the state,” she said. “It’s because you care enough to create an environment that gives us the very best educated workforce. Those are the kinds of things I care about, and I want to continue.”

Merrick has lived in McLean since 1992, and founded webMethods, a company which started in her basement and grew to an 1,100-employee company. She says her experience as a jobs creator makes her the best choice for the seat.

“Our unemployment rate is nearly double what it usually is, and as we know the two biggest sectors in our economy, the federal government and contractors are facing a very uncertain future,” she said. “I would propose that we will streamline regulations and taxation so that business of all sizes can grow and we can diversify our economy.”

Favola said she would support a “modest” increase in the gasoline tax in Virginia as an alternative to debt financing of transportation costs.

“This position was a position held by the mayors and chairs of every jurisdiction in Northern Virginia for many years,” she said. “I believe that if we structure this in the right way, and we can show our voters a high degree of accountability and a high degree of transparency, and you know which projects will be funded with the money, there would be support for that increase.”

Merrick says an increase in gas tax would not be a sustainable way to fund transportation improvements.

“Because of alternative modes of transport, public transit and also telework and the much increased efficiency of our automobiles, it’s just not sustainable,” she said. “In these challenging economic times, I would not support raising the gas tax.”

When asked what ways she would help to curtail instances of Lyme disease, especially in rural areas like Great Falls, Favola said she would have to look at the big picture.

“I think we have to be careful about it,” she said. “We should look at best practices, ways that are humane to the deer and don’t put individuals at harm, because we are in a heavily populated area.”

Merrick said she was in favor of methods to control Lyme disease, and she supports U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf’s (R-10) efforts to educate people about the disease.

“I support Supervisor [Pat] Herrity’s (R-Springfield) approach, which is to set up a safe chemical in an area where deer go to start to repel and kill the ticks from the deer,” she said.

**COMSTOCK IS FINISHING** her first term as delegate, having been elected in 2009. She pointed out her efforts over the past two years to make things easier on residents of Great Falls.

“Go Ape was a process in which you weren’t heard from, and you were outraged after the fact,” she said. “I already called Secretary [Sean] Connaughton, our transportation secretary to be able to see what can be done about transportation studies, because I know that’s a concern.”

Danner has lived in McLean for more than 25 years, and has been involved in the McLean Community Center Board, McLean Community Foundation and more, in addition to practicing law.

“I will work with our neighbors and landowners to preserve our beautiful Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay watershed,” she said. “I will work to preserve the semi-rural character of Great Falls and our national by-way, Georgetown Pike.”

Synthetic turf fields have been an issue in Great Falls as of late, with athletic groups citing their durability as key to handling increased numbers of youth athletes, and others concerns with health and environmental effects. The candidates were asked if they would support state studies to come up with standards for synthetic fields.

“These fields are much more durable, and can be used year round,” Danner said. “I

believe we can locally look at what are the issues, if there are issues in what’s used for the fields, without requiring state mandates.”

“The Board [of Supervisors] asked for \$10 million, the state gave us \$30 million. I worked with our secretary of transportation to get \$30 million,” Comstock said. “The governor is now implementing a SuperNova program, which will be focused on implementing Northern Virginia corridors of influence, obviously Route 7 is going to be one of those, we’re going to work hard to make sure Route 7 is widened to make Tysons Corner work.”

Danner said that of the \$30 million designated for Route 7 widening, none of it has gone to any actual work.

“Not one dime of it has gone to actual miles to widen Route 7, it’s \$30 million purely for preliminary engineering,” she said. “I would work with John Foust to actually achieve funding.”

The candidates differed on whether or not there should be a Project Labor Agreement on Phase Two of Dulles Metrorail, which would require all labor done to be by union workers.

“One of the things they want to do is a union mandate for a Project Labor Agreement, which would drive up cost of the tolls by 12, 18, 20 percent or more, in order to take Virginia jobs and give them to union workers in Maryland and [Washington] D.C.,” Comstock said. “I think we need to keep the jobs in Virginia, get rid of the Project Labor Agreement. I don’t think we need to be sending our jobs away in order to drive up tolls.”

