

# Firefighter Honored

NEWS, PAGE 3

Lt. Marc Davidson, a Fairfax County firefighter assigned to Tysons Corner Fire and Rescue Station 29, was presented with an annual Liberty Mutual Firemark award last week at the Massey Building in Fairfax. Pictured, from left, Deputy Chief Keith Johnson, Lt. Marc Davidson, and Captain Chester Waters.

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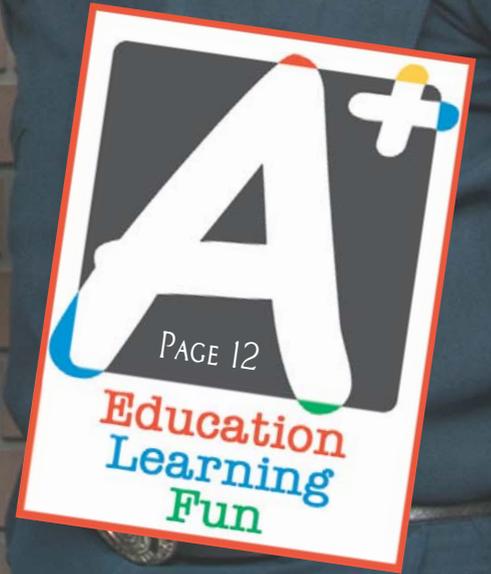
## Making McLean More Senior Friendly

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## Foust, Husch Run For Dranesville Supervisor

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY ANGELA BALLARD



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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

SEE LANGLEY FORK, PAGE 11

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## NEWS

# Making McLean More Senior Friendly

## Forum focuses on aging in McLean.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) hosted a forum Saturday, Oct. 15 designed to foster conversation about aging in McLean. The forum, titled “McLean: Creating a Supportive Community For All Ages,” took place at the Capital One Building.

Foust said that the population of residents in Fairfax County over 50 is expected to grow by more than 32 percent by 2020, and that it was key to begin planning for the future now.

“This concept, ‘livable community for all ages’ represents our goal to allow residents to remain independent for as long as possible regardless of disability or age, living in the homes of our choosing and maintain the ability to get around without undue barriers,” he said. “A livable community, building on all that our diverse residential population brings to the table, will provide appropriate, accessible and affordable services.”

**PANELISTS** of varying situations and representatives of several local “aging-in-community” models spoke at the event, sharing advice, experiences and different possibilities for those who are aging or caring for an elderly person.

Ed Shahin, 80, has lived in McLean for the past 40 years. He shared several changes he’s gone through as he’s gotten older. He says he has had to cut back on his driving at night, and does not drive out of the McLean area at all at night.

He said that when it comes to issues for senior citizens in the community, one was at the top of the list.

“When we reach the point that we’re no longer able to drive ourselves to our medical appointments, what do we do?” he said. “I can think of no more pressing issue than how we provide that transportation.”

Shahin, whose wife passed away nine years ago, said that keeping relatives up to date on the location of financial and other documents was important for everyone.

“We came to the conclusion that

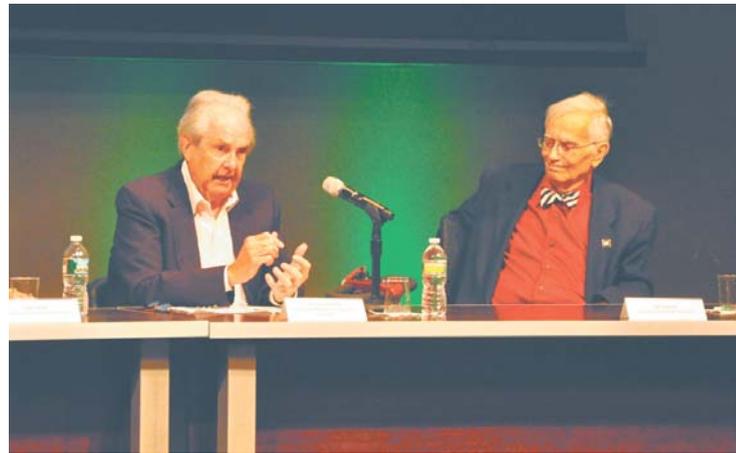


PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Ron Crawford and Ed Shahin share their experiences aging in McLean at Supervisor John Foust’s (D-Dranesville) forum on aging Saturday, Oct. 15 in McLean.

if we were to die at that age it would not be a catastrophe for our family, so I took the money I was spending on life insurance and bought long-term care insurance policies for my wife and myself,” he said. “That turned out to be one of the best investments I made. My wife died a horrible death the last year of her life, and I was able to hire a nurse 10 hours a day, I dropped out of working so we could take care of her at home, I did not want to put her in a nursing home.”

He also stressed the importance of exercise for the senior population, both physical and mental. He encouraged social interaction such as volunteer activities. He remembers starting piano lessons at age 72, saying “I find it most satisfying and intellectually challenging.”

Ron Crawford, 84, got polio in 1955, the same year Jonas Salk announced the discovery of his vaccine. He says he walked with a limp for more than 50 years before breaking his “good” leg five years ago, which left him in a wheelchair. He spoke about what adjustments are necessary to a lifestyle when living with a disability.

“It was a tough way to go, then I found a scooter and it has made a great deal of difference in my life,” he said. “I can do everything, I have things adjusted in my house so that things are at about the same level, I can scoot onto my chairs.”

He said living in a one-level house is essential, but making the right adjustments in a house can result in very little lifestyle changes.

“It’s so important to me to have an independent life, and I have been able to have an elevator on the back of my SUV so I can put the scooter onto it,” he said. “My scooter breaks down into four pieces so I can go traveling, I can

go on an airplane.”

Crawford said maintaining a positive attitude is essential when living with any sort of handicap.

“Every day is great. I wake up every morning and thank God I’m on the right side of the grass,” he said.

