

# Great Falls CONNECTION

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GREAT FALLS GRANGE  
NO. 738.

# What's Happening in 2016 in Great Falls?

NEWS, PAGE 3



Members from more than a dozen Great Falls organizations, including Great Falls Citizens Association, are spearheading an effort to make the Great Falls Grange the center of the community, as founding Great Falls farmers envisioned almost a century ago.

## WELLBEING

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PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION  
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## What's Happening in 2016 in Great Falls?

A preview of the issues, events that will mark the new year.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

### Future of Brooks Farm, Jan. 21

Fairfax County Planning Commission staff published its report to recommend approval of the rezoning of Brooks Farm on New Year's Eve.

The planning commission has scheduled a public hearing on Brooks Farm development for Jan. 21.

Great Falls Citizens Association has scheduled a Jan. 19 meeting at Great Falls Elementary School that will include a presentation by the applicant on revisions to their proposal. County staff from the Fairfax County Department of Zoning Evaluation and Health Department will also present their findings and be on hand to answer questions.

"Staff finds that the application is consistent with the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan and conform to the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance," according to Planning Commission staff documents.

Brooks Farm is a 51.97-acre site off Springvale Road, located between Springvale Road and Walker Road and north of Parkerhouse Drive and south of Walker Lake Drive. The applicant, Basheer/Edgemoore-Brooks, requests rezoning from the R-A (Residential-Agriculture) and R-E (Residential Estates) zoning districts to the R-E zoning district to permit a cluster subdivision for 20 single family detached dwelling units.

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.

The potential developer tried to compromise, eliminating three houses from 23 in their cluster development proposal. But Great Falls Citizens Association voted in May for a resolution to oppose rezoning and cluster development of Brooks Farm.

"The GFCA believes the property should be developed as a five-acre subdivision, perhaps in the Residential-Conservation "RC" Zoning Category," according to the resolution.

"Let me be as blunt as I can be," said attorney Gregory A. Riegler, of McGuire Woods who represents Basheer/Edgemoore-Brooks, LLC at a meeting with GFCA. "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."

According to the Planning Commission's report on the proposed rezoning, 41 per-



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

**The county's Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a public hearing on a redevelopment proposal for Brooks Farm, a 52-acre site off Springvale Road on Jan. 21. GFCA is scheduled to hold a meeting on Jan. 19 to hear the developer's changes to its plan. Members of Great Falls Citizens Association line up on May 12, 2015 to vote on the proposal to develop Brooks Farm.**



**Pumping and treatment of the Exxon cleanup will continue this year. A drive-through TD Bank will eventually replace the former station on Georgetown Pike. See [www.gfca.org](http://www.gfca.org).**

cent of the site will be designated as open space.

According to staff reports:

"The 20-lot subdivision will have a proposed density of 0.38 dwelling units per acre. The average lot size will be 59,618 square feet and the lots will range in size from 52,220 square feet (1.19 acres) to 80,280 square feet (1.84 acres).

"Access to the proposed development will be provided by extension of Forest Lake Drive, a public street. An existing farm pond and associated stream and adjoining environmentally sensitive land will be preserved, enhanced and incorporated into the layout of the development."

A horse stabling operation was conducted on the site until 2012.

### Grand Grange Vision

Representatives from a dozen or so Great Falls organizations, coordinated by Jorge Adeler, have met monthly since October to plan making the Great Falls Grange the centerpiece of the community, as founding Great Falls farmers envisioned almost a century ago.

"It's gone through ups and downs, but through all its history it has always been the center of the community. It can become that again," said Phil Pifer, of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

"The potential is extraordinary," said Adeler. "The possible activities for community use, for youth, senior citizens, adults, artists, musicians, nonprofits and the en-

tire community are endless."

The Great Falls Grange was the first grange hall built in Virginia and one of five granges built in Fairfax County, said Kathleen Murphy, president of the Great Falls Historical Society.

Last March, the community celebrated renovations to the 1929 Great Falls Grange Hall building that made it accessible to all.

"For far too long, it was not accessible to our residents with disabilities and to our senior citizens," said Supervisor John Foust, who helped secure \$350,000 for the \$503,000 project from County carry-over funds in 2013. The Fairfax County Park Authority funded the balance.

"A really impressive group of community organizations got together and signed a letter to me basically asking for more access to these facilities," Foust said. "The proposal was that I would get the Grange made ADA accessible and they would come forward with a proposal that community groups would take responsibility for these two buildings."

"If the community groups come together the way I think they might and the way it was initially proposed, I see something more grand here."

### Talk to the General Assembly

The Fairfax County delegation to the Virginia General Assembly will hold a hearing for public comment on the upcoming 2016 session on Saturday, Jan. 9, 2016 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

The Virginia General Assembly will meet for 60 days in Richmond beginning Jan. 12.

