

Great Falls
CONNECTION

Honoring Virginia's Heroes

NEWS, PAGE 10

Lizzie Holt, a fifth grader at Forestville Elementary, reads her essay on the men and women who work at the Pentagon at the Great Falls Library Saturday, Nov. 19.



Time to Give

NEWS, PAGE 3

Great Falls
Looks Ahead

NEWS, PAGE 5

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NOVEMBER 23-29, 2011

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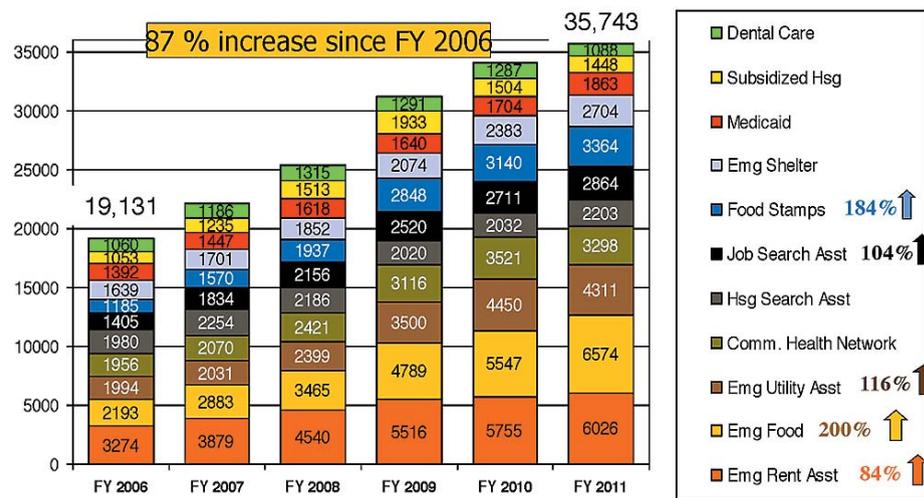
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NEWS

Average daily number of calls to Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) has steadily increased from an average of 297 calls per day in FY 2007 to 441 per day this year.

"Top 11" CSP Contact Topics (FY06-FY11)



Time to Give

Demand for food, other services increases in Fairfax County.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On a recent Tuesday night at ECHO's distribution center in West Springfield, the parking lot is jammed, and social workers are busy helping needy families stock up on holiday food, clothing and other necessities.

"Here's an apple pie, mommy. Can we have it?" asks 9-year-old Marjorie, a fourth-grader at Lynbrook Elementary School.

Her mother, Dayance, nods, as she balances Marjorie's baby sister on her hip and sorts through clothing.

"This is a fairly typical Tuesday evening," said Meg Brantley, ECHO's Executive Director. "We are lucky because we have such a generous community. We just got a bumper crop of food from the annual Boy Scout Food Drive, more than 25,000 pounds and the Franconia Police Department donated 3,000 pounds of food, but the need is always there."

Founded in 1969 by nine local churches, ECHO (Ecumenical Communities Helping Others), is an all-volunteer non-profit serving families in the Burke, Springfield and Lorton area. In a store-like setting, ECHO distributes donated emergency food, clothing, and household items, provides transportation and offers a variety of family-counseling and financial-assistance services.

Like many agencies and non-profits in Fairfax County, ECHO has seen a dramatic increase in clients and requests for assistance since the recession hit in 2008.

In 2010, ECHO assisted more than 1,472 households, an increase of nearly 30 percent over FY07.

According to Brantley, the organization also continued its upward trend in food distribution with a record 180,000 pounds of food going out the door to 1,000 households this fiscal year, and a record number requests for financial and housing assistance,



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Linda McCosky of Springfield fills bags with groceries at ECHO, a charitable organization that provides assistance to those individuals and families in the Burke and Springfield communities experiencing temporary difficulties. She has volunteered with the organization for more than a year. "I do it because it makes me feel good," says McCosky.

such as help paying utility bills.

"We're seeing more of a financial need, people calling for rent and utilities. The foreclosure crisis has trickled down, because it's usually not the owner of the home who needs emergency help, it's the family he's been renting to," said Brantley.

Brantley said the community has come through with donations, and they raised nearly \$30,000 at their bi-annual yard sale, but ECHO's food pantry contains 35 percent less than it did last year.

"We're still giving out about 160 pounds of food per family, but this year it may be a chicken instead of a turkey we're giving for Thanksgiving," Brantley said.

THE STORIES are similar at agencies all across the county.

Social workers say the fallout of the 2008 recession continues to reverberate. People who lost their

SEE AID AGENCIES, PAGE 14



Fairfax County's new "12 Ways of Giving" calendar. Visitors to the website can click on one of the gift-wrapped packages, and discover a new way of giving back to the community.

A New Way to Give Fairfax County launches "12 Ways of Giving" digital calendar.

If you're tired of buying the latest technical gadget for the holidays, Fairfax County has a new way for you to give gifts and give back to the community.

The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3), Celebrate Fairfax, and Volunteer Fairfax recently developed Fairfax Community Connections, a collaborative initiative to promote and recognize ways to give, gather and get involved in Fairfax County. Called Fairfax Community Connections, this is a new web portal designed to share and find opportunities to donate, volunteer and make a difference through activities that are already happening in the community.

"This is a new communications channel using social media and online tools to link the many organizations that are doing good things in our community with those looking for ways to make a difference," said Patricia Stevens, director of OP3.

"We're really excited about our 12 Days of Giving calendar," Stevens said. "It's a way to give back to the community, and give a meaningful gift for someone on your list."

For example, if you go to fairfaxcountypartnerships.org/enews/enews1211.html, you can click on one of the 12 gift-wrapped items, and learn more about that particular gift. If you click on the image of trees, you can find out how to "give" five native trees that will be planted in Fairfax County in honor of your family member, friend or client.

For additional creative and philanthropic gift-giving ideas, Stevens suggests checking out the following sites:

- ❖ www.FairfaxCommunityConnections.net
- ❖ www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org
- ❖ Catalogue for Philanthropy, www.catalogueforphilanthropy-dc.org/cfpdc/nonprofits.php which includes more than 100 Fairfax County organizations.

The United Way Of the National Capital Area Fairfax Falls church Community Impact Fund at <https://donate.unitedwaynca.org/page/contribute/donate-impact-funds>, which goes to organizations in Fairfax County.

— VICTORIA ROSS

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NEWS

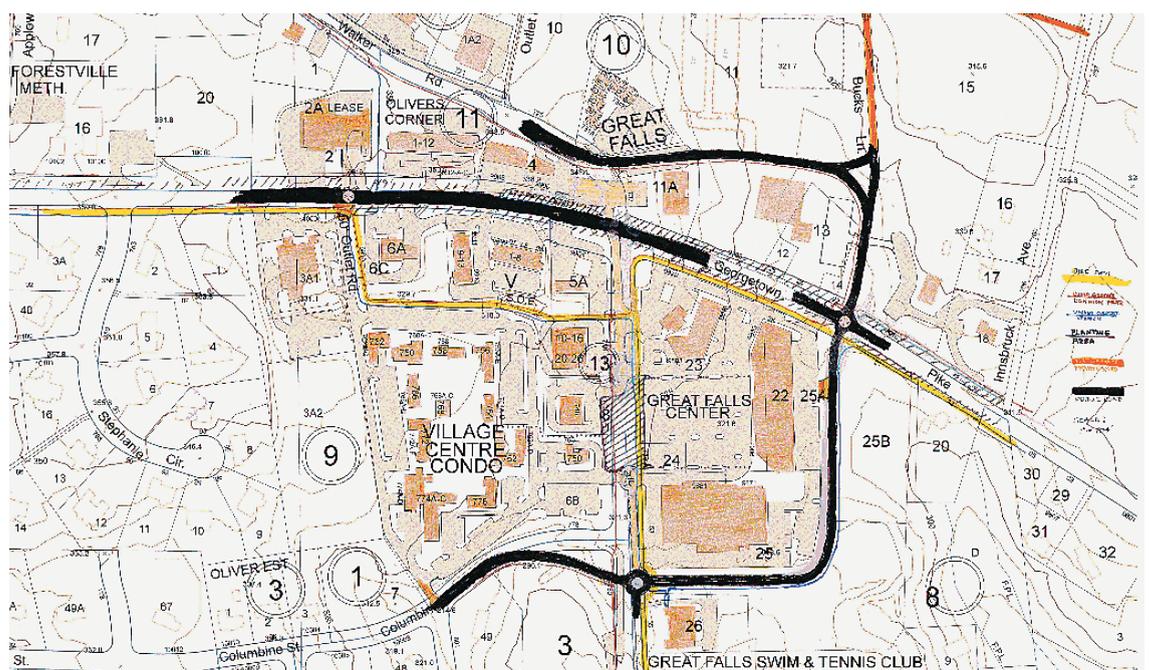


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

An early rendition of the draft Long Range Plan from the Great Falls Citizens Association, which shows a change to the alignment of Walker Road at the Great Falls Village Centre. The plan is in its earliest stages, nothing is set in stone, and the GFCA is looking for community input in all aspects of forming the Long Range Plan.

Great Falls Looks Ahead

GFCA seeks community input for draft Long Range Plan.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Long Range Planning Committee of the Great Falls Citizens Association opened up the planning process for the draft of their Long Range Plan at the Grange Tuesday, Nov. 15.

The draft plan, which will be presented in seven different stages at meetings over the next few months, will set a vision for the Great Falls of the future. The initial plans have come from the results of a 2007 survey where 1,132 people responded about their vision of an ideal Great Falls in 2020.

The future of the Great Falls Village Centre was the focal point at Tuesday's meeting. Long Range Planning Committee co-chair Doug Cobb presented the first draft of a plan that showed several changes to the intersec-

tion of Walker Road and Georgetown Pike.