He said his number one recommendation to any senior would be to get a cell phone.

“Often times I’ve fallen and been able to call someone to give me a hand,” he said.

Judy Seiff of Falls Church takes care of her 95-year-old mother, which she has done for the past 10 years, when her father died at the age of 81. She remembers after initially moving her mother from New York, the transition was smooth, as her mother could do most of her regular activities.

**BUT IN 2009**, her mother had a stroke while recovering in the hospital from pneumonia, and their situation changed.

“I began to recognize that even in our privileged McLean/Falls Church neighborhood it was hard to work through the maze of what was available, let alone affordable,” she said. “It’s a markedly different phase of care giving.”

Seiff said that she recognizes that as her mother ages, her condition will get worse.

“Each time there has been a cold, a fall or a more serious challenge, she’s recovered, but the new normal means she’s functioning lower on the overall scale of well-being,” she said.

“Our local community, a terrific one in which to have lived and raise a family, has a long way to go before it can truly be called ‘senior friendly,’” she said. “It’s a lot easier to find a park for a toddler or a program for a teen here, than it is to find available and accessible social and recreational activities for seniors.”

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# NEWS

## McLean To Remember Civil War

### Community Center will host day of remembrance.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he McLean Community Center will host "McLean Remembers the Civil War" on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the community center. Peabody Award winning journalist Roger Mudd will be the event's keynote speaker.

The day will also feature a living history encampment, re-enactors, locally owned Civil War memorabilia and multimedia displays.

"In 1861, what is now McLean was two villages, Lewinsville and Langley," said Carole Herrick, a local historian and one of the speakers during the event. "During the winter of 1861 to 1862, there were two divisions, with around 13,000 men per division camping here."

Herrick, along with other historians Bradley Gernand, John Waggoner and Chuck Mauro will speak on various aspects of the Civil War.

Other local features, including Salona and Langley Fork Park were sites of encampments, and a skirmish known as the Battle of Lewinsville occurred on Sept. 11, 1861.



**The 4th Infantry Regiment Band, part of the Vermont Brigade, which camped at Salona during the Civil War. The story of the Vermont Brigade will be one of many told at the "McLean Remembers the Civil War" event at the McLean Community Center Oct. 22.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**The 5th Vermont Infantry camps at Salona during the Civil War. The McLean Community Center's "McLean Remembers the Civil War" event on Saturday, Oct. 22, will feature stories of what happened during the Civil War in McLean.**



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## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@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.

### SATURDAY/OCT. 22

**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).

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From left, Deputy Chief Keith Johnson, Lt. Marc Davidson, Joe McConnell of Liberty Mutual, and Chief John Caussin at the Liberty Mutual Firemark Award presentation ceremony.



PHOTO BY ANGELA BALLARD

# Tyson's Firefighter Honored

Lt. Marc Davidson receives Firemark Award.

BY LORI BAKER  
THE CONNECTION

For 150 years, in the 18th and 19th centuries, the insurance industry in America issued a firemark to every house that was insured. The firemark, a plate in the form of a phoenix rising from ashes, stood as a guarantee that insurance companies would "reward handsomely a brigade that extinguished a fire on the premises."

Though insurance companies no longer issue firemarks, Lt. Marc Davidson, a Fairfax County firefighter assigned to Tyson's Corner Fire and Rescue Station 29, was presented with an annual Liberty Mutual Firemark award this week at the Massey Building in Fairfax. As one of the annual award winners throughout the country, he will also be considered for one of the two 2011 Liberty Mutual National Firemark Awards.

Joe McConnell of Liberty Mutual Insurance presented the award to Lt. Davidson. McConnell said that Liberty Mutual has been presenting the firemark award annually to firefighters across the country since 1986. Lt. Davidson was selected for this local award due to his contributions to community service and public education while serving for three years at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Training Academy.

Captain Chester Waters was Davidson's immediate supervisor during his time at the Academy. He noted that Davidson is the current Firefighter of the Year, which, said Waters, "is the highest honor you can get in the fire department. He was selected out of thirteen-hundred plus firefighters." Captain Waters said that during his three years with the Training Academy, Davidson was known for his service to the community and to the department.

**ONE THING** that stood out, according to Waters, was that Davidson was the chief person behind the department's procurement of cyanide kits. "One of the products of combustion that firefighters are exposed to is cyanide. So Marc, with his assistance and research, got the department to step up and buy some cyanide kits." Cyanide can be lethal. Firefighters in Rhode Island died from exposure to it. Now if firefighters are exposed to cyanide and need to go to

the hospital, they have quick intervention in the form of a cyanide antidote.

Davidson was also instrumental in creating and revising the recruit training curriculum and programs for the training academy. He helped put through 144 recruits in the three years he was there. Davidson challenged recruits of the 128th Recruit School to raise money for St. Baldrick's Foundation. He encouraged the recruits by telling them that if they raise \$4,000 in two months, they could shave his head bald. The recruit class raised more than \$4,000, Davidson was able to shave his head, and also, said Waters, "learned a valuable lesson in community service." Waters said he had been called one of the best instructors at the Training Academy by many of the recruits he trained. "He's very humble, very well-respected; and not just at the ground level, he's well-respected by senior officers too."

McConnell said that when he met with Captain Waters and others to discuss presenting Davidson with the Firemark award, they "spoke the world of Davidson. That really set in stone that he was a good recipient for the award."

Keith Johnson was Davidson's overall supervisor and Deputy Chief of the Fairfax County Training Academy during some of Davidson's time there. Johnson said that just as firemarks were an example of the insurance industry's tradition, history, and longevity, "Marc has a tradition of providing service. He is a role model for all of us." He was pleased to hear that Davidson won the firemark award. "I'm glad to see him be recognized so early on in his career so he can realize he is appreciated. I don't know that you'll find a more dedicated person. He truly had a passion for teaching, for seeing people succeed."