Danner said that a PLA worked on Phase One (where it was not mandatory, as the Phase Two PLA would be), and should be used for Phase Two.

“Project Labor Agreements have proven to be very successful for states. They have allowed projects to be on time, within cost as well as safe,” she said. “We have a prime example of when they were not used with the Springfield bypass. It was 300 percent over budget, not on time and there were many fatalities. It’s a much safer way.”

The next GFCA candidates forum will take place Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. at the Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike. The candidates will be for Fairfax County Sheriff, Dranesville School Board, At-large School Board and Northern Virginia District Soil and Water Conservation director.

## 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.*

**Holy Transfiguration Church**, 8501 Lewinsville Road in McLean, has announced their Annual Arabic Christmas Sweets Sale. The Holy Transfiguration Church Ladies Guild bakes Arabic pastries including various baklava varieties, date and nut-filled butter ma’amoul, pistachio-filled butter ma’amoul, anise and coconut ma’kroon, pecan babouleh, and ghrabeh, and packages them in attractive see-through trays. Orders must be received by Oct. 30, to be picked up on Sunday, Dec. 4, 12-1 p.m. at the church. Proceeds contribute to the parish’s needs as well as to charitable endeavors supported by

the Ladies Guild. [www.holytransfiguration.org](http://www.holytransfiguration.org).

**The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. [www.jssa.org/growth-learning](http://www.jssa.org/growth-learning).

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.

**McLean Bible Church Fitness Class** at Body & Soul Fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed and strength is gained. 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students.

[bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org](mailto:bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org).

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center** offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church**, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean. The third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

**Vienna Presbyterian Church**, 124 Park St. in Vienna, presents the 12-week program “Pas-

sages,” for those experiencing separation or divorce. The DivorceCare series meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost of materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938 9050 or [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.org).

**Vienna Assembly of God** has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children’s Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or [www.ViennaAG.com](http://www.ViennaAG.com).

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms**, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

# Saxons in Search of Offensive Production

Langley fails to score for second consecutive game.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

With just seven points in its previous two games, the Langley football team took the field against undefeated Yorktown on Oct. 14 in search of offensive production.

Langley wasted no time establishing a physical mentality, pounding the ball on the ground with running backs Philip Mun and AJ Holtberg behind an offensive line averaging heavier than 250 pounds. After seven carries totaled 52 yards during the game's opening possession, Langley faced third-and-five at the Yorktown 22.

That's where the Saxons' fortunes turned, however, as the Yorktown defense stuffed Langley for no gain on back-to-back runs to force a turnover on downs. From that point, the Saxons experienced only sporadic offensive success en route to a 21-0 loss to the Patriots.

Langley started the season 3-1 but lost starting quarterback Austin Vasiliadis to injury during a 35-0 victory against Marshall on Sept. 23. The Saxons have lost three straight since, scoring just seven points.

While Langley's opening drive against Yorktown looked promising, it wasn't enough to get the Saxons in the end zone.

"There's no reason we shouldn't be doing better," Langley head coach John Howerton said. "That was a sign right there that we're solid. [Yorktown is] a good team, obviously, and we were moving the ball well, but we can't seem to figure out how to score right now. That's a problem."

Mun carried 20 times for 82 yards and Holtberg finished with 23 yards in eight carries. The duo ran behind an offensive line composed of junior left tackle Tate Dulany (6 feet 1, 250 pounds), junior left guard Christian Hohl (6'2", 235), sophomore center Alex Kolencik (6'1", 215), junior right guard



Running back Philip Mun and the Langley offense looked promising on the game's opening drive against Yorktown on Oct. 14, but the Saxons failed to score.

Jack Howerton (6'2", 305) and senior right tackle Dylan Clemente (6'2", 265).

"We were missing blocks toward the end," Jack Howerton said. "In the beginning, we were picking them up."

Jack Howerton, John's son, also plays defensive tackle for the Saxons. John Howerton said the team is playing well enough defensively to stay in games, but the offense needs to improve. Aaron Yi and Kyle West each snagged an interception for Langley. Coach Howerton also said linebacker Saxon Justice is playing well.