Residents who want to sign up in advance to speak at the hearing should contact the Office of the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151, TTY 711, by noon on Friday, Jan. 8.

### Two Town Hall Meetings

Del. Kathleen Murphy is hosting a Great Falls Town Hall on Saturday, Jan. 9 from 1:30-3 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike.

Murphy is hosting a McLean Town Hall with McLean and North Arlington General Assembly Delegation at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean, on Saturday, Jan. 16, from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

### Exxon Cleanup Continues

The Exxon cleanup in Great Falls continues. Despite ongoing efforts to remove the

SEE GREAT FALLS IN 2016. PAGE 4

# Great Falls in 2016

FROM PAGE 3

Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) from the groundwater as a result of the leak from the former Exxon Station at 9901 Georgetown Pike, concentrations of the chemical remain more than 10 times the target level in at least one spot.

Approximately 256 pounds of MTBE have been removed since pumping and treatment began in August 2014, according to the Great Falls Citizens Association.

"We will keep being vigilant until the problem goes away," said Glen Sjoblom, chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association's special committee on groundwater contamination.

## Route 7 Widening

Throughout January, teams from the Virginia Department of Transportation will meet with Amberwoods, Bradley Oaks, Lockmeade, Locust Hill homeowners and Shouse Village homeowners association as well as the Towlston Meadow Community Association about plans to widen Route 7.

VDOT cancelled its two day Public Information and Open House Meeting scheduled for Jan. 8 and 9, but information meetings and hearings are tentatively planned for later in the winter and spring.

The \$265 million project would widen 6.9 miles of Route 7 in 2021, increasing from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive.

VDOT hopes for approval of the design from the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board in the summer of 2016.

Safety accessing the road remains a major concern to neighborhoods along Route 7 corridor.

See [www.ConnectRoute7.org](http://www.ConnectRoute7.org).

## Mental Health, Not Jail?

The county began its new Merrifield Crisis Response Center, a key component of the county's Diversion First initiative, on Jan. 1.

A sheriff's deputy and a police officer will be stationed in CSB Emergency Services, the Merrifield Crisis Response Center, every day from 11:30 a.m. until midnight starting on New Year's Day.

Their primary duty will be to accept custody of individuals brought in to the crisis response center by other police officers and sheriff deputies who have detained an individual for a nonviolent offense but may need mental health treatment rather than incarceration, according to county documents.

This is designed to balance providing appropriate assessment and care for individuals in crisis while allowing those other officers and deputies to go back into service for other duties more quickly.

Interagency and community teams have made progress in developing components of the Diversion First initiative, designed to reduce the number of people with mental illness in local jails by diverting non-violent offenders experiencing mental health crises to treatment instead of incarceration.

Some of the components of Diversion First have already begun, including Crisis Intervention Team training for police officers and sheriff deputies and Mental Health First Aid training for other county first responders.

## Presidential Primaries

The Democratic and Republican Presidential Primary Election Day is scheduled for

Tuesday, March 1.

To participate in the primary, voters must be registered by Monday, Feb. 8.

The Virginia State Board of Elections (SBE) determined by random drawing the order that candidates' names will appear on the ballots for the upcoming presidential primaries.

On Dec. 11, 2015, the Democratic Party of Virginia certified that the following three candidates qualified to appear on the 2016 Democratic Presidential Primary ballot. The names will appear on the 2016 Democratic Presidential Primary ballot as:

- ❖ Hillary Clinton
- ❖ Martin O'Malley
- ❖ Bernie Sanders

On Dec. 15, 2015, the Republican Party of Virginia certified that the following 13 candidates qualified to appear on the 2016 Republican Presidential Primary ballot. The names will appear on the 2016 Republican Presidential Primary ballot as:

- ❖ Marco Rubio
- ❖ Lindsey Graham
- ❖ Ben Carson
- ❖ Rand Paul
- ❖ Mike Huckabee
- ❖ Ted Cruz
- ❖ Donald Trump
- ❖ Jim Gilmore
- ❖ Chris Christie
- ❖ Jeb Bush
- ❖ Rick Santorum
- ❖ John Kasich
- ❖ Carly Fiorina

Absentee voting by mail, fax or e-mail is due by Feb. 23. Voting in person but by an absentee ballot can be done by Feb. 27.

See [elections.virginia.gov](http://elections.virginia.gov).

## Congressional Race

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) is serving her first term in Congress, elected following the retirement of long-time Congressman Frank Wolf.

Comstock is up for reelection in November, and will face Democrat LuAnn Bennett, who describes herself as a small business owner and working mother who has lived in Northern Virginia for more than 30 years.