"I'm very honored that I was even put in for [the award]" said Davidson. "I try to represent the department, and all the people in the department," he added. "There are tons of people who have done good work. It's more about the whole group than about me as an individual."

**LT. DAVIDSON** credits his family for the award. Davidson, a former Marine, says that his wife Denise, 14-year-old daughter Victoria, and 13-year-old son Marc are the ones responsible for his success. "Families are the ones that end up picking up the lion's share. It's time away from home. So without them, none of this is possible," said Davidson.

In summing up, his advice to young people was, "work hard. Hard work is the key to doing anything. You have to enjoy what you're doing, but ultimately it's about putting in hours and time to make it happen."

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# 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

## MPA Thanks Community

To the Editor:

On behalf of the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA), I would like to thank the McLean community for another year of enthusiastic support of MPAartfest. On Sunday, Oct. 2, McLean Central Park came alive with 43 juried artists, live musical performances, senior art on exhibit, Open Studio, children's art and art education and delicious food and drink as 3,000 local residents gathered to celebrate the 5th annual MPAartfest. Not even the less-than-perfect weather could dampen the spirits of our artists, volunteers, performers and art-loving guests! It was a wonderful day that fulfilled MPA's goal of "connecting art and community".

MPA is especially indebted to its MPAartfest Event Partners for 2011, the McLean Community Center, and the Fairfax County Park Authority, and also to the Office of Dranesville Supervisor John Foust. Their tremendous support and assistance was invaluable.

MPAartfest was successful thanks to our volunteers, sponsors

and the many community organizations that provided funds, in-kind donations and hands-on labor to make MPAartfest possible. In total, more than 200 volunteers planned and worked on MPAartfest alongside MPA's small, dedicated staff.

The McLean Community Foundation provided underwriting for the Children's ArtWalk, an exhibition of more than 130 works of art by school children from 15 McLean public and private elementary schools, and the New Dominion Woman's Club organized and installed the fantastic exhibition. TTR Sotheby's International Realty sponsored and organized Innovation Station Art Tent, where hundreds of children flexed their imaginations as they created dream houses and personal flags. The Friends of the McLean Community Center helped underwrite the Senior Art Exhibition. The McLean Orchestra, the McLean Symphony, the Potomac School and Scott Ramminger and the Crawstickers contributed outstanding musical performances from the Gazebo Stage throughout the day, while the Woman's Club of McLean staffed the volunteer tent, the Montessori School of

McLean provided shuttle bus transportation, and the Rotary Club of McLean supplied volunteers. Once again, the Boy Scouts camped overnight to protect the park, and many local teens pitched in to help, fulfilling their community service requirements.

We thank the local press, the McLean police, and the firefighters' EMT crew.

We offer special thanks to MPAartfest Co-Chairs Mark Lowham and the Hon. Margi Vanderhye for their leadership, vision and commitment to build awareness of MPAartfest in the community. We are grateful to TTR Sotheby's International Realty as the sponsor of the MPAartfest Soiree fundraiser and Joe Ruzzo and Mark Lowham, who so generously hosted the event in their beautiful McLean home to benefit MPA programs and exhibitions.

Many thanks go to our sponsors, listed on [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org). Without their help MPA could not provide this free event to the community, nor allow the artists to keep 100 percent of their sales. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, MPA must look to private sources to raise the majority of the funds needed for its operations, programs, exhibi-

"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](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM), ON  
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tions, and of course, to bring MPAartfest to McLean.

Thank you McLean! Please visit us at the MPA galleries located at the top of the McLean Community Center. We don't want to wait until MPAartfest 2012 to see you again!

**Karen Keys DuVal**

Chair, MPA Board of Directors

## 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

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 22

## THE CONNECTION

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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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**Senator Janet Howell (D-32) discusses social justice issues during the General Assembly Candidate Forum on Saturday, Oct. 15. She was joined by 14 other candidates, mostly Democratic incumbents, for the Virginia General Assembly.**



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

## Forum Focuses on Social Justice Issues

**Candidates talk about issues confronting 'most vulnerable citizens.'**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**migration reform, affordable housing, predatory lending and poverty topped the list of issues discussed by 15 Virginia General Assembly candidates at the annual social justice forum on Saturday, Oct. 15.

The 18th annual forum, hosted by SALT (Social Action Linking Together), Virginia Organizing and other social advocacy groups, was held at the Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge.

"The Governor has already announced there will be more draconian cuts to make up the \$800 million shortfall, despite bragging about a surplus all year," said Julie Blust with Virginia Organizing, a statewide grassroots organization. "This is precisely why we are bringing these issues to the forefront. We know the next General Assembly session could be devastating for our constituencies...and we want to know where the candidates stand."

Although 50 candidates from 26 House and Senate races were invited, only one Republican candidate attended the two-hour conference.

"If there's any set of issues in which we as a people are portrayed as more divided than we really are, it's the social justice issues," said Tim McGhee, a Republican who will face Del. Adam P. Ebbin (D-49) in a race for the state senate seat being vacated by Patsy Ticer.

**JOHN HOREJSI**, coordinator for SALT, moderated the discussion during which candidates each had a chance to answer audience questions.

"The entire General Assembly is up for election this year. We need to make sure that voters have some criteria on social justice issues that used to be known as the common good," Horejsi said before introducing the candidates to the audience of about 70 people.

"More than a quarter of our preschoolers grow up poor, there's a growing hostility towards immigrants and the poor, Catholic Charities of Arlington has experienced a 450 percent increase in requests for emergency assistance from families asking for help with their rent, utility bills and medication needs," Horejsi said. "With 17 tons of food delivered, Catholic charities say they are still dangerously low on grocery supplies."

