

Members of Great Falls Citizens Association line up to vote on the proposal to develop Brooks Farm. On Tuesday, May 12, 79 of 91 people voted for a resolution to oppose rezoning and cluster development of the 52 acres of Brooks Farm off Springvale Road.

OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16

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Great Falls Votes No on Brooks Farm

NEWS, PAGE 3

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NEWS, PAGE 10

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Brooks Farm is 52 acres off Springvale Road.



Basheer/Edgemoore-Brooks showed the latest proposal to develop 52 acres off Springvale Road. They asked the Planning Commission to reschedule a June public hearing for the fall so they could continue addressing community and Planning Commission staff concerns.

Great Falls Citizens Association Votes No on Brooks Farm

Developer says call for 5-acre lots is not financially viable.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Planners and the land owner keep tweaking, even eliminating three houses from 23 in their cluster development proposal, but Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCFA) wanted more than tweaks.

Citizens wanted an overhaul, a different zoning category and redesign. And Great Falls Citizens Association stood firm to its resolve despite words of warning from a county official and advocate of trees.

On Tuesday, May 12, 79 of 91 people voted for a resolution to oppose rezoning and cluster development of the 52 acres of Brooks Farm off Springvale Road. Three people abstained and nine people voted against the Great Falls Citizens Association resolution to oppose the redevelopment plan.

"The GFCFA believes the property should be developed as a five-acre subdivision, perhaps in the Residential-Conservation 'RC' Zoning Category," according to the resolution passed on Tuesday night at Forestville Elementary School in Great Falls.

"There should also be careful development controls throughout construction to prevent environmental damage," according to GFCFA.

"The common area, including the [Resource Protection Area] and the water dam, and upstream lowland, should remain privately owned, with development conditions, proffers and covenants imposed sufficient to ensure they will be properly maintained and cared for," reads the resolution. "The County should require the best state-of-the-art stormwater management on every lot, plus best management practice water retention in the common areas."



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

More than 100 people attended Great Falls Citizens Association meeting on Brooks Farm Tuesday, May 12. GFCFA members voted to oppose the Brooks Farm development proposal.

WHEN FIRST PROPOSED, 1,400 Great Falls residents signed a petition to oppose the rezoning of Brooks Farm, which some call the heart of Great Falls.

GFCFA has received hundreds and hundreds of emails in the last couple of months, said Jennifer Semko, chair of GFCFA's Land Use and Zoning committee.

"This has been an interesting issue and it's definitely gotten people involved," said President Eric Knudsen. "That's what GFCFA is all about."

More than 100 attended Tuesday's meeting, called by Great Falls Citizens Association to vote on its resolution.

"Let me be as blunt as I can be," said attorney Gregory A. Riegler, of McGuire Woods who represents Basheer/Edgemoore-Brooks, LLC. "We would not be able to meet the expectation of the landowner with five acre lots. There is an economic value to this that we have to balance."

GREAT FALLS has large-lot zoning and no sewer or water service because of its responsibility to be stewards of the Potomac River to preserve water quality for the region's drinking water, and to preserve the rural and semi-rural character of the area.

The citizens association takes seriously its

"Let me be as blunt as I can possibly be."
— Gregory Riegler, attorney

mission to "represent the views of its members on issues of interest, which it has pursued consistently since 1968 by supporting low-density zoning and development in large-lot subdivisions," according to Tuesday's resolution. "The membership of GFCFA is concerned that development at the proposed density would have an adverse impact on the already extensive stormwater erosion problem presently existing along Pond Branch, which rises on Brooks Farm." Tuesday's meeting was the third in 2015, and Basheer/Edgemoore-Brooks pitched the ideal of continued partnership and dialogue with the goal of reaching consensus before a final plan comes to the Fairfax County Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission was scheduled to hold a public hearing in June, but the developers asked for more time to meet concerns of the community and suggestions from the Commission. A public hearing will likely be scheduled for the fall.

"Our message tonight is wanting to con-

GFCFA: The Big Wigs

Great Falls Citizens Association is scheduled to hold its election of officers and directors on June 9.

On May 12, Edward Phillips and the nomination committee revealed the slate of officers, and each was offered a chance to talk for two minutes.

President Eric Knudsen and Vice President Bill Canis volunteered to continue as president and vice president if elected through June 30, 2016.

"This is one of those jobs that it's hard to find a replacement," joked Knudsen. "I will just continue what I've been doing, and I thank you for your support."

"We're going to work on storm water management in the year ahead," said Canis, who highlighted environmental efforts of GFCFA, including oak tree planting, deer management, and environmental issues pertaining to Brooks Farm.

Proposed two-year officers through June 30, 2017, include Dawn MacPhee as GFCFA's secretary and Bud Thompson for treasurer.

Potential directors running for positions through June 30, 2017 include:

Ruth Carver: "I've been around a long time and was president back in the 90s and I'm still here."

Wayne Foley: "I've been in Great Falls since 1972."

Gary Pan: "I've been here a short amount of time compared to many, since 2000. I'd love to help out."

Edward Phillips: "I will pass."

Donald "Phil" Whitworth: "I'm with Ed."

Continuing officers include: Jackie Taylor (immediate past president), Ralph Apton, Pamela Grosvenor, Matt Haley, Scott Knight, Phillip Pifer, Zaheer Poptani, Jennifer Semko, and Glen Sjoblom.