While a possible plan was presented, GFCA president Jackie Taylor said that the plans shown are in no way concrete, just a first option, they are only being presented to get community response and input.

"The biggest things to remember is that the GFCA has not created a Long Range Plan, but we're working on drafting one," Taylor said. "Nothing has been voted on or decided on by the GFCA, these are all just possibilities."

Cobb re-enforced the point at the meeting, even holding up a T-shirt he had made with the slogan "Don't panic, it's just a concept."

"The biggest things to remember is that the GFCA has not created a Long Range Plan, but we're working on drafting one."

— GFCA president Jackie Taylor

THE PLANS at the meeting showed a vision where the current intersection would be turned into a T intersection, with the northern part

SEE LONG RANGE. PAGE 5

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Long Range Ideas Sought

FROM PAGE 4

of Walker Road (that runs between the 7-11 and the library) being closed off and relocated just east of the Great Falls Library. Walker Road would resume north of Great Falls where Bucks Lane is currently located.

The plan showed traffic lights at the new intersection of Georgetown Pike and the new north Walker Road and further west on Georgetown Pike in front of the fire station.

The proposed intersection of Georgetown Pike and south Walker Road would just have a stop sign. The two traffic signals east and west of the intersection would be synchronized to allow the area between them to clear out every cycle.

"With the lights red going in and green coming out, the area would really clear out and allow more movement during rush hour," Cobb said. "The people coming north on Walker Road to Georgetown Pike will have a stop sign, and they'll benefit when the area clears out."

The idea of a re-shaped Georgetown Pike and Walker Road intersection came from several 2020 survey responses that said they would like to see the commercial centers east and west of Walker Road to be more united.

"When we did the survey, a lot of people said they didn't like having to get in their car to go from one side to the other," said Kathleen Murphy, one of the contributors. "One of the biggest desires expressed was to have a Village Centre where people could more easily meet and greet one another, and right now people think the traffic gets in the way of that."

A SECOND PHASE of the Long Range Plan possibilities could include a section road that would go from the proposed new Walker Road location (where Bucks Lane currently is) to a new section of road that is just west of the Safeway Shopping Center. It would wrap around the shopping center before connecting to Walker Road just across from Columbine Street.

Cobb said that if this option were to become a reality, the Great Falls Village Centre would have to be connected to a sewer system, since the septic drainage field is currently there.

He also said, should the second phase of Walker Road changes go into effect, that it would be easier to close the section of Walker Road closest to Georgetown Pike for events such as the Fourth of July parade.

Pam Grosvenor, secretary of the GFCA, said she liked the plan, but the possible new road behind Safeway could cause noise concerns.

"Right now there's a full line of trees separating the shopping center and the houses, and we still hear garbage trucks and other noise once in a while. If we take down those trees and put a road there, it could get worse," she said. "But I'm not opposed to the idea, and I think there would be ways to make sure it doesn't get too loud."

Cobb said the future meetings will discuss other long-range topics, and they hope to have a draft plan ready to present to Fairfax County when it updates its Comprehensive Plan in 2013.

"We're here to get ideas and opinions, because we have to start somewhere," Cobb said.

More information, including the scope of the draft Long Range Plan, can be found at www.gfca.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

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 The Johns Hopkins University. The son of Tom and Mary Ranese 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.

Lola E. Keyes of McLean has received a master of science in public relations from Boston University of Boston, Mass.

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Great Falls Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Nov. 30, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.



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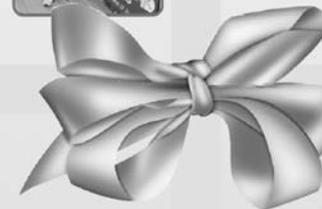
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Water Wars

BY NICHOLAS HORROCK
 THE CONNECTION

It's not Owens Valley. There's no William Mulholland, no Jack Nicholson or Faye Dunaway. But Fairfax County has a water war as real as that depicted in "Chinatown," the 1974 film based on how Los Angeles got water.

In the early 1900s, William Mulholland, the superintendent of the Los Angeles Department of Power and Water, had a 223-mile aqueduct built from Owens Valley California to Los Angeles to carry water to what was the state's fastest growing metropolis. He bought the water rights from the farmers of Owens Valley for about half what the city could have paid and subterfuge was later charged. Lake Owen dried up leaving an alkali desert. Los Angeles still gets half its water from Owens Valley and is trying to deal with the environmental damage of this diversion to this day.

Like Los Angeles in 1913, the Tysons Corner/Merrifield area in Fairfax County is anticipated to be the fastest growing section of the county in the next decades. Tysons alone is slated to grow from an edge city of 100,000 day workers and 19,000 residents, to an urban center with 200,000 workers and a population of 100,000 people living primarily in high rise buildings. It would still draw upwards of 55,000 shoppers daily to its upscale stores.

Supplying water to this metropolis could be worth millions and perhaps billions over the coming years.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors set Dec. 6 for a public hearing on a proposed ordinance that would allow the board to set maximum water rates and fees for residents even if they get water from other municipal water utilities, Falls Church, City of Fairfax, Herndon and Vienna.

It would also allow the Board of Supervisors to set service areas for Fairfax Water, the county's water utility, which would be areas of future development where builders would be required to hook up to Fairfax Water.

Laurie Genevro Cole, a member of Vienna's town council, said the way the board is proceeding with the ordinance "smacks of a power grab." She said the mayor and council in Vienna had no prior warning of the ordinance, despite the fact that discussions on the water issues have gone on for years.

Fairfax County presses to control water as new development looms in Tysons and Merrifield.



Sharon Bulova,
Fairfax Board Chair-
man



Linda Smyth
(D-Provi-
dence)



John Foust
(D-
Dranesville)



Laurie Cole,
Vienna Town
Council

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said at the Nov. 1 meeting that he felt the board was "heavy handed" in proposing the ordinance and argued that the board give more time to working out an agreement with cities and towns.

He feared the action would impact the negotiation on other issues between the county and municipalities.

"He's right," said Cole, "this will make it harder." Nevertheless, Cook voted for the public hearing.

The Board of Supervisors voted 9 to 1 to move forward with the hearing. The nay vote came from Pat S. Herrity, (R-Springfield) who said the Democratic majority on the board hurried the ordinance before Election Day to help the candidacy of John W. Foust, (D. Dranesville). Foust won re-election with 61 percent of the vote.

The water battle in Fairfax has been a protracted issue for over a decade. Right after World War II, long before Fairfax County's extraordinary growth, county homes outside of the towns got their water from wells.

Laurie Cole said Vienna provided service to customers outside of the town as the county rezoned land for development in areas where the county could not provide service.

She said the town extended its water mains and increased its capacity at Fairfax County's request. "We have provided excellent water service to customers inside and outside the Town for decades," Cole said.

Falls Church has a similar story, but with a twist. Falls Church charges some 60 percent more for its water than Fairfax residents pay Fairfax Water. The city serves about 34,000 accounts; some 90 percent of those are outside of the City of Falls Church. County officials estimate some 100,000 Fairfax residents are getting water from municipalities and in the case of Falls Church paying a lot more for it.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon S. Bulova (D) said "that inequity is something that is just unfair."

From 1981 to 2008, the City of Falls Church directed surplus water revenues to its general tax fund. It is estimated that some \$58 million were added to the town's coffers. In January 2010, Fairfax Circuit Court Judge R. Terrence Ney ruled that this practice was in effect imposing an unconstitutional tax on county citizens and halted it.

But Falls Church officials assert that Fairfax County is taking steps that might not be legal or appropriate.

"We have shared our concerns with Fairfax County that the proposed ordinance is legally questionable and anti-competitive, and not in the best interests of our customers," said Lawrence Webb, City Councilman and member of the Falls Church Public Utilities Commission, in an email. "Unfortunately, the county has not responded to these concerns and appears to be rushing this through to approval."

Supervisors Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence) and Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) have large numbers of constituents who pay what they say are exorbitant prices for Falls Church water. Last spring, after Falls Church announced it might have to raise its fees, Smyth and Hudgins asked the Consumer Protection Commission to study the fee structure.

Among its finding was that Falls Church continues to undercharge for hookups to win new customers and expand its territories, but charges older customers for the increased costs of new business.

Under the new rate, effective Oct. 1, Fall Church would charge a typical Fairfax County resident \$62.13 per quarter, some 60 percent more than Fairfax Water's charge of \$38.76.

It was from this consumer's report that Fairfax County's outgoing county executive, Anthony H. Griffin prepared the proposed ordinance.

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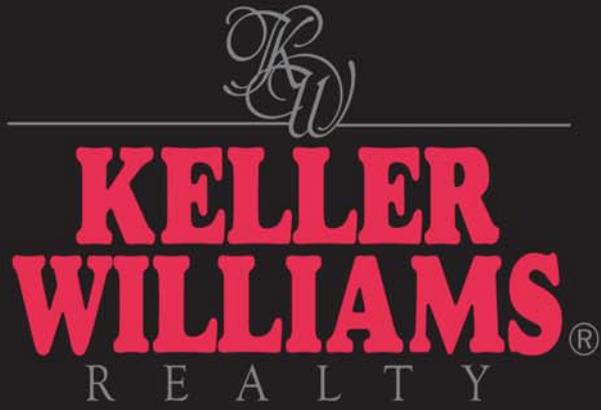
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OPINION

Children's Connection

Call for student artwork and writing; deadline Dec. 5.

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade, and we begin getting inquiries from teachers and parents about submitting artwork and writing almost as soon as summer is over.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories and photographs.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or on CD. Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

Please provide the submissions no later than Thursday, Dec. 8.

Some suggestions:

❖ Drawings, paintings, photographs of 2-D and 3-D artwork that have been digitally photographed or scanned as .jpeg files.

❖ Short stories, poetry, essays, class-wide prompt writings.

❖ Opinion pieces about family, friends, movies, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.

❖ News stories from school newspapers.

