

# It's Back-to-School Time in Great Falls

NEWS, PAGE 7

Forestville  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
ESTABLISHED 1980

Mina and Brady Britt start  
first grade at Forestville  
Elementary.

Extreme Politics

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The Broad-winged  
Hawks Are Coming

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12

PHOTO BY DOUG BRITT

# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/  
THE CONNECTION

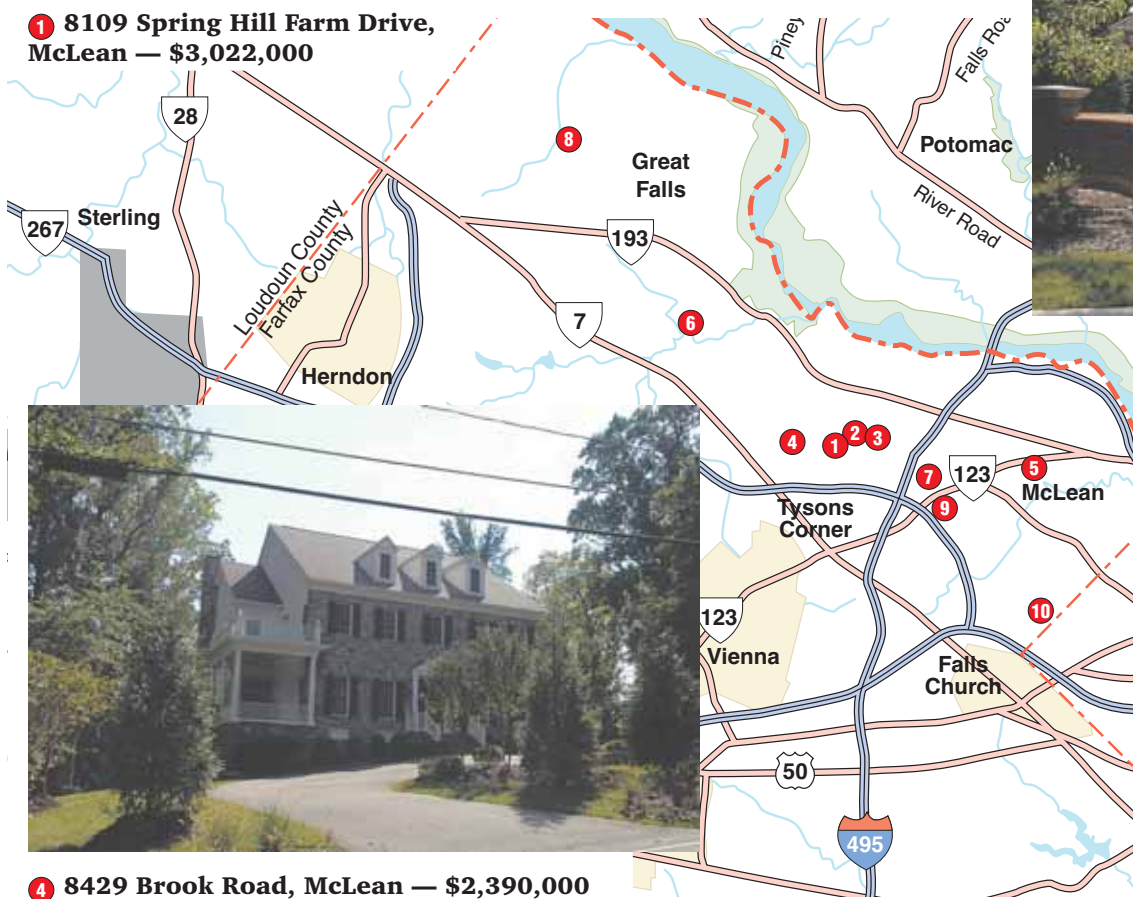
## July, 2014 Top Sales in Great Falls and McLean



**1** 8109 Spring Hill Farm Drive, McLean — \$3,022,000



**2** 1068 Silent Ridge Court, McLean — \$2,750,000



**4** 8429 Brook Road, McLean — \$2,390,000



**7** 1328 Balls Hill Road, McLean — \$2,175,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
8109 SPRING HILL FARM DR	5	5	3		MCLEAN	\$3,022,000	Detached	0.94	22102	SPRING HILL FARM	07/15/14
1068 SILENT RIDGE CT	6	6	2		MCLEAN	\$2,750,000	Detached	1.27	22102	THE RESERVE	07/22/14
959 DOMINION RESERVE DR	6	6	3		MCLEAN	\$2,630,000	Detached	0.83	22102	THE RESERVE	07/07/14
8429 BROOK RD	6	6	3		MCLEAN	\$2,390,000	Detached	1.04	22102	WOODHAVEN	07/17/14
1286 BALLANTRAE FARM DR	6	7	1		MCLEAN	\$2,300,000	Detached	0.92	22101	BALLANTRAE FARMS	07/11/14
1023 MILLWOOD RD	5	4	2		GREAT FALLS	\$2,200,000	Detached	2.96	22066	TAYLOR SPENCER	07/30/14
1328 BALLS HILL RD	4	3	0		MCLEAN	\$2,175,000	Detached	2.09	22101	ELMWOOD ESTATES	07/02/14
608 UTTERBACK STORE RD	6	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$2,135,000	Detached	2.21	22066	RUNNING BROOK ESTATES	07/07/14
7215 FARM MEADOW CT	5	5	1		MCLEAN	\$2,062,500	Detached	0.13	22101	EVANS FARM	07/25/14
2108 ROCKINGHAM ST	6	5	1		MCLEAN	\$2,025,000	Detached	0.28	22101	FRANKLIN PARK	07/11/14

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**8** 608 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls — \$2,135,000

## Extreme Politics

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**Foust, Comstock stake out opposing positions during first debate in hyper-partisan 10th district Congressional race.**

**F**orget first-debate politeness. Republican Barbara Comstock and Democrat John Foust – the candidates vying to replace long-time Congressman Frank Wolf in Virginia’s 10th Congressional district – sustained the hyper-partisan tenor of their campaigns during a debate-style forum hosted by the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce in Herndon last week.

Sharing the stage for the first time since the campaigning began last February, Foust – a Fairfax County Supervisor representing the Dranesville District since 2007 – and Comstock – a Virginia House of Delegates member since 2009 and long-time GOP strategist – tried to paint each other as “extremists” during the 80-minute forum before a roomful of business and political leaders.