Virginia Congressional District 10 includes McLean, Great Falls, Herndon, Chantilly, Lorton and some other parts of Fairfax County.

## Noise Ordinance

The Board of Supervisors is at peace with the county's new Noise Ordinance.

"Believe it or not, that passes," said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova at the Nov. 17, 2015 meeting of the Board of Supervisors. The new ordinance becomes effective on Feb. 17.

The Board directed staff to monitor the effectiveness and impact of the new Noise Ordinance for an 18-month period after its enactment.

Some groups advocated for stronger enforcement and stronger details in the legislation, especially in neighborhoods close to county schools and parks. The school system has pledged to ensure that there will be specific technology on loudspeakers at schools to stay within new county code.

The Board delayed the effective date of implementation of the new ordinance to February in order to provide time for staff training, to update county websites, and to assist staff in understanding the new regulations, according to county documents.

The overall goal of the Noise Ordinance is to recognize that there will always be certain levels of noise that occur in the normal course of daily living; to allow certain levels of daytime noise so that people can live, work and play during the day; and to minimize noise at night so residents have an appropriate quiet environment in their homes at night. For more, see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/noiseordinance/>.

# Cedars Luncheons for Great Falls Seniors End After 55 Years

BY COTY DICKSON

Dec. 15 marked the end of an important era for Great Falls seniors. The celebrated and highly-touted monthly luncheon get-together, Cedars, convened for the last time at the Great Falls Methodist Church. Known for its delicious food, interesting presentations and relatively small fee, Cedars was a mainstay with 55 and over seniors living in Great Falls. While located and largely supported by the Great Falls United Methodist Church, it had support from other churches in the Great Falls Area Ministries including Christ the King Lutheran Church and St. Catherine's Catholic Church.

The name Cedars was established in the early 1960s based on a biblical reference coupled with the preponderance of cedar trees in the area at the time. It began with 60-80 participants meeting once a



**Dorothy Harsher, Cedars chef and coordinator**



**Rosie the Riveter with Lois Scott and Terry Murphy.**

month for card games at 10 a.m., followed by a presentation at 11 a.m. with historical, musical or artistic relevance. The luncheon started at noon. For five dollars, seniors were treated to a complete sit-down meal with table service on china tableware. The luncheon always included a soup or salad, an entrée with two vegetables, melt-in-your-mouth hot rolls, dessert and tea or coffee.

For the past thirty years, the major planner, coordinator and chef of the entire lun-

cheon operation has been Dorothy Harsher. Under her stewardship, turkey dinners were always served in November, roast beef dinners with the Southern dessert, coconut cake, were always served in December. Valentine's Day meant special desserts while St Patrick's Day in March always included a menu with Irish stew and corned beef and cabbage. Martha Sullivan would drive from Berryville, Va. to make the warm, fresh rolls. Her duties were later

taken over by Betty Brienza.

In more recent years, the game portion of Cedars was dropped and the presentations that began at 11 a.m. became a major attraction. Whether it was Robert "Mitch" Mitchell playing Christmas carols on the piano in December or a presentation bringing history alive with the story of Rosie the Riveter in November, the audience was always thoroughly entertained.

Participation had fallen off in the past year due to the aging population and the addition of new more vibrant organizations in the community. While it was a wonderful outreach program, a decision was reached that it was no longer a viable operation.

While many seniors will miss the delectable lunches and fascinating entertainment, the fellowship, camaraderie and friendships established by Cedars will be missed the most.

# NEWS

## Veterinary Clinic, Seneca Hill Animal Hospital to Merge

**Mission: first-class pet care in Great Falls.**

BY NIKKI CHESHIRE  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION

**Dr. Randy Custer (left), owner and veterinarian at Georgetown Pike Veterinary Clinic, and John Homan, COO of Seneca Hill Veterinary Company, are preparing for the merger that will occur in the next few weeks.**

The Georgetown Pike Veterinary Clinic is a familiar sight tucked comfortably in the Village, but next month the operation is seeing big changes. Come Feb. 1, the clinic will be merging with Seneca Hill Animal Hospital and relocating to Seneca's facility down the road.

After more than 30 years, there's reason for the change.

"It's timing, for one thing," said Dr. Randy Custer, owner and veterinarian at the Georgetown Pike Veterinary Clinic. "We're outgrowing our space here, and this is a good opportunity to join a group down the road that's like-minded as far as our philosophy in medicine is concerned."

Custer said his clients and their pets will benefit from the larger updated space at Seneca Hill.

"Great Falls itself has grown up. It still maintains a small-town flavor, but it's not the small town that it was 20 years ago," Dr. Custer said. "The clientele is

very sophisticated and interested in getting the best care for their pets. We've always tried to provide that, and will continue to do so."