We welcome contributions from families, public and private schools, individuals and home schoolers.

Email submissions for the Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston and Oak Hill/Herndon Children's Connections to ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connections to

ChildrensSouth@Connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Potomac Almanac to Steven Mauren at

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Arlington Children's Connection to Steven Mauren at

smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the

Children's Centre View to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Email submissions for the Children's Gazette in the Alexandria Gazette Packet or Mount Vernon Gazette to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

To send CDs of artwork or CDs of typed submissions, mark them clearly by school and/or hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Kurspahic Takes over as Editor of Four More Papers

Kemal Kurspahic, longtime Connection managing editor, has taken the helm of the Springfield Connection, Burke Connection, Fairfax Connection and Fairfax Station/Lorton/Clifton Connection. He adds these responsibilities to his editing of the Vienna/Oakton Connection, McLean Connection, Great Falls Connection, Reston Connection and Oak Hill/Herndon Connection.

Kurspahic, who has won some of the most prestigious international awards as well as

many awards for local news coverage, focuses on a well-honed local mission with a lean team of reporters, photographers and freelancers, as well as editorial assistant Amna Rehmatulla.

Kurspahic was among the 50 World Press Freedom Heroes named more than a decade ago, honored again in Vienna, Austria in September, 2010.

In December 1988, Kemal Kurspahic was named editor-in-chief of Oslobodjenje, Sarajevo's 70,000 circulation daily newspaper, the first editor of that paper not appointed by the Communist Party. Then after the communists were ousted, Kurspahic maintained editorial independence against a coalition of nationalist parties who wished to control the press.

During the siege of Sarajevo, with snipers' bullets flying, shelling which destroyed the paper's building, no electricity and very little newsprint, Kurspahic guided the paper's multi-ethnic staff in a nuclear bomb shelter, publishing the paper, providing one of the city's only sources of information. Often its pages were filled with lists of the dead.

A U.S. citizen since 2001, Kurspahic is the author of several books, including "As Long as Sarajevo Exists" and "Prime Time Crime." He was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard, Senior Fellow at the U.S. Institute for Peace and also worked for the United Nations.

Questions? Comments? Story ideas?

You can reach Kurspahic at Kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM; ON

TWITTER @MARYKIMM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Paradigm Shift Needed in FCPS

To the Editor:

With a quasi-new School Board and the recruitment of a new superintendent, this system has the opportunity to reinvent itself, not just in rhetoric but in words and action. FCPS has had a great reputation, some of it built on old laurels. This is an opportunity to create a place where children can actually become. A place where homework is not four hours a night of senseless seatwork and where the stress level rivals a combat zone. It isn't good for humans — students, teachers, parents, administrators. The efficacy of homework is debatable, and many educators now say that it is completely without merit. It dominates our family lives and creates an atmosphere of micromanagement. I recently realized that my children would soon be grown and I have spent 12 years "getting through it"

with small periods of happiness between big fights with teachers and administrations.

What if we created a place where people felt welcome? What if we actually created emotional safety? What if homework was given only to the degree that it was meaningful and reasonable? (I still remember the wonderful elementary school teachers who "assigned" an hour of play outside). Studies show that trust and rapport are the most important aspects in seeking to enhance education and outcomes. (tests!) Ask yourselves this: how would you feel about a workplace where you were so closely monitored that you could do nothing right, where social interaction was not only discouraged but punished? Repressive and controlling policies like security cameras and the disgusting discipline policy create a toxic environment. We can learn from the research on community oriented policing that by creating an environment where no one feels

safe and everyone is under suspicion, bad events will happen, and are actually caused by these policies.

In this political cycle I was encouraged that some candidates for school board actually seem to get it. They ran on changing the horrific outcomes of zero tolerance. They acknowledged that this policy is not only harmful, but lethal. It is unfair, undemocratic and a violation of our children's civil liberties. It can strike your child, regardless of how accomplished, honest, hardworking or "good" they are.

I am hopeful that FCPS will unhinge itself from some of these repressive tactics when they seek, and hopefully are granted, a waiver from some aspects of NCLB, the most harmful and poorly conceptualized piece of legislation ever launched against children and parents.

We need a system that starts from a simple place: the love of children. Some administrators

love buildings, and some love their jobs. You may say that this is simplistic but it is a critical starting place for change. Our schools must be student-centered, they must be built and designed, philosophically and literally, with students first.

Jan Falk, LCSW
Fairfax Station

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-778-9410.
By e-mail:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

THE CONNECTION

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, back row: Sonya Zell, Abby Thompson, Stephanie Anderson, Mark Paulson, Jessica Bumsted, Elly Sheers and Amber Bennett. Front row: Sarah Larkworthy, Rachel Street, Mia Engelhardt, Sarah Etherton, Lauren Fernandez, and Isabel Hefner.

Langley Seniors Chosen for Honors Choir

The 2011 Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) Honors Choir will feature 11 Langley High School seniors out of the 133 senior choral students selected from Virginia. The seniors were selected during a rigorous audition process held Saturday, Oct. 1 at Longwood College. For the second time in the past three years, Langley High School of McLean had the highest number of students selected of any high school in the state. Two Langley seniors were also chosen as alternates.

These top performers include: Sonya Zell singing

Soprano 1; Sarah Larkworthy, Abby Thompson and Rachel Street (alternate) singing Soprano 2; Isabel Hefner (2nd place), Mia Engelhardt (2nd Place), Jessica Bumsted and Sarah Etherton singing Alto 1; Stephanie Anderson (1st Place), Lauren Fernandez (1st Place), Elly Sheers, and Amber Bennett (alternate) singing Alto 2; and Mark Paulson singing Bass 1. The students will travel to Norfolk from Nov. 17-19 to participate in rehearsals for the Honors Choir that culminate in a concert at the VMEA In-Service Conference Event.

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Calendar Listings

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

Name of Event:
Day of the Week, Date and Time:
Name of the Place Event will Be Held:
Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:
Name and Phone Number for More Information:
Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

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For more information, call 703-778-9410.

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Santa Picture Day

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 8 AM to 2PM

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Holidays are HERE!

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Hyatt Gingerbread Village
All day, Hyatt lobby

21st Annual Reston Holiday Parade
"Storybook Magic"
11 am, Market Street

Visits and photos with Santa
12:30 - 4:30 pm, Next to Skate Shop

Tree Lighting & Sing Along
6 pm, Fountain Square

Horse-drawn Carriage Rides
6:30 - 10 pm, Pick-up next to Talbots

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NEWS



PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Participants and winners of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial essay contest gather at the Great Falls Library Saturday, Nov. 19.

Tribute to Virginia Heroes

Winners of first Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial essay contest honored.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial recognized five local fifth and sixth graders Saturday at the Great Falls Library as the winners of the organization's first essay contest.

Students from each of the three Great Falls elementary schools, as well as home and private schooled children, chose a Virginian to write about and had to choose three of the dozens of words that surround the memorial on granite blocks.

"In talking with the judges, one of the things we were most impressed about was the students who actually went out and discovered someone to write about, not just by looking in a history book," said Ed Heberg of the Friends of the Great Falls

Freedom Memorial.

Aaraj Vij, a fifth grader, won for Colvin Run Elementary School. He chose to write about Arthur Ashe, the Richmond native and tennis champion who also stood up for Civil Rights and HIV/AIDS awareness.

Vij said he believed every single word at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial could apply to Ashe, but he chose "courage," "perseverance" and "understanding" to describe him.

"He fought a different kind of war and lived a commendable life helping underprivileged youth realize their dreams," he said. "Every single word carved in stone at the memorial is a quality Arthur R. Ashe Jr. possesses and exhibited in great magnitude throughout his life."

Vij said Ashe was courageous because of the way he supported Civil Rights, perse-

SEE HEROES. PAGE 11



Marisa Mihori, a fifth grader at Great Falls Elementary, reads her winning essay about Civil Rights activist Irene Morgan.



Sammy Sobich, a fifth grader at Great Falls Elementary School, reads her essay about Great Falls Elementary parent and journalist Asra Nomani.

Heroes Among Us

FROM PAGE 10

vered because of the way he went to college and become a tennis champion and that his understanding helped him found his Virginia Heroes nonprofit.

GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY School had two co-winners, fifth graders Marisa Mihori and Sammy Sobich. Mihori also chose a figure from Virginia's history, but one that isn't as well known.

She chose Irene Morgan, an African-American native of Gloucester County, who in 1944 was told she would have to give up her bus seat to a white woman. Morgan refused and was arrested. She took the case to the Supreme Court. In 1946 the Court ruled that Virginia's interstate bus segregation law was illegal.

"I think it is especially extraordinary that Irene was an African-American woman, because at the time neither African-Americans or women had been given the opportunity to make many accomplishments," Mihori said. "Even though she was not well known for what she did, she definitely changed the way we treated blacks forever and that is why I think Irene Morgan is perseverant, courageous and strong."

Sobich chose someone much closer to home. She chose Asra Nomani, a Great Falls resident, professor at Georgetown University and journalist. Sobich said she was inspired by Nomani's work on behalf of Islamic women, and her work with the Pearl Project, an investigation into the kidnapping and murder of her friend Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

"A hero is someone who is full of patience, compassion and courage. I chose my hero, Asra Nomani because she is a person who lives these qualities every day," Sobich said. "Around the world, she is known as a journalist and speaker. To me, she is a real hero at our school and in our community."

Sobich wasn't the only one to recognize someone local as a hero. The private or home school winner was sixth grader Mary Burke. She chose to write about Brendan Kelly, a 14-year-old Great Falls resident with Down's syndrome and a leukemia survivor.

Burke commended Kelly for showing humility, love and courage during his battle with the disease. Kelly was diagnosed at the age of 3 in 2000, and underwent a year-and-a-half of treatment to put the disease into remission. But it returned in 2008, and he underwent another two years of treatment, and is now undergoing a bone marrow transplant.

