

## 'Starz!: A Midsummer Night's Frolic'

NEWS, PAGE 4

Liz Fallon of  
St. Louis and  
Margaret  
Berkowitz of  
McLean perform  
in "Starz!: A  
Midsummer  
Night's Frolic" as  
part of the  
Cappies in  
McLean.



## Another Delay for Rail

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## Mosque Tries To Relocate

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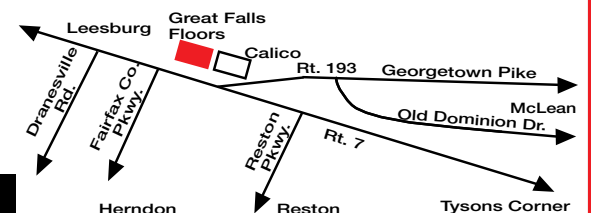
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## Another Delay For Rail

Sierra Club sees tunnel winning congressional support.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK  
THE CONNECTION

**T**wo Northern Virginia chapters of the Sierra Club and organized backers of an underground Dulles Rail connection Monday, July 28, asked the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to urge the Federal Transit Administration to take a second look at cost of tunnel construction and correct alleged flaws in the bidding process.

The letter to Gerry Connolly comes only five days after a new delay in the Dulles Rail Project was announced by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. Last Wednesday, the MWAA said that in order to meet all the steps mandated by the FTA, the board decided to delay the beginning of the rail project until March 2009 at the earliest which, in turn, the WMAA said, would increase the cost by \$54 million. This would bring the cost to \$1.63 billion, the WMAA said. But that figure only represents actual construction costs and the total outlay will be something near \$6 billion for the 11-mile rail connection to Dulles International Airport. The cost is up nearly \$2 billion from the \$4.2 billion estimated in 2006.

According to transportation experts, communities across the country have been watching the Dulles Rail Project as they consider urban rail projects.

The rail connection from West Falls Church to Dulles International Airport was to begin in February 2008 and be completed by 2012. Now its completion is anticipated by July 2013.

The latest delay in the history of the rail project has sparked new comment from all quarters.

The two Sierra Clubs represent Northern Virginia. They said their members are convinced that a tunnel- underground construction in the Tysons Corner-area would be far less devastating to the environment.

They have been joined by Scott Monet of TysonsTunnel.Org.

Tunnel backers held a fund-raiser in Vienna Monday evening where members of the Board of Supervisors and the state legislature were expected to attend.

These groups want the Board of Supervi

SEE RAIL TUNNEL, PAGE 15



From left, Gary Reid, Prakash and Rekha Nadkarni, and Susan Bartram sit in the Nadkarni's living room, where lighting is low and air conditioning is used sparingly.

## Learning To Be Cool

McLean Hunt Estates is county's first "Cool Neighborhood."

BY MIKE DiCICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**A** year after Fairfax County declared its goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by the year 2050, Rekha Nadkarni has made her neighborhood, McLean Hunt Estates, the first community in the county to be an official part of that effort.

Nadkarni was one of a group of residents who worked with the county and the Sierra Club to create the Cool Neighborhoods program to complement the Cool Counties initiative that was signed last July. The idea, she said, was to generate awareness and open the door for individual citizens to join the county's effort to fight global warming.

To qualify as a Cool Neighborhood, at least 20 percent of the community's households must either reduce their carbon emissions by 2 percent annually or have a carbon footprint 80 percent or less of the county average for homes with the same number of people. About 23 of McLean Hunt Estates' 60 households expressed interest in the program, and about 15 have submitted the paperwork.

"We wanted to have an impact on the larger community, perhaps by setting an example here," said McLean Hunt Estates Citizens Association President Susan Bartram.

The households participating calculated the amounts of various resources, such as water, gasoline and electricity,

they were using and will be reevaluated a year after they submitted their forms.

**A GRAPH** was circulated, depicting each home's use of resources without telling which house was whose, which neighbor Gary Reid said provided some incentive to make changes, since residents could see how they stacked up against each other. "We guzzled tons of water because we had a leaky pool," he said. The pool has since been fixed.

The Nadkarni, Reid and Bartram households all qualified for the program by coming in at least 20 percent below the county average, but they are still working to drop that number further. "We'd done a lot of this stuff before this program, so we're sort of scrambling for ideas," Bartram said of her family.

Her family already combined driving errands and had cut back on indoor climate control. The thermostats in her house are on timers that keep the temperature at about 80 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and cool it down at night. When she had her siding replaced years ago, she had insulation installed under the new siding. She'd also had her windows replaced with models that allow less heat transfer, put insulation in the attic and installed an attic fan "to pull the heat out so it doesn't sit there like an electric blanket over the house." She said her family had recently started turning off the computer and planned to get an energy-efficient Energy Star refrigerator whenever they replace the current unit.

Initially, she said, "a lot of the things we did were strictly self-serving."

"Saving energy is saving money," said Nadkarni. She recommended minimizing waste by sealing and caulking windows

SEE BE COOL, PAGE 15

## Mosque Tries To Re-Locate

Islamic Heritage Center proposal raises doubts in county staff and would-be neighbors.

BY MIKE DiCICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Islamic Heritage Center in Vienna bought a parcel in Great Falls more than two years ago but continues to have difficulty making the site its home. The mosque currently operates out of a storefront in the Cedar Lane Shopping Center and worships at the Dunn Loring Fire Station.