While the candidates discussed weighty issues, pledging to be active leaders on issues such as affordable housing, prison reform and mental health services, they also provided some levity. They joked with each other about their recently-redrawn districts, as well as the need to keep the Senate a Democratic firewall in the Virginia General Assembly. Currently, Virginia's Senate tilts blue with 22 Democrats and 18 Republicans. The House of Delegates, with 100 members, has a solid Republican majority with 53 Republicans, 44 Democrats and three Independents.

Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) said she ran for office 20 years ago because "I got angry. I was upset with how Virginia was failing our children and their education...We were dead last among the states in services for our disabled and vulnerable."

Del. Bob Brink (D-48), who represents Arlington and parts of McLean, told the audience that it's critical to ensure that "the essential services of government are maintained through extremely difficult times."

Del. Ken Plum (D-36), who faces Republican challenger Hugh "Mac" Cannon in the general election, said some of the issues he started out working on as a legislator in 1978, such as racial integration, poverty and homelessness, are still issues legislators need to tackle.

"It pains me that some of these issues still confront us...In rich Fairfax County, there's hunger among students. We just can't allow hunger to be an issue...We can't take any more insanity from the House."

**ANOTHER HOT ISSUE** was immigration reform; in particular laws that discriminate against legal and undocumented immigrants.

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) said the state needs to address sentencing reform for immigrants, who are subject to immediate deportation if they are convicted of a felony.

"The biggest frustration is the threshold for property crimes," Petersen said. "Shoplifting is a felony, so even if you've been here almost all of your life, and don't know anyone from your home country, you can be deported."

Edgar Aranda, chair of the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO), said he thought the forum was an important way to get some sensitive issues on the table. "Immigrants' rights are human rights," he said. "We want to help the immigrant community achieve the American dream."

He said it was critical that candidates support equal treatment, opportunity and representation for Latinos.

"I think one of the most important things to come out of this is for voters to know they have a voice, and that legislators will listen to them," Horejsi said.

**"We know the next General Assembly session could be devastating for our constituencies...and we want to know where the candidates stand."**

— Julie Blust, Virginia Organizing

## Share to Hold Computer Drive Oct. 22

Share of McLean, which provides clothing, food and other essentials for clients who cannot afford these necessities, will host a computer drive Saturday, Oct. 22. They are looking for: extra or older computers that are less than five years old and Pentium 4 or higher, LCD monitors (cathode ray monitors cannot be accepted), hard drives of 60 gigabytes or more, keyboards and mice (in good condition), wireless network cards, cables.

Share expanded to include a computer department about a year ago. It refurbishes used machines and gives them to clients. It has already provided more than 75 computers to clients. Share's first priority is to assist families with children in school or college. However, after a recent batch of more than 35 orders, they are out of laptops, and have very few working desktops left.

Share will be accepting donations from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 22, and is located at the McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road. For more information, visit [www.shareofmclean.com](http://www.shareofmclean.com).

## Comstock Promotes New Telework Tax Credit

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) recently participated in a free webinar to educate businesses and individuals on her recently passed Telework Tax Credit legislation aimed at encouraging private sector telework. Applications for the new Telework Tax Credit need to be received by Oct. 31.

During the 2011 Legislative Session, Comstock introduced and passed legislation creating a Telework Tax in Virginia. The legislation provides for a tax credit of up to \$1,200 per employee, up to \$50,000 per organization, for eligible telework expenses incurred during taxable years 2012 and 2013. The bill was a recommendation of the Governor's Reform Commission and supported by the Northern Virginia Technology Council, which has long been a leader in promoting telework policies, as well as the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Small Business Partnership, and most of the Northern Virginia delegation in the General Assembly.

Visit [www.teleworkva.org](http://www.teleworkva.org) to view the presentation from the webinar and learn more about the tax credit and how to apply. To be eligible for the tax credit in 2012 businesses must apply to the Virginia Department of Taxation by Oct. 31.

## Shopping Center to Host Fall Festival

The Fall Festival at the Langley Shopping Center in McLean has long been a local favorite. The shops traditionally offer discounts on merchandise, drawings for gift cards, and the parking lot buzzes with a moon-bounce, a visiting fire truck, and other family activities.

New this year is a "meet-and-greet" with local non-profit agencies, including Random Acts of Kindness, who will assist visitors in making cards for patients at Children's Hospital. Child Help will be accepting toy donations, and canned goods will be given to a local food bank.

The event takes place Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine. The shopping center is located in the heart of McLean on Chain Bridge Road, between Old Dominion Dr. and Dolley Madison Blvd.

## MCC Holds Public Hearing on Signage Renovation

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (MCC), in cooperation with the Fairfax County Park Authority, will hold a public hearing on its Signage Renovation Project at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14. The Center is seeking input from residents of Dranesville Small District One on its plans to renovate the existing directional signs. The hearing will be held at the Center, which is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave.

# Langley Fork Park Discussed

FROM PAGE 3

and operation of the park. It 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 informa-

tion in regards to the natural, water 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).*

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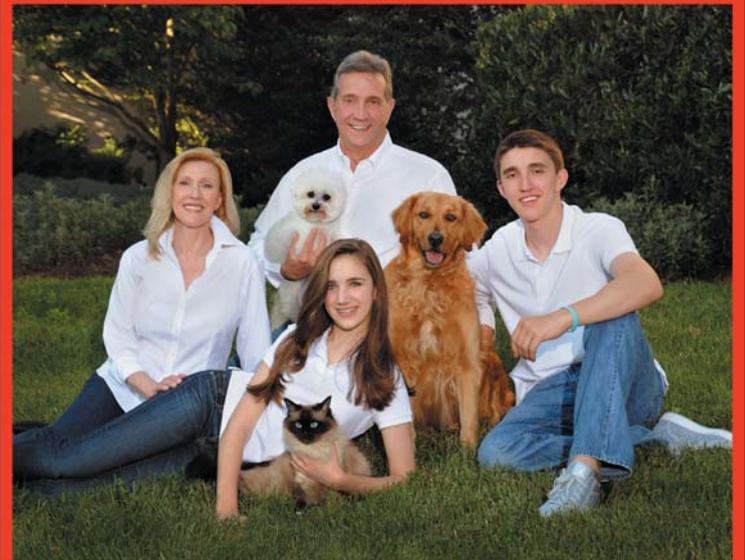
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Churchill Road fourth grader Sophie Stitt and Langley seniors Devon Clark and Lydia Fernandes lead the pack on the groups' run around the Churchill track.