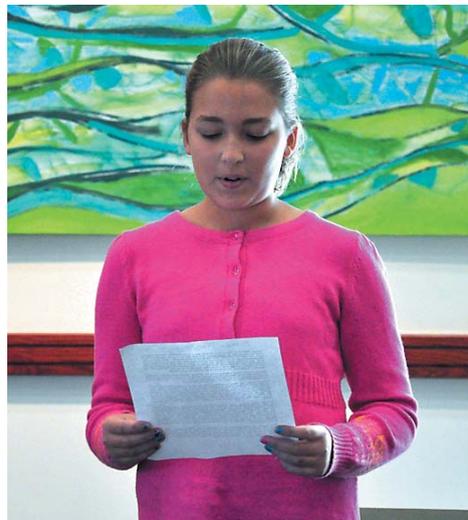
"Brendan inspires everyone to become a better person, more humble, loving and courageous," Burke said. "Out of all the heroes in Virginia, like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and the many soldiers who have fought for our country, I picked Brendan because he has inspired me and many others by his humility, love and courage."

FORESTVILLE ELEMENTARY School fifth grader Lizzie Holt also chose to recognize local heroes: the men and women who

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Aaraj Vij, a fifth grader at Colvin Run Mill Elementary School reads his essay on Arthur Ashe at the Great Falls Library Saturday, Nov. 19.



Mary Burke, a sixth grader, reads her essay about Great Falls resident Brendan Kelly, who has Down's syndrome and has been treated twice for leukemia.

work at the Pentagon. She said they represented country, courage and sacrifice for their efforts before, during and after the 9/11 attacks.

"All of the men and women of the military are my heroes, but I feel particularly close to the ones who work in the Pentagon and who were there on Sept. 11, 2001," said Holt, whose father currently works there as a civilian contractor. "They care for this nation and the people in it. They are my heroes because they are fighting for our freedom, not just ourselves, but for everyone."

She said she chose the words after her family stopped by the memorial before Great Falls' annual 9/11 ceremony.

This was the first edition of the contest, which Heberg says he hopes will continue in years to come.

"What I found most interesting was the scope, there were essays about Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, but students also included neighbors, family members and teachers," Heberg said. "We definitely hope to continue this in the future."



Go to the place where the thing you wish to know is native; your best teacher is there. Where the thing you wish to know is so dominant that you must breathe its very atmosphere, there teaching is most thorough and learning is most easy. You acquire a language most readily in the country where it is spoken; you study mineralogy best among miners; and so with everything else.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



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Great Falls Village Centre's 21st Annual Tree Lighting Event

Friday, December 2, 2011 6-8 PM



Festivities will be held behind the Post Office, near the Big Christmas Tree!

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.: Holiday Shopping & Open House
6-7 p.m.: Christmas Carolers
7:00 p.m.: Santa arrives with Mrs. Claus to Light the Tree
7:30 p.m.: Live presentation of Nativity Setting



You and Your Family Are Invited!
 Friday, December 2, 2011, 6-8 p.m.
 to the 21st Annual Great Falls Village Centre Christmas Tree Lighting

Dear Great Falls:

Welcome to our 21st annual Tree Lighting celebration. Mark your calendars, the event will begin at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, December 2nd. As always there will be holiday fun for the whole family.

For the children, we will have a petting zoo and pony rides (provided by Old Mine Ranch) that will begin at 7:00 p.m. immediately after the tree lighting ceremony. Of course, Santa and Mrs. Claus will grace us with their presence at 7:00 p.m. Children who visit with Santa will receive an old-fashioned sleigh bell.

We also have the live presentation of Christ's birth at 7:45p.m. to remind us all what Christmas is really about. Beautiful Christmas music will be sung by The Langley Madrigal Singers throughout the evening. Teel Construction will provide hot cider.

For the adults, the Great Falls Village Centre will host our annual Holiday Shopping Open House from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Each year, these one-of-a-kind shops open their doors to shoppers with Christmas treats, cookies, hot chocolate, and/or coupons to make your holiday shopping easier and more enjoyable. So if you do not like the crowds or the long drive to the big shopping centers, shop local and enjoy a calm, relaxing Christmas shopping experience.

In closing, on behalf of the entire Great Falls Village Centre, we would like to thank all of those who participate in keeping this special tradition going year after year.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all,

The Great Falls Village Centre
gfvcca@aol.com • 703-759-2485

Thank You!

Event Founder:
 Ms. Jackie Moore (deceased)

Carried On By:
 Mr. Robert Moore
 Mr. Gary Schmitz
 Mr. Steve Newborg

Event Set Up:
 Mr. Ed White
 Mr. Al McDonald
 Mr. Bud Gettier
 Mr. Carl Schmitz
 Mr. Glen Sjoblogm

Fire Truck:
 Mr. Peter Garahan
 Mr. Mike Kearney
 Mr. John Nugent

Live Nativity:
 Ms. Margaret Johnson

Petting Zoo:
 Mr. Gary Schmitz
 Ms. Patty Calpin, of Old Mine Ranch is donating the animals in honor of the late Jack Crippen

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Great Falls Tree Continues to Shine-Celebrating 20th Year

The Christmas tree, with its ever-green needles, represents things that last over time. On Friday, December 2, in its annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, the Great Falls community will gather at the Village Centre to celebrate its 21st anniversary of this event that ties community, tradition and memories.

It all began in 1991 with Jackie Moore's love of Christmas trees. According to her husband, longtime Great Falls resident, Robert Moore, "She just thought it would be a great idea to have a tree lighting for the kids." The tree, which climbs more than 30 feet into the air and is rumored to hold more lights than the White House Christmas tree, has remained a fixture in the Great Falls community since that time. Each year, dedicated volunteers return to play their parts in the ceremony and enchant a growing number of watchers.

Tradition and Happiness

Santa and Mrs. Claus make their annual visit to the tree lighting each year with the help of Earl Kenemer and now Eric Partee and Lynne Simmons, Founder and Owner of Village Green Day School. In the past, the late Jack Crippen would bring an assortment of animals to the event. Area children act



Robert Moore, Gary Schmitz and Steve Newborg



ting up a tree at the Village centre, Schmitz was happy to help. They selected a tree on Georgetown Pike, dug it up and carried it to its new site. Although many people mentioned Schmitz name as vital to the tree lighting celebration, he remained modest about his role. "I'm in the excavating business, so it is sort of normal," he said.

The original tree died five years after it was first moved in the Village Centre. Moore and Schmitz continued the tradition, bringing in another tree from the Wolf Trap area.

By that time, Jacqueline Moore had died, but Robert Moore wanted to continue her legacy. "I thought about stopping because my wife had passed



away," said Moore, "but it was something that she really was happy about. We went ahead and put up a new tree."

When asked how long he planned to continue the Village Centre tree lighting, Moore did not see an end. "I'll do it as long as I can, as long as I am able." The Great Falls citizens spoke of their appreciation of Moore for creating a place for the community to maintain its small-town feel, although it lies only a few miles from Washington, D.C. The annual ceremony continues to be a tradition for the Great Falls citizens, join us Friday, December 2nd from 6-8PM to help celebrate 21 years of a Great Falls Village Centre tradition.

Special Thanks to Mr. Robert Moore and the Village Centre Owners for hosting and sponsoring this special event!

Tree Lighting Through the Years



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Agencies Report High Demand

FROM PAGE 3

jobs in 2008 or 2009 are draining personal savings, and the clock is ticking on social safety nets such as unemployment and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits, which provide a two-year cushion at best.

"What is particularly alarming is that many of the families calling are unemployed, and have been for a while," said Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread (ODB), a non-profit serving Fairfax County's working poor for 25 years. More than half of ODB's clients are children.

"The low-wage jobs are decreasing. Some families that request utility assistance have been without electricity for over a month. They exhausted their personal resources and nonprofit resources and literally were living in the dark. Now that the temperature is dropping they are desperate," Whetzel said.

Since July of 2011, ODB has been tracking the number of clients they have to turn away who request financial assistance.

"The number is 60 families a month, and rising. And these are people that are able to work, but just cannot find work," Whetzel said. "The low-wage jobs that were once there for them, are just not there anymore."

At ODB, there is a steady waitlist for food assistance. "Another way that we track the need for food assistance is the number of requests for one-time emergency deliveries we make to families in dire need of food. This number averages 10 per month. Last month we made 21 deliveries. And we are leaning in that direction again this month," she said.

Food for Others, the largest direct distributor of free food in Northern Virginia, reported it delivered a record 2.7 million pounds of food to an average of 125 families a day last year.

"We are always slammed," said Lynne Galanis, Food for Other's finance director.

"This is our busy time of year, and we're seeing a sustained high volume of calls," said executive director Roxanne Rice.

John Horejsi, founder and coordinator of SALT (Social Action Linking Together), said Catholic Charities of Arlington has experienced a 450 percent increase in requests for emergency assistance from families, "With 17 tons of food delivered, Catholic Charities say they are still dangerously low on grocery supplies," Horejsi said.

FACETS, a Fairfax-based non-profit committed to helping vulnerable families struggling with homelessness, has also seen a surge in needs for services.

"At one point during the recession, we saw a 60 percent increase in our services," said Amanda Andere, FACETS executive director. "Since there has been such an increase in the amount of services requested, and the time we need to spend working with our clients to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness, the donations are not keeping up with this increased need."

"The call volume for assistance countywide has gone through the roof," said Patricia Stevens, director of the county's Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3). "People are living close to the margin, and something like losing that second job, or running out of savings, can tip the balance."

The Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3) serves as a clearing house and point of contact for public agencies, non-profit organizations, and businesses.

Stevens said Fairfax County's Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) tracks the volume and type of calls



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Patricia Stevens, executive director of Fairfax County's Office of Public Private Partnerships (OP3), unveils its new "12 Days of Giving Calendar."

that come into its hotline.

