

Great Falls Day Celebrated

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Artist Hwa Crawford stands in front of the Forestville Schoolhouse with a painting of the building Sunday, May 5, during Great Falls Day.

Environmental Meeting Set

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Haddad Celebrates 50 Years of Dance

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Visitors to Great Falls Day at the Forestville Schoolhouse, which contained history exhibits and local paintings, during Great Falls Day Sunday, May 5.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Community Celebrates Great Falls Day

Celebration features live performances, history displays.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Members of Great Falls and the surrounding communities gathered at the Grange and the Forestville Schoolhouse Sunday, May 5, for Great Falls Day. In celebration of the two historic buildings, as well as other signature aspects of Great Falls, hundreds attended the event to enjoy a pleasant Sunday and learn more about history.

"I pass the Grange and the schoolhouse every single weekday, and though I figured they were old buildings, I had no idea about their history until I walked in," said Greg Howard of Great Falls. "Especially the schoolhouse, which has such a fascinating history, I was really interested in its days as a schoolhouse, and the displays were so well done."

The right side of the Forestville Schoolhouse was filled with old photos and stories about its days as a schoolhouse, then later as a post office and a bank. The other side was filled with art from local artists depicting some of Great Falls' signature locations, which were sold as a fundraiser for the Great Falls Historical Society.

"When the idea of an art show first came up, they asked me if I could bring some paintings of how places were in the 1800s, because that's the era they're focusing on," said Hwa Crawford, a painter who had several works on display. "But I'm a plein air painter, I go out and paint what I see, and I wasn't around in the 1800s, so I didn't have much for that part. But I have a lot of

paintings of the bluebells around Great Falls, such as in Riverbend Park, and those are a timeless part of this community."

In addition to showing off a few of her paintings Crawford was able to start a new one, setting up her easel just in front of the schoolhouse and spending a few hours on a painting of the building.

The paths in front of the schoolhouse and the Grange were littered with tents, each one featuring an organization or local family ready to tell their story.

"My son and I spent about 30 minutes speaking with the Great Falls and McLean Historical Society, as well as with some of the families that have owned land around here for decades, and I think we both learned more than we could have in a semester of history class," said Gordon Cruz. "I guess there's more important things to learn in the local schools here, but man, I wish they took some time to get these people into the classroom and show off what they know."



Avery Speros, 7, tries her hand at playing the harp during Great Falls Day Sunday, May 5, at the Forestville Schoolhouse.



Visitors at Great Falls Day watch a modern dance demonstration behind the Grange Sunday, May 5.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Great Falls resident Aryan Golzar will raise money for a local student's scholarship by boating and hiking 400 miles along the Potomac River starting Friday, May 10.

Paddling the Potomac

Aryan Golzar will go on 400-mile journey to raise money for scholarship.



BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

money raised will go to them."

Growing up in Great Falls, Aryan Golzar always loved the Potomac River. The same 400-mile-long-plus waterway that led to settlements from the Chesapeake Bay to West Virginia drove his imagination during his formative years, and now it's become something even more.

"Getting my college education really changed my life, and that's something I want to help someone else achieve," Golzar said. "After I graduated, I knew I wanted to do some sort of trip along the Potomac, and after a while, I realized I could do both."

Starting Friday, May 10, Golzar will be achieving both goals, boating and hiking from Highland County, Va. along 400 miles of the Potomac to raise money for a scholarship for a local student.

"I've always been interested in the idea of giving out money to people who need it, but I know with so many charities it's hard to track down the money, there's a lot of red tape and bureaucracy to go through," he said. "I'm not interested in that, I'm just interested in helping out my neighbors. The student doesn't have to have straight A's, or a 4.0 average, they should just be someone who has a dream that they want to follow. I don't want to disqualify anyone, I just want people to tell me in the application why they should have this money. And 100 percent of the

Golzar will be documenting his trip through video, photos, Facebook and Twitter posts, all while collecting donations that he will award to a local high school graduate for college expenses.

"For so many people, the river is just something they pass over on a bridge, but I'm really looking forward to spending some time there. I have an inflatable boat that I'll be using on the river, and I'll be hiking around the most dangerous rapids," he said. "I figure it won't be too long before I'm living by the sun, waking up around 7 a.m., paddle till about 4 or 5 p.m. and then figure it out from there. I've done some research, so I know approximate locations of where I can stop, but I don't really have a set schedule. I figure it will take me about a month and a half."

Golzar said he'll be bringing a fishing pole with him, but in case he isn't able to feed himself that way, there are towns about every six or seven miles. He also said that the trip is open to people who want to join him, even for a few days or a weekend.

More information about Golzar's trip, including a PayPal donation link and the scholarship application, can be found at facebook.com/paddlethepotomac, on Golzar's blog, aryangolzar.wordpress.com and at twitter.com/aryangolzar.

THE COUNTY LINE



Lani Hay (right), president of Vienna-based Lanmark Technology Inc., made the 2013 Women Presidents' Organization list of fastest-growing women-owned companies in the U.S. In 2011, Lanmark partnered with ELLE Magazine to raise awareness among military families on suicide prevention. At the event, Hay was joined by guests Roberta Myers, editor-in-chief of ELLE Magazine (left), and Creative Coalition President Tim Daly (center).

Senator Tim Kaine (D-Va) honors Christopher and Mary Beth Romani, co-founders of Integrity Management Consulting of McLean, which topped the 2013 Virginia Chamber of Commerce list as the fastest-growing company in the state. The "Fantastic 50" banquet was held April 25 at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Women Mean Business

Two fastest-growing woman-led firms in North America call Fairfax County home.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In the two months since the much-hyped and dreaded sequester took effect, the daily economic forecast has been almost as painful as the slow grinding of bureaucratic wheels.

But here's some good economic news, especially for aspiring female entrepreneurs: the numbers are in your favor.

A recent study by American Express OPEN, the small-business division of American Express, determined the number of women-owned businesses nationwide has increased 59 percent since 1997. In the United States, there are an estimated 8.1 million women-owned businesses that contribute \$1.3 trillion to the national economy and employ 7.7 million people, according to Forbes magazine.

Fairfax County businesswomen are part of that trend.

Two Fairfax County-based companies made the 2013 list of the 50 fastest-growing woman-owned or led companies in North America by the Women Presidents' Organization (WPO)—a peer advisory organization for women entrepreneurs.

One is Vienna-based Lanmark Technology Inc. (number nine on the list), whose president and CEO is Lani Hay. The other is Chantilly-based Ampcus, Inc. (number 36 on the list), founded by Anjali "Ann" Ramakumaran.

"We are very proud to be the home of Ampcus and Lanmark Technology and their leadership. Anyone can become a successful business person in Fairfax County," said Gerald L. Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Au-

thority (FCEDA).

"It requires talent, a good business plan, and plenty of hard work. Irrelevant factors such as gender are just that: irrelevant. It is part of what makes Fairfax County such a great place to live and work," Gordon added.

More than 34,000 women-owned businesses exist in Fairfax County, including more than 4,400 firms with paid employees, according to the Survey of Women-Owned Businesses. Women-owned businesses generated \$4.7 billion in sales revenue in 2007 alone, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

IN INCREASING NUMBERS, women-owned companies are making their mark and competing nationally in traditionally male-dominated industries, such as cybersecurity, homeland defense, biometrics and scientific program development, such as Lanmark and Ampcus, both high-tech consulting firms.