Both Dr. Custer and John Homan, COO of Seneca Hill Veterinary Company, expect the transition to go smoothly. "We're very like-minded, we practice the same medicine and approach to pet care," Homan said. They don't anticipate a hiatus in service during the move; the clinic in Great Falls will close during the last weekend in January, and business will resume at Seneca Hill on Monday, Feb. 1 as usual.

The rest of the veterinary staff at Georgetown Pike Veterinary Clinic is moving along with Dr. Custer. "It's a change in the home, not the family," said Homan.

"We're excited beyond belief," said Marty Veron of Seneca Hill. "Seneca Hill is a family operation, and we intend to keep it that way. Dr. Custer is just moving his family over to us."

Seneca Hill Animal Hospital is located at 11415 Georgetown Pike.

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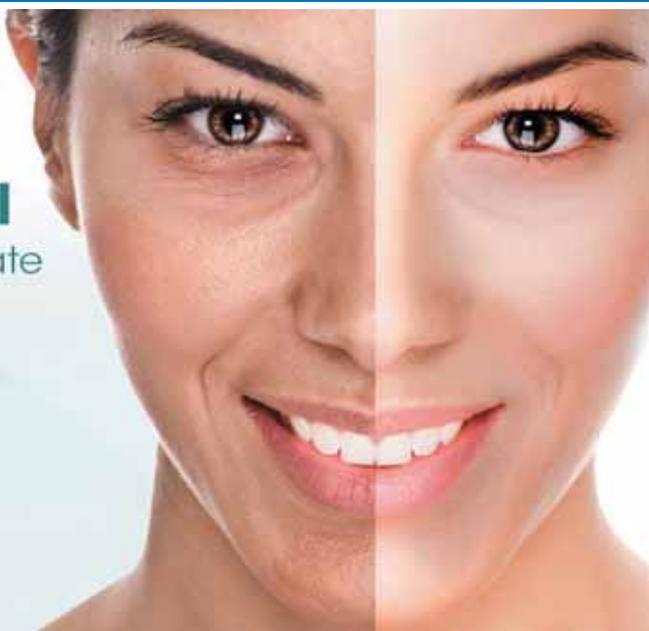
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## New Year's Goals *A few wishes for the Virginia General Assembly, more coming ...*

**E**xpand Medicaid: Expanding Medicaid to cover as many as 400,000 uninsured people in Virginia under the Affordable Care Act would come at virtually no cost to Virginia and would be a massive boost to Virginia's economy. The local and state economy is suffering from the loss of federal spending in other areas, and it's just plain crazy and mean-spirited to deny medical care for people who can't afford it otherwise, and at the same time, turn away an economic stimulus equal to 20,000 or more jobs and a direct infusion of nearly \$2 billion a year.

❖ **Fund Education:** Localities need more help from the Commonwealth to pay for schools.

❖ **Fostering Futures:** Help teens in foster care by extending services and support, including foster care maintenance payments, to qualifying individuals age 18 to 21 years. The money spent will be matched by Federal dollars, and every dollar spent helping former foster children become independent, self-supporting adults saves a bundle in other costs down the line.

EDITORIAL

❖ **Stop Predatory Lending:** The local impacts of predatory lending, including some car title loans, can be devastating to struggling families and individuals who get into the cycle of high interest debt. This is not an issue of just allowing more choice as some have claimed. And when someone loses the vehicle he or she needs to get to work, the costs can extend.

### Early Voting for Presidential Primary Starts Next Week

Every year is an election year in Virginia. Just two months ago, Virginia voters faced ballots for almost every state and local elected officials. While candidates spent millions of dollars and not very much changed, some critical races in Virginia have been decided by a fraction of one percent of votes cast.

Elections have had significant consequences here, and the coming election is likely to be in that category.

Early voting (absentee voting in person) for U.S. Presidential Primaries starts Jan. 15, really, starting in just a little more than a week. The official primary date is March 1, but there is no reason to wait until then to vote.

Voters in Virginia don't register by party, but can only vote in either the Democratic or Republican primary. To vote in the Republican primary, each voter will need to sign a form asserting that he or she is in fact a Republican.

Democrats will choose between Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley and Bernie Sanders (in that order).

Republicans will choose among 13 candidates who will be listed in the following order: Marco Rubio, Lindsey Graham, Ben Carson, Rand Paul, Mike Huckabee, Ted Cruz, Donald Trump, Jim Gilmore, Chris Christie, Jeb Bush, Rick Santorum, John Kasich and Carly Fiorina.

For details on absentee voting in Fairfax County, see [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm).