**BOTH CANDIDATES** forcefully staked out their opposing positions on a wide range of issues, including education, job creation, transportation, the national deficit, women’s health and the Obama administration.

“Elections are about choices,” Foust said after his opening remarks. “Voters in the 10th Congressional District will have a very clear choice on November 4th, between my common-sense, problem-solving record, and my opponent’s extreme right wing agenda.”

Foust frequently cited Comstock’s 2012 General Assembly vote backing divisive legislation that would require women to undergo transvaginal ultrasounds before terminating a pregnancy.

“Barbara Comstock has been obsessed with taking away a woman’s right to choose...” Foust said. “If she goes to Washington she will continue to pursue a hyper-partisan agenda and we already have too many in Congress who do that.”

Comstock just as frequently burnished her GOP stripes, repeatedly denouncing President Obama and the “Obama economy.”

“The Obama economy isn’t working,” Comstock said. “... I am the candidate in the race who has always made jobs, innovation, and a healthy economy my top priorities.”

Foust countered with his pro-business record on transportation and education.

Although both candidates said they supported additional attempts to calm traffic congestion in Northern Virginia, Foust noted that he “stood with the Northern Virginia business community” and supported Governor Bob McDonnell’s historic bipartisan transportation bill.

“Barbara Comstock stood with the most extreme Tea Party Republicans in Richmond and opposed it... You can’t want everything and be unwilling to pay for anything.”

**COMSTOCK** defended her vote against



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Virginia Delegate Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), who both represent McLean, shared the stage for the first time during a debate-style forum hosted by The Fairfax Chamber of Commerce at Dominion Power in Herndon on Wednesday, Sept. 3.**

### Opening Comments

#### Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)

“You know, I’m often asked why I’m running for Congress... I was born in Johnstown, Pa., born into a working class family. I was the first person in my family to go to college, and the way I was able to do that was by working in the steel mills, working as a laborer on the railroad. When I graduated from college, I wasn’t done. I wanted to get an MBA, I wanted to get a law degree, but I couldn’t afford to go to school some time, so I worked full time for eight years and went to school at night... I learned the value of hard work, and I learned the value of a good education. I’m running for Congress because I want to create opportunities in this country, so more families have the opportunity to live the American Dream the way I have. Unfortunately, the Congress we have now is broken, dysfunctional. Tea Party Republicans in the House are two parties, and they’re not getting the job done. Something has to change. I’ve served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for seven years. We do things differently in Fairfax County. We do them the right way. I’ve been a leader who works with both parties, and the business community, and the residents.

When I go to Congress, my priorities will be to get past the partisanship and work across the aisle, so we can deal with our fiscal challenges and make Washington work again. We need a functioning Congress. We need to create jobs and opportunities by investing in job creators like education and infrastructure, and research and development.”

#### Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34)

“Today, the real battles we face aren’t about left vs. right. It’s really about the past vs. the future. It’s the status quo vs. moving forward. What I love about the 10th District is the opportunity to work with an incredibly diverse group of talented people in inventing the future. The people who understand that innovation will restore the American Dream that we’ve all lived, lift people out of poverty, ease the burden on the middle class, and get us all on the path to prosperity. These are people that work in our businesses, our government agencies, our hospitals, our law enforcement, our schools, our startups, and more. As your Congresswoman, I will be focused on your future. I will work to break out of this mess in Washington that creates anxiety, uncertainty, and infighting.”

Virginia’s \$6 billion transportation bill, which included \$300 million for the Metro’s Silver Line, saying she opposed the transportation funding package because it was tied to Medicaid expansion.

“If you blow up Medicaid expansion, then we have less money for jobs and roads,” she added.

Foust slammed Comstock on her voting record on education.

“On education, I stand with the Northern Virginia business community and support investments in K-12 education. Barbara Comstock stood with the extreme right-wing Republicans in Richmond and voted to slash \$620 million dollars from support for public education.”

“My opponent dismisses (my) bipartisan bills, and goes so far as to attack me personally, as not having had a real job or knowing about real jobs,” Comstock shot back, referring to a statement Foust made during a speech in Leesburg on Aug. 20 which inflamed Comstock supporters.

Foust’s campaign later clarified the remark, providing a transcript of the full quote from the candidate’s Aug. 20 speech: “She likes to say she’s a job creator ... What she fails to recognize, and I think it’s because - I don’t think she’s ever had a real job – she’s been, in business or any place else, she’s been a partisan operative in Washington for so long.”

Comstock, a Capitol Hill veteran and former top aide to Congressman Frank Wolf, dismissed the “insider” prod, saying during Wednesday’s debate that “those who know a thing or two about real jobs have looked at both of us and endorsed me.” She then highlighted her business endorsements, which include the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Federation of Independent Businesses and the Virginia Realtors Associations.

Foust has earned support from the Human Rights Campaign, the International Association of Firefighters and leading union groups.

While both candidates sparred on many issues, they agreed on one thing: the necessity to work across party lines and break through partisan gridlock in Washington.

Comstock pointed to several bills that she said demonstrated her ability to work across the aisle.

“We passed the first telework bills, the telework bills that now are providing moms and dads with more work-life flexibility, while keeping more cars off the roads. The research and development tax credit we worked on, first passing it, then re-passing it again this year to extend it... The credit that Governor McAuliffe praised as enhancing Virginia’s business climate,” Comstock said.

She said she was also the candidate who worked on bipartisan efforts to get offshore drilling in Virginia.

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 13

## NEWS

# The Broad-winged Hawks Are Coming

By DONALD SWEIG

**E**very Autumn, in addition to literally billions of songbirds, a million or more avian raptors (hawks, eagles, and falcons) migrate from their nesting and breeding areas all over North America to their winter homes, mostly in Central and South America. Raptor enthusiasts and hawk counters often head for mountain ridges and other concentration points in hopes of seeing some of the birds fly by.

But, one doesn't necessarily have to do this to see migrating hawks.

Broad-winged hawks often migrate in large groups and very large numbers. At the right time, with the right weather, it is possible to see lots of them almost anywhere. Peak migration for Broad-winged hawks in the mid-Atlantic states is usually between Sept. 12 and 22.

Sept. 18-19 are often the big days in the Washington area.

It is helpful to understand a little about how Broad-winged hawks migrate.

"Broadwings," like some other raptors, don't fly well over long distances.

So they utilize "thermals," rising columns of hot air off the land, to help them gain altitude for migration.