"Having this kind of dynamic and entrepreneurial business community yields job opportunities and further enhances the quality of life in Fairfax County," said Gerald L. Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA).

All companies that submitted nominations for the WPO list were ranked according to a sales growth formula that combines percentage and absolute growth. To be qualified for the ranking, businesses were required to be privately held, woman-owned or led companies in the U.S. or Canada and have annual revenue of at least \$500,000 in 2007 and \$2 million in 2012.

During the past decade or two, organizations have formed to help women entrepreneurs build the networks they need to succeed as high-growth companies. Women Presidents' Organization is a peer advisory group for women presidents of multimillion-dollar companies. In February, the WPO launched a Northern Virginia chapter in McLean during which WPO Founder and President Marsha Firestone hosted a

roundtable discussion.

"I am confident this chapter of powerful women will help the region's women business leaders accelerate the growth of their businesses through peer support from women like themselves and promote economic security for themselves and their employees," Firestone said during the launch.

Women-owned businesses are also doing well across the state. The Virginia Chamber of Commerce recently announced its "Fantastic 50" ranking of the fastest-growing businesses in Virginia, and many of those on the list are women-owned businesses, including Kore Federal, RFID Global Solution, Knowledge Link and Trusted Mission Solutions. Twenty-five Fairfax County companies were listed on the "Fantastic 50" list.

The Virginia Chamber honored all 50 companies at a banquet held April 25 at the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly.

"This list is one indicator that Fairfax County continues to be an exceptional location for companies that are growing and becoming increasingly successful," Gordon said.

Integrity Management Consulting of McLean, which supports federal agencies with acquisition and program management, topped the list as the fastest-growing company in the state. Between 2008 and 2011, Integrity posted a growth rate of 2,165 percent.

Founded in 2006 by Christopher and Mary Beth Romani, Integrity has grown from two to almost 100 employees and now has a satellite office in Fort Worth, Texas.

"As a life-long Virginian, the Fantastic 50 Vanguard Award means so much to me," said Chris Romani.

"It's gratifying that our small business is able to contribute to the economic growth of our region and create jobs that sustain families and communities, while at the same time supporting customer missions of na-

FAIRFAX COUNTY COMPANIES ON THE 2013 FANTASTIC 50 LIST

1. Integrity Management Consulting, Inc. Tysons Corner
3. Veris Group, LLC Tysons Corner
6. 3Pillar Global Fairfax
7. Kore Federal Tysons Corner
13. Octo Consulting Group Tysons Corner
14. First Virginia Community Bank Fairfax
17. XLA Springfield
18. Agilex Technologies Inc. Chantilly
19. Three Wire Systems, LLC Falls Church
20. RFID Global Solution, Inc. Reston
22. Zantech IT Services, Inc. Tysons Corner
24. C2 Solutions Group, Inc. Reston
26. Knowledge Link, Inc. Herndon
27. Technatomy Corporation Fairfax
28. Data Networks Corporation Reston
29. ConceptSolutions, LLC Reston
30. Eagle Ray Inc. Chantilly
33. MetroStar Systems Reston
34. Kinsey Technical Services, Inc. Chantilly
35. TeraThink Corporation Reston
38. Cetrom Information Technology, Inc. Tysons Corner
42. National Corporate Housing Herndon
43. Trusted Mission Solutions Inc. Tysons Corner
46. Search Technologies Herndon
47. U.S. Information Technologies Corporation Chantilly

tional importance," said Mary Beth Romani.

THE VIRGINIA "FANTASTIC 50" is the only statewide awards program to rank leading businesses across the commonwealth in all types of industries. Companies must be privately held with headquarters in Virginia, and demonstrate positive year-over-year revenue growth and net income when judged on four-year sales revenue history.

"We are immensely proud to be recognized as the leading company for growth in the state, and it's especially meaningful to achieve continued growth at a time when there remains uncertainty in the economy and in federal spending," said Christopher Romani. "We have remained focused on doing excellent work and recruiting top talent to support our customers. We've succeeded by competing on our strengths."

"The entire Commonwealth of Virginia benefits from the success of these businesses through additional income taxes that support programs statewide," said Gordon, a member of the Virginia Chamber Board of Directors.

For the complete Virginia "Fantastic 50" list, visit www.virginiabusiness.com. For information on membership in the WPO, contact Chapter Chair Renee Lewis at renee.lewis@pensaregroup.com or 301-332-4677 or go to www.womenpresidentsorg.com.

NEWS

From left, Nicole Luz, Sophie Fouladi and Kiana Khoshnoud, who will perform in the Haddad Ballet Studio's "Down Memory Lane" Saturday, May 11.

PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION



Haddad Celebrates 50 Years of Dance

Margaret Haddad Studio to present "Down Memory Lane."

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

After dancing and teaching ballet in four countries over the past five decades, Margaret Haddad's Studio of Classical Ballet will look back on some of her favorite shows with "Down Memory Lane."

Haddad was the first English student accepted to the Legat School of Russian Ballet, and after teaching and choreographing shows in England, Lebanon and Kenya she opened her studio in Great Falls more than 25 years ago.

"For the show, I tried to choose pieces that the children would enjoy dancing to, and that would incorporate a variety of music that the audience will like," Haddad said. "It will feature about 60 dancers, from age

4 to some who have graduated college."

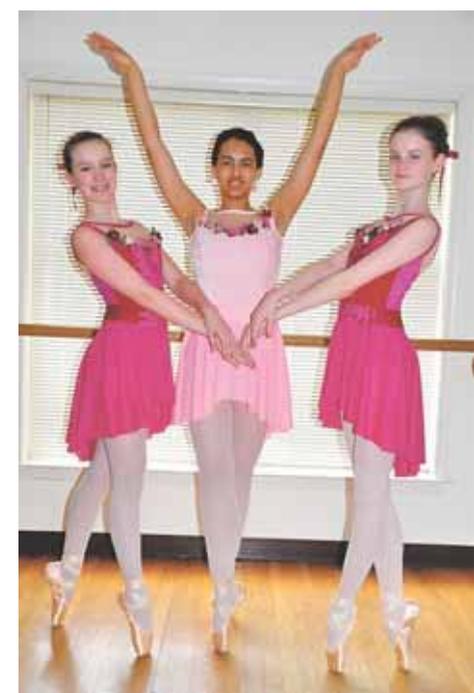
Songs include "Dance of the Little Swans" from "Swan Lake," "Les Patineurs" and more.

"Some of the dances are ones that I did myself while in Russian ballet school, and are still ones that the dancers at my summer camp learn," Haddad said.

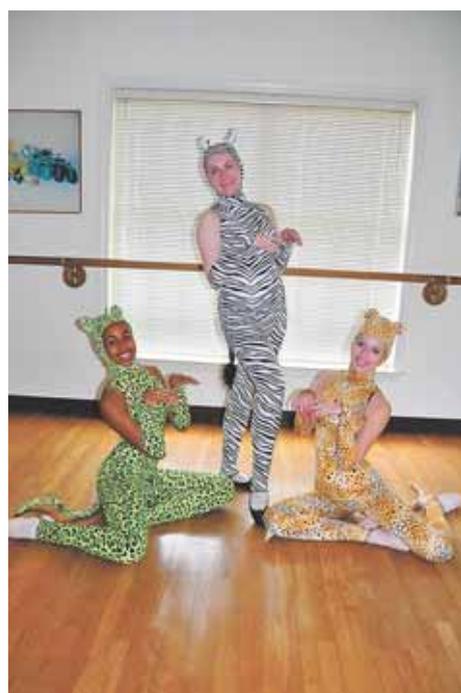
The production features 218 different costumes that will be worn by the dancers, and parent Rita Parks ironed and prepared all the costumes during practice sessions.