**THE GROUP'S** special use application for the two-acre site was scheduled for a public hearing before the county's Board of Zoning Appeals yesterday, July 29, but the hearing was deferred to Sept. 30. It was not the first time the hearing had been postponed. The center has had a hard time convincing both its would-be neighbors and the county that the parcel on Route 7, just east of Springvale Road, is a suitable site for a place of worship.

It bought the land before beginning the zoning process and without any contingency on the application for its proposed use being accepted.

Attorney John McBride, who has been contracted by the Heritage Center, said the hearing had been postponed largely because the county's staff report, which recommended that the application be denied, appeared not to be up-to-date. "We really didn't have any choice," he said, adding that the deferral would also give the group time to make some changes to the application to address the concerns that were voiced by neighbors of the site and the Great Falls Citizens Association's (GFCA) Land Use and Zoning Committee at the committee's

SEE MOSQUE MOVES, PAGE 16

"A building is the absolute best sound buffer."

— Wayne Foley, GFCA



# The Joy of Cappies

“Starz!: A Midsummer Night’s Frolic” performed in McLean

BY NOAH MARTIN  
THE CONNECTION

**F**ounded by William Straus and Judy Bowns, The Cappies International Theatre offers a program to recognize the talent and cultural importance of high school drama departments. There are more than 50 schools that participate each year. Each school has student critics that critique other schools’ performances. After the shows have all been reviewed, more than 300 critics will meet; nominate performers, technical crew, writers, and critics; and vote for the recipients of the Cappie Awards. There are 42 awards given out each year.

**THE CAPPIES** International Theatre initially included only schools within the D.C. metropolitan area. With passing years though, it has expanded to encompass schools across the United States and Canada. Each region hosts its own Cappies Awards’ Gala. The winners of those competitions are invited to participate in productions comprised of other winners across North America. Families of local Cappie Award recipients host the traveling actors.

This year, one Cappies troupe of 23 actors and four technicians performed “Starz!: A Midsummer Night’s Frolic” on Sunday, July 27 at McLean High School and Monday, July 28 at the Alden Theatre in the McLean Community Center.

I had the privilege of attending a dress rehearsal and speaking with the actors about their Cappies’ experience. One is never quite sure what to expect as a stranger when walking into an acting troupe that has been rehearsing for weeks and has sequestered themselves from the other responsibilities of reality in order to fully enter the world of their drama. What I found at McLean High School was talent, enthusiasm, and a genuine feeling of camaraderie — a feeling that quickly develops when people work in close proximity for extended periods of time. It was the day before the premiere of STARZ and yet the actors seemed relaxed and playful — even under the stress of last-minute additions and changes to the performance.

When I initially approached the actors lounging on their lunch break and announced that I was a reporter there to interview and observe them, I was immediately bombarded with a cry of, “Don’t tell him anything. Those blasted reporters will twist everything you say, take it out of context, and make you sound like an idiot.”

“Here we go,” I thought.

It had been a joke aside from actor Chris Weschler but representative of the joviality particular to this group of performers.

Kim Ness, a rising senior from Edison



**Hanna Spear (Edmonton), Kimberly Ness (Alexandria).**

High School, had no problem plopping herself down next to me in the hall way/lunch corridor to discuss her participation in the Cappies’ production. “It was great right from the very beginning. It’s like nothing that any of us have ever done before. Getting together with people we have never met in a place we have never been and being part of something so big,” she said. When asked about the difficulty of working with strangers she replied, “Well, we are all so out there that we get along really well ... we are all so different but we all click so well.” “The people,” she said, “have been my favorite part of the whole experience ...”

“**THAT’S WHAT** she said,” said an unsolicited commentator from down the hall.

Introducing himself as the token Canadian, Rob Lippe-Lineker approached me to discuss his road to the Cappies, a road that had brought him all the way from Edmonton, AB — over 2,300 miles. Rob had won best lead actor in a performance for his role as George Gibbs in the play “Our Town.” Before he could say much however, Rob was drowned out by the sound of Jacob Zumoff, a Cappies award winner from Philadelphia, tuning his voice (at least I think that is what he was doing). “Meeting everyone has been my favorite experience and hanging out after our rehearsals, especially when we went to “The Dark Knight” said Rob. “Heath Ledger’s performance was incredible. He didn’t act the character, he was the character.”

“That’s what she said.” Again, from someone, somewhere.

Katie Ryerson, traveling from Ottawa, ON, and Cappies winner for best lead actress in a musical, said, “All the people came together like pieces of a puzzle and just fit together.” The culture shock of accents and mannerism differences only took a few days to get over, said Katie, but what she was most shocked by was the food proportions in restaurants. “We all went to Chipotle one



**Sarah Schwartz (Manassas), Max Lebeuf (Edmonton), Tim O’Brien (Philadelphia), Justin Reekie (Ottawa), and Rob Lineker (Edmonton).**

night and the burritos were like small children. I took pictures so that my friends back at home would believe me.” When asked about the oft repeated and ever present phrase “that’s what she said” Katie simply tilted her head back, laughed, and replied, “that’s like our theme song. Its pretty much every second sentence.” To which a passing actor whispered, “That’s what she said.”