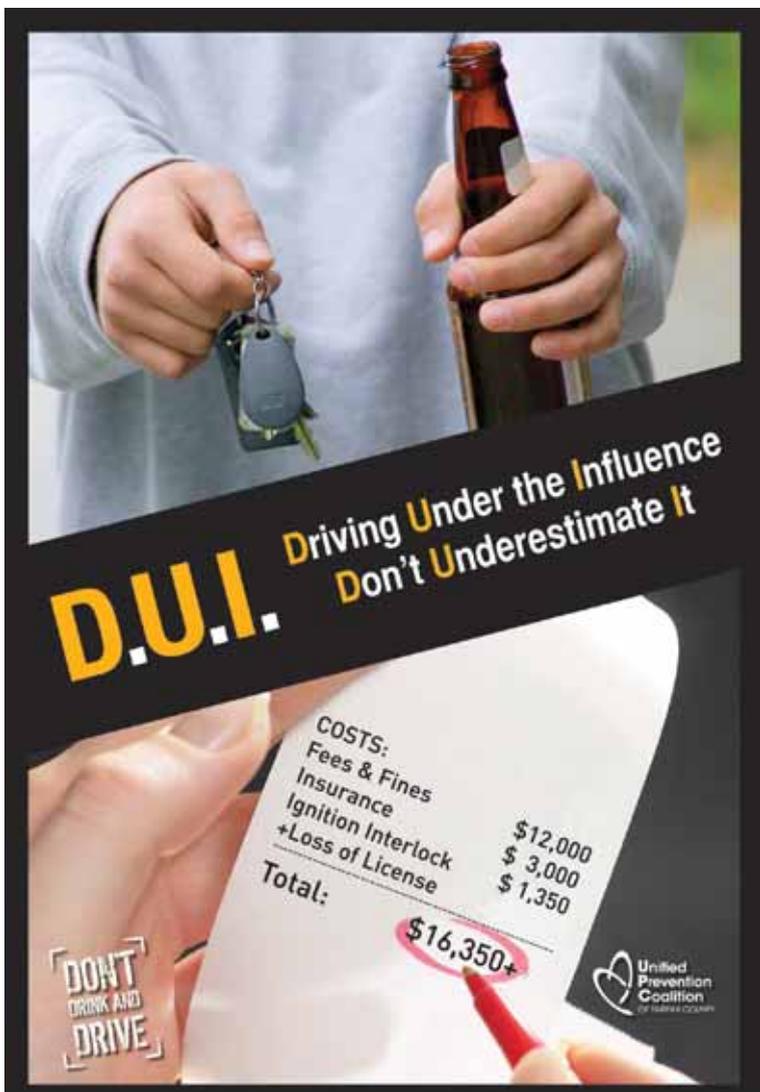
tinue the dialogue. We'd like to continue to have the conversation," said Riegler.

"There is an honest willingness to work to resolve issues and we can work together so the community has the ability to be involved so we can all be satisfied with the end point," he said.

THE DEVELOPER presented a plan Tuesday that was more desirable to residents than the first, second, even third iterations, proposed as late as last month.

For example, by removing three more homes from its proposal, the open space proposed for the property increased to 41 percent and density per acre decreased to

SEE GFCFA, PAGE 5



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Funding for this ad is provided by the federal SAMHSA Virginia Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant.

www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org

Special thanks to THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

NEWS

Second and third grade students at Great Falls Elementary went up in groups of five to dig the hole for the cherry tree.



PHOTOS BY MARISSA BEALE/THE CONNECTION

Cherry Tree Planted at Great Falls Elementary

BY MARISSA BEALE
THE CONNECTION

It's all about relationships when it comes to the success of Great Falls Elementary School's Japanese Immersion (JI) Program. Following the visit by First Lady Akie Abe and First Lady Michelle Obama, Great Falls Elementary School hosted a cherry tree planting at the front of the school, celebrating the friendship between Japan and the United States. The event was held in the school's "Friendship Garden," which was established in 2010 during a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Congressman Frank Wolf, Japan Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki and other dignitaries.

Attending this year's event was special guest Yukio Tada, who first brought widespread recognition to Great Falls Elementary School by helping to arrange a visit by then-Japan Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko back in 1994.

Second and third grade students in the Japanese Immersion Program at Great Falls participated in tree-planting ceremony by helping dig the hole that the tree would be placed into. Different parts of the garden also represent parts of the Tabanata Japanese folk legend.

Cathy Amano, who, since 1999, has had four students go through Great Falls Elementary School, praised the school's leadership for what has been accomplished in the community, before introducing the school's principal, Raymond Lonnett.

Principal Lonnett asked the students what a forefather was, and then explained how Tada had been



(From left) Mamiya Worland (Sahara Sensei), former JI teacher at Great Falls Elementary; Raymond Lonnett, principal of Great Falls Elementary School; Yukio Tada, president, Sojitsu Research Institute, Japan; Barbara DeHart, assistant principal, Great Falls Elementary.

a forefather of the school's JI Program. Tada helped establish relationships between Great Falls & Eisugakkan Elementary in Hiroshima.

"Great Falls is a special place in the hearts of Prime Minister Abe & Mrs. Abe," Tada told students.

"I took two trips with students to Japan," said Mamiya Worland, a former JI Teacher at Great Falls who also attended the ceremony. In the past, sixth grade students at Great Falls have had the opportunity to spend a week in Japan and be greeted by some of the country's top leaders. "We visited

Caroline Kennedy's office and then went to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's office. He welcomed each of the students."

Parents work to take care of the school, usually outside of school hours, and the larger community is also involved in the success of the JI Program.

"The original garden was an Eagle Scout Project," said Diane Hara, a parent at Great Falls. "It is tremendous."

The ceremony represented the ongoing friendship and relationship between Japan and a local U.S. elementary school.



PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Dad"

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editors@connectionnewspapers.com

GFCA Draws Its Line in the Sand

FROM PAGE 3

0.38 dwelling units per acre. The new plan demonstrates willingness to include state of the art water management practices, systems to remove impurities in runoff, groundwater protections, and even the possible prohibition of chemical lawn care methods on future lawns of future homeowners.

"There is a general willingness to work with this community if we agree to continue to work together," said Riegel.

When asked what incentive residents would have to support Basheer's plan, Riegel said, "The protection is in the process," he said.

"If we are successful that we can reach agreement on a development plan, it gives us a set of tools to memorialize all the things we are talking about tonight," he said. "I think you get the benefit of a known outcome and a certain outcome."

DRANESVILLE PLANNING COMMISSIONER John Ulfelder gave the one hundred men and women a warning.

"One thing I would say, I think it is premature for the GFCA to take a resolute opinion," said Ulfelder.

"There is still staff work to be done. In doing all that, we can't follow our gut," he said. "We have to review the plan in context of the comprehensive plan and zoning ordinance."

"I think it would make sense for this group to make a list of concerns and sit down with this developer," he said. "That doesn't mean that you can't oppose it down the road."

Bob Vickers, chairman of the Fairfax County Tree Commission, was named 2015 Lord Fairfax for the Dranesville district by Supervisor John Foust earlier in the day Tuesday, May 12 for his efforts to preserve trees and his work educating developers and landowners of the importance of tree canopy on residential lots, especially during development.

Vickers warned residents that five acre zoning could be more detrimental to the tree canopy on the 52 acres than cluster development. Cluster development can be a preferred option for preserving environment and trees.