"I couldn't put on a show like this without the people that help me. Rita did an amazing job preparing the costumes, and Mandy Sugar and Patty Pleasant have helped with almost every show I've done over the years coordinating costumes changes backstage," Haddad said. "And Adriaane Verheul has done a wonderful job working on the music, even to the point of re-recording everything from old cassette tapes."

The Haddad Studio will perform "Down Memory Lane" at the Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, in McLean on Saturday, May 11 at 2 and 7 p.m. For ticket information, call 703-759-3366.



From left, Justine Verheul, Rachel Davenport and Taylor Shenk will perform in the Haddad Ballet Studio's "Down Memory Lane" show Saturday, May 11.



From left, Sarah Parks, Faye Giebink and Jordan Campbell, performers in the Haddad Ballet Studio's upcoming production of "Down Memory Lane" Saturday, May 11.

Colored Gemstones Making a Splash on The Red Carpet

Red Carpet choices show non-traditional gemstones are making strides in High Fashion. The Grammys 2013 included a "dress code" which propelled most attendees to bring their most glamorous fashions to the lime-light. In the past this would mean diamonds, diamonds, and more diamonds, but a surprising trend



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Katy Perry and Halle Berry wear some of the Adeler Jewelers of Great Falls creations at the Grammys 2013 and the 2013 Academy Awards.

is evolving and Jorge Adeler, of Adeler Jewelers in Great Falls, is right on the mark. "Katy Perry wore one of our beautiful aqua green Chalcedony rings to the Grammys and looked stunning. She helped show that color is welcome in black-tie and formal situations while still looking polished and appropriate," said Jorge.

This trend continued at the 2013 Academy Awards where gemstones with color were prominent. "Not only did we see color," said Adeler, "but Halle Berry, wearing our druzy black onyx earrings

during her Bond presentation, showed that distinctive cuts and faceting choices can rock the stage."

Adeler is a custom design jewelry store that has been servicing their community since 1975. They specialize in unique gems, pearls, diamonds and authentic ancient coins, all creatively mounted in platinum, 18k and 14k gold.

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NEWS

Environmental Meeting Set

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

GFCA to host meeting on former Exxon station contamination.

The Great Falls Citizens Association will host a public meeting Tuesday, May 14, to address the environmental impact of lingering effects on the site of the former Exxon station at the corner of Walker Road and

Georgetown Pike.

The station ceased pumping gas last September, and the fuel tanks were removed. Testing of the grounds has revealed the presence of several gasoline additives.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality installed a well on the site last month, but data has not been collected yet. A

SEE EXXON, PAGE 7

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NEWS



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The Great Falls Citizens Association will host a public meeting about environmental issues stemming from contamination from the former Great Falls Exxon Station May 14.

Exxon Site Revisited

FROM PAGE 6

corrective action plan for the site was planned for development in April or May, with a subsequent public comment period, but has not been released yet.

“The purpose of this meeting is to get accurate information and to have a discussion about what effects these chemicals might be having on our groundwater, and what will be done to fix it,” said Amy Stephan, an executive board member of the GFCA.

David Houston, a lawyer representing Fairfax Petroleum, said that the data from the well will be used for the corrective action plan.

The TD Bank currently proposed for the site may be put on hold while the site is cleaned.

Speaking at the meeting will be Kurt Kochan, a geologist with the state’s DEQ, who will speak on the status of the site and any toxicity issues that could affect the groundwater of surrounding properties.

Carol Stone of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation will also speak. She is an expert on the fractured limestone, or karst, that Great Falls sits on top of.

The meeting will take place Tuesday, May 14, at 7:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike.

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Towlston Road Bridge Replacement
Fairfax County
Public Information Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2013, 5:30 – 8 p.m.
A brief presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m.
Great Falls Library Meeting Room
9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066

Find out about plans to replace the Towlston Road bridge over Rocky Run in Great Falls.

Stop by between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. A brief presentation will begin at 6 :30 p.m. VDOT staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at www.virginiadot.org, at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT’s Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-1940, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by June 3, 2013 to Mr. Nicholas J. Roper, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference “Towlston Road Bridge Replacement” in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the project manager at the above phone numbers.

State Project: 0676-029-389,P102,P101,R201,RW,C501,B,B637
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OPINION

Some Limits, More Disclosure

Virginia does not benefit from elected officials being awash in cash donations and gifts.

It seems prescient now. Virginia's "corruption risk report card" in March 2012 ranked the state 47 out of 50, with an overall grade of "F." That's "F" for failing, mostly because Virginia is one of four states that place no limits on political contributions at all.

Virginia got a failing grade for vulnerability to corruption. Corruption in the commonwealth is probably not any more rampant than voter fraud, as we said last year. But in terms of practices that could undermine trust, Virginia has vast room for improvement.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and gifts with some reporting loopholes is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as recent news about state elected officials and gifts well demonstrate. It could be better for businesses to have some limits as well.

The National Conference of State Legislatures www.ncsl.org summarizes how states handle contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven states — Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have minimal contribution limits. These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited. In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political

parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to any one candidate and \$10,000 total in a four-year election cycle. You don't have corporations and CEOs giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

From 2009-2013, Dominion has made \$2,838,506 in political contributions to candidates and committees, 58 percent of it to Republicans, 39 percent to Democrats, according to the Virginia Public Access Project www.vpap.org.

In 2012, Pepco donated \$2,000 to Friends of Martin O'Malley, Maryland's governor, \$10,000 to the state Democratic committee and \$5,000 to the state Republican committee.

In 2013, Pepco's total contributions currently reported are \$2,000.

In 2013, Dominion Resources' total contributions currently reported are \$450,000.

In 2010, Pepco donated \$4,000 each to Friends of O'Malley and Friends of Anthony Brown, his running mate. In 2008, Pepco donated \$10,000 to state Democratic committee and \$10,000 to the state Republican committee. (Pepco contributions are according to the Maryland Campaign Finance Reporting System.)

Dominion donated \$52,500 to McDonnell's campaign and another \$50,000 to his inaugural committee. Dominion also gave \$80,000 to the campaign of state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D), \$26,500 to Ken Plum (D) for delegate, \$25,000 to Mark Sickles (D) for delegate, \$18,500 to

Toddy Puller (D) for Senate, \$17,000 to Mark Herring (D) for Senate, \$14,157 to Tim Hugo (R) for delegate, \$12,000 to Tom Rust (R) for delegate and \$11,000 to Janet Howell (D) for Senate, just to cover some of the larger, local contributions.

Does it matter? Given the history of power outages, it's unlikely anyone would want to trade service from Dominion for service from Pepco.

Gifts are another question. In Virginia, even if an official does violate the very limited rules on gifts, the code states that "Violations of this subdivision shall not be subject to criminal law penalties."

Call us naive, but we would have bet that neither Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli nor Gov. Bob McDonnell would be susceptible to taking gifts under dubious circumstances, yet both are in the news for having failed to report gifts totaling tens of thousands of dollars. McDonnell says disclosure of gifts to his immediate family members are not required. Cuccinelli says he forgot about some gifts he received.