Langley will close the regular season with Liberty District games against South Lakes (away), Fairfax (home) and McLean (away). John Howerton said if the Saxons can win three straight, they should make the playoffs. But other than just winning, he said he'd like to see an attitude adjustment from some.

"I'd like to see more desire, more enthusiasm to succeed," he said. "We have some kids that really want to win badly and I need to get the rest feeling that way, too."

One such player who Howerton said is working hard is Jack Howerton.

"I think he's the best lineman in the region," John Howerton said. "Unfortunately, linemen don't score."

Langley will travel to face South Lakes at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 21.



## Competing at Championships

Mary Fouse (pictured) of Langley High finished 12th overall in the seeded varsity girls' race at the Glory Days Invitational earlier this month on Oct. 1. The Saxons girls' and boys' teams will be competing at the Liberty District Championships next Thursday, Oct. 27 at Burke Lake Park.

## Postseason Time for Langley Field Hockey

Saxons enter district tournament as No. 4 seed.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

The Langley High girls' field hockey team entered this week's Liberty District postseason tournament as the No. 4 seed following a regular season which saw the Saxons finish 8-10 overall and 3-3 in district play.

The Saxons, under head coach Jennifer Robb, were set to meet Madison (8-7-1) in a first round district tournament game earlier this week on Monday, Oct. 17. The winner of that playoff contest was set to advance to the district semifinals while also earning an automatic seeding into next week's 16-team Northern Region tournament.

Langley, at districts, was hoping to regain some momentum after losing four of its final five regular season games, including a 2-1 overtime setback at non-district opponent Yorktown on Oct. 12 which officially closed the regular season schedule for the Saxons.

Five of Langley's games this fall have gone into overtime, and three of those contests were ultimately decided in strokes. Langley went 1-4 in those extra session games. Two of the overtime games came early in the season at the Westfield High Bulldog Tournament: a 1-0 loss to Woodson on Aug. 26, and a 1-0 win over Fairfax on Aug. 27.

The other overtime affairs came in a loss to visiting South County, 1-0, on Sept. 28; a 1-0 home loss to Westfield last week on Oct. 11; and the season-ending setback to the Yorktown Patriots a day later.

"We have played hard in every game and were competitive with everyone we played," said coach Robb, whose team played just four regular season home games this season.

Robb, going into the district tournament game versus Madison, was confident her Langley squad would be at or near its best for the postseason.

"We are going to do well in the postseason as this team plays very well together," she said. "I believe we will go far and surprise a lot of people in the region."

Langley senior co-captains Terra Holderman (defender) and Kelsey Rook (midfielder) have led the Saxons this fall, and offensive firepower has come from seniors Samantha Sterling and Lindsay Amador.

**MADISON HIGH**, Langley's first round opponent at districts, officially concluded the regular season over the .500 mark when it defeated host team South Lakes, 2-1, in a Liberty District game played last Saturday in Reston. The victory gave the Warhawks an 8-7-1 overall record going into this week's district tournament.

## Highlanders to Face Bulldogs

The McLean High football team is currently in the toughest two-week stretch of its season. Last Friday night, the Highlanders lost at unbeaten non-district opponent Centreville, 42-7. This Friday night, McLean (4-3) will be at home versus Liberty District opponent Stone Bridge, the defending Div. 5 Northern Region champs who will come into the game with a 6-1 record. The Highlanders will be looking to pull off the upset versus the Bulldogs.