When a migrating Broadwing, for example, starts out in the morning from a place like the wooded hills along the Potomac River near Great Falls, it will flap a few times to get out of the trees and then it begins to look for a thermal. When it finds one, it sort of sits in the column of rising air and often makes little circles to stay in the thermal as it rises with the air, something like an elevator. If a second Broadwing sees the first one, it may well take off, flap a bit, and join the same thermal as the first bird; and so forth. Soon there may be five or 10, or more (often many more) birds in the same thermal.

Eventually, the hawks will reach the top of the thermal and just mill around in it before gliding off to look for another thermal. When one sees a number of Broadwings together in a thermal, it is called a "kettle."

**LOOK AT THE SKY**, especially clouds, and preferably with binoculars anytime you can in mid-September. If you see a bunch of birds swirling around together in a cloud, or in the clear sky, you probably have a "kettle" of Broadwings. And, one really can see them almost anywhere. It's a serendipitous happening.

There are also avian pathways that the birds often use, like perhaps a highway, as they migrate south.

There is nothing definite or conclusive about such pathways. It's just matter of where one has in the past most often seen the migrating Broad-winged hawks. There seems to be such a migration pathway crossing the Potomac River from somewhere between the American Legion Bridge and Chain Bridge, upriver to at least Violette's Lock on the C&O Canal.

In past years, I have seen very large concentrations of Broad-winged hawks even over congested Northern Virginia: over the Tysons Mall, over the Fairfax County Government center, over the Town of Vienna.

Three years ago, several birding friends and I were just finishing some early morning birding in the meadow at Riverbend Park in Great Falls, when someone looked up and said "Look!"

We all did and saw a big kettle of Broad-winged hawks. As they started to "stream out," we saw another kettle coming in. We stood there for perhaps



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**Adult Broad-winged hawk over Great Falls. Notice the wide, white band in the tail and the black edge at the back of the wing. The annual migration of Broad-winged Hawks passes through our area approximately Sept. 12-22.**

PHOTOS BY DONALD SWEIG



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**Immature Broad-winged hawk at Great Falls in Maryland. Notice the speckled upper breast, and the lack of the adult white tail band and black wing edging.**

20 to 30 minutes and watched at least 2,000 Broad-winged hawks migrate by.

It was a veritable "river of raptors." It was the most I had ever seen. The next morning, at the same place, I saw none at all.

It was pure serendipity.

**THE BEST TIMES** to look for migrating Broad-winged hawks is between Sept. 12-22 in the morning from between about 9 and 10, when they get up to start flying, and in the late afternoon, after 5, when they often come down for the night.

I often have good luck at places like the Great Falls National Park, especially on the Maryland side. The many trees there are attractive to Broadwings for overnight roosting.

But one can see them almost anywhere, even in your own neighborhood, as I have in mine in Northern Virginia.

One doesn't always see them when you look. But, if you do, it is a memorable experience.

Broad-winged hawk and other raptor migration is an integral part of the annual flow of natural happenings.

Keep your eyes on the sky. You may be well rewarded.

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## Remembrance Ceremony to be Held on Sept. 11

On Thursday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m., the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial will hold their annual September 11 Remembrance Ceremony at the site of the Freedom Memorial (behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike). The event will include the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop 55, patriotic songs, remarks by Richard R. Bowers, Jr., Chief of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, and a bell-ringing for each of the residents of Great Falls who perished on September 11. It has been said that Great Falls suffered the highest per-capita casualties on September 11 of any locale in the country. The proceedings will conclude with a wreath-laying by local dignitaries.

This ceremony is open to all and ample parking is available in the Library parking lot. In case of rain, the ceremony will move into the Library's meeting room.

## Great Falls Senior Center Plans Tour of Historic Mt. Vernon for Oct. 7 Event

Great Falls Senior Center plans a Group Tour of Historic Mount Vernon on Oct. 7. The tour will include an Orientation Film, docent-led tours of the Mansion and optional walking tours of ground and buildings. The bus will depart at 9 a.m. from St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church parking lot, 1020 Springvale Road, Great Falls and return at 4 p.m. Lunch at food court or Mount Vernon Inn is available to be purchased independently.

Cost for the trip is \$30 which includes bus with lecture, admission fee to estate and tour the mansion, access to new museum and restaurants. Optional Guided Walking Tour available for an additional \$5 per person.

The trip is limited and registration must be received by Sept. 29. Contact Polly Fitzgerald, pollyf1@verizon.net or call 703-759-4345 to make your reservation. Check payable to GFSC should be mailed to PO Box 425, Great Falls, VA 22066. Wheelchairs are available at no cost and need to be reserved. Registration form and additional information can be found on at gfseniors.org.

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Requires valid drivers license, vehicle, proof of insurance. Send cover letter, resume, three clips and a few story ideas to: Mary Kimm, Publisher and Editor, Local Media Connection, resumes@connectionnewspapers.com



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### You do your best to keep your kids healthy and fit... But, what about YOU?

It's back-to-school season, and busy parents everywhere are running around, managing new routines, juggling schedules and shuffling the kiddos from one afterschool activity to the next. Gymnastics, sports practice, martial arts, dance – you make it a priority to ensure your kids get the physical activity they need to live a healthy, happy, well-balanced and FIT life from an early age. **But what about YOU?**

Are you among the group of parents sitting in the waiting room or on the sidelines while your kids are physically active? What are you doing to improve your health and the quality (and quantity) of your life?

There never seems to be enough time left in the day for Mom and Dad to take care of themselves. It's easy to say, "I'm too busy," and do another errand rather than hit the gym.

But when you make fitness a priority for the entire FAMILY – parents included – you are setting a healthy example and establishing a lifestyle that kids will have for life. Taking just 15-30 minutes for a workout is important for managing stress, looking and feeling great, and having more energy. **Bottom line: a fit parent is a happy parent. And happy, fit parents have happier, healthier kids.**

That's why I came to Koko FitClub. I am a busy dad, and my kids mean everything to me. I'm proud to be leading my team to serve this community to changes lives, setting a positive example for my children, and becoming a healthier dad in the process. Koko offers a fast, efficient workout – so you can get in and out before the kids are done with karate.

You CAN be that fit, strong person you've always wanted to be – for yourself and your family. Let us prove it to you. I feel so strongly about what we do at Koko FitClub, and believe it will truly change your life, that I invite you to try 30 days of Koko for just \$30 – no obligation. Come in for a visit, meet my team, try our club for yourself, and see how easy it can be to fit fitness into your busy life. Don't just do it for you – do it for the kids!