The State Integrity Investigation is "designed to expose practices that undermine trust in state capitols — and spotlight the states that are doing things right." See <http://www.stateintegrity.org/virginia>

Virginia's access to information on campaign finance is overshadowed by "lax oversight rules, weak consumer representation protections, dwindling capitol press corps and coziness between political and economic elites. ... Meanwhile, the few ethics and disclosure requirements that do exist tend to be flawed, limited or fraught with exemptions and qualifications," according to the report.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mega-mansions And the Like

To the Editor:

It was a lovely spring day—one of those brisk, cloudless turquoise skies in the heavens above, and tender green dotted with the blossoms of spring—white, pink, lavender and mauve down at the earth below. My friend and I decided to go for a drive around our Great Falls "village" and enjoy the sights.

Alas, what I saw of our manmade structures was less than uplifting. So many faux Tudor manors, wannabe Victorian mansions, gargantuan Georgian cha-teaux and oversized colonial "cottages," all set about on their beautifully landscaped properties. As we drove by them, I could almost hear them announce, if buildings could speak, "Look at us, we are great, we are grand and we are mon-

eyed!"

When my family and I moved here 36 years ago, Great Falls was on the verge of being "discovered" by the commuter set, and the building industry curve was on the rise and taking off. In retrospect, I feel we missed out on a great opportunity to put Great Falls on the map as a destination, an enclave of unique, contemporary and even real colonial homes designed by the plethora of talented local (ie tri-state) architects.

Instead we see building after building go up in the faux European, especially English, styles—perhaps we did not really become independent of our conquerors after all. No matter how one looks at those mega-mansions, box-mansions, whatever you want to call them, they all look as if they were picked out of a catalogue.

I was/am constantly surprised and amazed, thus leading me into utter incomprehension, that if one has so much money to spare, why

not build the most beautiful and unique home possible for yourself? One that makes you smile as you return, after a grueling drive home, from the office, one that always surprises, one that "warms the cockles of your heart" every time you pull onto your driveway?

I am no architect and I realize such opinions are totally subjective, because there must be some who actually like and prefer to live in one of those vast houses. Often I ask friends, "With all that money, why not think out of the box and do something different?" I often get the same reply: "Ah, the rich may have money but not necessarily taste!"

How sad, please prove me wrong. Fortunately there are a few wonderful Frank Lloyd Wright inspired homes, and some old cottages lovingly and beautifully renovated and updated, but these are the exceptions rather than the rule. Give us more.

But all is not lost, it is not too

late, there are still "empty" tracts of land here and there, and still a few small old houses left on Georgetown Pike and on the other more remote areas of Great Falls. These are waiting to be built on or replaced—hopefully, by interesting, surprising, unusual, elegant homes, and even sweet small ones—houses that reflect the modernity, the courage to be different, the original thinking of our still young country.

Pu-Chin Waide
Great Falls

Pike As A Raceway

To the Editor:

I have resided in Great Falls since 1986. For more than 25 years, I drove along Georgetown Pike, "a scenic byway," to the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

Great Falls CONNECTION

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

beltway before 6 a.m. on most business days. I will confess that I usually drove up to 5 mph faster than the legal speed limits. In the past few years, I have observed that Loudoun County residents, who are attempting to avoid the Leesburg Pike parking lot in the early mornings, turn left onto Georgetown Pike and drive to the beltway, as if Georgetown Pike is a Grand Prix Raceway. On many occasions drivers would pass me crossing double yellow lines at speeds 10-20 mph faster than the speed limits.

Great Falls is my home. I am not just passing through it as quickly as possible with reckless abandon. If the Fairfax County Police Department attempted to enforce the speed limits along Georgetown Pike in the early morning hours, it would capture many speeders and restore Georgetown Pike as a scenic byway.

David C. Elmore
Great Falls

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean, holds an annual church yard sale on Saturday, May 11, inside from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine, with an aggregation of items from several families, with everything from electronics to glassware featured; hot dog lunch served midday. <http://www.TheHungerChurch.org>.

First Baptist Church, 450 Orchard Street, Vienna, will present a Women's Mission Conference on Saturday, May 18, from 8:30 to 4 p.m. Registration of \$15 includes session materials, continental breakfast and lunch. The theme is "Women Conforming to the Image of Christ, Shining Our Light." Speakers and presenters include Rev. Arica Cox, Rev. Jacquelyn Jones, Rev. Flai Richardson and Rev. Willita Hawkins. 703-938-8525.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers three Sunday services and a host of musical, educational, outreach, and fellowship ministries to enrich spiritual growth. 7:45 a.m. Worship Service without music; 9 a.m. Worship Service, Children's Chapel and Children's Choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum; and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Adult Choir. 703-759-2082.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, offers a 9 a.m. traditional service and a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service on Sundays. The church also offers two services during the summer, both of which will include children's sermons. 703-356-3346.

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

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MOTHER'S DAY PHOTO GALLERY

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Linda Abravanel and her daughter Lexi, of Great Falls, celebrating Linda's niece's wedding.



From left, Rose Boos, 9 years old, mom Melodee, family friend Sawyer Kalbaugh and Gloria Boos, also 9, pucker up and help mom blow those candles out on her birthday, Thursday, Nov. 22, 2012.

The Boos sisters Gloria (right) and Rose, third graders at Great Falls Elementary School, with mom Melodee and best friend Jennica Kalbaugh (left) on Thursday, Nov. 22, 2012, on their mom's birthday and Thanksgiving Day. The Great Falls family traveled to Frederick, Md., to "Aunt Jennica's" home to celebrate.



Brian (9), Lauren (12) and Evan (8) Cerretani with their grandmother, Ann Cerretani at a vacation on a lake.



John (16), Evan (8), Brian (9) and Lauren (12) at First Holy Communion for Brian with their mom Joanne and dad Mike Cerretani.

Some gifts last forever!



Kids outgrow clothing, and tire of toys. One day they'll actually grow up and start homes and families of their own.

The most important thing my husband and I can give our children is the faith and character they will need to build a satisfying life. That was why we first began to take our son to worship. After a few Sundays at church, we realized it wasn't just for him.



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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

THURSDAY/MAY 9

Code 20: Proceed to Improv. 7-9 p.m., at the Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Studio Rep, the only professional teen repertory company in the McLean area, hosts an ongoing event where high school students and adults can watch comedy, join in improv games, perform at an open mic and enjoy entertainment from some of Washington's best improv groups. 703-744-9353 or <http://bit.ly/14Tgz52>.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

Vienna American Legion Dinner. 5:30-8 p.m., at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. Meatloaf dinner with mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables and a roll. \$8. 703-938-9535.

Vienna Summer on the Green. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Summer on the Green is a free performance series presented by the Town of Vienna and a host of concert sponsors; bring chairs or blankets for seating. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?NID=879 <<http://www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?NID=879>>.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Great Falls Garden Club Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Garden Club is selling native and beneficial plants for sun and shade to benefit the Great Falls Library Garden. www.gfgardenclub.org.

Health and Fitness On the Town Green. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., on the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E. The Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department will be hosting a wellness and fitness day led by professional fitness instructors. 703-255-6352 or eguzman@viennava.gov.

Haddad Studio 50th Anniversary Show: Down Memory Lane. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Favorite dances of Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet that have endured across continents and years. \$16 for children; \$18 for seniors and students; \$20 for adults. 703-759-3366 or <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/375301>.