In 2007, CSP had five "high volume" days with more than 400 calls. In 2010, there was a 60 percent jump in days when social workers were handling more than 400 calls, and one in every five days had more than 500 calls.

AVERAGE DAILY CALL VOLUME has steadily increased from an average of 297 calls per day in FY 2007 to 441 per day this year. Since August 2006, there has been a prolonged increase in the number of requests to CSP, which is one indicator, Stevens said, of economic stress in the community.

And while Fairfax County still ranks as one of the wealthiest in the nation, the number of residents living in poverty (considered to be less than \$60,000 annually for a family of four) increased 33 percent from 2000 to 2009, according to a report released by Fairfax County's Human Services Council this month. Nearly 58,000 county residents currently live in poverty.

According to Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 2,000 Fairfax County Public School students were identified as homeless during the 2010-11 school year, and one in four FCPS students is eligible for free and reduced lunches.

Despite the bleak statistics, there are bright spots.

"We are a caring community, and people are extremely generous this time of year," Rice said. "It's a double-edged sword. People are taken over by the holiday spirit, and we're able to provide for the demand, but the demand for food is there in January and February too."

"Overall, Fairfax County has done better than many parts of the country. We're a vibrant community of diverse people who want to give," Stevens said, "but they are not always aware of how to give so that their donations stay in the community. What I find is that it's a matter of raising awareness, which is something we're all trying to do."

Where To Give

Consider donating time, food, household supplies or financial aid to one of these local organizations this holiday season.

In addition to the organizations listed below, Fairfax County maintains an online database of human services organizations that is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to anyone with internet access. The Human Services Resource Guide is a database of public, non-profit, and some private for-profit organizations that provide human services to Fairfax County residents. The database includes descriptions of services provided, access criteria, location and contact information among other information. To access the Human Services Resource Guide, click on the following link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rim/default.asp>. Visitors to the site are able to search by a service category and/or organization name.

❖ The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic, 13525 Dulles Technology Drive, Herndon, VA 20171, 571-235-3577. Last year, 139 community volunteers — nurses, nurse practitioners, and physicians — gave more than 1,300 hours of their time to see patients. jsfreeclinic.org.

❖ Alternative House — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182, 703-506-9191. www.thealternativehouse.org.

❖ Reston Interfaith, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.restoninterfaith.org. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program and the Thanksgiving Food Drive.

❖ SHARE of McLean seeks donations of grocery gift cards. Gift cards can be dropped off at SHARE, c/o McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Rd. on Wednesdays and Saturdays (except Thanksgiving week) 9:30 a.m. - noon. Checks and gift cards can be sent to: Holiday Celebration, Share, Inc. PO Box 210, McLean, VA 22101. 703-284-2179. www.SHAREofMcLean.org

❖ LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. Email Lisa Lombardozi at LisaLombo@signaturecos.com. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org

❖ FACETS — Information about supply donations and FACETS holiday gifts drive is available on the website at www.facetscares.org. Additionally, FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. People who are interested in volunteering can contact 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org.

❖ Our Daily Bread — ODB has been serving disadvantaged families in Fairfax County for 25 years. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.com.

❖ Food for Others — Food for Others is the largest distributor of free food directly to people in need in Northern Virginia, provides the assistance needed by unemployed and low-income neighbors. The non-profit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. www.foodforothers.com

❖ Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO), 703-569-9160. Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. www.echo-inc.org.

❖ Lorton Community Action Center operates the Act II Thrift Shop at 9506 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Sales from the shop generate funds for LCAC and clients also shop there. While donations are welcome during store hours, visitors are asked to call first at 703-339-8611 before dropping off. www.lortonaction.org.

❖ Comfort for America's Uninformed Services (CAUSE) — CAUSE ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org

❖ National Capital Food Bank, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org

❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

FRIDAY/NOV. 25

29th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.

Along Those Lines, One City Mile and Since Antarctica. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

The Grandsons General Admission Dance. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Roots-rock quartet. \$16. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 26

Artist's Reception. 2-4 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. "Let it Flow" is an exhibit of abstract acrylic paintings by Mary Ellen Mogee. 703-785-5784 or www.maryellenmogee.com.

29th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.

Photo with Santa. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Falls Church Presbyterian Church, 225 E Broad St., Falls Church.

David Wazeter and Struan Shields. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

A Civil War Thanksgiving. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Cherry Hill Farmhouse, 312 Park Ave., Falls Church. Watch reenactors recreate an 1863 Thanksgiving. Watch them serve the holiday meal, eavesdrop on war time conversation and join them in parlor games. Free admission. 703-248-5171.

John Eaton: Indiana on Our Minds. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Music of Cole Porter and Hoagy Carmichael. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Christmas Bazaar. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Holiday decorations, candles, gift items, jewelry, art work, paintings and more. Proceeds benefit veterans, children and youth, and neighbors in need. 703-893-4588.

Nutcracker 11. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Presented by the Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls, with professional guest artists from The Richmond Ballet plus 3 local Russian dancers. 703-759-3366.

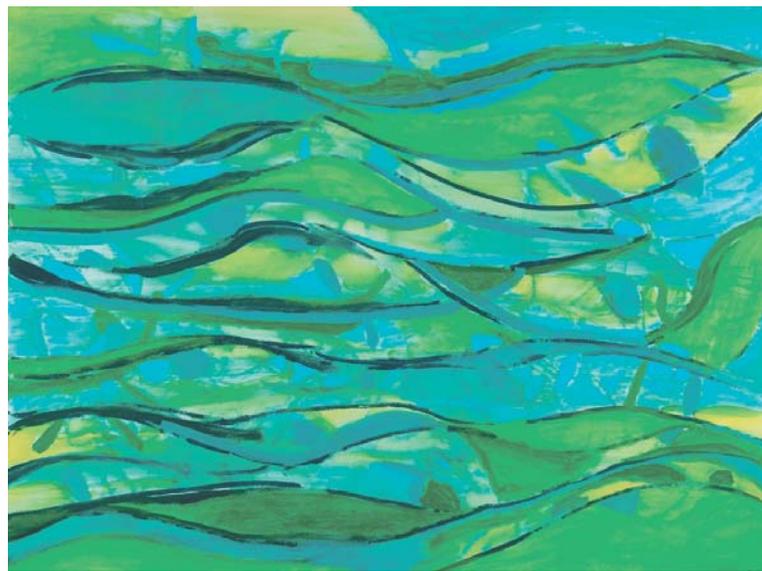
SUNDAY/NOV. 27

29th Annual Thanksgiving Weekend Art and Craft Showcase. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. More than eighty local artisans of the Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild. Admission \$3. www.nvhg.org.

TheRuinCity, AudioStrobeLight, Accidents (CD Release), Big Paper Airplanes, Farah & The Boy and Daniel Wrigley. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Lilt. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Tina Eck on wooden flute and whistle and Keith Carr on 10 string bouzouki and tenor banjo. \$15. www.oldbrogue.com.

Harpist Angelina Savoia and



There will be an Artist's Reception on Nov. 26 from 2-4 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, for "Let it Flow," an exhibit of abstract acrylic paintings by Mary Ellen Mogee. The exhibit will be on display through November. 703-785-5784 or www.maryellenmogee.com.

Violinist Marina Aikawa. 3 p.m. Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sonata for solo harp by Hindemith, plus works by Bach, Mozart, Faure, Francais, Saint-Saens and Monti. Free. 703-620-9535.

Nutcracker 11. 4 p.m. Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Presented by the Haddad Youth Ballet of Great Falls, with professional guest artists from The Richmond Ballet plus 3 local Russian dancers. 703-759-3366.

MONDAY/NOV. 28

Annual Church Street Stroll. 6-9 p.m. Church St., between Lawyers Road and Mill St., Vienna. The Freeman House general store, the railroad station, red caboose, Knights of Columbus (former First Baptist Church) and Vienna Presbyterian "little chapel" will be open to visitors. Santa Claus will arrive at the Freeman House at 6:30 p.m. and help Mayor Jane Seeman light the holiday tree at 6:45 p.m. Afterwards, Santa will visit with children on the front porch of the Freeman House. Entertainment by local musical groups, a petting zoo, marshmallows for roasting at supervised "bonfires" and more. Visitors are encouraged to bring a toy to donate to the Toys for Tots collection. Sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc., and the Town of Vienna. All activities free. 703-938-5187.

Model Railroad HO Scale Open House and Display at the Vienna Holiday Stroll. 6-9 p.m. Historic Vienna Depot of the W & OD Railroad, 231 Dominion Road N.E., Vienna. Free, donations accepted. www.nvmr.org or 703-938-5157.

Space Program, Today's Tomorrow, Minor Kings EP Release and Wrestle With Jimmy. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

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

Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Read aloud to Beamer, a trained therapy dog. Age 6-12. Register at 703-293-6227.

Rock-A-Bye Baby. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-11 months with adult. 703-938-0405.

Game On Afternoon Edition. 3:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Test your prowess at our Wii Mario Kart or Wii Super Smashbros. Brawl Tournament. Age 6-16. 703-938-0405.

TUESDAY/NOV. 29

Shoot The Cricket, Kill Lincoln and East Ghost. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-293-6227.

Personalized Internet Training. 2:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. A 45-minute one-on-one Internet training session with a technology volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Practice Your English. 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-790-8088.

Book Talk for Book Lovers. 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns. Adults. 703-790-8088.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

Pieta Brown and Peyton Tochterman. 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Short stories. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-242-4020.

Gourds and Gobblers. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Wild turkeys still live in Northern Virginia. Through activities find out about this shy bird and other plants and animals that are part of Thanksgiving traditions. 703-356-0770.

Steve Solomon's My Mother's Italian, My Father's Jewish & I'm Home for the Holidays! 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Hilarious recount of a chaotic family reunion. \$32. www.wolftrap.org.