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– Linda Weber



"There is absolutely no way I would achieve what I do at this club ANYWHERE else. I've lost over 15 lbs, my blood pressure is lower, and I am looking and feeling better than I have in 10 years!"  
– Scott Kreitz



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# OPINION

## Change Is Coming, Right?

### Legislators on changing the culture of cash and gifts in Virginia: Crickets.

**W**ith former Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen facing what could be decades in prison after their convictions for corruption, a reasonable person might reasonably expect that members of the General Assembly would be gearing up to make some big changes.

Under Virginia law, there was no barrier to the McDonnells taking tens of thousands of dollars in gifts from a single donor in search of help.

In addition to the gifts, the tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to campaign funds were not part of the corruption trial, but they were certainly part of seeking influence.

Virginia needs real change, but there is silence from members of the General Assembly on any real change.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and

gifts is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as the recent news demonstrates. It would be better for most businesses to have limits as well so as not to be subject to the expectation of making huge donations.

The National Conference of State Legislatures [www.ncsl.org](http://www.ncsl.org) summarizes how the 50 states regulate contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees (PACs) 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.

#### EDITORIAL

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, cumulatively to all candidates in a four-year election cycle. (These limits increase to \$6,000 and \$24,000 in 2015.) In Maryland, corporations and CEOs are not giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

Do we really want to be a state where the rules are so lax, that what barely raises an eyebrow here can send a former governor and his wife to prison for a long time?

The silence is bipartisan. The silence unites NoVa (Northern Virginia) and RoVa (the rest of Virginia). Every incumbent in Virginia thinks they are benefiting from the ability to collect so much cash.

They all know that they would not engage in the kind unseemly behavior that was recently on display in the McDonnell trial. They seem to think that the McDonnells were just an aberration.

Having our legislative process, locally and at the state level, awash in cash and gifts from people with business before the legislative bodies is not good for any of us.

It's time for some real limits and some disclosure requirements with teeth.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## The Legacy of Bob McDonnell

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

I had no idea what to expect when the jury announced it had reached its verdicts on the charges against former Governor Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen, but when the verdicts were announced I was stunned. The jury of seven men and five women left no doubt in their findings: 11 counts of guilty for the former Governor and nine counts of guilty for his wife! All the efforts to explain away their behavior, redefine their relationship, and nuance words and actions were not successful. Virginia has now achieved the level of disdain we have held towards governors of other states in similar circumstances. We have a former governor found guilty of corruption in office. Somehow with Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson having occupied that seat, it was not supposed to happen in Virginia.

Bob McDonnell is the last person anyone would have thought would have brought this

legacy to Virginia. He served his country in the military. He has three degrees from a Christian university. He married a professional cheerleader from a major league football team. The thesis for his masters' degree spelled out an old-fashioned morality that he thought was essential for how people should behave. He was a prosecuting attorney finding others guilty of crimes in order to keep his community safe. He represented his community in the House of Delegates where he introduced bills that included one for a covenant marriage. His first statewide elective office was Attorney General responsible for seeing that Virginia's laws were fairly interpreted. His win for Governor was by a wide margin. He appeared squeaky clean.

The jury heard in detail what happened during his term as governor and determined he was guilty of corruption. That is the way our system of justice works. Not only is his legacy tarnished so too is that of his wife and family. For the Governor and his family on a personal

level, they have my thoughts and sincere prayers. There will be an appeal no doubt. Whatever the criminal justice system does with the case under appeal will not restore the man to the elevated position he had in the public's mind when he became governor.

We need to turn our attention now to the legacy for Virginia. Maybe we Virginians had it coming for we had become somewhat pompous over our reputation for the clean government we thought we had. Despite some cynics' views, virtually all elected officials and government employees are honest, hard-working people who want to do their best for the Commonwealth.

For those who do not fit this category we need to participate in a whistle-blowing exercise that will expose any who are putting their selfish gain above the public good. And the legislature needs to do more work on its conflict of interest and ethics laws. Maybe those changes can become the legacy of Bob McDonnell.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Donors (Money) Behind Comstock, Foust

To the Editor:

Please find below some interesting facts about our 10th district candidates. I retrieved this information from [Opensecrets.org](http://Opensecrets.org), a nonprofit website dedicated to adding transparency to the money behind our candidates.

❖ Barbara Comstock: She is a member of the House of Delegates and is listed as Lobbyist for

Comstock Corrello. She is referred to as a revolving door as she has worked as a lobbyist then worked in the government then gone back to lobbying.

([tps://www.opensecrets.org/revolving/search\\_result.php?priv=Comstock](https://www.opensecrets.org/revolving/search_result.php?priv=Comstock))

She has voted to allow concealed guns in bars. She has received campaign funds from the

NRA. Link follows:

<https://www.opensecrets.org/races/indexp.php?cycle=2014&id=VA10>

Below are three of her top contributors.

Elliot Management (New York Hedge Fund that pushed Argentina into bankruptcy)

Carried interest lobby Altria, formerly known as Philip Morris,

Largest Cigarette Company in the world (tobacco subsidies legislation)

Koch Industries (Bringing fracking to a neighborhood near you)

❖ John Foust- Fairfax Board of Supervisors for 10th district since 2007, Construction Lawyer previously

SEE LETTER, PAGE 13

## Great Falls CONNECTION

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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# NEWS

Miky, Cayla and Karma Kassem, fifth graders Forestville Elementary.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE ST. JOHN

## It's Back-to-School Time in Great Falls



PHOTO BY HEATHER CARSKADDAN

Boys waiting for the bus to Forestville Elementary: (from left) Colin Buckley, Tommo Buckley, John Rieling, Liam Carskaddan, Will Glenn and Owen Glenn.



PHOTO LARISA CAICEDO-DETHERO

Martina Dethero (first grade), Sara Dethero (third grade), Macgregor Bickle (second grade), Jack and Luke Milone (first grade and kindergarten), going to Great Falls Elementary.



PHOTO BY LEISA FOWLER-SHERIDAN

Madeline Sheridan started fifth grade at Forestville Elementary.



PHOTO DEBORAH NAGY-HUANG

Jamison Huang, fourth grade, going to Forestville Elementary on the first day of school.