SUNDAY/MAY 12

Ben Miller Band and Poor Old Shine. 8 p.m., at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Ben Miller Band, a fusion bluegrass-blues-mountain music trio, plays with Roots/Americana band Poor Old Shine. \$10 in advance; \$13 day of. www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 16

Charity Lunch Series "Care to Lunch." 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at Marriott Tysons Corner, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. The May luncheon is dedicated to children; a speech on vision and mission of the organization accompanies an upscale lunch and networking hour. \$25. www.caretolunch.org.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Leadership Fairfax Speaker Series: Brian Winterhalter. 8-10 a.m., at LFI Offices, Suite 350, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Vienna. An update on the happenings in Tysons from the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

A carousel ride is among many attractions available at McLean Day 2013: "Celebrating Our Hometown" on Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park

[See more in a special section in today's McLean Connection].

McLean Day 2013, Saturday, May 18: "Celebrating Our Hometown"

The McLean Community Center's (MCC) annual community festival McLean Day 2013: "Celebrating Our Hometown" draws a large crowd of residents and local businesses and organizations together once a year to celebrate their "hometown." Although the festival has grown over the years, the essence of what makes it great is the hometown feel that emanates throughout the park. Neighborhood children take rides together, old friends catch up with one another and the entertainers on stage are the relatives, friends and coworkers of the people in the audience. McLean Day 2013 will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road. Admission is free.

perspective of a commercial real estate attorney, with a focus on zoning and land use changes. \$30; \$25 for members. 703-752-7518 or danielle@leadershipfairfax.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

The Fresh Market's Cupcakes for a Cause. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Fresh Market, 150 Branch Road S.E., Vienna. Purchase and decorate a delicious cupcake from The Fresh Market to support No Kid Hungry. \$3.

Mister G at Jammin' Java. 10:30 a.m., at the Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Award-winning children's musician Mister G will be returning to perform. jamminjava.com.

Vienna Arts Society's annual Benefit Raffle and Silent Auction. 4:30-6:30 p.m., at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., N.W., Vienna. Arts Society is donating a portion of the proceeds to the Committee for Helping Others; wine and light refreshments provided. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Art in 14 Directions. 5:30-8:30 p.m., at The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road N.E., Vienna. An opening reception featuring the work of 14 studio artists with 60 works in multidisciplinary art ranging from realism and expressionism all the way to encaustics. www.theframefactory1.com.

SUNDAY/MAY 19

Vienna American Legion Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon, at 330 Center St. N., Vienna. Includes omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, and bacon. \$8, adults; \$3 for children. 703-938-1379.

18th Century Spring Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Celebrate spring at a local museum and working farm's first Market Fair of the season, featuring goods and wares, produce, gifts, colonial characters, animals, dancing and singing, and demonstrations of colonial-era work. \$6; \$3 for children 3-12 years old and

seniors. 703-903-9330 or www.1771.org/directions.htm.

Violin Recital: Jehshua Karunakaran. 3 p.m., at the Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The 18-year-old violinist and graduate of the Juilliard School pre-college division, and a senior at Harvard, plays Bach's Partita No. 2, a movement of the Sibelius concerto, a sonata by Ysaye and works by Kreisler, Paganini and Brahms; the concert is sponsored by the Music Friends of the Fairfax Library. 703-620-9535.

Synchrony. 4 p.m., at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Evidas Minkstimas, an emerging European young pianist, joins the Amadeus Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major; the orchestra also performs Serenade No. 1 by Brahms. \$30; free for students 17 and under. <http://www.amadeusconcerts.com>.

Opera for the People. 4:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Good Counsel in DeSales Hall, 8601 Wolf Trap Road, Vienna. The Vienna Choral Society and The Reston Chorale present an accessible concert of Verdi and Copland. \$25; \$20 for seniors/students; free for youth, 15 and under accompanied by an adult. www.viennachoralsociety.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 21

Great Falls Coffee Social. 9:30 a.m., at Riverbend Park Visitor's Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Celebrate Great Falls will present Friends of Riverbend Park with a \$2,000 donation to help fund their summer internship program at the co-hosted community-building event open to all Great Falls residents and businesses. www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 23

The Vienna American Legion Auxiliary Memorial. 10 a.m., at Flint Hill Cemetery. The Vienna American Legion Auxiliary will place flags on the graves of veterans. 703-938-1379.

VOTE

Vote on McLean Day

McLean Community Center
Governing Board Election
Saturday, May 18, from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road

Your Vote is Your Voice!

All qualified residents of Small District 1A Dranesville are encouraged to vote for members of the 2013-2014 MCC Governing Board.

- You need not be registered to vote in the general election
- Proof of residence, such as a driver's license, is required

Absentee Ballot

Vote now by absentee ballot and avoid the crowds! View the candidate statements on the Center's Web site. Call the Center or send an E-mail message to "elections@mcleancenter.org" to request a ballot package be sent to your home. Or, stop by the Center at 1234 Ingleside Avenue and pick one up. Completed ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 15** to be counted.

The McLean Community Center
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Jammin Juniors Free Concerts
Farmer Jason
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McLean Central Park Gazebo



Alden Professional Series
Furia Flamenca
Saturday, May 11, 8 p.m.
\$25/\$18 MCC district residents

Grey Seal Puppets
"Barker Bill's Wagtime Revue"
Sunday, May 12, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

Day Trip
**Springtime in the
Brandywine River Valley**
Tuesday, May 14
\$140/\$135 MCC district residents

Alden Silent Film Series
**John Barrymore is Francois
Villon: "The Beloved Rogue"**
Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.
\$10/\$6 MCC district residents

Old Firehouse Teen Center
**Open House for
Rising 7th Graders**
Thursday, May 16, 7-8:30 p.m.

It's the Place to Be!
McLean Day 2013
Saturday, May 18
Lewinsville Park

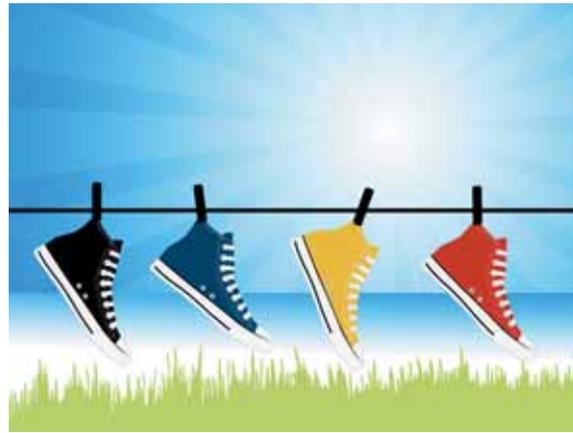
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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/MAY 9

Understanding and Dealing With Bullying. 7-9 p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Learn how to recognize, understand and cope with bullying through this important workshop. \$35. or 703-281-2657x276 or www.thewomenscenter.org.
Vienna Arts Society's May Meeting. 7:30 p.m., at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., N.W., Vienna. Linda Jones will demonstrate her impressionistic/realistic painting style. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Annual Yard Sale and Flea Market. 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Church is organizing its annual yard sale and flea market. Reservation required for vendors (\$20). 703-582-1640 or c.wright@longandfoster.com.
Healthy Responses to Anger. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Understanding the sources of anger, recognizing the associated feelings and thoughts and developing effective responses are the overall goals of this program. \$45. 703-281-2657 x276 or www.thewomenscenter.org.
Used Bicycle Collection. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at The Potomac School of McLean, 1301 Potomac School Road, McLean. Donate a bike to benefit Bikes for the World, a non-profit organization that collects thousands of unwanted bicycles for re-use in developing countries. \$10 donations requested to help with shipping costs. www.bikesfortheworld.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 12

The 16 Inner Art Series: The Art of Organizing. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., 8020 Georgetown Pike, McLean. This workshop will help sort out what keeps you cluttered. <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6199066575>.