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.

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## 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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**James McGrath** of McLean has been selected to be a McDonough Scholar at Marietta College this fall. The program helps students gain a deeper understanding of leadership, practice leadership skills and grow as engaged leaders.

Ten Langley High School students have been named as 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: **Allison S. Brady, Saba Eskandarian, Jimmy J. Fang, Jamison G. Fox-Canning, Nathaniel C. Howe, Dylan J. Kriz, Debbie R. Pan, Spencer C. Shabshab, Holliday L. Shuler and Andrew J. Stewart.**

Six McLean High School students have been named as 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: **Nana-Kwabena A. Abrefah, Daniel J. Lee, Eric R. Leimkuhler, Elizabeth McGrady, Justin Nam and Brian Tong.**

**Michael P. DeSantis** of the Potomac School has been named as a 2011 National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

**Michelle May** of McLean has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at The Johns Hopkins University. The daughter of Michael and Ivonne May is majoring in political science.

**Eli Raneses** of McLean has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at



## Celebrating Day of Play

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.

The Johns Hopkins University. The son of Tom and Mary Raneses is majoring in public health studies.

**Olindi Wijesekera** of McLean has been named to the spring 2011 dean's list at The Johns Hopkins University.

The daughter of Duminda and Devika Wijesekera is majoring in neuroscience.

**Juliet Abtahi** of McLean has been named to the summer 2011 dean's list at Berklee College of Music of Boston, Mass.



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# The Race To Watch

Longtime Democratic official to face off with up-and-coming Republican.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

County Board member Barbara Favola emerged from a bruising Democratic primary with a depleted campaign chest and a divided Democratic Party. As she heads into the general election for the state Senate's 31st district against Republican Caren Merrick, she's facing an opponent with proven fundraising ability in a district that became significantly more Republican during this year's redistricting. The race could become one of the closest in Northern Virginia and a bellwether as to whether or not Democrats are able to keep control of the state Senate.

"Barbara Favola is favored to win, but this could be a competitive race," said Kyle Kondik, political analyst with the Virginia Center for Politics. "Her primary was so divisive that some Democrats might choose to stay home rather than vote for her, which could lead to an upset."