After speaking with Katie I made my way backstage to see the actors in their element. Margaret Berkowitz, McLean resident and youngest Cappies performer in the history of the program, sat quietly while awaiting her stage entrance. She had been chosen for the program at the age of 14 and had just turned 15 three days before the start of rehearsals. “I fell in love with the theatre when I was 8 years old,” Margaret claimed. Her sisters and brother had all performed in the community theatre and she followed in step.

**MIMI LYNCH**, a rising senior and technical director for the drama department at Robinson Secondary, was responsible for the sound and general technical support for the Starz! production. The last three years, Mimi has been the sound assistant for the Cappies’ Gala. She was in charge of creat-

ing a list of actors, characters, stage entrances, microphone positioning, acrobatics, etc. Her task was to design a schematic with all of the details and give it to the technical staff at the Kennedy Center prior to the show.

Kim Ness hopes to draw upon the experience of the Cappies and take what she has learned into the collegiate theatre. Rob Lippe-Lineker wishes to pursue a career in education while continuing drama as a hobby. Katie Ryerson will attend University for performance acting in Toronto, ON, in the fall. Margaret Berkowitz is optimistic about continuing her musical performance career into college and beyond. Mimi Lynch wants to be a doctor and will keep her involvement in the theatre as a recreation. The troupe will be performing its second production, “Anasazi” (written by co-founder of the Cappies, William Strauss), on Aug. 3 at McLean High School and Aug. 4 at The Kennedy Center Theatre Lab.

What seemed to echo from all the actors — besides, “That’s what she said” — was companionship and potential. Recognized for their talent in the dramatic crafts I am sure that this troupe’s chemistry and enthusiasm will translate into two great productions.

## Athens Meets Michael Jackson

“Starz! A Midsummer Night’s Frolic” combines a narrative border with a heart of song and dance that made for a delightful evening. Opening with Act IV, Scene 2 of a “Midsummer Night’s Dream,” the cabaret quickly deviates from the play’s more traditional route. With a lesson from Hamlet on the do’s and don’ts of acting, a last-minute performance of “Let’s Hear it for the Boy”, and an intrusion of a “Deus Ex Machina” to prevent the tragic fate of Euripides’ Medea, and the nonsensical periodic interruption of an out of place messenger, the performance took great liberties with time, place, costume, and dramatic accuracy — but liberties that worked well to entertain.

The more tragic acting scenes were well balanced with song and comedy to keep the overall mood of the play jovial. The costumes were simple yet effective in immediately describing to the viewer the period in history during the radically shifting time-machine performance. The stage was simply decorated with two white columns wound in ivy and lights but the show’s energy left the audience without want for anything more. Lighting was effectively employed to

keep attention focused on the actors.

Difficult as it may sound, the writing seamlessly sutured the diverse song progression of the run. Songs included an all modern repertoire with pieces such as, “Rich and Famous” from “Senioritis,” “Playa” from “Edit:Undo,” “Stop in the Name of Love,” “Let’s Hear it for the Boy”, and “Thriller”.

Highlights from the show included the unexpected grand finale of Michael Jackson’s “Thriller,” the frighteningly mature performance by the young Margaret Berkowitz, the technical difficulty of an actor playing a bad actor within a play while dressed in drag by Justin Reekie, and the captivating dramatic weight of Hannah Spear’s Medea.

Overall, the show was simple yet enchanting, the actors all proved to have deserved their recognition before traveling to Washington, D.C., and the content mingled well with the cast’s and crew’s chemistry I had previously observed. All around, an achievement the Cappies International Theatre can be proud of.

— NOAH MARTIN

# THE COUNTY LINE

## What's in a Name?

Residents diverge on mailing address changes.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he rejection in Richard Seltzer's voice could be heard loud and clear through the receiver of the telephone July 16.

Seltzer, president of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills, lives in Alexandria. Period. He didn't seem happy to hear other people, like Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, might think otherwise.

"These homes have been here since the late '40s and '50s and they have always been in Alexandria," said Seltzer, whose neighborhood is a mile south of Old Town.

"My personal opinion is I like being part of Alexandria," he said.

**OF COURSE**, Seltzer and his neighbors are not, technically, a part of the City of Alexandria. Hollin Hills is located in Fairfax County, even if it has an Alexandria mailing address.

Many eastern Fairfax residents have Alexandria postal codes, a situation that causes confusion, according to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. During a meeting earlier this month, Hyland floated the idea of contacting the U.S. Postal Service and surveying his "Alexandria" constituents to see if they would like to change their mailing address to something else, like "Mount Vernon, Va."

The Fairfax County board backed Hyland's request, with several supervisors saying they understood his concerns. In addition to Hyland, Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay also live in and represent county residents in the Alexandria area.

Other supervisors said they have similar problems in other communities — like Fairfax, Herndon and Vienna — which share a mailing address with a neighboring town or city.

**BUT THE QUESTION** over mailing addresses is about more than where taxes are sent. It is also about a community's identity.

"I think the Mount Vernon District's identity is lost with the same designation as the City of Alexandria. We are different from the city and a distinction is needed. I would love to see us have a Mount Vernon mailing address instead of Alexandria," said Mack Rhoades, president of the Huntington Community Association, in an email. Most people in Rhoades' community would probably vote for the change, he added.

Many Lee District constituents, who do not live in Mount Vernon, would also like to see a change from the Alexandria mail-

ing address because they don't feel any association with the city, said their supervisor.