AN HOUR AND A HALF later, each Great Falls Citizens Association member had to weigh a complex set of facts, including the risk of opposing the plan, which could

cause both sides to stop the dialogue.

"I have no doubt that the county will do their very best, but I don't think that has relevance to us here tonight," said member Donald "Phil" Whitworth.

"I have not heard one fact of common interest that this community is served by this going forward tonight," he said. "Tonight is our obligation as a community that

interest of one entity is not above the best interest of the group."

Whitworth appreciated the effort of the citizens association to extensive study the proposal and issues to present enough information for the group to make an educated vote.

"It's that kind of effort that makes me proud to be a member of this association," said Whitworth.



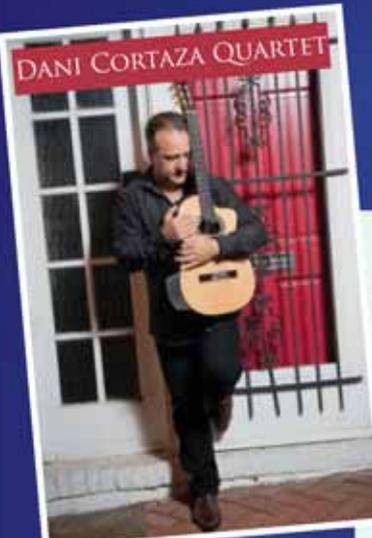
PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Bob Vickers, this year's Lord Fairfax for the Dranesville District for his work preserving trees, said cluster development is sometimes better for the tree canopy.

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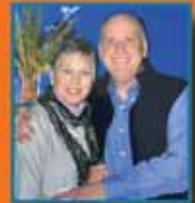
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~ Michael James, Member,
Koko FitClub, Herndon

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were not what they used to be. Koko meets all my needs: the option to work out on my schedule, the ability to work at my own pace and intensity because of the individualized program, and enough competitive spirit to keep me motivated. If I can do it at my age, then I encourage anyone of any age to do it. My balance, blood pressure and weight have all improved with Koko.

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~ Karen Spahn, Member,
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Remembering on Memorial Day 2015

On Memorial Day, take at least one minute to reflect on those who have died.

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

EDITORIAL

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the line of duty in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,800 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Since Memorial Day 2014, with military operations winding down in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced the deaths of two military service members from Virginia. Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

EVERY YEAR before Memorial Day, *The Connection* names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghanistan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, Va., died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February, 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Va., died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Va., died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Va., died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen

C. Prasnicki, 24, of Lexington, Va., died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He is survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011. when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

A FEW WAYS TO PAY TRIBUTE ON MEMORIAL DAY

- ❖ **Monday, May 25, Arlington National Cemetery, National Memorial Day Observance** to honor America's fallen military service members. 10:30 a.m., prelude by U.S. Marine Band. 11 a.m., Presidential Armed Forces Full Honor Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, to be followed by an observance program hosted by the Department of Defense in Arlington's Memorial Amphitheater. Free and open to the public. Attendees are encouraged to be at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier or seated in the amphitheater by 9:30 a.m. Free parking and shuttle in the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center's parking lot from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- ❖ **OBSERVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE** at 12:01 p.m. This Memorial Day, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) will lay a wreath before the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery at 12:01 p.m. and urges people across the country to pause for a national moment of silence to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.
- ❖ **Alexandria - May 25, 11 a.m. - Memorial Day Ceremony** - Versace Plaza/Memorial in Alexandria, Mount Vernon Recreation Center at 2701 Commonwealth Ave.
- ❖ **Arlington - May 25 - Air Force Association's Memorial Day Ceremony, 9 a.m.** commemorative Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremony at 9 a.m., at the Air Force Memorial. - 1 Air Force Memorial Dr., Arlington
- ❖ **Herndon - May 25 - Herndon Memorial Day Observance** - Town of Herndon Memorial Day Observance, Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 10 a.m.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept. 23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet.

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed in combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

SEE MEMORIAL DAY, PAGE 9

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Remembering on Memorial Day 2015

FROM PAGE 8

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria. Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Oblias-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church; Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Va., died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, Va., died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, Va., died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



COURTESY PHOTO

The library is accepting name suggestions until May 25, 2015.

Great Falls Library Seeks Name for Groundhog

The Great Falls Public Library is holding a contest to name the groundhog that lives in the meadow in front of the library.

Groundhogs, also known as woodchucks or mouse bears, are the largest members of the squirrel family. Groundhogs spend the warmer parts of the year fattening up for the winter. They hibernate during the winter from October to late March and they will spend approximately 150 days without eating. Ground-

hog burrows have between 2-5 entrances and can be 5 feet below the ground. They use their burrows or dens for sleeping, caring for babies and hibernation. The Great Falls Library groundhog can be seen coming out of its burrow in the cooler parts of the afternoon from the library window.

The library is accepting name suggestions; submission forms are located near the front door of the library. The closing date for all submissions is May 25.

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Brief April showers didn't impede the fun.

Camping Out at Wolf Trap

First-time campers from 5th and 6th grade elementary schools enjoyed the camp out sponsored by Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts during the April 17-18 Fairfax County school holiday. Wesley Pan and Heather Youmans led other youth leaders in conducting the camp out. The youth leaders were from Boy Scout Troop 55 and Venture Crew 365 from Great Falls, Herndon Venture Crew 1018, and Girl Scout Troops 1372 and 667. Scoutmaster Gary Pan, additional adult Scout and parent leaders, Friends of Wolf Trap, and Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) volunteers provided additional planning and logistical support.

Campers set up tents, cooked and cleaned up after their meals, and participated in fun and educational events. Campers did plantings in the Wolf Trap garden and greenhouse, hiked on the Wolf Trap trail built/maintained by PATC, and created and performed skits at the meadow pavilion. Campers also enjoyed s'mors at the evening campfire.

During a Wolf Trap back stage tour conducted by Ranger Will Rifembark, campers saw the back stage equipment used to put on a production, learned stage terminology, and a little history of the evolution of the technology of stage production. During this tour, the campers also witnessed a demonstration of robots built by youth leaders Heather Youmans and James Ye as participants in local robot building competitions.