MONDAY/MAY 13

Resume Development Workshop. 10 a.m.-noon, at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. This workshop identifies the ingredients and format of a successful federal or private sector resumé. \$35. thewomenscenter.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 14

Avoiding Divorce Court I. 6:30-9:30 p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. A divorce attorney will compare mediation and negotiation, and cover strategies and pitfalls to avoid. \$40. thewomenscenter.org.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 15

Vienna Woman's Club Scholarship & Education Ceremony. 7 p.m., Vienna Community Center Auditorium, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. For the 51st year the Vienna Woman's Club will award three \$1,000 scholarships to local high school seniors. 703-698-1237.

THURSDAY/MAY 16

Avoiding Divorce Court II. 6:30-9:30p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Information regarding both standard provisions and unique. \$40. www.thewomenscenter.org.

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Manifest Destiny



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Are the miscellaneous symptoms I'm feeling, physically, the cancer manifesting itself or rather is it simply yours truly aging semi gracefully and realizing my "Star-Trekkian" destiny: Living long and prospering (I equate above average/unexpected good health with prospering), despite my less-than-encouraging, original NSCLC (stage IV) diagnosis and subsequent "terminal" prognosis? Or am I, as I have said many times before, "a victim of so-called 'stance'?" Not one to ever look a gift horse in the mouth or not quote/invoke/refer to Star Trek, The Three Stooges, M*A*S*H or Seinfeld whenever possible; nevertheless, as you regular readers have come to realize about this or perhaps any "terminal" patient with whom you've had any interaction: Being able to control what we think and in turn how we sometimes behave; selfishly, irrationally, illogically; and dare I admit, incoherently, is a bit unrealistic. Although, we try to try; more often than not, we fail (at least I do). Being diagnosed with a type of cancer for which there is, at present, no known cure leads to a sort of emotional incontinence (my made-up phrase): everything doesn't exactly come out as planned and there may not be a Depends-type of solution for it.

I'm not suggesting or implying that "terminal"/diagnosed-with-incurable cancer patients are unable or even unwilling to censor themselves or act reasonably, responsibly, intelligently, etc., in the face of presumptive certain death, it's more that when something (a normal life expectancy) is adversely affected – through the randomness of life, the impact on your brain/thought processes is incalculable. It's akin to attempting to describe the taste of milk: You know what you're supposed to do, but you just can't do it. And what makes this circumstance even more challenging – to me, is the longer I live, post-diagnosis, the less I'm inclined to even care about trying to "do it." When your future/destiny is snatched away from you – unfairly or not, all bets are off and predicting any kind of consistent behavioral adherence to societal norms from us lucky-to-be-alive survivors might be expecting a bit too much.

Oh sure, we'll have our moments – and manners and mores where it appears as if the cancer is having a minimal effect; however, at the end of the day – and night, during those private, only-you-know-what-you're-feeling bouts of depression, control or rather your lack thereof, will likely rear its ugly emotional head. It's not so much traumatic as it is familiar and surely enough, as the old saying goes: This familiarity definitely breeds contempt.

And so it becomes a constant battle. Not exactly good versus evil but more so: What's fact and what's fiction? What's truth and what's a consequence? And most importantly, what's cancer and what's simply being the age you are. I always default to the latter – for obvious reasons, but for all I know, it could be the former.

I suppose at this juncture, given the recent death of Allan Arbus, who played psychiatrist Sidney Freedman on the long-running television show, M*A*S*H, perhaps I should follow his most famous advice: "Pull your pants down and slide on the ice." And chill. Life's too short. (Don't I know it!)

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

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Marilyn Jeannette Lyness Nielsen
On April 13, 2013, Marilyn went home to be with Lord. She leaves behind her children Eric (Theresa) Nielsen, Andrea Peterson, Kevin (Linda) Nielsen, Craig Nielsen, Mark Nielsen, Teri (Mike) Fogleman, Glen (Justine) Nielsen, her sister Phyllis Cook, brother Phillip Lyness, 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.
A Celebration Service of Marilyn's life will be held Sat. May, 11 at 6:00pm (with light refreshments following) at Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Dr. NE, Vienna, VA 22180.
A memorial contribution in Marilyn's memory may be sent to Epiphany United Methodist Church.

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Fairfax Water

FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

Notice of Public Hearing

Resolution Authorizing Acquisition of Easements Necessary for Public Purposes by Eminent Domain or Other Means
May 23, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

The Fairfax County Water Authority will hold a public hearing pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 15.2-1903 on at **7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 23, 2013**, to receive public comments on a proposed Resolution authorizing the acquisition of easements necessary for the improvement and expansion of Fairfax Water's water system infrastructure adjacent to sections of the Richmond Highway (U.S. Route 1) in Fairfax County. The improvement and expansion is required to provide adequate capacity to serve existing and future customers. The necessary easements are to be located across several parcels of land adjacent to U.S. Route 1, more particularly described as Fairfax County Tax Map Parcels 083-3-01-0037, 083-3-01-0038, 083-3-01-0040, 083-3-01-0041, 083-3-08-B, 093-1-01-0019, 093-1-01-0025, 093-1-16-0013, 092-2-18-06-0001A, and 093-1-18A-0001. Following the public hearing, the Water Authority Board may vote on or after June 6, 2013, to adopt the proposed Resolution.

The proposed Resolution and other related information can be viewed at Fairfax Water's Website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org>.

The public hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed resolution should call Eva Catlin at (703) 289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

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8570 Executive Park Avenue
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All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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HomeLifeStyle

Mother's Day Gift Ideas

Suggestions for honoring mom on her special day.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Mother's Day is less than a week away. For some, choosing the perfect gift for mom can be a nerve-wracking exercise. If you're still looking for the perfect present, local style gurus offer suggestions that they say will please even the most discerning of women.

For stylish mothers, Allison Priebe Brooks of Queen Bee Designs in Alexandria, recommends the sentimentality of matching parent-child jewelry: "It is fun to match or coordinate fashions with your child, especially on Mother's Day," she said. "You can do that with dresses or bold prints, but you can also do it with your jew-

elry. Little girls love to dress up and match their mothers, and jewelry is one thing that just about always fits and it can be passed down from generation to generation."

A spa day at home will give exhausted moms a chance to unwind, says Courtney Thomas of The Picket Fence in Burke. "Treat Mom to a spa day at home [with] a new line bath line from The Charleston Soap Chef [which includes] lotion, hand and body wash, body butter and sugar scrub. We've been encouraging customers to put a few pieces together and pamper Mom without having to go to a spa."

Hands creams by Pre de Provence, rich in shea butter and available in crisp scents like lavender and verbena, are luxurious choices, said said Angela Phelps, of Le Village Marche in Arlington. "Every woman can use a good hand crème in her purse," she said. She recommends creams by Pre de Provence.

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, said, "Perfumes, lotions

and candles from lines including Lollia, Tocca and Niven Morgan are a luxurious treat for moms.

For those thinking ahead to summer, O'Shields suggests a brightly hued tote bag. "Scout bags are the perfect accessory for summer at the beach, baseball games and every day." She also suggests colorful handbags, wallets and tech accessories.