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## A Workable Solution for I-66

BY DAVE MARSDEN  
STATE SENATOR (D-37)

**T**here was a great deal of concern about "\$17 tolls" inside the beltway on I-66 during the recent election. I shared those concerns as I did not want to set a precedent of tolling a road that we were not adding infrastructure to. As you know solo drivers cannot use I-66 during rush hour and must wait until 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. to access the road depending on the direction of travel. While I still have concerns over the tolls, the agreement between the Commonwealth and the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission provides new insight on how this project will work.

I feel better about the tolling as the average toll will cost \$6 and part of the revenue collected will be spent on multimodal (transit) options to improve thru-put on this extraordinary congested highway and will in the future be used to widen the road eastbound. At its December meeting the Commonwealth Transportation Board received a presentation on the congestion benefits of this proposal using the Northern Virginia congestion rating process I helped put in place with Del. Jim LeMunyon (HB 599 and SB 531). The rating process shows that the Governor's proposal will eliminate 26,000 person hours of delay a day in the future. Of all the proposals considered, including a plan that only adds lanes to I-66 inside the beltway, the Governor's plan to improve multimodal options by far reduces the most congestion. If we can reduce the need for up to a lane of traffic through transit enhancements that will include carpooling, buses, improved van pools, and areas for riders to negotiate shared vehicles (slugging) then the Governor's idea appears to have merit. The same congestion analysis showed that simply widening I-66 eastbound without the transit improvements and conversion to dynamic tolling would only reduce 6,000 person hour of delay a day — about 20 percent of the benefits compared to the current plan.

Due to growth in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor and the Coleman decision, a 1977 Federal Department of Transportation decision that gave Arlington County more control over options on I-66, I-66 will never be an easy journey. Arlington has now made concessions for the I-66 project and for the expansion of express lanes from Edsall Road in Springfield/Alexandria to Washington D.C. on I-395. This is welcome progress though not a panacea or these congested roadways. While perfect solutions may not exist, progress is essential and making progress on multi-modal/transit options as well as Express lane extensions and additional lanes are welcome news that will keep us moving forward.

In an ideal world we would have a different solution to I-66. However, the decisions in the past like HOV requirements and taxing gasoline on a wholesale basis limit the choices we have today. Given the current constraints faced in this corridor the Administration's plan offers the best opportunity to improve travel for commuters.

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

#### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 6

**Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce Brand Launch.** 8:30-10 a.m. Silverline Center Atrium, 7900 Westpark Drive, Tysons. Meet staff and members of the board of directors. Hear plans for future collaboration. Learn about upcoming meetings and events where businesses can get involved. Call 703-749-0400 for registration information.

#### JAN. 7, 12

**ESL Registration.** 7-8 p.m. St. Mark Catholic Church, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. Classes begin Jan. 19 and ends March 17. Classes held Tuesdays and Thursdays. \$25 for English

classes, \$10 for conversation, writing, citizenship and workshop. Textbook cost extra. Cash only. 703-502-9433.

#### THURSDAY/JAN. 14

**Roadmap to Our Region's Economic Future.** 7:15-11:30 a.m. The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Stephen Fuller's presentation of the Roadmap, an industry-diverse panel of business leaders, and a keynote speaker. The discussion will center on how the Washington regional economy can be re-positioned to remain competitive and grow in a national and global marketplace. \$100, \$120. Registration required. [www.fairfaxchamber.org](http://www.fairfaxchamber.org).

#### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

**Fairfax Commission on Aging.** Noon. Oakton Regional Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm). 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

**McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Monthly Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. Ristorante Bonaroti, 428 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Eileen O'Grady, a nurse practitioner and wellness coach, will speak about the Science of Flourishing. \$29. For further information on the club, visit

[www.McleanNewcomers.org](http://www.McleanNewcomers.org). RSVP Ann Skelly at [mfskelly@verizon.net](mailto:mfskelly@verizon.net) by Jan. 13. Prospective members invited.

#### TUESDAY/JAN. 26

**Fairfax 50+ Community Ambassador Program.** 9:30 a.m.-noon. Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkways, Suite 206, Fairfax. This volunteer program trains members of Fairfax County community organizations to help link their fellow members to the county's services for older adults and caregivers. Contact Mena Nakhla at 703-324-5859 or by email at [Mena.Nakhla@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Mena.Nakhla@fairfaxcounty.gov) by Wednesday, Jan. 20.

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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.

## Ongoing

**Pigments of My Imagination.** Jan. 4-March 31. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Long time Great Falls resident Donna Barnako, has created over a dozen colorful and whimsical small works. Her subjects are varied, from pigs to puppies and cowboy boots.

**Weekly Storytime.** Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

**Tai Chi Beginners' Practice.** Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. [FreeTaiChi.org](http://FreeTaiChi.org). 703-759-9141.