"I regularly get complaints about it. ... The 'Alexandria portion of Fairfax County' is a community of its own. ... When we say we live in Alexandria, we want people to know that means Fairfax," said McKay.

Still, the community is divided on the issue. There are other county "Alexandria" residents — especially those in the northeast tip — who are oriented to the City of Alexandria and like to be identified with it.

"When I say we live in Alexandria outside the Beltway, people know exactly where we live," said Seltzer.

Like Hollin Hills, Caulley Deringer's community, Belle Haven, is located right outside of Alexandria. Deringer, who is the president of Belle Haven Citizens Association, said his neighbors would probably be adverse to the change in address as well, though the community has not discussed such a proposal.



**Some think that the Mantua community should have the option of using "Mantua, Va.," as a mailing address.**

**THE ISSUE** of mailing addresses appeared less divisive in areas of Fairfax County like Herndon and Vienna.

Unlike Alexandria, residents in the Town of Herndon and the Town of Vienna are also considered county constituents and are represented by supervisors on the county board. Town citizens in both places are surrounded and outnumbered by their "county only" counterparts who share the same mailing address.

"The town is about 15,000 in population. ... And greater Vienna is about 60,000. We can't support our commercial district by ourselves," said Edythe Kelleher, a Vienna Town council member.

The town opens a lot of its services, including classes at the community center, to Vienna residents living outside the town and some residents are not quite sure whether they live in the town or not, she said.

"People are confused all the time. If they pay a second tax bill, they know they are in the town," said Kelleher.

Many residents of the "county only" portion of Herndon said they would be opposed to having their mailing address changed.

Occasionally, new residents of the Kingstowne Chase neighborhood are confused. Some assumed that they would be part of the Town of Herndon and would not have to purchase trash collection services, wrote

Silvio Krvaric, president of the subdivision's homeowner's association, in an e-mail.

"To us, the risk of confusion between the various parts of Herndon is small. ... I guess if the residents of the Town of Herndon would like to change its mailing address Herndon Town, Va. that would be up to its residents," he wrote.

**UNLIKE** Kingstowne Chase, another portion of the "county only" Herndon community has already developed a different mailing address. Residents in the large section of Herndon with the ZIP code 20171 also goes by the mailing address of Oak Hill, Va.

The change took place in December of 1999, when the Oak Hill post office opened, said Joan McDonald, who works at the branch.

"Developers wanted it to be called Oak Hill for more prestige. ... but the utility bills still say Herndon. They don't recognize Oak Hill," said McDonald, who has worked for the U.S. Postal Service for 20 years.

McDonald remembers when there was only the post office in downtown Herndon. Now there are three — Herndon, Reston and Oak Hill.

**THIS IS ALSO** true in one area of eastern Fairfax County. Kingstowne, a development with an Alexandria mailing address, has been told it can use "Kingstowne, Va.," postal address because the Kingstowne development takes up almost all of the 22315 ZIP code.

"It is technically Alexandria, Va. but if you



**Residents who live in Belle Haven would likely be opposed to changing their address from "Alexandria" to "Mount Vernon."**

write in Kingstowne, Va., it gets to the same place. It is just not that big of a deal if it says Kingstowne or Alexandria as long as it has the right ZIP code," said McKay.

Other large community developments could be interested in a similar arrangement.

Roger Cryan, president of the Mantua Citizens Association, said it would make sense for his community, which shares "Fairfax, Va.," postal code with the City of Fairfax, to be able to use "Mantua" and "Fairfax" interchangeably as a mailing address. Mantua takes up nearly the entire 22301 ZIP code, on its own, he said.

"Mantua shows up on a lot of maps, even before other places recognized by the post office," said Cryan.

He added: "This is not really an issue that deserves an awful lot of energy or expense."

Some people believe real estate values and prestige drive community discussions over mailing addresses. Yet Realtors said the name of a community rarely has a lasting impact on its reputation and a community's association with certain areas can change over time. For example, many locals used to associate the mailing address "Lorton, Va.," with the D.C. prison and trash dump 10 years ago. But now, young families have moved in and consider it an attractive place to live, said Jill Landsman, with the Northern Virginia Realtors Association.