## Meet the Candidates



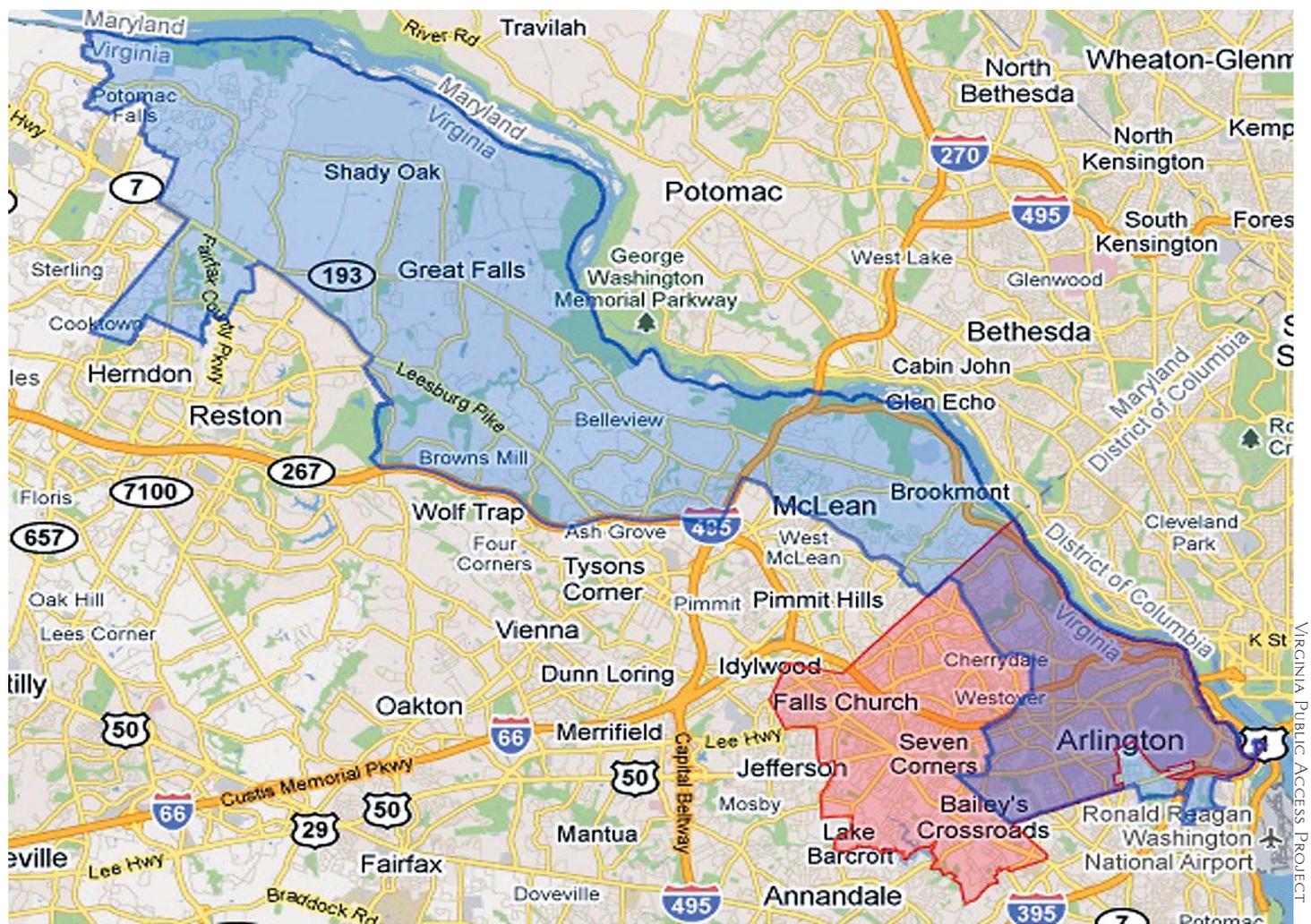
**Barbara Favola**

**Barbara Favola, 55:** A native of New London, Conn., Favola moved to Arlington in 1982. She has a bachelor of arts in political science from St. Joseph's College and a master of arts in public administration from New York University. First elected to the Arlington County Board in 1997, Favola currently serves as chairwoman of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Chesapeake Bay Committee and as a member of the Virginia State Board of Health. She is also part-time employee of Marymount University. Favola lives in the Park Lane Precinct and votes at the Key School.



**Caren Merrick**

**Caren Merrick, 51:** A native of Santa Clarita, Calif., Merrick moved to McLean in 1992. She has a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a certificate of director education from the National Association of Corporate Directors. She was a co-founder and chairman of webMethods Foundation, and she is currently a partner at Bilbury Partners. Merrick lives in the Cooper Precinct, and she votes at Cooper Middle School.



The blue parts of the map show the new areas of the district, which now stretches through Great Falls into Loudoun County. The red areas show parts of the old district that are no longer in the 31st District, which includes parts of Falls Church and Bailey's Crossroads.

Last month, Favola beat challenger Jaime Areizaga-Soto by amassing a total that was almost twice as many votes — 3,575 to 6,549. That was a resounding victory for Favola, who won with more than 64 percent of the vote in what many were predicting could have been a close race. The campaign featured harshly negative campaigning on both sides, with candidates

accusing each other of everything from being influenced by campaign contributions to resume padding.

"There weren't a lot of differences policy-wise from me and Jaime," Favola said after winning the primary. "But the difference was that I have 14 years of experience working on local and regional issues and a record of accomplishing my goals."

**THAT EXPERIENCE** is now at the heart of the choice before voters in the 31st Senate District, which stretches from Arlington through Great Falls and Dranesville into Loudoun County. Merrick's campaign hopes to present the Republican challenger as an alternative to the Democratic career politician who has been an elected official for more than a decade. Although Favola hopes to use her experience as an asset, Merrick hopes to use that same attribute as a wedge.

"Carren Merrick has had a variety of experiences that include everything from starting a business to founding a nonprofit," said campaign manager Patricia Thiergartner. "Barbara Favola has been a member of the County Board for 14 years."

While the Republican candidate is hoping to ride the anti-incumbent mood of the electorate, Favola's campaign is doubling down on her years of experience. Favola's campaign hopes to present the longtime County Board member who is a seasoned elected official who knows how to broker a deal. The bitter and divisive primary campaign left her party divided and her campaign war chest depleted. Campaign finance records show that she has less than \$15,000 of the \$300,000 she raised since launching her campaign for the state Senate.

"We don't expect to outraise her. She's a millionaire and the Republicans have lots of resources," said Favola campaign man-

ager Adam Scott. "But we are out-work her."

**CAMPAIGN FINANCE** documents show that the Arlington County Board member has raised \$298,000, mainly from real-estate developers, property managers and the Democratic Party. Her top contributor is developer John Shooshan, a major property owner in Ballston who regularly appears before the County Board for official business. During the primary, some of the Democrats supporting Areizaga-Soto tried to make an issue of Democratic Party support, which included \$17,000 from Democratic Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw (D-35).

"They are so incensed by his candidacy that they have spent tens of thousands of dollars to attack him that could otherwise be used to defend their tenuous Democratic majority," said Del. David Engin (D-45), whose wife's consulting firm received more than \$27,000 for advising the unsuccessful campaign. "This smacks of an earlier era of good-old-boy Virginia Democratic politics that most of us soundly rejected long ago."

Meanwhile, Merrick had no primary opponent and heads into the general election with more than \$288,000. The candidate is the top contributor, chipping in more than \$51,000. Other major donations include \$10,000 from McLean businessman Robert Hisaoka, \$10,000 from Great Falls businessman Gary Nakamoto and McLean businessman Larry Pratt.

"She's very attractive, and she's not another white male," said former Alexandria Republican Committee chairman Chris Marston, who is waging a campaign to unseat longtime Democratic incumbent Alexandria Clerk of Court Ed Semonian. "She's also a really aggressive retail candidate, and she's out there knocking on doors every day."

# 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 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](http://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 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).

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Disney On Ice: Dare to Dream.** 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 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).

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:vaamarketing@gmail.com).

**Foreign Language Garden Tours.** Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Garden tours in French at 2 p.m., Spanish at 2:30 p.m., Russian at 3 p.m., Korean at 3:30 p.m. and Vietnamese at 4 p.m. Free. Reserve at 703-255-3631.

**Pianist Amy Yang.** 3 p.m. Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free. 703-620-9535.

## MONDAY/OCT. 24

**UFOs: The Secret Story.** 7 p.m. George Mason University Student Union Building 2 (HUB) Ballroom, Fairfax. A 90-minute lecture and slide show concerning the U.S. government's secret response to UFOs, based on thousands of declassified Air Force, FBI and CIA documents that confirm UFOs do exist and that these mysterious objects are of the greatest concern to the U.S. Air Force and the intelligence community. Hasting has also interviewed over 120 former U.S. military personnel. Free. 505-263-3815 or [www.ufostastings.com](http://www.ufostastings.com).

**It's No Trick, Come Make a Treat!** 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Join us in making Halloween cookies. Costumes optional. Age 6-12. 703-790-8088, TTY: 711.