MOMS WITH SOPHISTICATED palates might enjoy sipping from a hand-painted wine glass. "For moms who enjoy relaxing with a glass of wine, hand-painted wine glasses are a great gift," said Thomas. "They are all hand-painted by a local artist and are available in a variety of colors and designs."

For moms who love jewelry, O'Shields suggests putting a ring on it — or even a bracelet. "Jewelry ranging from bangles and charm bracelets ... are great for Mother's Day." For a personal

SEE MOTHER'S DAY, PAGE 17



PHOTO COURTESY OF QUEEN BEE DESIGNS

Allison Priebe Brooks, of Queen Bee Designs in Alexandria, recommends color-coordinated, mother-daughter jewelry and clothing on Mother's Day.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE PICKET FENCE

Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, suggests presenting mom with an array of bath and body treats to create a spa experience at home.

Courtney Thomas, of The Picket Fence in Burke, recommends buying "The Gathering of Friends" cookbooks for mothers with a penchant for cooking and entertaining.

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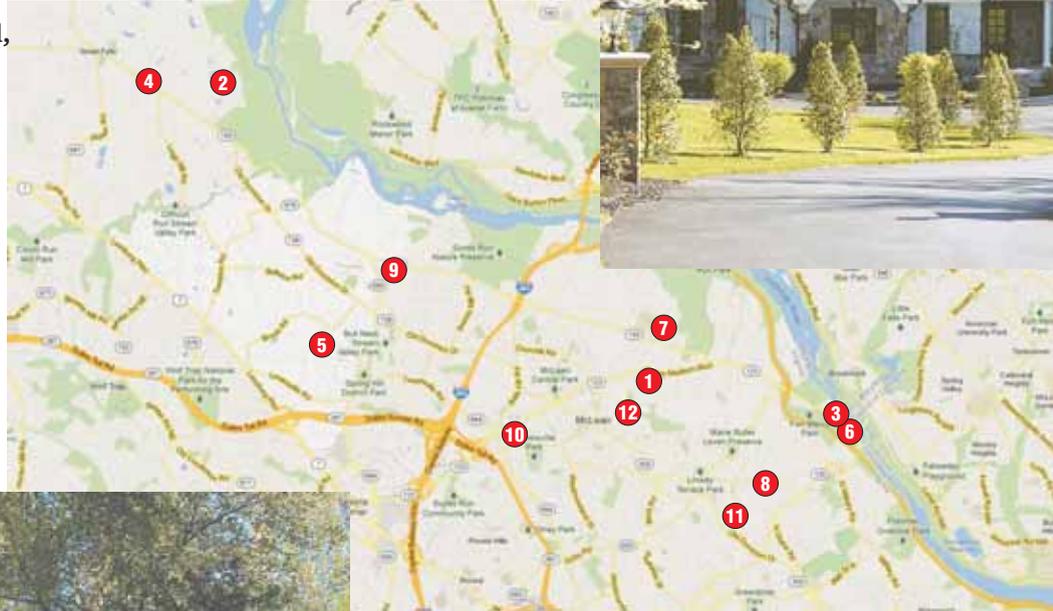
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Mother's Day Gift Ideas

FROM PAGE 15

touch, she adds, "Engraved monogrammed charms and necklaces with children's initials are a special way to give Mom jewelry that reminds her of family. Precious Metal Prints include a kit for making a fingerprint mold that is then mailed to the artisan to transfer to a charm."

Epicureans with a penchant for entertaining would relish a cookbook line called "The Gathering of Friends," says Thomas. "It ... comes in five volumes, complete with table-setting ideas, shopping lists and beautiful photography. They are more than your typical cookbook."

Another idea for mothers who enjoy all things culinary: kitchen accessories. "If mom still has dishtowels from 40 years ago, why not swap them out for some new ones?" said Phelps of Le Village



Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, says jewelry like bangles and charm bracelets are great for Mother's Day.

Marche. "I love...vibrantly colored French towels from Jean Vier. Coming from the Basque region and made of 100 percent cotton jacquard, these oversized tea towels [32 inches by 23 inches] are beautifully and delicately woven. They can be machine-washed and dry wonderfully with no need for ironing."

For moms who enjoy photographing their offspring, O'Shields recommends the book "Photographing Your Children: A Hand-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEST EGG

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, suggests colorful tote bags for moms who are ready for summer.

book of Style and Instruction" by Jen Altman.

And for displaying those photographs, Thomas said, "We [have] ... frames ... that all have a sentimental words and saying and are a step beyond the traditional frame. They also have 'memory magnets' with a clip to attach a picture ... great for hanging pictures, notes and favorite art."

O'Shields said, "Picture frames make a wonderful gift and they are even more special when you take the time to have a picture printed and include it in the frame when you give the gift."

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| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Chantilly | |
| 42344 Astors Beachwood...\$790,000....Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana..... | Weichert...703-447-1662 |
| Clifton | |
| 7500 Maple Branch Rd.....\$830,000....Sun 1-4.....Diane Lenahan..... | Wolf Run...703-283-7328 |
| Dunn Loring | |
| 7954 Arden Ct.....\$777,500....Sat 1-4.....Mike Dotterweich..... | RE/MAX...571-334-7406 |
| Fairfax Station | |
| 6906 Winners Cir.....\$849,000....Sun 1-4.....Morgan Knull..... | RE/MAX...202-431-9867 |
| 11544 Clara Barton Dr.....\$710,000....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock..... | RE/MAX...703-475-3986 |
| Great Falls | |
| 10906 Great Point Ct.....\$1,335,000....Sat 12-3.....Leslie Thurman..... | Long & Foster...703-895-6000 |
| Herndon | |
| 12913 Alton Sq.....\$1,600 per mo....Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana..... | Weichert...703-447-1662 |
| McLean | |
| 7023 Old Dominion Dr....\$1,699,000....Sat 2-4.....Monica Gibson..... | Keller Williams...703-944-3434 |
| 1818 Barbee St.....\$689,000....Sun 1-4.....Tracy Wilder..... | McEneaney...703-599-1066 |
| Oakton | |
| 10500 Samaga Dr.....\$998,500....Sun 1-4.....Evelyn Petros..... | Long & Foster...301-229-4000 |
| Springfield | |
| 8203 Taunton Pl.....\$549,950....Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli..... | Weichert...703-862-8808 |
| 7255 Beverly Park Dr.....\$379,000....Sat 1-4.....Fatana Barak..... | Samson Props...571-218-2507 |
| Sterling | |
| 4 Newland Ct.....\$399,900..Sun 12-3.....Patrick Seville..... | Samson Props...703-297-5855 |
| Vienna | |
| 1622 Lozano Dr.....\$729,000....Sun 1-4.....Dane Work..... | RE/MAX...703-869-4567 |
| 115 Follin Ln SE.....\$679,900....Sun 1-4.....Mary Kimball..... | Coldwell Banker...703-938-5600 |

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or salome@connectionnewspapers.com
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In the great room of this Great Falls home Andrea Houck, of A. Houck Designs, added window treatments to the wall of French doors and hung art over the fireplace to create a functional, but stylish space.



PHOTO BY LYDIA CUTLER

Creating Serene, Relaxing Spaces

Local interior designer talks color and comfort.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF A. HOUCK DESIGNS

Andrea Houck began her career with the renovation of her own home.