Campers enjoyed learning about birds and birding from Jennifer Simms, an Audubon Society volunteer, who taught them what to observe about a bird, how to use a bird book



Camp Director Gary Pan with all of the pink camping equipment, in the colors of spring time.

to identify the bird, what to listen for, and how to use binoculars to get a closer look.

Friends of Wolf Trap and PATC Wolf Trap trail overseers Mike Moran and Alan Day led a hike on the Wolf Trap trail around the Park especially the farm pond where campers could observe turtles, a water snake, and beaver lodge while honing their binocular skills.

Campers finished off the camp out on the Theater-in-the-Woods stage performing Animal Antics where campers imitate an animal while other campers try to identify the animal.

Registration for the fall camp out scheduled for Oct. 9-10 (Fairfax County School holiday) starts on Sept. 1.



Mealtime is a camp time favorite.

Encouraging, Inspiring and Rewarding Young Writers

The Great Falls Writer's Group names winners from its first Youth Writing Contest at the Great Falls Book Fest.

By CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

At Saturday's first Great Falls Book Festival, winners were named in the first-ever Youth Writing Contest at the Great Falls Library.

First-place winners are Tyler Southworth and Caroline Wenks. Second-place winners are Lydia Chiu and Cassie Dallas, and third-place winners are Ellie Costello and Elizabeth Sedgewick.

Honorable mentions include Jack Garner, Steve Draughn, Jenna Waters, Alexandra Hutchinson, Sarina Bell, and Ellie Chang. All winners are from Forestville Elementary School.

Fairfax County Public Schools approved the contest because the assignment is fairly administered, fits into curriculum, and no outside influence from peers, siblings, or parents can skew results, vocabulary or creativity. Judging was blind as every student was assigned a number to hide their identity.

The event was created by the Great Falls Writer's Group to encourage, inspire, and reward young writers. "Effective communication is essential to most careers," said Pat Britz, a children's author and GFWG member who helped determine two writing prompts from which sixth graders could choose.

One prompt drew from personal experience – "describe two minutes that changed your life or perspective." The second prompt involved writing a story about an illustration from local children's author and illustrator, Brenda Kimavitz, of Vienna. The drawing shows two boys reacting very differently than seabirds perched nearby. Students had only 30 minutes to complete the assignment.

Judges said a rubric helped narrow results, but putting a number on originality and creativity was difficult when entries stood out on their own. The judging process took weeks.

"They are all really winners, simply for putting pen to paper," says Contest Judge Beth Jannery, director of the journalism program at George Mason University. "There was something special and unique and vulnerable in all of their writings."

Contest Judge L.M. Elliott is a nationally known novelist who writes about young people who lived in historic times. After the contest ceremony, students eagerly talked to Elliott about their works and how to grow their writing.

"What these children wrote in thirty minutes of writing is an accomplishment," she says, explaining many professional writers have trouble getting that many



Friends of the Great Falls Library President Michelle D. Miller presented certificates to the six honorable mention writers and certificates and cash awards to two first-place winners, two second-place winners, and two third-place winners of the Youth Writing Contest at the first Great Falls Books Festival on May 2. Here, Tyler Southworth reads his first-place entry called "Foolish Boys."



PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

After Friends of the Great Falls Library President Michelle D. Miller presented cash awards to winners of the Youth Writing Contest, Caroline Wenks reads her first-place entry called "Long Shot to the Moon."

First-Place Winning Entries

"Foolish Boys"

By Tyler Southworth

Those boys were foolish. They just won't listen. No matter what people said, Even if what they said could save their lives.

They told the boys about the bay And the forbidden place With the lonely pier They said sharks were there, so stay away.

The boys agreed. With fins behind their backs Later, in the sinking sun You could see the boys there – just two tiny specks on a lonely pier.

They were kind-of, sorta A little scared Because they turned to the water crimson with their cut, bloody feet.

They came, of course, The monsters from the deep Their back fins a-rippling Like the dark waves which they spawned

They screamed like the dickens Obviously They ran like the devil himself Was chasing them with his terrible fist a-shaking To the heavens themselves.

I hope they will never be so foolish again.

The writer is a sixth-grader at Forestville Elementary.

words on paper in hours.

"The presence of these judges made a huge difference in the outcome of the contest because they are a spark of inspiration to our youth," said Kristin Clark Taylor, founder of the Great Falls Writer's Group. "The judges dug deep and really delved into each and

every entry with compassion and care."

"Becoming a great writer takes practice and reading," says Michelle Miller, president of the Friends of the Great Falls Library, which donated the prize money to winners. Teachers from other schools have contacted the GFWG in hopes of starting the

contest at their school, too.

Before the awards ceremony, a confident sixth-grade Southworth, whose entry is in sonnet form, said, "If I win, I'll be the first to receive first place in a this contest that will be around for thirty years or more. Yesssss!"

"Long Shot to the Moon"

By Caroline Wenks

CRACK! The ball hit the bat with a sickening smack. As the baseball flew over the pitcher's head, the shortstop tried to catch it, but it soared over his head as well. He groaned audibly. "Not fair!" shouted the Giants' coach.

"Well, if Jayson Werth actually hit it as he did, then it counts," responded Nationals Manager Matt Williams.

The Giants coach stomped off angrily. This is where I came in. Jumping up, the leathery texture of the home-run ball smacked my sweaty palm. My brother next to me congratulated me and stormed away. He is a die-hard Giants fan. Me? I'm the biggest Nats fan!

As I buckled up in the backseat of the Volvo, our car, my favorite moment came to mind. The blurry ball rushed past the faces to my left. Reaching out my right hand and jumping up, I caught the ball.

Coming back to reality, I put the ball up next to the window, making it look like the moon. Oh, no. Not the moon. No! No! I snapped back into my seat and shut my eyes. Here comes the vision again.

I was playing catch with my brother on the dock behind our house. A pigeon squawked — then another and another. More and more joined in as I stared, transfixed at them. I glanced back over to my brother and followed his line of sight. The moon! The moon was hurtling toward us. Time seemed to freeze. My feet were glued to the wooden panels of the dock. I couldn't shift my gaze. I had to move or I would die.

BOOOoomMMM! CRACKLE! SNAP! The moon froze. Then it shriveled up like it was a balloon and somebody just let out all of the air. RUMBLE! BANG! The moon fell. It plopped into the water. NO splash.

Ugh! I hated that dream. Every time I see the moon that dream comes back to mind. But this time I shrugged it off and didn't make a big deal like I did about everything else. After all, I am Christina. I shouldn't make a big deal out of anything as I usually do. This time, no.