**Ayr Hill Garden Club.** 1 p.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. "Designing the Small Garden: Illustrating the Wisdom of Henry Mitchell." Landscape designer Sarah Boasburg will wisdom from garden column writer Henry Mitchell, illustrating her talk with pictures of gardens from across the US. Boasburg is a former Chairman of the American Horticulture Society and Vice President of the Friends of the National Arboretum. Free, public invited. [plhweiss@yahoo.com](mailto:plhweiss@yahoo.com).

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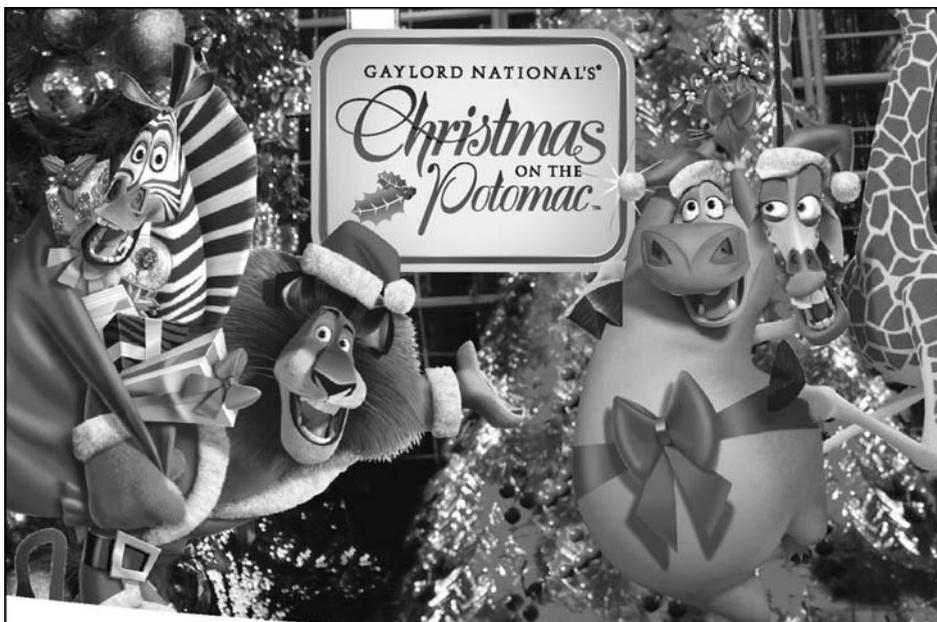
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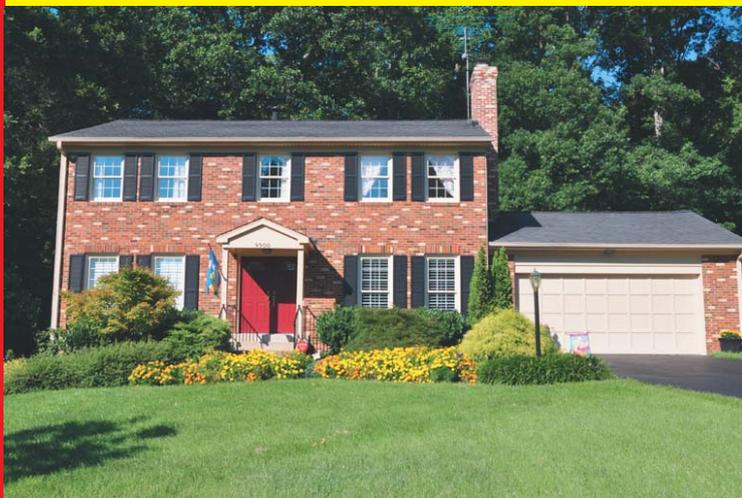


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## REAL ESTATE

# 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>					

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

# 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.

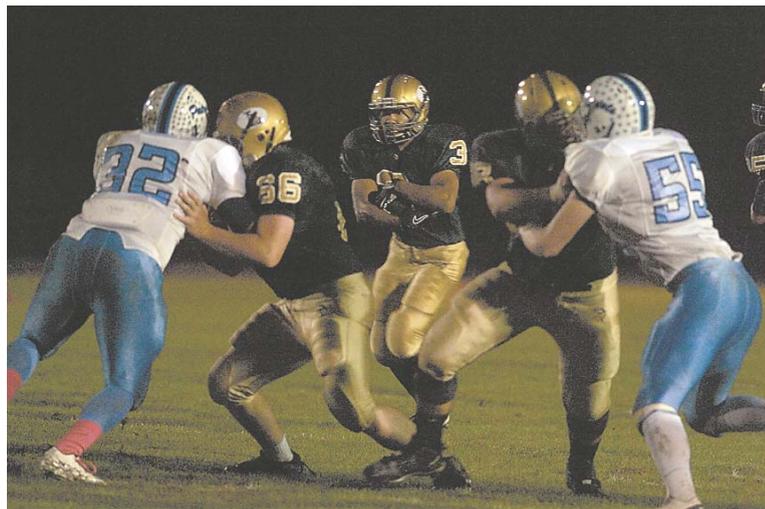
That's where the Saxons' fortunes turned, however, as the Yorktown defense stuffed Langley for no gain on back-to-back runs to force a turnover on downs. From that point, the Saxons experienced only sporadic offensive success en route to a 21-0 loss to the Patriots.

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.



CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## 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.



CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

# "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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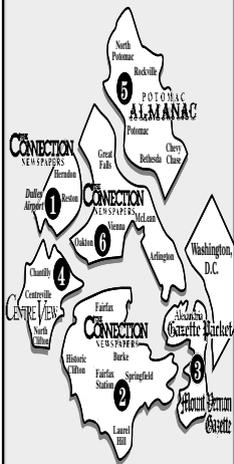
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-Abraham Lincoln

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21 Announcements

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### 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 1  
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.