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## 'Recession Ripple Persists' at Realtors' Summit

Private sector job growth key to strengthening regional economy, housing demand.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

There's no question the primary economic driver of this region has always been Uncle Sam," said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. "That said, we're not Detroit."

That was a year ago, when Versal addressed members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors at their economic summit held in George Mason University's Mason Inn.



**Panelists (from left) at the 2014 NVAR Economic Summit: Mitchel Kider, Dr. Michael Frantoni, James Dinegar and David Versal.**

PHOTOS BY  
TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

At this year's summit, his past remarks came back to haunt him, if not the whole room. "In 2013, job growth ground to a halt," he said at the event last Thursday. "July [2013] to July [2014], net was about 20,000 jobs in our region. Who do we come closest to?"

The stunned conference hall full of Realtors, seeing his slide, answered in unison: "Detroit."

Versal was back again for 2014,

along with discussion moderator Kenneth Harney, author of the syndicated column "The Nation's Housing."

New panelists included: James Dinegar, president and CEO for the Greater Washington Board of Trade; Dr. Michael Frantoni, chief economist and senior vice president of research and industry technology for the Mortgage Bankers Association, and Mitchel Kider,

chairman and managing partner for Weiner Brodsky Kider PC.

**THE THEME** of this year's summit was "Housing Hangover: Recession Ripple Persists in 2014: Jobs, Confidence, Mortgages (+ Aspirin) Fuel Recovery."

Each panelist brought a different perspective to the central concept that no, the recession is not over, growth is slow and home

sales are flat; but yes, the recovery is on and as long as home buyers, sellers and Realtors alike keep in front of the economic and regulatory changes taking place, things are looking up. We're all still here.

Versal echoed his callout from last year, that since 2010 government spending cuts have decimated the Washington D.C. metro area. "We lost over \$11 billion in federal procurement," he said, referencing the massive contracting industry, "just in 3 years; \$11 billion that was in our economy in 2010 that is no longer. This is on top of the 20,000 jobs we've removed."

One true gainer in jobs over the same period, he said, has been hospitality — specifically restaurant jobs. However even though those jobs help pad the not-Detroit figure, they don't exactly help a housing market that's light on top-end inventory and lacking any semblance of a middle.

"Ask yourselves as Realtors: Are people buying \$6-7-800,000

SEE PANELISTS, PAGE 10

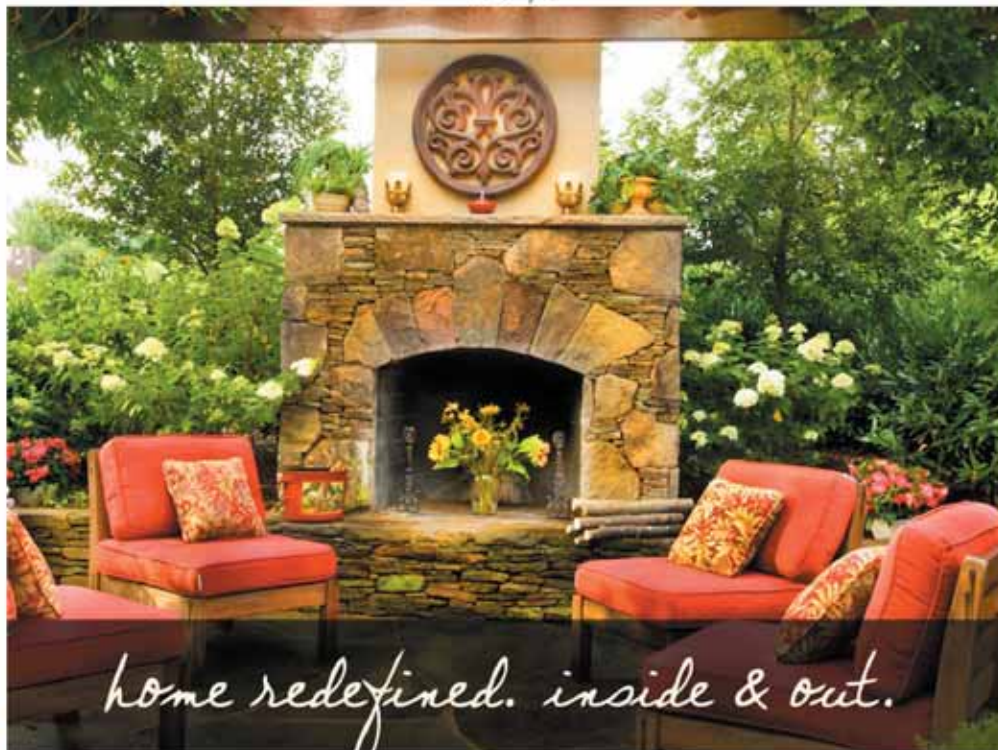
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# Panelists Hopeful, Patient for Housing Market Improvements

FROM PAGE 9

houses in this region people who work in restaurants? Unless they own the restaurant probably not," said Versal.

According to Versal, Northern Virginia isn't creating enough jobs paying in the \$40- to \$70,000 range to stimulate growth in the market's midsection.

But that's not all: Another factor — and a continuation from 2013's remarks — keeping the market from balancing out is the lack of adequate housing construction.

Or rather, construction of homes for purchase. Versal said half of what's being built is rental property, which doesn't produce sales and doesn't help the sagging middle.

But the regional analyst did point out a few bright spots, looking forward. In the next three to four years, Versal predicts, the D.C. metro region will be creating 50-60,000 jobs again, like it was 10 years ago — which should drive demand for housing. However this growth, he stressed, will be borne by the private sector, not the federal government.

James Dinegar of the Greater Washington Board of Trade took that optimism and ran with it, giving a speech that hyped the many "cool factors" of the D.C. metro region.

He cited Forbes magazine recently voting that area "America's Coolest City."

He cited things like Bao Bao the infant panda at the National Zoo, Robert Griffin III, Maryland joining the Big Ten major college football conference (and more importantly the Big Ten Network) and the capital bike-sharing program that leads the nation in users per capita.

He cited things like numerous top tier universities, the juggernaut of cyber job-creating — NSA at Fort Meade — and being the hospitality capital of the world.

Things that, presumably, should be drawing young, family-oriented and financially stable professionals to the area, or keeping them here.

"You have to get your head around the Big Ten," Dinegar gave an example. "The BTN reaches 52 million households. We're not exposed to the Midwest the way we have been in the ACC. We're on radar screens now we haven't ever been on."