This is the moment that changed my life. Before, I saw almost everything negatively. That dream made me realize that I should be thankful — and glad to be alive.

The writer is a sixth-grader at Forestville Elementary.



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NEWS

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Lift Me Up Celebrates 40th Anniversary



Above: Celebrating the Lift Me Up 40th anniversary are current and former Board members - from left: Bob Best, Georgia Bay, Lauren Carbaugh, Mark Zanin, Bill Carbaugh, Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), LMU Founder Collen Zanin, LMU Board President Tracy Kenny, Paula Michaels, Brigid Thomas, Flo Dougherty, John Yaremchuk, Lita Mellon and Laura Smith.

Left: the riding demonstration - Connor Abod, Ryan Fowler riding Finn and volunteer, Chris Hassler.

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6/17/2015	A+ Graduations & Summer Learning
6/17/2015	Father's Day Dining & Gifts
<i>Father's Day is June 21</i>	
6/24/2015	Independence Day Preview
6/24/2015	Professional Profiles & Business in the Community

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Every Child Is a Story Teller

Great Falls Writing Group volunteer, children's author Pat Britz of Vienna and children's author and illustrator Courtney Pippin-Mathur of Alexandria assist youngsters creating their own dragons. Students plotted personality traits, a plot, and wrote elements of their secret tales in white crayon. Then, their stories "magically" appeared with a brush of water color across the pages.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA TYLER WENKS

NEWS



From left: Zyannah Mallick, Sophia Guagliano, Troop Leader Emann Hamad, Julia Salassi, Dana Hamad, Lizzie Holt, and Erica Weiss. (Not pictured, Caroline Sweeney.)

Girl Scouts Hold Diabetes Awareness Walk

Great Falls Girl Scout Troop 778 held a Diabetes Awareness Walk on April 11 as part of their Silver Award project. They have been working toward this event under the guidance of their Troop Leader, Emann Hamad, for over a year. Erica Weiss, one of the troop's members, has Type 1 Diabetes. The troop decided to focus on diabetes for their silver award in order to learn more about what Erica and others with diabetes cope with every day. The project brought awareness to the disease, which has affected many students in Fairfax County alone. The girls hosted educational games, activities and a one-

mile walk, as well as provided information on diabetes through fact sheets, brochures and booklets, one of which they created to place into care packages for newly diagnosed patients. Each troop member contributed to compiling the booklet about diabetes and to organizing and running the event. Approximately 75 people came out to show their support for the walk on a sunny Saturday, while enjoying live music by Brandon Diaz from Ashburn. The money raised exceeded the troop's goal and will be used to make the care packages, which will be distributed by Inova Fairfax Hospital's endocrinology department.



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CALENDAR

Send announcements to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

FRIDAY/MAY 22

Drop-in Chess and Board Games. 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play chess and assorted board games. All skill levels and ages welcome. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>

Meet the Artist! 12:30-1:30 p.m. Pimmit Hills Senior Center, 7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church. Famed and celebrated in his homeland of China, Pimmit Hills Senior Center's very own Shun Yuan Huan. Join in celebrating his lifetime of achievements and his showcase of incredible artistry. 703-734-3338. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs.

SATURDAY/MAY 23

Colvin's Dance for Everyone. 6:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Colvin Run Community Hall. DJ music mix of contemporary and classic dance music including west coast swing, east coast swing, hustle, latin, country western 2-step, waltz and more. \$12 per person includes optional lesson, dance, soda and snacks. 703-435-5620. EdCottrell@MACP.org.

Wagon Ride - Journey to the Pond. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Frogs, tadpoles and water critters abound in the pond. Journey to see what's hopping, splashing and swimming. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Fee: \$5-\$7.

Wagon Ride to the Poohsticks Bridge. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Journey through the woods to Poohsticks bridge. Listen to Winnie the Pooh's story and play Poohsticks on the bridge. Fee: \$5-\$7.

Cars & Coffee. 6-9 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. A gathering of antique, custom, hotrods, exotic and sports car.

Legos in the Library. 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Be creative with legos. Legos provided. Age 5-12. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

FRIDAY-MONDAY/MAY 23-25

Viva! Vienna! Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Monday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. 124 Park Street, SE, Vienna. Vienna's largest festival returns to the historic Church Street corridor for three days of family fun, including carnival rides, diverse food, live entertainment for children and adults and more than 300 vendors selling crafts, services, jewelry, children's toys and books, novelties. Admission to the festival is free, rides are not. www.vivavienna.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 24

Patowmack Canal Walk. Great Falls National Park, 9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. 2-3 p.m. Few people envision George Washington as an entrepreneur of a canal system on the Potomac River and westward expansion. Explore the Patowmack Canal with a Ranger to discover the history of Great Falls in the late 1700s. Easy 1/2 mile hike round trip. Meet in the Visitor Center.

2015 Summer Blast Off. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. "The President's Own" United States Marine Band will launch Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts' summer season with a program of concert band favorites. A fireworks display will follow the concert. Free.



Grammy award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers share their passion for the outdoors through their Americana Folk music. See them perform at McLean's Alden on May 31.

Events Honoring Memorial Day

SATURDAY/MAY 23

Salute the Troops: The Reston Chorale Patriotic Sing-Along. 2 p.m. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. The Reston Chorale will be saluting America's troops and honoring those who serve with a patriotic sing-along. The Reston Chorale is also collecting items for care packages to send to troops deployed overseas. Attendees are encouraged to bring donations of items such as single-serve snacks; powdered drink mixes; non-aerosol, unscented toiletries; paperback books and magazines; hand-held games (and non-lithium batteries), and playing cards. www.restonchorale.org. 703-834-0079.

SUNDAY/MAY 24

Annual Memorial Day Concert. 5 p.m. St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The National Men's Chorus will present their annual Memorial Day concert. Patriotic songs will be played. Tickets: \$20 at the door. www.nationalmenschorus.org.

MONDAY/MAY 25

Great Falls Annual Freedom Memorial Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. Freedom Memorial behind Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The event will include a Taps bugler, patriotic songs by the St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church Family Choir/Ensemble, remarks by retired Marine Corps Lieutenant General Arthur C. Blades, a reading of the names and bell-ringing for each of the 25 residents of Great Falls who have fallen in service to our country, a wreath-laying by local dignitaries, and a raising of the flags by Boy Scout Troop 55. The proceedings will conclude with the dedication of a white oak tree to the memory of the founder of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, the late retired Marine Corps Colonel Pete Hilgartner.