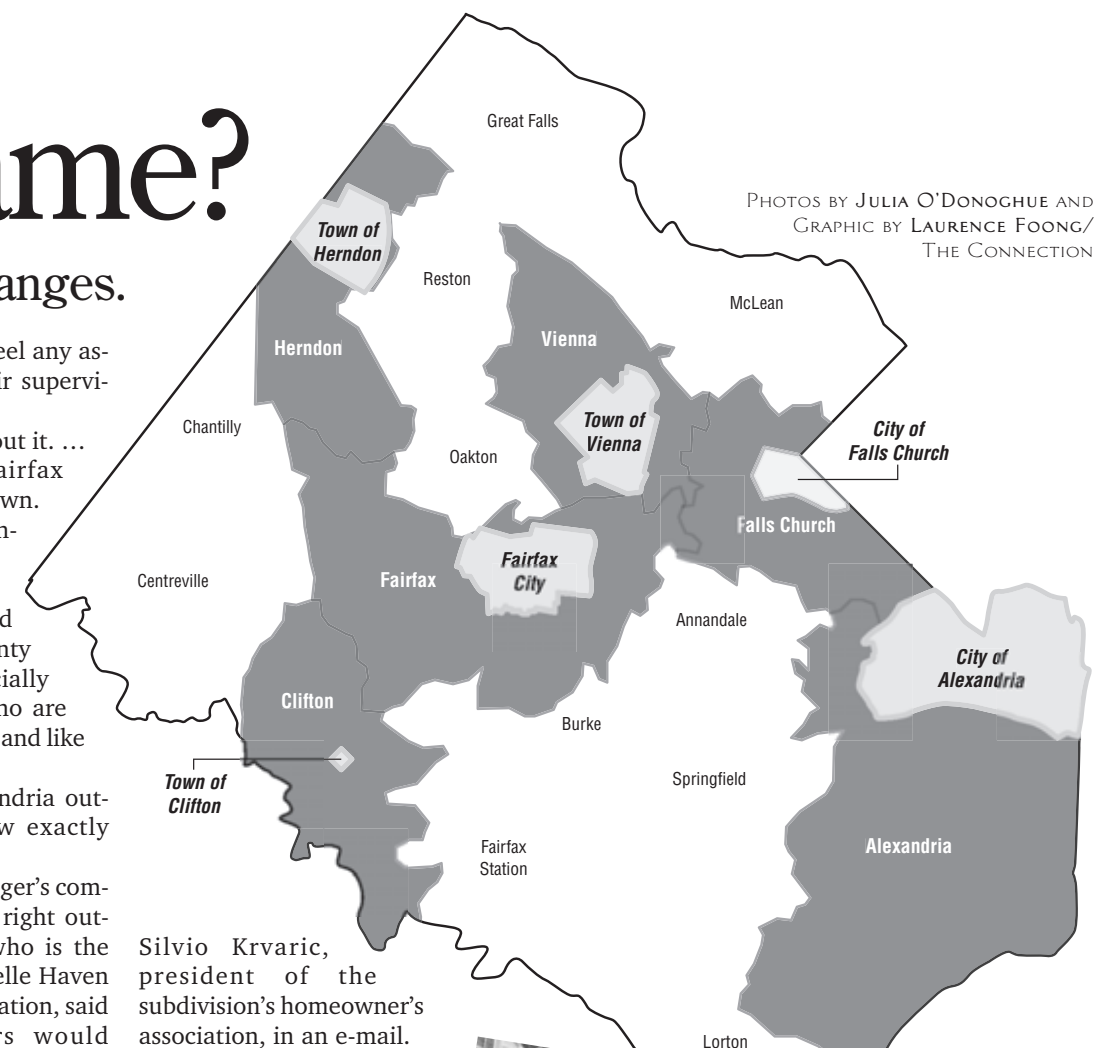
"There was a time when neighborhoods in Lorton were depreciating and everything else was appreciating. Now, the Lorton addresses are comparable to other Fairfax neighborhoods," said Landsman.



**The Oak Hill post office is a branch of the larger Herndon post office.**

with an Alexandria mailing address, has been told it can use "Kingstowne, Va.," postal address because the Kingstowne development takes up almost all of the 22315 ZIP code.

"It is technically Alexandria, Va. but if you



PHOTOS BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE AND  
GRAPHIC BY LAURENCE FOONG/  
THE CONNECTION



## POLITICS

# Candidates Target Young Voters

BY ETHAN DOYLE  
THE CONNECTION

With the new Batman movie, “The Dark Knight” grossing \$313 million in two weeks, the Barack Obama campaign is setting up voter registration booths outside the theaters in an effort to reach out to the huge crowds of younger voters.

As the national election races towards the finish line, both campaigns are beginning to chase after first-time voters in an effort to take Northern Virginia, a hotly-contested area in a new battleground state.

**IN THE RACE** for Virginia, young voters have become a prime target for McCain and Obama, as they are an active and diverse group in the area. The campaigns have been looking to forms of “new media” such as text messaging, electronic video posting, social networking and internet sites to spread their candidates’ messages.

“We have reached out a lot to the young voters in terms of electronic mail; we have been doing internet outreach and sending out newsletters. We are trying to meet the demand to make sure that everyone who wants to be involved in the campaign can be involved in the campaign,” said Gail Gitcho, communications director for the McCain campaign.

In competition with McCain’s Virginia efforts, Obama’s campaign has already laid out a plan to activate younger voters in the area. Called the “Best of Barack” program, the campaign challenges campaign volunteers to register 151,000 new voters in Virginia by November. Along with registering new voters, the Obama campaign has also focused on grassroots organization among young voters in the area.

“Students have been vital to the Obama campaign, in Northern Virginia and across the country. They provide great support and we are trying to reach out to them exactly where they are. We are going to high schools and college campuses and we are organizing volunteers to help the campaign with voter registration drives, canvassing, and mailing and phone drives,” said Ashley Etienne, communications director for the Obama campaign.

**THE SURGE** in campaign activity in the area marks changes in the importance of both Northern Virginia’s votes, and the youth’s votes in the upcoming election. Associate Professor of Government and Politics at GMU Michael McDonald sees both issues shaping the results of the presidential election.