Even when Arlington-based interior designer Andrea Houck was a toddler, she seemed to have an eye for detail. When her parents updated their bedroom with new wallpaper, for example, it was their young daughter who noticed the pattern had been hung upside down.

After beginning a career in art direction and advertising, the North Carolina native shifted gears and turned childhood flair for detail into an interior design business. She began with the renovation of her own home.

"I transitioned from the two-dimensional world of art direction to the three-dimensional world of interior design," said Houck. "I always enjoyed the tactile world of graphic design that included drawings and once everything became so digitally based, I transitioned into interior design."

Houck describes her style as transitional and often eschews neutral colors in favor of lively hues. "I also like color and am not afraid to use it," she said. "And scale is one of the most important elements to good design. I pride myself on bringing out my client's aesthetic, making the spaces individual for that person. I also offer a range of styles, from traditional to more contemporary. My work reflects my disciplined approach to design as well as each client's personality and lifestyle."

The designer enjoys the challenge of beautifying public spaces, like a living room or dining room, while making them simultaneously chic and functional. She points to one example in the design of a great room in a home in Great Falls.

"This great room had a dual focus: the fireplace and the television," said Houck. "The challenge was updating the space to be family friendly with com-

fortable fabrics while adding a punch of color. I added window treatments to the wall of French doors, art over the fireplace, and recovered some existing seating."

A master bedroom, study and porch that she designed for an Arlington family reflects her ability, said Houck, to incorporate a client's needs into a chic design. "The busy couple wanted a serene setting, so I updated the space with more storage, added a custom desk, dual chest of drawers with his and hers mirrors, upholstered headboard, seating with ottoman, wallpaper, lighting and custom colored rug."

The bedroom and bathroom of a Fairfax home also shows that she is not afraid to add a touch of whimsy. "In the bedroom, I removed carpet and installed hardwood flooring, updated the tray ceiling with moldings and chandelier. ... The bath was updated with a

new tub with jets, new vanity ... hand-painted tiles and marble floor."

Colleagues say one of Houck's greatest strengths is her ability to create room designs that reflect the homeowner's personality. "Andrea has always been one of my favorite designers in the Washington area," said Beverly Ross, who owns Beverly Ross Designs. "She is thorough and detailed, but also realizes that design should be fun."

Houck says she is passionate about donating her time and talent to charity and has joined design-related projects such Tuckahoe Home & Garden Tour in Arlington. This year, Houck was tapped to redesign a French modern bar and side hall in the 2013 DC Design House, which benefited Children's National Medical Center.

"She transformed the bar area into a must-see stop between the kitchen and dining room by adding antiqued mirrors, cool LED lighting, and an onyx countertop. She also faux-grained the cabinets, added handmade wallpaper and fantastic art," said Taylor Wells, the DC Design House designer liaison. "Her attention to detail was spot-on and the finished design is dazzling, just what a home of this caliber needed."

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean senior Shannon Kuzmick scored in the 52nd minute of a 1-0 victory against Madison on May 2.

McLean Girls' Soccer Can Clinch Liberty's No. 2 Seed

Shine leads Highlanders past Madison.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

McLean junior Maire Shine put pressure on the Madison girls' soccer team early in their May 2 contest, taking touches and firing shots.

While Shine came up empty in the first half, the outside midfielder would eventually crack the Warhawks defense with the help of a teammate.

McLean senior Shannon Kuzmick scored the game's lone goal on an assist from Shine in the 52nd minute and the Highlanders defeated the Warhawks 1-0 at McLean High School.

Shine found Kuzmick in front of the net for the game-winner.

"Our outside-mid, she's fantastic," Kuzmick said about Shine. "I knew she was going to be able to get it to the goal, so I just continued in and thought I could help it along in case it didn't go in."

McLean improved its record to 7-3-2, including 4-1-1 in the Liberty District. The Highlanders can clinch the No. 2 seed in the district tournament with a win against Marshall when the teams face one another at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8 at McLean High School.

"I think we're in a great position," Shine said. "We're in control of ourselves. We set our own destiny. As long as we take care of Wednesday, we'll finish second and that puts us in a good place."

Shine leads the Highlanders with nine goals, according to stats from allmetsports.com.

"She's a great leader for the team," McLean head coach Rob Bouchard said. "She's been a great leader this whole season. She's a playmaker and the kids look up to her. We just move her around and get [her] touches wherever she's best."

Bouchard said sophomores Audrey Freeman (defender), Caroline Meier (midfield/forward) and Clare Beahn (midfield/forward) have also been key contributors.

The win over Madison came two days after McLean



McLean junior Maire Shine assisted the Highlanders' lone goal during a 1-0 victory against Madison on May 2.



McLean girls' soccer coach Rob Bouchard said sophomore Audrey Freeman (2) has been a defensive standout for the Highlanders in 2013.

suffered a 5-1 loss to first-place Stone Bridge — the Highlanders' most lopsided defeat of the season.

"We couldn't be more proud of the way they had a short-term memory and they came out the next game ready to play," Bouchard said. "Their destiny is in their hands for how they can finish in the district. [Madison is] a very well-coached team ... and to be coming out here and to do that performance against them tonight, I can't be more proud of such a young team."

McLean is the two-time defending Liberty District champion and captured the 2011 AAA state title.

SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Langley's winning team.

Langley Boat Takes State Championship

Langley's novice men's eight-seat boat won the Virginia State High School Crew Championship for their category on Saturday. The Ted Phoenix regatta is the state championship for all novice rowers. The class the men rowed in was one of the most competitive, with the list of contenders including Washington-Lee, Yorktown, Madison, Langley, TC Williams, Woodbridge, Hylton, West Potomac, Mt. Vernon, Oakton, Woodson, Robinson, Lake Braddock, and Wakefield.

The men had to row twice: first a heat in the morning to qualify for finals and then in the final itself. Their morning heat was against some of the best boats in the state. With only two boats from each heat advancing, winning second in the heat was an accomplishment itself. With a strong start in the afternoon final, they took an early lead and were able to maintain it, winning the 1500 meter race (just shy of one mile) in 5:01.

The winning boat's rowers were: Wyatt Child, Laith Alsaif, Luke Bulkeley, Tony Lee, Sergei Stratos, Chris Rossberg, Patrick Muir, Tucker Grim, Justin Meeker. Their coach was Matt Fanny.

Langley Boys', Girls' Lax Advance to Regionals

The Langley boys' and girls' lacrosse teams advanced to regionals by winning in the quarterfinals of their respective Liberty District tournaments.

The boys defeated South Lakes 12-8 on Friday. The girls defeated South Lakes 16-4. Each team played in the semifinals Tuesday, May 7, after The Connection's deadline.

McLean Boys' Lax Advances, Girls' Lose

The McLean boys' lacrosse team secured a berth in the Northern Region tournament with an 11-5 victory against Fairfax on Friday in the Liberty District tournament quarterfinals. The Highlanders faced Madison in the semifinals on Tuesday, May 7, after The Connection's deadline.

The McLean girls' team lost to Thomas Jefferson 14-13 in the quarterfinals on Friday, May 3, ending the Highlanders' season.

Madison Girls' Soccer Beats Lee

The Madison girls' soccer team lost to McLean 1-0 on May 2 but bounced back with a 5-0 victory against Lee on Monday, May 6. The win improved the Warhawks' record to 7-4 overall.

Madison has a 3-2 mark in the Liberty District with two games remaining. The Warhawks will travel to face Fairfax at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 8, and will host Marshall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 9.



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