According to Dr. Michael Frantoni of the Mortgage Bankers Association, having a greater overall pull would be helpful to attract fresh capital to the nation's capital. The national trend, he said, is decreased mobility: Recent census data shows that



By TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**"The economy has been bad. Yet in spite of all of this, we're all still here," said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis.**

aside from family-related moves, people are staying put more than they used to.

"Moving to a better neighborhood? If anything, people are moving to save money. But they're not aspirational movers," he said.

Or maybe they are aspirational movers, but are saving money by living with their parents. That group would be the mercurial, hard to put a finger on, mid-20s to mid-30s bracket referred to as "millennials." And they're a key group, being well situated with academic and professional experience to fill the \$40-\$70,000 a year private sector jobs Versal said should be driving the regional economy going forward.

However, said Frantoni, "They're different in all kinds of ways. They get married later, have children later, come home later. Everything is later. We don't know why."

**A MILLENNIAL'S HESITANCY** to buy property probably doesn't have much to do with the projected rise in interest rates from 4.3 percent for a 30-year fixed mortgage rate in 2013 up to 5 percent in 2015. But it may have something to do with the fact that student loan debt has ballooned in the last decade from \$200 billion to over \$1 trillion, according to Frantoni.

None of the panelists expects dramatic changes in the next several years. We're off the roller coaster, they all concurred. We're still here.

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# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com).  
Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 11

**Great Falls Writer's Group.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The GFWG convenes at the Great Falls Library to explore and discuss the joys and challenges of writing. Free admissions. Call 703-757-8560 for more info.

**Fall for the Book Science Talk.** 7:30 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Come hear Carl Zimmer and Sam Kean. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) or 703-790-0123.

**Great Falls Rotary Club.** 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. Weekly meeting and speaker series. If interested in joining, visit <http://www.rotarygreatfalls.org>.

**Artists Meet for Coffee.** 8:30 a.m.-10 a.m. Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local artists get together for weekly coffee. Drop in!

**9/11 Ceremony.** 7-8:30 p.m. Great Falls Freedom Memorial (behind Great Falls Library), 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Ceremony to especially remember the six citizens who died on Flight 77. Ceremony open to all.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 12

**Old Firehouse Teen Center Friday Field Trips.** 3:30-10 p.m. Trip will depart from OFTC, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Double Feature at AMC Tysons. Prices vary based on activity. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) or 703-790-0123.

**Lynne Cheney presents "James Madison: A Life Reconsidered."** 7:30 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) or 703-790-0123.

**Drop-in Chess.** 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Weekly drop-in chess games in the library meeting room. All ages welcome.

**Look at the Stars! Open Observatory.** 7:30-10:30 pm. Turner Farm Park, Springvale Road, Great Falls. Friday night viewings of the sky at the observatory park. Visit <http://www.analemma.org> for more information.

**Playdate Cafe.** 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and play space for children, coffee and conversation for grown-ups.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

**Silver Line Music and Food Truck Festival.** 12-10 p.m. 1800 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Listen to performances from renowned local and national acts and find displays of fine arts and a variety of refreshments to benefit the Spirit of Hope Children's Foundation. Visit <http://tysonspartnership.org/event-calendar/tysons-world-music-festival/>.

**McLean Fall Community Flea Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 1420 Beverly Road, McLean (behind the Giant Shopping Center). Almost 60 sellers! [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) or 703-790-0123.

**Cars & Coffee.** 7-9 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Every Saturday come find an assortment of antique, custom, exotic, sports cars and more! With coffee!

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Falls Village, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Bring your recyclable bag and participate in the local movement. Farmers from around the area sell their vegetables,



**Check out Vienna's Train Show this Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Vienna Firehouse where trains will be on display and for sale. You can also have your old trains repaired.**



**Find hidden treasures at McLean Community's fall flea market on Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking garage at 1420 Beverly Road (behind the Giant Shopping Center).**

fruits, crepes, drinks and more.

**Dance for Everyone.** 6:30-11:30 p.m. Colvin Run Community hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Come participate in dance lessons ranging from 'Dance of the Month to General with Hustle, Shug, Latin and more. Hosted by Ed Cottrell. Admissions: \$12. 703-435-5620 or Ed Cottrell, [EdCottrell@MACP.org](mailto:EdCottrell@MACP.org).

**The Grandsons.** 5-7 p.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Outdoor mixed rock music. Free. 703-288-9505.

**McLean Fall Community Flea Market.** 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 1420 Beverly Road, McLean. More than 50 sellers participate in the sale, which includes commercial vendors and flea market vendors as well as individuals.

**Vienna Train Show.** 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center Street S, Vienna. The show features an operating layout with three engines running simultaneously. Plus, 58 tables of trains for sale. Admission: \$5. Free for children under 12, Scouts in uniform, Military with proper identification.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 14

**Concerts at The Alden.** 3 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Co-sponsored by The Alden and the Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) or 703-790-0123.

## MONDAY/SEPT. 15

**Learn to Draw Cartoons!** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Learn to draw cartoons with artist, Bud Little. Ages 6 and up. Please register for this program.

## TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

**Colvin Run's Dance for Everyone.** 6:30-10 p.m. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Come participate in weekly dance lessons ranging from 'Dance of the Month to General with Hustle, Shug, Latin and more. Admissions: \$12. 703-435-5620 or Ed Cottrell, [EdCottrell@MACP.org](mailto:EdCottrell@MACP.org).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 17

**Jammin' Juniors Rolie Polie Guacamole.** 12:30 p.m. McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd, McLean. Free admission. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) or 703-790-0123.

**McLean Newcomers Club Kick-Off Luncheon.** Maggiano's, 2001 International Drive, McLean. McLean Newcomers Club is a social club to create new friendships, to provide opportunities for socializing and to acquaint members with the community. For more information and a reservation, visit [www.McLeanNewcomers.com](http://www.McLeanNewcomers.com) or call 571-306-0010.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

**McLean American Association of University Women 45th Annual Used Book Sale.** 9 a.m.-7 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Open to the public. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) or 703-790-0123.

## FRIDAY/SEPT 19-SATURDAY/SEPT 20

**St. John the Beloved Annual Fall Festival.** Friday: 6-10 p.m. Saturday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. St. John the Beloved, 6420 Linway Terrace, McLean. Enjoy a family-fun day of music, food and movies. Tickets: \$20-\$85. [www.stjohn101.org](http://www.stjohn101.org).