“If Virginia goes to Obama, I suspect that Obama has won the election because it will indicate that he will pull out wins in other battleground states like Indiana, Colorado and Montana as well,” McDonald said. “If McCain can hold Virginia, we will be sitting on pins and needles through the rest of the evening because that will mean Obama has to catch up in electoral votes elsewhere. So as Virginia votes, so votes the country in some respects.”

However, no matter who wins, McDonald sees that younger voters are starting to change the way that politics works.

“Both candidates are trying to interest younger voters with new media and viral marketing, but when it comes down to it, none of these bells and whistles holds up to good old-fashioned shoe-leather,” McDonald said. “Meeting people and engaging them face-to-face is the best way to activate any voter, and these campaigns are doing everything they can to encourage younger voters.”

**NEW TACTICS** such as voter registration at popular movies has invigorated the bases of both campaigns, and both the Obama and McCain local teams embrace the support and enthusiasm they have met in the area.

“Students have been vital to the Obama campaign, in Northern Virginia and across the country,” Etienne said. “They provide great support and we are trying to use new media techniques to reach out and touch young voters where they are and in a way that utilize their talents as well as their knowledge.”

“The response has been overwhelming. It is hard to keep bumper stickers in stock. We have had an extraordinary response that we are thrilled about,” Gitcho said. “And we are not taking any of that for granted.”

## VIEWPOINTS



Michelle Mendelsohn

“I think that the campaigns have definitely recognized the importance of engaging the new voters in the area, and all over the country, and have made attempts to reach out to them. As far as my friends go, the campaigns have come up in conversation and we all have still-forming opinions on the candidates and issues, though I wouldn’t go as far as to say it is an important or dividing topic among us at this point.

I think the most important issues for me would be Energy, Security, and Healthcare. Energy is important because I think that it is imperative that our country be able to support ourselves with expanded development of existing resources as well as developing new, renewable energy sources, helping release our dependence on other countries, which now can control our gas prices and parts of our economy. I believe security because defending our country and preventing acts of terrorism is still an important issue and independent of the Iraq controversy. And finally, healthcare because I believe that there are definite flaws in the current system, but no one has come up with a good solution yet. I am currently undecided, but will definitely vote. While both candidates have potential, each possesses flaws that I have a hard time overlooking to entrust them with my vote. I plan to keep following each campaign and hope to hear more from both of them in order to make a fully informed decision.”

— Michelle Mendelsohn, Great Falls, College of William & Mary

“We are going to high schools and college campuses and we are organizing volunteers to help the campaign with voter registration drives, canvassing, and mailing and phone drives.”

— Ashley Etienne, Obama campaign

1. How do you feel the campaigns are engaging young voters?
2. How important is it within your group of friends?
3. What are the three most important campaign issues to you?
4. Who do you plan on voting for and why?

“I think that Obama is doing an impressive job of engaging young voters in McLean. His Web site makes it easy to move from a passive supporter to an active member of his campaign and I have heard about a number of youth-oriented Obama events in the area. McCain is very unimpressive; I don’t feel like I can relate to him at all and so far it looks like he is failing to engage young voters in McLean (especially compared to Obama). [The election is] not a big topic among my friends, most of us care about the election and will talk politics occasionally. We all have our views but tend not to push them on one another.” The three most important campaign issues for me are probably Iraq, social issues, and the environment. I plan on voting for Obama because Obama’s views are better aligned with mine than McCain’s are. Obama seems to really have it together and I am excited to be able to vote for him this fall!”

— Casey Davidow, McLean, Colgate University



Casey Davidow

“Most of my friends seem pretty engaged in the campaign and have already decided who they will vote for in November. I don’t think either campaign is going out of their way to target young voters since typically, only a small percentage of these voters make it out to the polls. Nevertheless, since there are issues concerning the economy and healthcare that are currently affecting young voters, the young voter turnout in this election may be much higher.

The most important campaign issues for me are foreign policy, national security, and abortion.

I plan to vote for John McCain because overall, I think he is more qualified than his opponent and because I agree with his views on the sanctity of life.”

— Sara Ganjei, McLean, Virginia Tech



Sara Ganjei

“Overall, I think that Obama has done a tremendous job of exciting and engaging young voters. His enthusiasm and push for change have galvanized young people, who seem to be more tuned in to this campaign than ever before. His youth is certainly a part of it, but more than that his own energy and vision for the country have made people, especially young voters, believe that he has the best interest of the country at heart and is ready to make a difference. On the other hand, McCain seems more intent on continuing on the same path as the current administration, which tends to alienate younger voters who believe the country needs to reassess its situation.

Among my friends and me, the campaign is certainly a topic that has come up, more so than in recent elections. The majority tend to support Obama, echoing my own belief that his inspiration and enthusiasm are what the country needs. However, there are those who support McCain and believe that his military experience is needed in the coming years. The most important issues for me are, first, to end the war, second, the environment, and third, the economy. I will be voting for Obama in the fall. I



Llewelyn Engel

believe that his ability to inspire the public and his vision for change are necessary qualities in a president over the next few years.”

— Llewelyn Engel, McLean, Colgate University



# OPINION

## Jury Duty: The Law of the Land

BY ANN EMMONS PETRI  
THE CONNECTION

**J**ury duty! I showed up bright and early at the new Fairfax County Courthouse with about 300 others, all equipped with cell phones, newspapers, magazines, paperbacks, crossword puzzles or sudokus.