Memorial Day Observance. 10 a.m. Chestnut Grove Cemetery, 831 Dranesville Road, Herndon. The Herndon Woman's Club has partnered with Chestnut Grove Cemetery to honor Veterans with the placement of dedication wreaths. 703-435-3480.

THURSDAY/MAY 28

Iranian Music and Dancing. Noon. Pimmit Hills Senior Center, 7510 Lisle Avenue, Falls Church. Embrace the aging experience by indulging in this celebration of life and culture. Dance alongside traditional Persian folk dancers, or showcase your own moves. 703-734-3338. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs

Tyson's Thursday Music in the Park Series. 4:30-7:30 p.m. Greensboro Green. Food trucks and live music.

Artists Meet for Coffee. 8:30-10 a.m. Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local artists meet for coffee.

FRIDAY/MAY 29

Playdate Cafe. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and play space for children. Coffee and conversation for grownups. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>

SATURDAY/MAY 30

Silver Line Music & Food Truck Festival. 5 p.m. Lerner Town Square at Tysons II, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons. Admission is free, over 20 food trucks and fun.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-31

Great Falls Artfest on the Green. Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Great Falls Village Green. Great Falls Studios Spring Art Show & Sale under the big tent and a

few little tents, too. A plain air competition and quick draw. With prizes and a reception. Sponsored by Arts of Great Falls. Then, a grand finale "Blues Explosion" to close the weekend and start the always popular season of Concerts on the Green by Celebrate Great Falls. For complete schedule and updates visit <http://www.greatfallsart.org/artfest/>

SUNDAY/MAY 31- AUG. 16

Great Falls Concerts on the Green. Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out on Sundays and listen to some live music. Full schedule list: <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/>.

MONDAY/JUNE 1

Great Falls Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Hidden Creek Golf & Country Club Reston. Join for a morning or afternoon round of golf and support our three Great Falls elementary schools while you are at it. Individual golfers are \$175 and foursomes are \$600. Opportunities for sponsorships available! For more information: www.celebrategreatfalls.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 8

Discovery Time I. 9 a.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Oceans Week Theme-based activities such as games, crafts, special projects and hikes help children discover these wonders of science. Bring snack, lunch and drink daily. An activity fee is due on the first day (\$5 for 4-hr camps).

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CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM-10:30AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

CAPPIES
REVIEW

From left:
John Bucy,
Kirsta
Hackmeier,
Richie Follin,
Jamie
Goodson,
Jessica Taylor,
and Andrew
Wantula.



PHOTO BY BY TRAVIS TAYLOR

Accident or Murder That Changed the Town

Langley High production of "Book of Days."

BY KATIE ANTHONY
OAKTON HIGH SCHOOL

Was it an accident, or was it murder? That is the question that loomed over the heads of the audience members as the small town of Dublin, Mo., came to life in Langley High School's "Book of Days."

Written by Lanford Wilson, the story is about a cheese making factory and the community surrounding it. The community seems peaceful and prosperous until, one day, Walt Bates, the owner of the company, is killed during a tornado storm. However, a growing suspicion overtakes one brave towns person who attempts to expose the truth about what happened to Walt on that fateful night.

Jamie Goodson brought to life Ruth Hoch, or simply Joan of Arc in her community's play. Her strong convictions and slow transformation into the rejected hero of her town were both powerful and heartbreaking to watch. However, much like Joan, she never loses power and her journey is one that few high school actors could portray so convincingly.

Other standouts were Lily Brock as Ginger Reed, a local girl and friend of Ruth, and Vivian Vaeth, as Martha Hoch, Ruth's former hippie mother-in-law. Vaeth often provided comic relief with her extravagant retellings of her days of Woodstock, but was also a constant source of support for her son and his wife. Brock breathed life into the town's sassy aspiring director with "the shortest skirt anyone has ever seen in this church." Her unshakeable confidence and

disregard of others' lack of approval made her one of the most interesting actors to watch. Also tackling a difficult role was John Bucy as Rev. Bobby Groves, the town's misogynistic and two-faced religious leader. Bucy managed to balance the Reverend's seemingly kind and threatening demeanor as he maintained order in the tiny town, a feat that cannot be considered easy.

The host school was under renovations throughout rehearsals and performances, so the production was put on at Hunters Woods Elementary School. The play was performed in a small black box that was connected to a classroom. Though this ensured cramped space for both the actors and audience, there were few technical issues. The actors also had to stay on stage for the duration of the play, but never once broke character.

Though there were some technical aspects that may have been skewed due to the small space, the show generally ran very smoothly. Some of the actors could not be seen when they lay down on the stage; however, several blocks were usually well utilized to keep the actors visible and the scene changes quick. A tornado effect was also created for that one fateful season, and darkness and flashing lights overtook the audience for about 30 seconds along with eerie character narration. Needless to say, many of us were rightfully scared - in a good way.

Though many plays have been written about small towns and the scandals that rock them, there has perhaps never been a high school production of it with this much intensity. In the black box, the audience felt as trapped and tightly squeezed as the actors they were watching, and soon were as invested as the characters. But whether it was an accident or murder, one thing was clear - the town would never be the same.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Senior Center Event to Focus on Growing Up in Great Falls

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) event for June will focus on "Growing Up in the Great Falls Area." Main speakers will be Carol Wesley (Wright) and Carolyn Cornwall (Miller) whose families grew up in Forestville; and Joy Trickett whose families grew up in Colvin Run and Dranesville. Other speakers (many direct descendants) will also be sharing stories and pictures of families that grew up in the Villages of Dranesville, Colvin Run and Forestville. A surprise lunch will include the foods that were enjoyed and farmed

by the people who lived in the area.

The June 2 event will be held at the Colvin Run Community Hall (School House), 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. The program runs 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and includes lunch. A modest contribution is appreciated. The event sponsor is the Great Falls Ecumenical Council, whose mission is to love God and one another. GFEC serves others, worships together, and supports one another spiritually.

Reservations must be made no later than May 29 to Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net or call 703-759-4345. For additional information, visit gfseniors.org. Great Falls Senior Center is partnered with the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services in all ventures and events.