### MONDAY-THURSDAY/JAN. 4-7

**The Band Battle - Prelims.** 7 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Come join for some rock music and featured artists. \$10-\$15. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 10

**Concerts at the Alden.** 3 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. This free classical music series, now in its 40th season, features professional musicians who have won international recognition for their artistry. The series also includes Young Soloists Recitals that showcase the talents of local school-age musicians. Free. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

**"Nature's Treasures" Reception and Awards.** 1-3 p.m. Green Spring Gardens Park, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Reception for Vienna Arts Society 2015/16 Art Show. Juror Caroly Grosse Gawarecki. Free. 703-642-5173.

### MONDAY-TUESDAY/JAN. 11-12

**Spring Kids' Show Auditions.** 7-8:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. "Sideways Stories From Wayside School" is a delightfully demented comedy about the strangest school ever built, where the students battle supernatural teachers and endure madcap lessons. The play is adapted by John Olive from the best-selling series of novels by Louis Sachar, the Newberry Award-winning author of "Holes." To reserve an audition time, contact

[kathleen.herr@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:kathleen.herr@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

**Mary Pickford's "Sparrows" (1926).** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Produced by and starring Mary Pickford, this mature silent film has been described as "Dickensian" and "equal parts Gothic thriller and sentimental melodrama." Tickets: \$12/\$8 MCC tax district residents. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

**Westminster Choir Concert.** 7:30-10 p.m. St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Music in McLean presents a special concert featuring one of America's most renowned choral ensembles, Westminster Choir of Rider University. [musicinmclean.org](http://musicinmclean.org). 703-356-0670.

### WEDNESDAYS/STARTING JAN. 13.

**Nature Detectives.** 1 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. During this naturalist-led class, children and parents get the opportunity to explore the natural world through hikes, stories, songs, crafts and other hands-on activities. Additional supply fee payable to instructor at first class. Ages 3 to 5. \$66/\$81 for six classes. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 15

**5th and 6th Grader Parties - Winter Wonderland.** 7-9 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Hosted by The Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC), come enjoy the parties include music, dancing, games, snacks, videos and more! Tickets: \$35/\$25 MCC district residents. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

**Family Fun Bingo.** 7-8:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Vertical, horizontal, diagonal or picture frame—whatever your strategy, join us for this family fun-filled evening of Bingo! Win great kid-friendly prizes, play guessing games, enjoy light refreshments and more. Fees: \$10/\$5 MCC district residents; Free for children up to 36 months old. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 16

**Barter Theatre's "A Wrinkle in Time."** 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Come join for John Gore's delightful, wildly theatrical adaptation that

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE II

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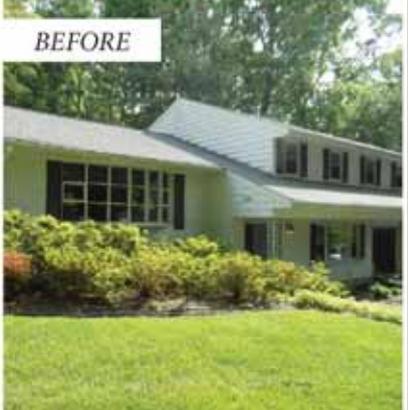
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## SPORTS

# Langley Girls' Basketball Beats West Springfield

Saxons win nine of first 10 games.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Langley girls' basketball team suffered its first loss of the season during the Boo Williams holiday tournament in Hampton, but the Saxons responded by avenging the loss that ended their 2014-15 campaign.

Langley concluded its appearance at the three-day event with a 41-37 win over West Springfield on Dec. 30, improving its record to 9-1. The Spartans defeated the Saxons in last year's regional quarterfinals, putting an end to Langley's season, which included 21 victories and a runner-up finish in Conference 6.

Langley's seven-game win streak to open the 2015-16 season ended with a 45-38 loss to Lake Taylor on Dec. 28 at the Boo Williams tournament, but the Saxons bounced back with wins over Henrico (58-36, Dec. 29) and West Springfield.

"We played pretty tough during the Boo Williams tournament," Langley head coach Amanda Baker wrote in an email. "After losing our first game to Lake Taylor we did a good job staying mentally sharp and bouncing back to win the next two games."



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Head coach Amanda Baker, seen last season, and the Langley girls' basketball team entered 2016 with a 9-1 record.**

Senior guard Paige Galiani, who surpassed 1,000 career points this season, is averaging 19 per contest. After 10 games, she was 14 points shy of setting the school record for career scoring.

Senior guard Lizzy Shamloo and sophomore guard Jordyn Callaghan averaged more than 8 points per contest through 10 games. Junior guard Ari Aulisi, who has been out the last seven games, is expected back this week.

Langley opened the 2016 portion of its schedule with a game against Hayfield on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Saxons will host McLean at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8.