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Here's What's Happening at MCC



29th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show

Fri.-Sun, Dec. 2-4

Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Admission: \$3 adults; \$1 age 13 or younger.
Good all three days!

Take \$1 off adult admission with this ad.

Come enjoy the sights, sounds, and aromas of the season! This year's craft show will feature 80 fine American artisans from across the country.

McLean Traveler Day Trip

Holidays at the James River Plantations

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

\$145 per person/\$135 district residents

Step back into a festive holiday time while visiting the 17th and 18th century Shirley and Berkeley plantation homes, two icons of Virginia society.

Alden Insider Knowledge Series

The Roots of Root Music

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m.

Free and open to the public.

Reservations are not required.

Mary Cliff, host of WAMU's "Traditions", and Mary Sue Twohy, folk musician and host of "The Village" on SiriusXM, will lead an exploration of the roots music tradition and its echoes in new roots music, such as that of Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem.

Alden Professional Series

Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem

Saturday, Dec. 10, 8 p.m.

\$25/\$18 district residents

Rani Arbo and daisy mayhem's eclectic roots music is a fresh take on America's musical traditions that combines folk, blues, swing, Cajun and traditional pop influences.

The McLean Community Center



703-790-0123, TTY: 711

www.mcleancenter.org



NEWS

Great Falls Artists Exhibit in Herndon

Great Falls Studios, in collaboration with ArtSpace Herndon, has announced a juried exhibition of work by Great Falls Studios artists titled A Touch of Red. The show will be hosted by ArtSpace Herndon, located at 750 Center Street in Herndon. The artwork will be on display from Nov. 29, 2011 thru Jan. 8, 2012. Hours are Tuesday-Thursday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Friday 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday 1-5 p.m. A reception for the public will be held Dec. 7, 7-9 p.m.

Great Falls Studios is a community of artists engaged in a broad spectrum of pursuits including oils, acrylics, watercolors, photography, fiber, pottery, sculpture and lithography. The show's theme, A Touch of Red, offers wide scope for these varied avenues to explore the color that speaks to electricity and passion.

For more information, contact Betty Ganley at bettyganley@hotmail.com.



Boxes and Crates, Sculpture by Jon Fisher.



Chad #12 1978 photograph by Val Mahan.

Sunset in Chad

Great Falls photographer captures the Chadian life.

The image being used for the mail advertising campaign for the Great Falls Studios show, A Touch of Red, is titled Chad # 12, 1978. It was made by Great Falls photographer Val Mahan. While the image has all the hallmarks of a computer-generated graphic, it was in fact composed and created entirely in a 35mm film camera. The photographer explains how this was done:

"I was living in Ndjamen, Chad and I'd discovered a spot that had a perfect view of Chadians returning to town from work in the fields at the end of the day. The place was at some distance from the road and lower than the road, so that it offered a view of the pedestrians silhouetted against the sky. Ndjamen is largely desert-like and

clouds are rare; the sky is typically a blazing clear blue or grey-tan with dust. The locale offered, at certain times, the opportunity to backlight the subject with the setting sun. Also, at that time I was fortunate enough to have the loan of a Nikon 1000mm catadioptric (mirror) lens, a pretty much state-of-the-art piece of equipment. It was perfect for that situation in that it filled a 35mm slide with humans in perfect proportion. One day, while waiting for the setting sun to get low enough to bring color and drama, I started playing with a red filter that had been supplied with the lens. I was basically taking snapshots whenever anyone moved into the viewfinder. Later, when I got the developed slides back, I was very pleased with this shot, different as it is. The only post-capture treatment of the picture was to crop and sharpen it for digital printing. The image has great grabbing power due to the bold color and arresting graphics, but it also has a human story — that little girl has personality."

THE CAMPAGNA CENTER'S SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS WALK WEEKEND & PARADE

Continue the Tradition... and join us!

Friday, Dec. 2 – Saturday, Dec. 3

Scottish Walk Parade	Holiday Designer Tour of Homes
A Taste of Scotland	Deck the Halls with Santa
Heather & Greens Sales	A Christmas Marketplace

Parade: Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 11:00 a.m.

For tickets and more information visit www.ScottishChristmasWalk.com

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Inspired to Give

Area residents share their personal stories of what inspires them to give, or a time when they were thankful.

“After my mother died, I was taken in by poor relatives at the age of 3. I was moved by the sacrifices they made to care for me. These kinds of life events caused me to think about what I am doing for others. Inspired, I became an activist social worker, devoting time to impoverished people. After speaking at a Catholic Charities conference about homelessness and hunger, eight individuals in the audience decided to join me to take action. I learned that Virginia was charging sales tax on food stamps. Virginia was scraping \$9.5 million of food aid off the top of the federal food stamp program for families at risk of hunger. Outraged, our group went to Virginia to lobby their cause. When nothing happened in Richmond, I contacted Sen. Edward Kennedy, who discovered that 18



John Horejsi

PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

other states were also taxing folks in need of food stamps. Thanks to the combined efforts of our group and sympathetic politicians, the tax was prohibited in all 19 states. Heartened by our success, SALT (Social Action Linking Together) was founded. When word spread of our tax-removal success, SALT membership grew from eight to more than 150. We now stand at more than

1,000. SALT seeks to keep social justice issues front-and-center at the Virginia General Assembly. One legislator told me, ‘Whenever we have a hearing, if the issue is for rich people, you can’t get in the door. But when we’re talking about poor folks, the room is empty.’ Encouraged, SALT began diligently tackling new problems. Legislators have said the thing they really respect about SALT is that we’re not asking anything for ourselves, but for those most desperate and in the greatest need.”

— JOHN HOREJSI, FOUNDER AND COORDINATOR OF SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT), VIENNA

“I work at Food for Others, the largest direct distributor of free food directly to families in Northern Virginia. I volunteered for two years prior to coming on staff at this incredible organization. I am humbled every day by our clients as well as our volunteers. I share a birthday with one of our favorite clients and there is always a hug and a special chat when she comes in. She is just one of so many special people we serve and that we care so much about.

We are a staff of nine, and have the equivalent of 12 full-time employees in volunteer hours (over 1,000 wonderful volunteers). We serve the ‘working insecure,’ and



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

Lynne Galanis of Great Falls

last year distributed over 2.7 million pounds of food, 9 percent of which is donated or salvaged. We appreciate all the donations that we receive during the holiday season; it insures that we can meet the high demand that we face every day.

Unfortunately we have the same demand all year, and our shelves are at their lowest in the summer. We have been blessed by our donors in the community and have managed to meet the demands as best we can.”

—LYNNE GALANIS, FINANCE MANAGER FOR FOOD FOR OTHERS, GREAT FALLS

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SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 11:00 AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM



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On the first Saturday of the month, please join us for
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Cristo Es Mi Refugio...703-938-7727

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Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ... 703-821-3345

Baptist

Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church
... 703-757-8134
Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075
Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516

First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525

The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

Church of the Brethren

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

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Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555
St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

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ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICES

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33rd Annual Herndon Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Sunday, December 4, 2011
10am - 4pm

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



From left, Great Falls Friends Board member Julie Casso and President Candace Bovee on one of the five benches the Great Falls Friends placed in the community.

Great Falls Friends Give Back

Group dedicates benches on Village Green.

The Great Falls Friends was formed in the early 1990s as an association "intent on fostering and encouraging relationships among citizens, businesses and community organizations," according to their mission statement. For years they have helped put on the annual Fourth of July celebration as well as the Halloween Spooktacular.

Since the creation of Celebrate Great Falls last March, the GFF and many other local organizations have come under the umbrella of the larger group, to more efficiently use the resources and time volunteered by members of the community.

On Nov. 2, the GFF used the remaining money in their treasury to make one more contribution to the community, paying for four large benches to be placed around the Great Falls Village Centre and one that will be located in the newly built Great Falls Fire Station. Each bench also bears the GFF logo.

Gallery Features Forestville Students

Twenty-five drawings selected in program to encourage student creativity.

Twenty-five drawings by students from Forestville Elementary School in Great Falls are featured this November on the online exhibition site of the art group Great Falls Studios. They include portraits, still life, and "alien landscapes" by children from grades one to six.

The gallery, which is open for viewing to anyone in Great Falls and around the world, was established by Great Falls Studios to highlight the creative output of people who live or work in Great Falls. The November show is the first featuring the creative work of local kids. To view it, click on "Virtual Gallery" at the art group's website: www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Laura Nichols, president of the Great Falls Studios,



A self portrait by third grader Tristan Kaz, of Forestville Elementary School, typifies the spontaneity of a new exhibit on the Great Falls Studios "Virtual Gallery" website. Tristan's drawing was one of 25 pieces selected from among artworks created by students at Forestville.

strives at making Great Falls an artful community. She mentioned that the Virtual Gallery is the perfect tool for encouraging children to be creative and sharing that with a larger audience and community.

The 25 pieces in the exhibit are an outgrowth of a PTA fundraiser at Forestville called "Original Works," with additional pieces chosen from separate art projects at the school. The drawings posted on the Virtual Gallery were selected by the school's art teachers, Maria Brown and Renee Riddell, to show a sample of the kind of work produced across grade levels. Riddell mentioned that students were not told that their artwork would be published online in the Virtual Gallery. It actually turned out to be a surprise to those who were selected. The exhibit highlights youthful spontaneity.

Exhibitions at the gallery change monthly. A second exhibition featuring work of local students is scheduled for this spring. In other months,

the site exhibits themed shows with art by members of Great Falls Studios. There are now more than 100 artists in the Great Falls group, and they create in a wide variety of art media, from jewelry design to oil painting, photography to pottery.

Yorktown, shown here in a regular season game versus Langley, is a perfect 12-0 going into this Friday afternoon's Div. 5 region title game versus South County.



PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Region Football Title Games Set for This Week

South County ready to tackle Yorktown in Div. 5 finals.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Two Northern Region high school championship football games are set to take place this weekend. The Div. 5 (smaller schools) title game will see undefeated Yorktown host red-hot South County in a Friday afternoon affair in Arlington. Meanwhile, in the Div. 6 (larger schools) finals, undefeated Westfield will be at home Saturday versus Centreville High.

Neither of the two Great Falls-area teams, McLean or Langley High Schools, was fortunate enough to make it to one of the title games this season. Nevertheless, both the Highlanders and Saxons did qualify for the eight-team Div. 5 region playoffs. Both lost first round (quarterfinals) games on Nov. 11 with McLean losing at Yorktown, 20-6, and Langley falling at Stone Bridge, 35-0.

Stone Bridge, which has won several Div. 5 region crowns in recent years, saw its stronghold end this past Saturday night when the Bulldogs, the top-seeded team in the Div. 5 playoff field, lost a region semifinals game to South County, 25-3, in Ashburn. In the other Div. 5 semifinal, Yorktown, under long-time head coach Bruce Hanson, eliminated Lee High, 51-15.

In the Div. 6 playoffs, Centreville (11-1) put a stop to Lake Braddock's reign of dominance in recent years by defeating the Bruins, 21-18, in a semifinals round game last Friday. Lake Braddock had won the region crown in both 2009 and 2010 - defeating Chantilly in last year's finals — and was going for a third region title this season. The Bruins, following a so-so 6-4 regular season, won big at Oakton, 50-21, in a quarterfinals round playoff game two weeks ago.

CENTREVILLE'S lone loss this season came to Westfield (12-0), by a 13-10 score in overtime, in a week nine game played on Oct. 28 at Centreville. Now, four weeks later, the two Concorde District juggernauts are preparing to meet one another for the Div. 6 championship. Centreville, under second-year head coach Chris Haddock, defeated Fairfax High two weeks ago in a quarterfinals round game before edging the Bruins in the semifinals.

"Our team is excited to play Saturday versus

Westfield," said Haddock. "We feel we played them well last time and hope to do so again."

Westfield, under first year head coach Kyle Simmons, broke open a close game in the second half of a 21-3 quarterfinals round win over visiting Robinson two weeks ago before winning a high-scoring affair over West Potomac, 42-34, last Friday night.

In its win over Robinson, Westfield held just a 7-3 halftime lead to an underdog Rams' team which slipped into the Div. 6 playoffs as the No. 8 seed.

Robinson, with the loss, concluded its first season under head coach Trey Taylor with a 4-7 record. The Rams were 1-5 at one point this season before winning three of their final four regular season games to squeeze into the Div. 6 playoffs. They had a huge challenge in facing top seeded Westfield. But the Rams did not wilt and gave the Bulldogs a good game.

The Westfield defense is allowing less than 10 points per game this season and has posted two shutouts. But in Friday's semifinals they showed some vulnerability against West Potomac, members of the Patriot District, and its standout quarterback Caleb Henderson, who completed 25 of 42 passes for 348 yards and a touchdown. Westfield's defense did return an interception for a touchdown to help the Bulldogs' cause.

Two of the region's top running backs — Westfield's Kendell Anderson (181 yards versus West Potomac) and Centreville's Manny Smith (161 yards versus Lake Braddock) — will highlight Friday's Div. 6 title game.

In Div. 5, unbeaten Yorktown is meeting a South County team, which was 0-3 at one point this season. Since then, the Stallions, under head coach Gerry Pannoni, have won nine straight games, including playoff wins over Madison, 31-0, and Stone Bridge. South County was tri-champions of the Patriot District this season, along with West Potomac and Lake Braddock.

Stone Bridge, the Liberty District champion, finished its season 10-2. Its only losses were to Chantilly early in the regular season and, of course, South County in the playoffs.

The winner of this week's Div. 5 and 6 region title games will advance to next week's Virginia State AAA playoffs.

SPORTS BRIEFS

The NoVA Wonders professional basketball team, a member of the American Basketball Association, is participating in a nationwide fundraiser for the National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) called 'Shoot for the Cure.' The campaign invites basketball teams around the country to participate by committing to donate proceeds from at least one game or special event to NFCR. The Wonders dedicated their game on Nov. 13 versus the Richmond Elite to the NFCR cause. The event was scheduled to take place at the Wonders' home venue, the Northern Virginia Sportsplex.

"We are excited to be a part of NFCR's pursuit of a cure through this fundraiser," said Jackie Smith, General Manager for the NoVA Wonders. "The cause is especially close to my heart, as I have lost both my parents to this terrible disease. Cancer research programs should never have to worry about funding; millions have been lost to cancer and it must be cured. Our team is looking forward to doing our part to contribute."

To learn more, please visit www.nfcr.org/shootforthecure or call 1-800-321-CURE.

Prospects Baseball Academy, located on Tyco Rd. in Vienna, held its Inaugural Diamond Club Gala, 'A Night at the Ballpark,' this past Saturday evening, Nov. 12.

The event, a fundraiser for the Academy, recognized the organization's star players who have recently signed collegiate letters of commitment to play Div. 1 collegiate baseball. The night also included the recognition of various sponsors; guests (scheduled to be Hall of Fame pitcher Bert Blyleven and former Oriole Bill Ripken); food and beverages; a silent auction; and entertainment for the entire family. Many of those who attended wore baseball attire.

The Academy Principal is Troy Allen. Prospects Baseball Academy is located at 8500B Tyco Road, Vienna, VA 22182. Their phone number is 571-765-4702.

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

"We are thrilled to be joining the NJCAA," said NOVA President Robert G. Templin Jr. "Club sports teams have been a long tradition at NOVA and the College has fielded numerous athletic teams since it was established in 1965. By joining NJCAA, our athletes will have greater opportunities for winning championships and academic awards."

NOVA will also be adding additional support for intramural sports programming. The college's current roster of teams that will transition to the NJCAA include women's volleyball, men's soccer, women's basketball, men's basketball and men's lacrosse. An additional women's sport is slated to be added in the 2012-13 academic year. NOVA's ice hockey program will retain membership in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA).

Through membership in the NJCAA, the College's sports teams will have the opportunity for postseason play and student-athletes will have additional exposure for possible recruitment by four-year colleges and universities. NJCAA membership requires full-time enrollment and progress toward degree requirements for participating student-athletes.

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

The Chantilly Phoenix, an under-17 Div. 1 team within the Washington Area Girls' Soccer League (WAGS), is looking for a few self-motivated, dedicated and committed players who are intent on playing college soccer. The Phoenix conduct open tryouts year-round. Through the end of November, practices are as follows: Mondays at Word of Grace from 7:15 to 9 p.m.; and Thursdays at Word of Grace from 7:15 to 9 p.m. Contact coach Cristian Linte at linte@verizon.net to arrange a tryout.

Formula Found to Complete Dulles Rail

Board of Supervisors to vote on plan Dec. 6.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

After weeks of negotiation, the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority and federal, state and local “stakeholders” have agreed to a financing plan that would allow the \$6 billion Dulles Rail Project to complete its second phase to Dulles Airport and Ashburn.

But the financing plan is still not a full green light for the troubled project. The agreement stipulates that Loudoun and Fairfax Counties will pay for the \$2.8 billion in reduced Dulles Rail costs. Loudoun County voted last Wednesday to approve the agreement and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is expected to vote on the measure at its Dec. 6 meeting.

IN ORDER TO PAY their share, the two counties will receive some \$250 million in federal loans and another \$150 million from the State of Virginia, but even with the loans, the main source of funding remains

the receipts from the Dulles Toll Road, according to several board members.

Mame Reiley said the federal loan should have been \$1 billion.

Over the next 40 years, the tolls would rise from \$1.25 at the main toll plaza and 75 cents at the ramps to \$9 dollars at the plaza and \$7 dollars at the ramps in 2047. Indeed the first big jump comes in 2013 when the rate will be \$2.75 at the plaza and \$1.75 at ramps and by 2019 a day’s commute would be \$8.

But as the tolls rise, many question whether motorists will continue to use the toll road in the volume that MWAA’s Wilbur Smith Associates estimated in 2009. According to TOLLROAD news, an electronic trade publication, toll roads can lose riders if rates get too high.

Fred Costello of the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations said in an interview that the rail users and the airlines should pay large bites of this because they are profiting from the rail system to Dulles.

Fairfax Board of Supervisors were told that a key element of shaving \$1.058 billion from the Phase 2 Dulles Rail cost would be to move some \$250 million in construction charges directly to the tax payers of Fairfax County.

In a detailed briefing last summer, federal officials told the Fairfax Board that to save Phase 2 of the Dulles Rail project called for moving the \$136 million cost of a Metro station at Route 28 in Fairfax County and \$105 million in parking garages at the Herndon-Monroe and the Route 28 stations to Fairfax County.

The series of cost cuts envisioned by Ray LaHood, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, would reduce the total cost of Phase 2 from some \$3.5 billion to \$2.767 billion which was more in line with figures proposed when the project got underway.

As part of the deal, Fairfax County is expected to seek public-private partnerships to build the garages and the Metro station, allowing private contractors to share in parking fees and advertising revenue.

IN ADDITION to shifting costs to Fairfax, LaHood’s plan would junk the idea of a \$912 million underground airport Metro station near the terminal and build a \$350 million station next to the airport’s north garage. It was the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority’s proposal to build the underground station that set off nearly a year of political wrangling and warnings

that the Metro project might end at Tysons Corner.

Under LaHood’s proposal the nearly \$80 million cost of two parking garages in Loudoun would be shifted to Loudoun’s tax payers.

LaHood trimmed another \$135 million from the estimate mainly by reducing the yard and shop facilities by \$81 million and using steel rather than concrete at a savings of \$35 million.

But the conundrum for Fairfax Supervisors is how they could raise an additional \$250 million.