# "Ascance"



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

As I continue to live beyond my original prognosis: "13 months to two years," my treatment has evolved, matured you might say. The timing and frequency of lab work, chemotherapy, CT Scans, Bone Scans and Brain MRIs, along with follow-up appointments with my oncologist (always post-scan to discuss results), have all been adjusted to compensate for the extremely favorable fact that (A) I have outlived the original prognosis – by a significant amount of time and (B) Due to the additional fact that there have been no "randomized trials" to actually quantify and develop treatment protocols based on such favorable results, not anecdotal-type opinions for survivors like me (lucky to have lived for as long as I have), how to treat/proceed is not exactly crystal clear. As such, my doctor is as concerned with not creating a problem as he is with treating the one (stage IV lung cancer) that we know about. Minimizing my exposure to harmful radiation (the scans) as an example, is as much a consideration as is the taxing of my kidneys as they filter out both the chemotherapy infusion I receive monthly and the miscellaneous drugs I'm prescribed to treat the not-unexpected side effects. Living this long, oddly enough, presents its own complications.

Nevertheless, when your oncologist e-mails you the following post-scan message: "CT looks good, all stable," it is as I've said repeatedly: "News I can live with." But for how long? (I always wonder.) However encouraging this kind of positive news is, I can't help thinking it's still a matter of time. Moreover, the salesman in me rationalizes: it's simply getting closer to a negative (bad) result ("each 'no' you receive is one step closer to a 'yes'" is the adage). As exciting and stress-reducing as it is to learn that your cancer has not progressed (moved, enlarged), I feel, as serious as the underlying problem is: stage IV lung cancer, the increasing inevitability that the next scan has to indicate change – for the worse.

Still, it's not like I completely ignore or dismiss the results. Hardly. I embrace them with all my emotional strength. But I can't help "introspecting" – in this context, anyway: why me? Who am I to not suffer the same fate as so many others similarly diagnosed who have preceded me? Stage IV lung cancer is not curable, as my oncologist advised way back when, at the initial Team Lourie meeting: "I can treat you, but I can't cure you." More disturbing words you'll likely never hear. In effect, being told that your life is ending, somewhat prematurely – given my overall health and age: 54, and the additional fact that there was no significant family history to consider and moreover, that both my parents lived into their mid-eighties.

But life has gone on, 31 months and counting, in spite of the original prognosis. And the longer I live – and continue to be grateful for this gift of life I have miraculously received, the closer I sense that I'm falling victim to this terrible disease. After all, lung cancer is said to be terminal: you get diagnosed, you die. Just because I've survived this long doesn't ever cause me to forget my circumstances or doubt the seriousness of my underlying diagnosis. Continuing to receive positive news is wonderfully uplifting. But there are no guarantees here. Actually, there are two guarantees: death and taxes. Taxes I can live with but death I can't. And scans don't cure.

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

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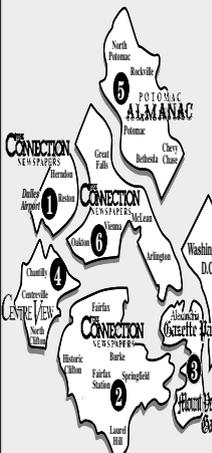
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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

### 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

##### PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at:

Fairfax Facility # 26140  
9901 Georgetown Pike  
Great Falls, Virginia 22066

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Fairfax Petroleum Realty, LLC to develop a Corrective Action Plan to address cleanup of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in groundwater at the Site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:

Kleinfelder  
1340 Charwood Road, Suite I  
Hanover, Maryland 21076  
(410) 850-0404

The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ on October 20, 2011. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Kurt Kochan at (703) 583-3821 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until (November 20, 2011) and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC# 2010-3028.

Department of Environmental Quality  
Storage Tank Program  
13901 Crown Court  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

### 21 Announcements 21 Announcements



#### OBITUARY

##### JACK JOSEPH TORREGROSSA Nov 2, 1915 -Dec 15, 2010

HONOUR THY FATHER, AND THY MOTHER; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. [KJV Ex 20:12]

Dad was born in upstate New York, the son of immigrant parents, Joseph and Mary from Southern Italy. He was one of nine children. His youngest brother Sam Torregrossa survives him. He married Lila Mae Williams in March of 1940. Mary Ann Torregrossa and twin sisters Diane Forbus and Carolyn Lee Hagaman were born in 1941 and 1948. Mary Ann abides in McLean, VA. Diane resides in Dadeville, AL with her husband Robert Forbus. Carolyn went to Heaven on June 1, 2010, and her husband, Craig Hagaman, lives in Berryville, VA. Dad had five grand-children.