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

### Langley to host McLean for Basketball Doubleheader

The Langley girls' and boys' basketball teams will host rival McLean for a doubleheader on Friday, Jan. 8.

The girls' game is scheduled to tip off at 5:45 p.m. and the boys' game will follow.

The Langley boys' team finished 2015 with a 6-4 record after suffering back-to-back losses at Lake Braddock's Glory Days Grill Tournament of Champions. McLean was 1-9, including a nine-game losing streak.

### Oakton Girls' Basketball Enters 2016 Undefeated

The Oakton girls' basketball team wrapped up the 2015 portion of its schedule with an 11-0 record.

The Cougars won their holiday tournament Dec. 28-30, beating Hayfield (70-49), South Lakes (73-52) and Patriot (70-49). Oakton won each of its first 11 games by at least 12 points.

The Cougars entered 2016 with a game against Stone Bridge on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Oakton will travel to face Herndon at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8.

### Madison Girls' Basketball Competes at Bulldog Bash

The Madison girls' basketball team won two of its three games at the Bulldog Bash holiday tournament at Westfield High School Dec. 28-30 and ended 2015 with a 6-4 record.

The Warhawks lost to Battlefield 60-48 at the Bulldog Bash and defeated Centreville (45-33) and Yorktown (51-39).

Madison faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Warhawks will host Washington-Lee at 7:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 8.

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# WELLBEING

**Inova CEO J. Knox Singleton (from left), Gov. Terry McAuliffe, and George Mason University president Ángel Cabrera at a news conference announcing a strategic partnership between Inova and George Mason University.**



PHOTO BY LEVI MAGYAR

## Mason, Inova to Collaborate on Personalized Medicine Research

**Partnership expected to develop treatments, grow economy.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Researchers and doctors from George Mason University and Inova Health System will collaborate on a series of personalized medicine research projects under a new partnership between the two institutions. The effort will include joint research on heart disease, cancer and metabolic diseases.

In announcing the agreement late last month, Gov. Terry McAuliffe said that the joint research effort, “will spur opportunities for entrepreneurship, create new companies and generate jobs that will grow our economy and help us prosper.”

Under the agreement, the institutions will share facilities at both the Inova Center for Personalized Health in Merrifield and at Mason’s Science and Technology Campus in Manassas. The partnership calls for the establishment of Inova-Mason Proteomics Center at the Inova Center for Personalized Health campus and Mason-Inova Institute for Personalized Medicine Public Policy and Ethics, which will address public policy and ethical issues related to personalized medicine.

The partnership gives Inova researchers access to Mason’s animal facility where they will be able to test new drugs. Inova CEO J. Knox Singleton, calls

the partnership an investment in “research and development to help keep healthy people healthy and provide precise, effective and personalized treatment to patients we are privileged to serve.”

Inova will contribute \$2.5 million in funding and will work with Mason to raise additional money for the project over the next five years.

A joint steering board made up of key administrators from both Mason and Inova will run the venture. The partnership will establish a joint fellowship board to recruit researchers from around the world.

Mason will also begin offering a graduate certificate program in personalized medicine, which Mason president Ángel Cabrera, says underscores the university’s commitment to “delivering research of consequence that improves lives, drives economic growth and helps solve the most complex problems of our time.”

Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, said, “It is important that two of Fairfax County’s major institutions and economic development assets are formalizing a collaborative relationship today around personalized medicine. Separately Inova and George Mason have strong research capabilities for personalized health but, working together, they will multiply the research and discovery capacities at both which will, in turn, only improve the economic development potential for this burgeoning industry and increase the possibility of spinning out companies and creating high-paying jobs that will improve the general health and well-being. The job creation aspect is important as well because it will further diversify Fairfax County’s economic base.”

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## Upon Further Reflection



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm not a look-in-the-mirror kind of person. Other than in the morning when I wash up, brush my teeth, shave and get ready for the day, I spend very little time reflecting on my appearance. In fact, during the early days of my cancer treatment when I was infused with a chemotherapy cocktail for six non-stop hours every three weeks – I lost all my hair, as forewarned; I have no recollection of what I looked like without any hair on my head. Presumably, every morning when I prepped for the day, I would have seen what I was doing and watched how it was done; yet there is no image, still or otherwise, in my mind of how I appeared to others.

Seven years of continuous treatment later, when I look in the mirror now (I have a full head of hair and a growing stubble, like most men), I can't evaluate what I see. Do I look sick? Or do I look as I should for a middle-aged man aging gracefully? Not that I need to look good to feel good ("and you know who you are"), any more than I need to "look mahvelous," but the cumulative effects of chemotherapy and the inevitable signs of aging have blurred (no pun intended; I can see perfectly well) my objectivity. So much so that on any given day, what I see is what I get and I'm happy to have gotten it, subjectively speaking. Ergo, looking in the mirror more often than not serves no appreciable benefit – to me, since I know what I see, or rather, don't know how to evaluate what it is I do see.