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**McLean Community Center  
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**Public Hearing on FY 2016 Budget**

(July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)

**Follows the Finance Committee  
Meeting of the Whole**

**Monday, Sept. 15, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center**

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Copies of the draft budget proposal will be available during the committee meeting and public hearing.

Written comments may be delivered to the Center's address (shown below,) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to [feedback@mcleancenter.org](mailto:feedback@mcleancenter.org). Written comments must be received prior to the Governing Board's regular September meeting, on Wednesday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.



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# Langley Volleyball Coach Shifflett Reaches 300 Wins

**Andrejev's 17 kills lead Saxons over South Lakes.**

By JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**S**usan Shifflett, who founded the Langley volleyball program in 1998, says she reached her ultimate goal when the Saxons won their first state championship in 2013.

While the Langley head coach reached the pinnacle of VHSL volleyball last season, the confidence her players gained from the accomplishment likely carried over to Monday, helping Shifflett reach a career milestone.

Shifflett earned her 300th victory as Langley head coach on Sept. 8, when the Saxons won a home match against South Lakes, 3-1 (26-24, 25-23, 17-25, 25-17). Langley overcame multiple early deficits to take control of the match. South Lakes reached set point in the opener, but Langley responded with five straight points, including a trio of kills by Rachel Andrejev, to pull out a 26-24 win. The Seahawks scored the first six points of the second set and led 18-17, but the Saxons found a way to win.

"I think that's one thing that winning a championship does," Shifflett said. "I think they know they can win, so they don't quit. They don't stop and I'm so proud of them for doing that."

Shifflett's path to 300 victories included trips to the state tournament in 2007, 2009 and 2012, as well.

"It wasn't ever a goal for me," Shifflett said of reaching 300 wins. "Just winning is a goal. We just want to win. Last year was the ultimate for me: winning states."

Then the Langley head coach went into a little more depth and her voice started to crack with emotion.

"It's cool, it's neat and it makes you think back," she said. "I can get emotional about all the kids that got [me] here, and the coaches. I wouldn't be here without the kids and the coaches."

On Monday, Andrejev was one of the "kids" primarily responsible for getting Shifflett win No. 300. The senior outside hitter totaled 17 kills against South Lakes, including the match-winner. With all-state outside hitter Jessica Donaldson suffering a season-ending knee injury against Atlee on Aug. 30, Andrejev is the team's go-to offensive player.

How does Shifflett describe Andrejev?

"Money," the coach said. "Especially with Jess down, she's got to carry the load. She's really stepped up."

Andrejev said she was pleased to help her coach reach a career milestone.

"It feels great, especially after playing with her for four years, to give her that accomplishment," Andrejev said. "I know that she works so hard for us and comes in every day and is always there for us. It's just

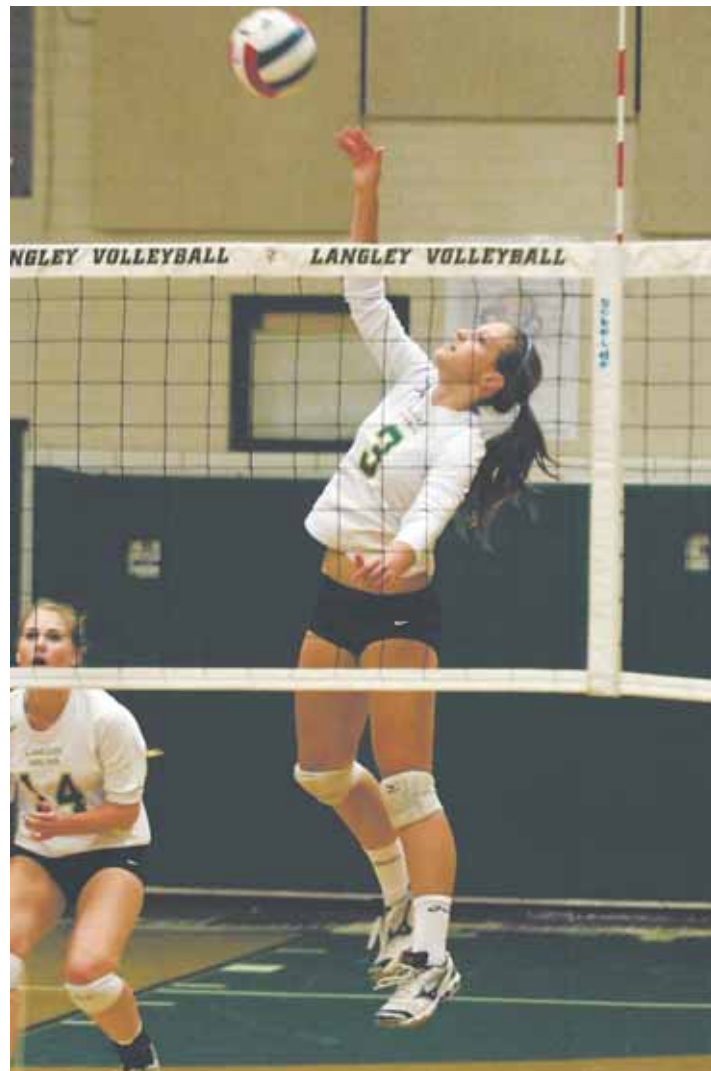


PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Langley volleyball coach Susan Shifflett reached 300 career victories with a 3-1 win against South Lakes on Monday, Sept. 8.**

**"It wasn't ever a goal for me. Just winning is a goal. We just want to win. Last year was the ultimate for me: winning states."**

**— Langley volleyball coach Susan Shifflett**



**Langley outside hitter Rachel Andrejev had 17 kills against South Lakes on Monday.**

great to give her that win. She's more of, like, a mom to us. She keeps us really close, makes sure we're doing the right things, just a great coach all-around."

Donaldson, who cheered for her teammates from the bench with a large brace on her left leg, shares similar feelings about Shifflett.

"She's an awesome coach," Donaldson

said. "She's like a mom to us. She loves us like her own kids and she wants us to do well. It's really good being a player under her because she really cares about you and it's not just an aspect of volleyball."

Cheri Hostetler, who is in her eighth season as South Lakes head coach, also shares admiration for Shifflett.

"She's always the coach you want to beat,"



**Langley setter Elena Shklyar tips the ball against South Lakes on Monday.**

Hostetler said. "She's a great coach. I really look up to her a lot."