Our father was a well-known jazz musician when he met my mother in Washington, DC. He loved playing his trumpet and entertaining folk all through his life. He repaired watches and played music and later became a notable home builder in the 50s through the 70s in McLean, VA. Dad and mom retired when he was 59 and they traveled for 25-plus years seeing every state in the United States including Hawaii and Alaska.

Dad had a stroke after open-heart surgery seventeen plus years ago and lost most of his ability to speak and the use of his right arm. For the past eight years he and mom resided in Alabama living next door to my sister Diane. He died at home in the care of my mother, my sister and a faithful caregiver named Lillian.

Our beloved father loved his family and his work. He was a faithful father and husband. He had many friends who will cherish his memory. The fifth commandment was easy for us to obey as our dad was respectable, loving and generous. In Heaven, I am sure he will be playing his trumpet for the Glory of God and possibly helping others build homes for those of us who will come later. The Memorial Service was held on February 13, 2011, at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in McLean, VA. Music was provided by harpist Margel Snead and opera singer Rosa Sadowski.

Donations in his honor may be sent to Bibles, Unltd (6603 Fairlawn Dr., McLean, VA 22101) for the purpose of purchasing bibles in all languages.

only a few saplings in the landing areas to ensure safety, the site for the ropes course is on former farmland with a second-growth monoculture of poplar trees, the Go-Ape staff help the park with clean-ups and invasive plant removals, parking lots are gravel, and the 3-acre course is in the tree canopy and provides a fantastic way to get kids outdoors for a safe and fun nature experience. On top of that, the course can be removed as soon as the park decides it should go. That is a great program and it belongs at Riverbend.

6. Revenue: all revenue generated from the Go-Ape contract stays in Riverbend. Every cent. Unless you have a better idea, we need the revenue from Go-Ape to keep this park open in tough economic times.

Thanks for listening and I hope to see you at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Friends of Riverbend meeting in the park. If you would like to join the Friends or send a donation, our address is P.O. Box 1481, Great Falls, VA.

**Serena Wilson**, President  
Friends of Riverbend

## Inconvenient Questions

To the Editor:

I attended the Candidate debate on Oct. 11 in Great Falls in which the debate questions were pre-selected and culled by the members of the Great Falls Citizens Association. During the debate between "Spike" Williams and Sharon Bulova, two questions were asked that are near and dear to most of us that live in Great Falls. The first question was about the joining of Commercial Property to Residential Property to create a larger Commercial lot for development. This question was directly aimed at the County's approval of a Special Exception to build the 52,000 square foot Brightview assisted living facility in Great Falls. The second question was about the Tree-Top Adventure Park (GoApe) that is under current county contract to be built in beautiful Riverbend Park. Both Williams and Bulova addressed the questions and both stated that these issues would be proper for the Dranesville District Supervisor candidates to answer during their portion of the debate.

Much to the chagrin of many in attendance, The Great Falls Citizens Association opted not to ask any questions about Brightview or GoApe during the Dranesville District Supervisor debate. Why did the Great Falls Citizens Association opt not to ask these tough questions? Were they afraid it would embarrass the incumbent District Supervisor? Not asking these questions essentially renders them a partisan political entity helping to shape the upcoming election.

A few Great Falls residents saw through this scheme and shouted out prior to the conclusion of the candidates remarks... "What about GoApe?" "Why haven't you addressed GoApe?" The moderator, obviously feeling pressure from the audience, asked the question about GoApe.

Foust told the crowd that he had in fact put the project on hold to get more input and that more study was needed on the impact of GoApe on the community, which was the right answer in terms of his re-election campaign but given his track record with Brightview, he is unlikely to actually care about halting permanently.

I then asked Foust why he didn't put Brightview on hold like he did GoApe. His answer now typical was to scold me and tell me it was my fault for I had misled the community for the past year on Brightview. Based upon the applause from the same people who approved of the over-development of Colvin Run Road, the GFCA, one would think this to be an accurate reflection of reality.