Then along comes the holidays, when many social gatherings are planned where in addition to food and drink, face-to-face interactions occur with many people you see regularly and some you know but rarely see. It is the observations and comments from these rarely-seen persons, persons with whom you are familiar – and who are familiar with you and your "underlying diagnosis," as I call my cancer, that are the genesis of this column.

I am happy and amazed, and incredibly flattered even to say that the feedback I received was uniformly positive and extremely encouraging; and if I had to bet a nickel, I'd say their comments were all sincere and honest. And since I don't want to look for trouble (since trouble has already found me), I am going to take their words at face value (again, no pun intended). And in thanking them graciously, reconsider yet again how fortunate I am to be receiving such compliments, nearly seven years in and nearly five years past, the end date (pun intended) of my original "13 month to two year" prognosis, words which I first heard from my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting held on February 27, 2009 (Oh, yeah, you remember that date, forever).

Unfortunately, there is a bit of a cynic in me, so I still question the validity of words people sometimes say not necessarily to the wise. Moreover, I still am not convinced that looking good is more important than feeling good (with apologies to a Billy Crystal sketch mimicking Fernando Lamas back in the day on Saturday Night Live). Nor am I at all sure that looking good is an accurate description of what effect my stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer is having on me and my mediastinum.

As much as I'd like to believe that form follows function and that looking good is a clear indicator of one who is not only feeling good, but doing well (cancer-wise), I'm still wondering what it is that sets me apart from many other similarly diagnosed patients who have succumbed to this terrible – and mostly terminal – disease. I never thought it was, or would be, my looks. And given that there hasn't been that much with which to work, maybe not focusing on my appearance all the time has helped? Apparently, it hasn't hurt.

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

## COMMUNITY

### Contributing to Community Life

The Canto Group, a real estate team with Keller Williams, has been in business for the past 13 years and is a strong supporter of community initiatives and events within Great Falls, including their continuous support of Celebrate Great Falls. Last summer, they contributed to another successful season of Concerts on the Green, hosting a highly attended concert featuring Diamond Alley. The Group has built a reputation of offering "boutique" style real estate services to



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The Canto Group's Glynis and Kevin Canto and their team support numerous community initiatives, including sponsoring Concerts on the Green.**

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### St. Francis Creche Preschool Holds Christmas Pageant

**From left, Odalis Ayala, Lauren Riihimaki and Ponteha Aryavand ring bells during St. Francis Creche Preschool's annual Christmas pageant on Saturday, Dec. 16 in Great Falls.**

**From left, Bennett Moline, Lauren O'Quinn and Johnathan McMahon beat on drums during St. Francis Creche Preschool's annual Christmas pageant on Saturday, Dec. 16 in Great Falls.**



**Kathryn Rafferty as Mary and Taylor Murphy (center) as Joseph, with the St. Francis Creche Singers.**



**Angels Holding babies (from left) - Charlotte Burns, Owen Moline and Sophia Kouretas.**

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

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### SUNDAY/JAN. 17

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration: Peggy Wallace Kennedy.** 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Peggy Wallace Kennedy now stands apart from her past as one of America's most important voices for peace and reconciliation. Come hear about Peggy's personal journey, who is a civil-rights activist. Fees: \$20/\$10 MCC tax district residents. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 21

**"Brush Up Your Shakespeare."** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Experts from the Shakespeare Theatre, American Shakespeare Center and the Folger Shakespeare Library are back to give you a guided tour of the world of Shakespeare in preparation for American Shakespeare Center on Tour's Shakespeare Weekend at The Alden. Tickets: \$6/\$3 MCC district residents; free with the three-play ASC weekend package. Single tickets available at the box office only. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

### FRIDAY/JAN. 22

**American Shakespeare Center on Tour's**

**Shakespeare Weekend at The Alden: "Julius Caesar."** 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Shakespeare shows us a world on fire; a world turned upside down; a world where some of history's most famous men commit horrific crimes in the name of patriotism and honor. \$20-\$35 (three plays for \$50-\$88). <http://www.mcleancenter.org/> or 703-790-0123.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 22-24

**Henry IV, Part 1.** Friday-Saturday, 8 p.m. Sunday, 4 p.m. Green Hedges School, 415 Windover Ave., Vienna. The Britches and Hose Shakespeare Company production. The Britches and Hose Shakespeare Company is a gender-blind theater group. \$10. <http://www.britchesandhoseshakespearecompany.com/>



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