**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.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 8

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 supporting 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

## Celtic Scholar to speak at Immanuel Presbyterian Church

The Rev. John Philip Newell, poet, scholar, teacher and formerly Warden of Iona Abbey in the Western Isles of Scotland, will be Theologian in Residence at Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1124 Savile Lane in McLean, Nov. 5-6. Rev. Newell will give a seminar "A New Harmony; Spirit, the Earth and the Human Soul" on Saturday, Nov. 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$20, lunch included. He will preach Sunday, Nov. 6 at the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services.

Rev. Newell is internationally acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality and his vision for peace among the great wisdom traditions of humanity. He is the author of many books including Listening for the Heartbeat of God, Praying with the Earth, and A New Harmony.



Rev. John Philip Newell

For more information, contact Dan Thomas, 703-356-3042. [www.ipcmclean.org](http://www.ipcmclean.org). The event is co-sponsored by The Source, an ecumenical resource center of the National Capital Presbytery.

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

## Supporting School Bond Referendum

To the Editor:

Fairfax County's high-quality educational system depends not only on teachers and other school personnel, but also on the facilities where our children learn. The School Bond Referendum on this year's ballot seeks to maintain those facilities at a level that will sustain the type of education we want

for our students.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area supports the School Bond Referendum.

Over time, all building systems wear out or become obsolete. Renovations can extend the life of a school by as much as 20 years. Replacing roofs, mechanical systems, fire alarms, plumbing, lighting, laboratory equipment, and paved surfaces affects not only our children's education but also their safety.

Since 2006, Fairfax County student enrollment has increased by 11,000 pupils. The trends that drive this increase are expected to continue for the next five years. In order to offer all students the same high-quality education, this bond will increase capacity not only by starting new construction but also by adding more modular classrooms. These modules can be set up at fifty to sixty percent cost savings over more traditional structures, and they can also be relocated in the future to schools where they are needed most.

But schools are not just for students. Besides serving the community as polling places, school buildings are available after class hours and, in many cases, free of charge for regularly scheduled activities of 4-H Clubs, Scouts, homeowners associations, and various civic, cultural and religious groups. Local sports leagues also have access to school athletic facilities for their games.

Residents who would like more information about referendum projects should go to [fcps.edu](http://fcps.edu) and click on School Bond Referendum. They can also pick up the brochure Bond Referendum Facts at their public library.

Because of the benefits these capital improvement projects offer our students and our community, the League of Women Voters urges Fairfax County residents to approve the School Bond Referendum on Nov. 8.

**Janey George**  
**Julie Jones**

Co-Presidents, League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

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**Julia O'Donoghue**, FIRST PLACE, Picture Story or Essay, *Mount Vernon Gazette*



**Louise Krafft**, FIRST PLACE, Picture Story or Essay, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

**Louise Krafft**

FIRST PLACE, Sports News Photo, *Springfield Connection*

**Reed Albers**, FIRST PLACE, Sports Writing Portfolio, *Springfield Connection*



**Ken Moore, Laurence Foong**, FIRST PLACE & BEST IN SHOW, 2-page spread, *Potomac Almanac*

**Ken Moore**



**Jon Roetman**, FIRST PLACE, Sports Story, *Potomac Almanac*

**Laurence Foong**

SECOND PLACE, Sports Feature Story, *Potomac Almanac*

**Bonnie Hobbs**, SECOND PLACE, Feature Series, *Centre View South*



**LaShawn Avery-Simons**, SECOND PLACE, Sports Feature Photo, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

**LaShawn Avery-Simons**

SECOND PLACE, Breaking News Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

**Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, General News Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

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**Mary Kimm**, SECOND PLACE, Editorial Writing, *Fairfax Connection*

**Alex McVeigh**

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**Jon Roetman**

**Colleen Healy**, SECOND PLACE, Sports Story, *Potomac Almanac*

**Ken Moore, Laurence Foong, Jon Roetman, Steven Mauren**, SECOND PLACE, Special Section, *Potomac Almanac*



**Julie Ferrill**

THIRD PLACE, Specialty Pages or Section, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

**Jeanne Theismann**, THIRD PLACE, Headline Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

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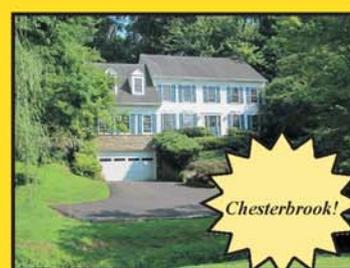
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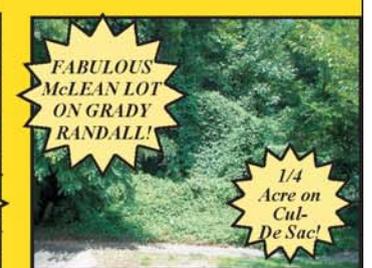
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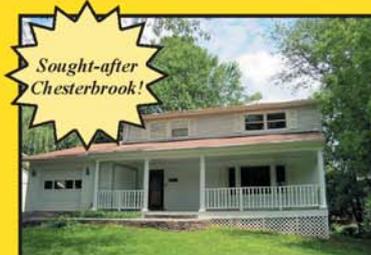
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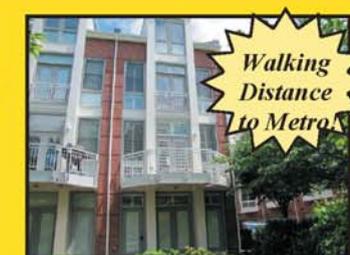
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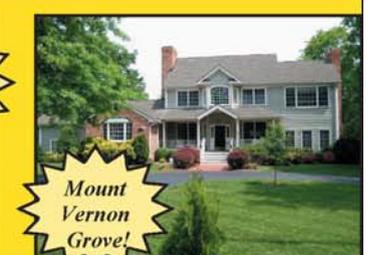
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