Yet, I must ask myself how I misled the community? Did I say the building was going to be pink when it actually is supposed to be brown? There is no way that I could have mislead anybody with respect to a 52,000 Square Foot Assisted Living Complex building being on Commercial and Residential Property. There is no way to hide an elephant on a postage stamp.

**Joe Sartiano**  
Great Falls

## Outstanding Leadership

To the Editor:

We believe John Foust is clearly the candidate for Dranesville District Supervisor that we should choose on Nov. 8, just as Dranesville residents did four years ago. John has proven that he is a highly capable leader who listens to his constituents and who works tirelessly to address their needs and concerns. His leadership has been critical to several very important projects in Great Falls, including installation of a stop light at Riverbend Road and Georgetown Pike, acquisition of additional land for the new fire house septic field, and changes to the fire house landscape plan.

When Great Falls Garden Club members reviewed this landscape plan, they found some serious mistakes: Trees with potential growth of 50 feet under 18 foot high power lines. At John's behest, the County official in charge met with Club representatives to redesign the plan to include more suitable tree specimens and many native plants.

A major achievement for Great Falls is the redesign of the VDOT plan for the intersection of Route 7, Georgetown Pike and Seneca Road to include, among other changes, a single left-turn lane off Route 7 onto Georgetown Pike. John's role in this effort is an outstanding example of his leadership and commitment to serve the interests of the communities he serves. With the long-time and clearly stated interests of the Great Falls community in mind, John single-handedly, at the elected official level, worked to convince other elected officials and the Virginia Secretary of Transportation to reconsider the design of this intersection. Though losing by 9 to 1 in his effort, in 2008, to get the Board of Supervisors to change their previous vote support-

ing two left turn lanes from eastbound Route 7 onto Georgetown Pike, he remained undaunted. In 2009, he drafted a letter to VDOT that other elected officials also signed asking for reconsideration, of the then current design. VDOT replied that the County Board would have to change its previous position and ask for a redesign, which VDOT then "would consider." He set about to convince Chairman Bulova and, with her endorsement, County staff on the merits of the proposed change, while continuing to work closely with citizens here in Great Falls who had focused on this issue for years. In late July 2010, his motion before the Board passed asking VDOT to reconsider its design. In late 2010, he and representatives of VDOT and Great Falls Citizens Association met to work out a single left-turn lane alternative.

In dealing with issues surrounding these and other matters affecting Great Falls, such as the Brightview Assisted Living complex, the process that John Foust has followed is particularly distinguished and, in our opinion, a hallmark of his leadership skills. He listens to all sides, he asks the community to follow a process that provides a forum for the statement and discussion of all viewpoints, and leads the community to arrive at a consensus.

In championing environmental concerns and interests, John has been a stalwart supporter of parks, trails and the natural environment. He is endorsed by the Sierra Club and the Fairfax League of Conservation Voters. Before he became our Supervisor, he served on the County Environmental Quality Advisory Board. There, he supported the County tree ordinance, which he has continued to support as a member of the Board. This ordinance protects specimen, heritage, memorial and street trees. John knows the importance of trees in protecting air quality - one tree of 26-foot canopy absorbs 11,500 miles of vehicle emissions per year. Also, and so importantly, John's support has been crucial to the development of equestrian and astronomy facilities at Turner Farm. John loves, supports and jogs in our parks.

Given all that John has done, and continues to do, we believe he is unquestionably the best candidate to represent and fight for the concerns and interests of Great Falls residents and park lovers everywhere.

**Eleanor Anderson and Robin Rentsch**  
Great Falls

## Correction

The article titled "Residents Debate Go Ape" on page 10 in the Oct. 12-18 issue stated "The project was approved by the Friends of Riverbend Park, the Great Falls Citizens Association..." The Go Ape contract was completed on July 19, the GFCA was informed of the project Aug. 26, and heard an informational presentation Sept. 13 from Go Ape. Neither the GFCA board or membership has taken any official position or held any vote to approve the course.

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