McLean
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Here's What's Happening at MCC

**Jammin' Juniors
Yosi and Eugene**
Wednesday, May 20, 12:30 p.m.
McLean Central Park Gazebo
Free admission

**Concerts at the Alden
Young Soloist Recital**
Sunday, May 24, 3 p.m.
Free admission

**Midday Thrillers
"Gaslight" (1944)**
Wednesday, May 27, 1 p.m.
Free. Reservations are not required.

**Old Firehouse Teen Center
Friday Field Trip
Kings Dominion**
Friday, May 29, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$80/\$70 MCC district residents



**Onstage @ The Alden
Rani Arbo & daisy Mayhem**
Friday, May 29, 8 p.m.
\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

**McLean Kids Performance Series
The Okee Dokee Brothers
"Adventure Songs"**
Sunday, May 31, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



1234 Ingleside Ave.
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711





Weston Simonides (16) and the Langley boys' lacrosse team secured a berth in the regional tournament with a 10-7 victory over Madison in the Conference 6 tournament quarterfinals on May 14.

Langley Boys' Lax Beats Madison, Secures Regional Berth

Despite entering the Conference 6 tournament as the No. 6 seed, the Langley boys' lacrosse team continued its tradition of success in the postseason.

The Saxons secured a berth in the regional tournament with a 10-7 victory over No. 3 Madison in the Conference 6 quarterfinals on May 14 at Madison High School.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Langley appeared in five state finals and won four state championships in the previous six years. The Saxons entered this year's tournament with a 7-7 record, but beat Madison for the second time this season, assuring them of a spot in the region tournament.

Langley faced No. 2 Yorktown in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Saxons are the defending conference champions.

Madison ended its season with a 7-4 record and failed to qualify for the region tournament in consecutive seasons after finishing state runner-up in 2013.

Langley Girls' Lax Advances

The No. 2 seed Langley girls' lacrosse team throttled No. 7 Fairfax 22-2 in the Conference 6 tournament quarterfinals on May 14 at Langley High School.

The victory secured the Saxons a berth in the region tournament.

Langley faced No. 3 McLean in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

The Saxons will compete in the postseason without junior midfielder and JMU commit Halle Duenkel, who suffered a torn ACL during a 19-9 victory over Marshall in the Saxons' final regular-season home game on May 8.

McLean Boys', Girls' Lax Win Tournament Openers

The McLean boys' and girls' lacrosse teams each won in the quarterfinals of their respective Conference 6 tournaments. Each earned a region tournament berth.

The top-seeded boys' team defeated Hayfield 15-1 on May 14.

The Highlanders faced Fairfax in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

The No. 3 girls' team beat South Lakes 11-9. The Highlanders faced No. 2 Langley in the semifinals on Tuesday.

McLean Boys' Soccer Upsets No. 1 W-L

The McLean boys' soccer team, the lowest seed in the Conference 6 tournament, upset No. 1 Washington-Lee in penalty kicks 1-1 (6-5) during the quarterfinals on May 15 in Arlington.

W-L, which finished state runner-up in 2014, entered Friday's match with a 12-0-1 record.

McLean was scheduled to play its conference semifinal match on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

McLean Girls' Soccer Continues Unbeaten Streak

The McLean girls' soccer team defeated Hayfield 6-0 in the Conference 6 tournament quarterfinals on May 15. The victory improved the Highlanders' record to 12-0-2 and secured the team a spot in the region tournament.

McLean faced Washington-Lee in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Cheech McLallen and the Madison boys' lacrosse team ended their 2015 season with a loss to Langley in the Conference 6 tournament quarterfinals on May 14.

Langley Boys' Soccer Qualifies for Regionals

One year after the Langley boys' soccer team squandered a strong regular season by losing in the opening round of the Conference 6 tournament, the Saxons made sure to take care of business.

Langley defeated Yorktown 2-1 on May 15, securing a berth in the region tournament while improving its record to 12-1-1.

Last year, the Saxons went 10-1-2 during the regular season, but ended the year with a loss to McLean in the opening round of the conference tournament. Langley competed in its semifinal match on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Madison Girls' Lax Blows Out Hayfield

In their first matchup in the Conference 6 tournament on May 14, the top-seeded Madison Warhawks defeated No. 8 Hayfield 25-1.

Madison took an early and commanding lead, which allowed for playing time by the entire squad.

Scoring for Madison were Allison Krisko, Shannon Condon, Zoe Dyer, Anya Saponja, Maddie Roberts, Hailey Swaak, Carly Rogers, Lia Cooley, Kierra Sweeney, Caroline Kurtz, Ashley Go and Annabel Bentley. Jacqueline Schultz, Saponja, Andie Battin, Rogers, Cooley, Sweeney, Go and Bentley provided assists. Sigourney Heerink and Ellie Socher shared goalie duties, with Heerink making one save and Socher tallying three.

In the lead-up to tournament action, the Warhawks completed regular season play on May 8 against Thomas Jefferson. The Madison offense fired for 24 goals to the Colonials' 1, capping off the celebrations at Madison's senior night.

Madison faced No. 4 Yorktown in the con-

ference semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Madison Baseball Headed to Regionals

The Madison baseball team thumped Hayfield 21-2 in the Conference 6 tournament quarterfinals on May 15, securing a berth in the region tournament.

The Warhawks, seeded No. 2 in the tournament, were scheduled to face No. 3 South Lakes in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Madison is the defending conference champion.

Madison Softball Beats Fairfax

The Madison softball team closed the regular season with a pair of victories before securing a berth in the region tournament with a 12-2 win over Fairfax in the Conference 6 tournament quarterfinals on May 15.

After losing to McLean, 1-0, on a walk-off home run on May 8, the Warhawks responded with wins over Fairfax (7-1) and Langley (6-0) to close the regular season with a 17-3 record. Madison then defeated Fairfax in the conference tournament.

The Warhawks, seeded No. 2 in the tournament, were scheduled to face No. 3 South Lakes in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Oakton Girls' Soccer Blanks Westfield

The Oakton girls' soccer team shutout Westfield 3-0 in the opening round of the Conference 5 tournament on May 15 and secured a berth in the region tournament.

The Cougars faced Chantilly in the tournament semifinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Parents' Role in Educating about Alcohol and Drugs

Suggestions for talking to teens about staying safe.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Craduation, prom and the summer before heading off to college are some of the highlights of a teen's high school experience. While the season brings landmark events, it can be marred by the consequences of engaging in harmful activities.