LaHood used TIFIA to assist Loudoun and Fairfax Counties in enticing public-private investment and helping to defray the costs associated with the assumption of Phase 2 parking facilities and the Route 28 station.

Meanwhile, Friday the House and Senate both approved legislation that will prohibit members of the MWAA from serving past the end of their term and would allow for all members to be removed for cause.

The bill also provides for membership in MWAA to be increased from 13 to 17 and gives Virginia two new appointments. Maryland and the District of Columbia will each get an additional member.



Costume-clad children pose for a picture while trick or treating in Great Falls Village Center. From left: Calvin Dennan, 3, with Anabelle Dennan, Marin Watters, and Diego Tablett (all age 5).

Trick or Treating in Great Falls

The Great Falls Village Center hosted its annual Halloween Parade and community Trick or Treat on Oct. 31, attracting families from the area. Local merchants participated in the Halloween fun by decorating their storefronts, handing out candy, and wearing creative costumes.

“We saw a man with a ‘monster baby’ costume; the baby’s eyes flashed red and he lifted his head off...very scary,” said Annabelle Dennan, 5, of Great

Falls. The event lasted from 4 to 7 p.m. and children of all ages participated. Some walked through the Haunted House on the Village Green, while others were content to stick to trick-or-treating.

It even looked and sounded scary from the outside, so none of us wanted to go anywhere near it,” said Olivia Dennan, 11, of Great Falls. Many families also chose to have their portrait taken in the Village Green Gazebo.



Brainy Bunch team members are 8th graders from Kilmer Middle School. Back row (from left): Jordan Ganley; Aly Luckett; Andy Zhao; Ryan Gottwald; Arthur Tisseront; and Dhriti Vij. Front row: Christina Luckett, Brainy Bunch Mascot. Christina is a 3rd-grader from Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna.

Brainy Bunch Team Wins 1st Place Champions Award

The Brainy Bunch, a group of 8th graders from Vienna and Great Falls, captured the 1st Place Champions Award at the recent FIRST LEGO League Robotics Regional Tournament that was held at Eagle Ridge Middle School in Ashburn. The Brainy Bunch team members — who all hail from Kilmer Middle School in Vienna — are: Jordan Ganley, Ryan Gottwald, Aly Luckett, Arthur Tisseront, Dhriti Vij and Andy Zhao. The Brainy Bunch team won the 1st Place Champions

Award in division 2 by scoring highly in four judging categories: Robot Design; Research about this year’s theme of food safety; Core Values including teamwork; and Robot Performance. Due to the Brainy Bunch’s robot accomplishing the highest scoring runs, the Brainy Bunch also won 1st Place in the category of Robot Performance. As a result, the Brainy Bunch team now advances to the VA-DC FLL Robotics Championship Tournament to be held Dec. 3-4 at Harrisonburg, Va.

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21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

AT&T intends to file an application to install cellular telecommunications antennas and equipment at 1988 Kirby Road, McLean, Virginia 22101. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Brylyn Park-Candidate C" will consist of the construction of a new 100-foot tall church bell tower within a proposed 37-foot by 34-foot telecommunications compound. Antennas are proposed to be pipe-mounted behind stealth material at a height of 97 feet RAD center within the tower. An eight-foot tall decorative brick wall is proposed to screen the compound from the Kirby Road and Westmoreland Street intersection to the south-east. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 4600 South Four Mile Run, #1242, Arlington, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Linda Faye Johnson, also known of record as Linda Faye North and Linda F. Johnson, dated May 31, 2006, and recorded June 5, 2006, in Deed Book 3987 at page 2577 among the Land Records of Arlington County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Court House for Arlington County, at 1425 N. Courthouse Road, Arlington, Virginia, on

Monday, November 7, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

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RPC No. 28034987

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Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prensley
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
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Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 6616 Melrose Drive, McLean, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Ana Maria V. Clarke and Paul F. Clarke, Jr., dated October 18, 2010, and recorded November 20, 2010, in Deed Book 21361 at page 78 among the Land Records of Fairfax County County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Friday, October 7, 2011 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lots 38, 39 and 40, Section B, Water Heights Subdivision, as per plat thereof recorded in Deed Book T-9 at page 247, among the Land Records of Fairfax County County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 6616 Melrose Drive, McLean, Virginia 22101.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$100,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 4.0 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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Let's Talk Turkey



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths. One-hundred, sixty-thousand people, approximately, succumb to its ravages every year. More people die from lung cancer than from breast, prostate and colon cancer COMBINED. Eighty-five percent of those diagnosed with lung cancer die within five years. Fifteen-percent of lung cancer patients are non-smokers (yours truly). Men and women are diagnosed in equal numbers. Smoking rates among young people have not been affected by these facts, unfortunately. The message – or its delivery, is not getting through to this population, for some reason. (This information provided by Dr. Wallace Akerley, Professor of Medical Oncology, University of Utah School of Medicine, Huntsman Cancer Institute in Salt Lake City; recently he and I participated, along with a second stage IV lung cancer survivor, in a Satellite Media Tour (several media interviews from one location) sponsored by Genentech/Astellas as part of Lung Cancer Awareness month: November 2011.

When asked, Dr. Akerley explained the cruel irony as to why lung cancer has not garnered the kind of publicity that breast, prostate and colon cancer – and their survivors have; his answer was succinct: “Death.” There are simply not enough survivors to advocate for it. To advocate, you sort of have to be alive, and there’s not exactly an abundance of lung cancer survivors able to do so. As strength is so often found in numbers, so too is weakness often found when those same numbers are shrinking. Lung cancer’s deadliness is its own worst enemy, if you know what I mean, to provide the necessary elements to raise awareness – and money, to fight and ultimately defeat this insidious disease.

However, in the last decade or so research has yielded insights into how cancer cells grow. Genetic mutations in cancer cells have also been discovered which have led to targeted therapies – such as Tarceva and Avastin as an example, that can attack the tumor itself – directly, or that alternatively, can attack the blood vessels feeding the tumor, thereby cutting off its blood supply. When targeting the tumors in this manner, there’s less damage (make that side-effects) to the patient and greater damage/effect on the cancer/tumor. John, the other stage IV lung cancer patient and I are living proof. Nevertheless, lung cancer patients – like myself, still face a rather unenviable future with few guarantees. Every day brings hope however, that more research, clinical studies, gene therapy, whatever else, will yield new and different strategies to help cancer patients/survivors, survive.

As for preventing lung cancer in the first place, Dr. Akerley answered that it is possible: “Stop smoking. Eighty-five percent of those diagnosed with lung cancer are smokers. The second leading cause of lung cancer is exposure to Radon Gas, so have your homes checked.” There’s also a confirmed link between exposure to asbestos and lung cancer.

Enough cancer talk. It’s Thanksgiving and I’m hungry, and thankful as well for all I’ve been given. I am alive and reasonably well, having survived stage IV lung cancer for nearly three years; after originally receiving a “13-month-to-two-year prognosis” by my oncologist. Now would someone please pass the gravy? Thanks.

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



PHOTOS BY MARY GRACE OAKES/THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls’ weekly Cars and Coffee Show runs from 7 to 9 a.m. every Saturday and is hosted by Katie’s Coffeehouse.

Cars and Coffee Show Attracts Huge Crowds

The event centered around people’s love of cars.

By MARY GRACE OAKES
THE CONNECTION

It’s 8 a.m. on a Saturday morning and the Great Falls Village Center is unusually crowded, its parking lot brimming with antique and exotic cars: The Great Falls’ weekly Cars and Coffee Show runs from 7 to 9 a.m. every Saturday and is hosted by Katie’s Coffeehouse.

Mike Kearney, the proprietor of both the Old Brogue and Katie’s Coffeehouse, says that Cars and Coffee was the “brain child” of Bob Morris. After attending a “local style” car show in Pebble Beach, Calif., Morris proposed to Kearney that a similar car show be started in Great Falls. Kearney says there is “a camaraderie built amongst regular followers,” of which there are about 100, and that the show is a family event because “fanatics bring their kids and families”.

Accompanying the increased popularity of Cars and Coffee is a sharp increase in the number of cars shown. Paul Dell’Isola of Bethesda, Md., who has shown his 1956 Thunderbird, R8 and Aston Martin Vantage, Cars and Coffee “has hit it.”

“At the very beginning... no more than 20 to 30 cars showed up and it was very much weather dependent. Now it is not unusual to have in excess of 200 cars there,” said Ian Landy of Great Falls, who has shown several of his cars. Car enthusiasts are now “drawn from other communities,” says Kearney, adding: “One man leaves his house in Philadelphia every Saturday morning at 4 a.m. to get here at 6:30.”

Yet the sheer number of cars shown at Cars and Coffee is not the only measure of its success. Popular car blogs, such as 6 Speed Online and British Speed, have all featured stories on the show, and it has even received attention from major media sources. “I couldn’t believe it was mentioned in the Wall Street Journal and New York Times,” said Dell’Isola.

Cars and Coffee’s success did not go unnoticed by local vendors and dealerships, which began “showing up from time to time,” passing out fliers for parts and “rolling out something unusual,” said Landy. The presence of vendors is no longer an issue, assures Mike Kearney. “We shut [the ven-

dors] out pretty quickly,” he said. “We don’t want it to be a meat bait...we just want the show to be purely about cars”.

In fact, the “purity” of Cars and Coffee may be why it is so popular. “Being able to share my love of cars with friends is a great way to start the day,” said John Oakes, a “regular” at the show. After attending Cars and Coffee for the first time, Grant Buster of Great Falls stated that the “community feel” to the show made it “really neat...I’ll definitely be coming back”. All in all, “what’s really exciting about Cars and Coffee”, says Mike Kearney, is “the buzz that surrounds the event...it truly is a community event based around cars and people’s love of cars.”



About 100 “regular followers” are joined by family and friends Saturday mornings at Katie’s Coffeehouse.



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