Langley improved its 2014 record to 7-1 with Monday's victory. Katie Sissler finished with six kills against South Lakes, and Raya Mufti, Carly Herbert and Elena Shklyar each had five.

The Saxons will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 10.

# Candidates Stake Out Opposing Views

FROM PAGE 3

**FOUST** noted his seven years as chairman of the Fairfax Economic Advisory Commission and on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors where he helped pass a balanced budget every year.

"I've balanced seven budgets in tough economic times by setting priorities and cutting wasteful spending," Foust said.

"As Chairman of the Board's Audit Committee, I've saved tax payers millions of dollars by cutting waste and inefficiency. And as Chairman of the Fairfax County Economic Advisory Commission, I've spent seven years working with dozens of businesses, business and community leaders to make Northern Vir-

ginia even more attractive to new and expanding businesses."

Comstock promised to be focused on the future in Washington. "I will work to break out of this mess."

Foust said Washington's partisan gridlock is hurting opportunities for the middle class.

"I want other people to have the opportunities that I was so blessed to have," he said.

Virginia's 10th Congressional District – which straggles from portions of Fairfax County through Loudoun County, Manassas, Manassas Park and past Winchester - is currently ranked "leans Republican" by the Rothenberg Political Report/Roll Call analysis.

## LETTER

FROM PAGE 6

Below are three of his top contributors.

Data Networks — Local woman owned IT business

Paul Weiss a large New York law firm with operations in D.C.

American Ass. For Justice, formerly ATLA (They lobby against tort reform)

Please see a more complete list below.

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I have made up my mind on who I will vote for based on past voting record, ethics, and who I want pushing my representative around.

**Phil Brown**  
McLean

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# Time Sensitive

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As much as I don't want to be cognizant of date, time and place, relative to February 27, 2009 when Team Lourie first received the stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis on yours truly, I am (a terminal diagnosis will do that to you). Moreover, as often as I write about the need to live forward, rather than die backward (if you know what I mean), I still struggle with the application. Not that I want to be preoccupied with it, but every day, every date presents opportunities, shall we say: anniversaries, birthdays, ages I thought I'd never be, appointments, scans, pills; constant reminders I am not in Kansas any more (in fact, I'm in Indiana as I write this column). Unfortunately, out of town doesn't put cancer out of mind. Though it may obfuscate its effect a little bit, I kind of feel like Al Pacino – as Michael Corleone in "Godfather III" (1990) – when frustrated by his attempts to legitimize the family business, he said: "Just when I thought I was out...they pull me back in again." And it's not as if I'm ever very far from my cancer reality anyway. The prospect of getting out (finding a cure) is probably less likely than the Corleone family going legit. Nevertheless, as I'm fond of admitting: it sure beats the alternative. So far, so good. Five and a half years and still counting.

Thankfully, life goes on and still I hope. And beholden to that hope is the recognition of the underlying facts: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer is, as my oncologist said, "a terminal disease;" he could "treat me but he couldn't cure me." Meaning, at least to me, at that time: that a normal life expectancy had just left the building, especially since the prognosis I received from him was "13 months to two years." Now let me ask you this: how does one bury that statement of presumptive medical fact and go about your business/life as if everything is hunky dory? You don't, and as often and as consistently as I have attempted to bury that lead, the reality is, there are circumstances at nearly every turn, backwards and forwards, up and down, which make it nearly impossible to live as if I'm cancer-free. As much as I'd like to forget and live life as if the world were my oyster and that I had everything to gain and nothing to lose, the truth is, it's much easier said and written than actually done. And just like "Gold Hat" (portrayed by Alfonso Bedoya) didn't "need no stinkin' badges" in the 1948 film "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," neither do I need any reminders, "stinkin'" or otherwise, that I have cancer.

Most of the time, I can overcome them. Sometimes I can't, though. No one said this cancer experience was going to be easy; in fact a close friend and fellow cancer survivor told me quite the opposite: that this would be the hardest thing I've ever done, and of course, she was 100-percent correct; and I'm reminded of that reality every single day, whether I want to be or not.

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

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## 21 Announcements

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**FRIDAY/ SEPT. 12**  
**English Conversation Group.** 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults.

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 13**  
**Historic Flint Hill Cemetery Tour.** 10 a.m. Flint Hill Cemetery at the corner of Chain Bridge Road (Route 123) and Courthouse Road, next to the Church of the Brethren. Local historian Jim Lewis will lead a tour of historic Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton. He will share interesting aspects of the cemetery, including stories of prominent Vienna residents and some of the 27 Civil War era military veterans, four of them Mosby's Rangers, who are interred there. Sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc., free and open to the public, no reservations required. For information call 703-938-5187.

**Blood Pressure Testing by Vienna Vol. Fire Department.** 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Fire department staff will use the entry arcade area to offer free blood pressure screenings.

**MONDAY/SEPT. 15**  
**MCC Governing Board Work Session and Public Hearing on FY 2016 Budget.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Open to the public. www.mcleancenter.org or 703-790-0123.  
**Senior Meet-Up Group.** 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls Senior Center morning coffee social.  
**Spanish Conversation Group.** 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice Spanish as a foreign language in this casual conversation group.

**TUESDAY/SEPT. 16**  
**DivorceCare.** 7-9 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St, NE, Vienna. If you are experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, Vienna Presbyterian Church invites you to attend Passages, a 15-week program. Admissions: \$20; scholarships available. Call 703-938-9050, visit http://www.viennapres.org/ or email Passages@ViennaPres.org for more info.  
**Improve Your English Skills.** 11 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Event is open to adults. Improve your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. For more information contact the library branch at 703-356-0770.  
**One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Work with a volunteer tutor to learn about using the Internet, setting up an e-mail account, and using basic software. Adults.

**WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 17**  
**English Conversation Group.** 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Event is open to adults. Practice your English in a conversational setting. For more information contact the library branch at 703-356-0770.  
**ESL Conversation Group.** 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice English in this casual conversation group.  
**One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Work with a volunteer tutor to learn about using the Internet, setting up an e-mail account, and using basic software. Adults.

**THURSDAY/SEPT. 18**  
**Chapter Meeting Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227.** 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Vienna. Vietnam War veteran, journalist, and author Marc Leepson will discuss latest book, "What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, A Life." Free. Call Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 20**  
**Community Shredding Event.** 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. 133 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Gain peace of mind by bringing your outdated personal documents to the on-site shredding service. Hosted by Ameriprise Financial.



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