Parents can play a pivotal role in keeping teens safe. The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County reports that teens cite their parents as the leading influence for them not to drink, and say that it is not difficult to get alcohol from their family home, older siblings or friends. Initiating a dialogue with teens about the dangers of unsafe behaviors such as drinking and drug use can be daunting for some parents.

"We know that teens who receive consistent messages from their parents about their expectations that their child not use alcohol are much less likely to use," said Diane Eckert, deputy executive director, Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County.

The season brings celebratory activities and less supervision, and therefore more opportunities to take chances, said Eckert. It's critical that parents "sit down with your teens and talk with them about your expectations," she said. "With less structure and more excitement, teens can find themselves taking more risks, so it's important for parents to be involved."

Conversations about safety during activities where teens will have more freedom can be difficult to navigate. "For sure those are hard conversations," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor of Sociology and chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Parents want to be careful not to drown out the fun times that prom and graduation also represent. It's about finding balance. Part of it is about finding ways to talk about the risks without your teen walking away feeling hyper-vulnerable and disempowered."

The dialogue should be factual and non-threatening. "Ask open-ended question about

what is going on at school and with their friends," said Best. "It easier to open those conversations when you're not talking about your child, and you're collecting information about what is going on at school and with their friends." Best is author of "Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture" (2000 Routledge), which was selected for the 2002 American Educational Studies Association Critics' Choice Award.

Difficult conversations are made easier if there is a history of open, honest communication between a parent and child. While parents should make their expectations for their child's behavior clear, Best warns against lecturing or talking down to a teen. "The prom should not be the first time that these conversations occur," she said. "It's really important that kids to be able to express their feelings and have an active role in the conversa-

"... It is about finding ways to talk about the risks without your teen walking away feeling hyper-vulnerable and disempowered."

— Amy L. Best, Ph.D., George Mason University

tion. Trust has to be built into the relationship in order for that to happen."

A concrete plan for ensuring safety should be part of the conversation. "Kids are often in situations where alcohol is being consumed and they may not be the ones consuming it," said Best. "So safe driving arrangements are important."

"The good news is that a lot of kids are opting out of drinking and greater awareness around the potential for sexual assault," said Best. "The message has to be communicated in advance and schools have a role to play in that."

In Arlington, School Resource Officers are collaborating with local high schools to focus on alcohol use prevention and awareness programs now that prom and graduation season is underway. Programs such as "Drive to Stay Alive" and "Prom Promise" are in place to edu-

Tips for Keeping Teens Safe

Help make prom and graduation night safe for teens by following these tips:

- ❖ Do not serve or allow alcohol at any party you are hosting; an adult who provides alcohol to a minor is breaking the law and risking that teen's life.

- ❖ Know where your teenager is attending a party; verify there will be parental supervision, and that it will be alcohol-free.

- ❖ Make it clear to your teen(s) that you do not approve of their drinking alcohol.

- ❖ Report underage drinking parties by calling the Fairfax County Police Department's non-emergency number: 703-691-2131. Your call can be anonymous and may prevent injuries or a fatal car crash.

- ❖ Educate your family on the risks associated with underage drinking and its proven harmful effects on the brain. The legal drinking age is 21, and students who wait until their early 20s to drink are 84 percent less likely to develop an addiction than those who start earlier.

- ❖ Make sure your teen has a plan for the night and that you know what it is.

- ❖ Do not rent hotel rooms for prom-goers.

- ❖ Know who is driving — if it's a limo, check their policy on not allowing any alcohol in the vehicle and driving any teen who clearly has been drinking.

- ❖ Encourage your senior to attend their school's All Night Graduation Celebration.

— UNIFIED PREVENTION COALITION OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

cate students in having a safe and fun prom season. One of the roles of the officers is to provide positive guidance to students "and to act as positive role models both inside and outside the school environment."

Kathy Ely, spokeswoman for Connelly School of the Holy Child, an all-girls school in Potomac, Md., says her school, as well as most schools, have safety plans in place. "We understand the pressures that these girls are under, and work hard to educate them about effects not just now but for their future," she said.

FAITH NOTES

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

The Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna, will be hosting their annual Community Pet blessing on Sunday, May 31, at 2 p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring any pet for a blessing, pet charm and certificate of blessing. For more information go to www.antiochdoc.org or call 703-938-6753. The public is invited and there is no charge.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, is holding Sunday evening worship service in a less formal atmosphere and more intimate setting to help you get ready for the week ahead. Sundays, 6 p.m. Communion offered. No childcare. 703-938-2119 or www.elcvienna.org.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 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.

The Antioch Christian Church offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. www.antiochdoc.org

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

Centering Prayer Group meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

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Pat Kendrick, former Head Women's Volleyball Coach at George Mason University brings over 30 years of coaching to the Patriot Volleyball Camps to be held at the Cassel's Awards Volleyball Courts in Herndon (off of Route 28). The camp schedule is as follows:

July 10-12, Friday through Sunday: High School All Skills #1 (rising 9th through 12th graders), 6-9 pm on Friday, 9 am - 3 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Cost: \$170.

July 25-26, Saturday and Sunday: Elementary/Middle School All Skills (rising 5th through 8th graders), 1 - 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Cost \$140.

August 1-2, Saturday and Sunday: High School All Skills #2 (rising 9th through 12th graders), 9 am - 3 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Cost \$150.

Each camp is discounted \$10 if registered by June 8th. There is also a discount for signing up for both High School Camps. Here's the link for online registration <https://campscui.active.com/orgs/PatriotVolleyballCamp>.

For further information contact Pat Kendrick @ pkendric@gmu.edu.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 3207 Latigo Court, Oakton, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Robert F. Cotton and Sharon S. Cotton, dated April 22, 2005, and recorded April 25, 2005, in Deed Book 17211 at page 476 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax <#0.1_county> County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Wednesday, May 27, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Lot 62A, Section 2, Vale Park West Subdivision, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 5647 at page 294, among the Land Records of Fairfax <#0.1_county> County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 3207 Latigo Court <#0.1_propstradd>, Oakton <#0.1_propcity>, Virginia 22124.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$50,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.125 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price. Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any. In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

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21 Announcements

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above establishment is applying
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OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE
CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and
Wine On Premises license to
sell or manufacture alcoholic
beverages. Doris Robinson,
President/CEO.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance
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