After a short orientation film, a court officer paged about 20 of us and we followed her to Courtroom 4H. It was just like in the movies. The judge, in a black robe and perky bow tie, presided with colorful flags standing at attention behind him. The prosecuting attorney stood behind one table. The defense attorney in a dark suit with a ruffled hem and with dimples in her cheeks stood behind the other!

Her client, a serious looking young Hispanic man in a light blue suit but without a tie or shoelaces, stood with a Fairfax County officer and a translator beside him.

**THE JURY** selection began. The judge asked if there was anyone who wouldn't be able to serve. Several spoke up. He listened attentively, but excused no one. He then asked the group questions about our impartiality and eligibility to serve. Next the two attorneys began to pare down the list until only 12 remained. I was selected!

The judge announced a 20-minute break. We filed into the adjacent jury room furnished with a long table, comfortable chairs, two bathrooms, a water cooler, and a coffee maker which didn't work. During the next three days we spent many hours here for courtroom breaks, and later for our own deliberations.

We were seven women and five men ranging from a young woman a year or so out of Virginia Tech who wore her Tech sweatshirt on the anniversary of the slayings, to a commercial airline pilot.

The case involved the alleged abduction and rape of an 18-year-old woman. Walking alone at night, she had been accosted by two men in a car. Our defendant was the driver. His passenger reportedly yelled an obscene question to which she responded, "No," and kept walking.

A short time later they approached her on foot and allegedly dragged her down an embankment. After the passenger attempted to rape her, the defendant in our case was accused of also trying to do so. Both men were physically unable to complete the act but under the law it is still rape.

The testimony began. The arresting officer and other police involved in the questioning of the defendant testified. We also heard from hospital personnel where the young woman was treated and from

a DNA expert. The defendant had given two different statements at the police station and these were also read.

On the afternoon of the second day, the other man involved in the case, the passenger, was brought in to testify. He stated his name and address but then refused to answer any questions on the grounds of self-incrimination.

Our defendant was the last to take the stand. Through a translator he explained that he had not heard what his friend said to the young woman, and that he did not pull her off the sidewalk. He said he thought the girl had known his friend. When he later went down the embankment he realized that she was upset and tried to help her. This testimony contradicted the second statement he had made at the police station. In his first statement there he denied any involvement at all.

**FINALLY**, towards the end of the second day, we began deliberations. Our first assignment was to pick a foreman. We then got started on the time-consuming task of having each juror present his or her views on the degree of guilt or innocence of the defendant on the two charges: abduction with the intent to defile and rape.

After several hours and vote after vote we all finally agreed that the defendant was guilty of both abduction and rape but not of abduction with intent to defile. We felt we didn't have enough evidence to determine his intention at the time of the abduction. Through our foreman, we presented our verdict to the judge, who had it read to the court. Then he sent us back into the jury room to determine the sentence.

During the sentencing phase, we were much farther apart. We felt there were still a lot of unanswered questions. One juror was concerned that the defendant had a wife and two children in Central America who would suffer during his incarceration. Another wanted a much longer sentence.

After many, many votes we finally agreed on five years for the rape and two years for the abduction. The sentences would be served consecutively.

After the sentencing when we retired to the jury room for the last time, the judge came in to answer our questions and to thank us for our service. I think I can speak for my fellow jurors, five of whom helped me with this article, when I say that we each came away feeling that we contributed to a fair and meaningful verdict.

We learned later that the passenger who took part in the attack had his trial the following week and was sentenced to 40 years. Jury duty wasn't easy, and it wasn't fun, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

— Ann Emmons Petri is a McLean resident.

### BUSINESS NOTES

To have business notes listed, send to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com) or 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. Call 703-917-6449 with questions. Deadline is Friday.

Several Fairfax County-based companies are among the 500 largest Hispanic-owned businesses in the nation based on revenue, according to the June issue of **Hispanic Business** magazine. The Fairfax companies include four Vienna-based businesses: **MVM, Inc.**; **Kemron Environmental Services, Inc.**; **SCI Consulting Services, Inc.**; and **MicroTech, LLC**.

**Jim Gasparis** has recently joined **Chase**, a residential housing lending company, as a senior loan officer at the Chase's McLean office at 8200 Greens-

boro Drive, Suite 900. The Reston resident joins Chase with 17 years of experience in the mortgage industry. Gaspari graduated from North Carolina Wesleyan College.

**Soo Kim** has earned the status of Ameriprise Private Wealth Advisor. With an office at 8150 Leesburg Pike, Suite 500, in Vienna, Kim is one of approximately 3 percent of the more than 10,000 Ameriprise financial advisors to achieve qualifications necessary for this status.

**MBH Concierge Services** has returned to business with a new name, **McLean Concierge Services**. The company's services are divided into home improvement services, which are provided by licensed, insured vendors

and lifestyle management services help clients simplify and manage their lives. Visit [www.mcleanconcierge.com](http://www.mcleanconcierge.com) or contact 703-714-8616.

**Goodman & Company** recently hired **Shane R. Campbell, ABCP**, as an associate in the Tysons Corner office. Campbell has seven years of analysis experience as a customer relationship management consultant for several Fortune 500 companies.

As a certified associate business continuity professional, his expertise includes value realization, involving business case development and tracking performance impacts of client engagements. Campbell is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania with a bachelor of science in finance and electrical engineering.



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## Well Done!

The Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department would like to say thanks for the successful blood drive held on the Fourth of July. You kept the Inova Bloodmobiles busy by contributing 103 units of life-saving blood.



**Stay involved.** We have operational and administrative volunteer opportunities available. Visit us at [www.greatfallsvfd.org](http://www.greatfallsvfd.org) and click on "join."

**Our Open House is on Saturday, October 11th.** Stop by for more information about the fire department, the new fire station, and to say hello to your firefighters and EMT's.

# OPINION

## Seeking More Diversity at TJ

Start by nurturing passion for science in young students from all backgrounds.

**W**hy does it matter how many students of different ethnic or racial groups apply or are accepted to Fairfax County's world-famous math and science magnet school?

The problem isn't so much what happens at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. In a county of more than a million people, and more than 165,000 public school students, the population at TJ is a drop in the bucket.

What matters is how the county is nurturing passion and talent for math, science and other subjects in all 137 elementary schools and then in its 26 middle schools.

In 2004, a Blue Ribbon Commission addressed concerns about under-represented minority groups at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The under represented groups are African-American and Latino students, who do not apply for admission in numbers proportional to their enrollment in the school system.

That commission recommended that admissions look at students more holistically and depend less on strict cutoffs of grade point averages and test scores.

We don't really know how that "holistic approach" has worked in the admissions trenches. The initial pool of applicants to be considered has about doubled, but the number African-American and Latino applicants has, if anything, decreased.

The 2004 commission found black students accounted for 1.1 percent of TJ's students and

Hispanics making up 2.4 percent. And though one out of five students in Fairfax County is poor enough to qualify for free and reduced-price meals, only one out of every 100 students at TJ is poor by the same standards.

The student population granted admission for fall 2007 was about 1.86 percent African-American (nine students) and 2.06 percent Hispanic (10 students).

### EDITORIAL

It's time for schools to consider each individual student. Every first grade teacher in every elementary school should be asked to identify a half-dozen to a dozen students who have interest in math and science. All students should be exposed to hands-on science, field work in the natural world and experiments that will light up the interests of young minds.

Of course we know that the current curriculum is supposed to accomplish this, and that high stakes testing in elementary school has also put more focus on certain areas. But we wonder whether the focus on testing has forced more of an academic, paper and pencil approach, rather than investing in the excitement of discovery.

But by having a list starting in first grade and moving forward through elementary school of students with passion for science, the schools will have data and resources to nurture these students. It's a powerful motivator for a teacher to tell a student as young as six or seven or eight that he or she has a special talent or love for science, or math, and that the student might want to consider being a scientist when he or she grows up.

### Applying to TJ

Eighth grade students who live with their parent or legal guardian who resides full-time in a participating school district (the counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, or Prince William or the city of Falls Church) are eligible to apply to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. See <http://www.fcps.edu/news/tj.htm>, or <http://information.tjhsst.edu/admissions/>

Focusing on individual children in elementary schools that have the highest percentage of poor children is also essential.

This sort of approach will result in more students, of all races and economic background, excelling in math and science across the board, not just at TJ.

But in addition, half the slots at TJ should be assigned by middle school, on a percentage basis, so that students from different geographic locations in the county have guaranteed access to the school. And encouraging students who qualify for free-and-reduced meals, students who are from poor families, is also critical.

Real passion for science, the kind of passion that results in young men and women choosing careers in science, is not measured in test scores and grades. It's measured in enthusiasm and attention. If as school board members say, they want to see TJ add to the number of people who go on to be leaders in math and science, they'll have to find a way to foster and measure passion and interest.

A recent proposal to have a 3.0 grade point cutoff for applicants is not a step in that direction.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Reporter DiCicco Did a Great Job

To the Editor:

From time to time, over the years, I have had the pleasure of being interviewed for different reasons.

I have learned to await the release of the article with at least an ounce of dread as to how the story will morph into something less than accurate when compared to the information that was provided during the interview.

I think you could call me somewhat jaded with regards to the entire process and this time I actually did very little to be on guard and just rambled incoherently most of the time jumping from subject to subject. As the days past I counted on seeing something in print that was at a high level some-

what correct but lacking in overall detail and substance.

Was I wrong!

I don't know how your reporter did it, but he caught every boring little detail and quote that mattered and mustered them all into a very nice story that reads very well (I'm sure the Editor is to be complimented as well.).

Thank you very much, the manner in which the story was crafted has made it something for us to be proud of and to share with others.

Mike DiCicco is a very gifted reporter interviewer, and a pretty good scooter rider too!

**Tracy and Karen Ingram**  
NOVA Scooters LLC

## Taxes Have Gone Up with Connolly

To the Editor:

I have lived in Vienna for many years, including all the years Gerry Connolly has been in public office. It is time he retires because I cannot bear his continued efforts to raise taxes and expand government. County expenditures have exploded during his administration, far beyond what the population growth warranted. I am tired of Connolly's deception when claiming credit for lowering taxes because he lowered the rate a few pennies but the assessments kept going up and the tax bill was much greater. This year, because some assessments went down, he led the way to raise the tax rate again. Enough already! It is time we put someone in office who understands the importance of fiscal responsibility and low taxes. That is why I am supporting Keith Fimian, a man who has started and run a very successful business. He understands the economic damage done by excessive government regulation and high taxes. As a retired senior citizen, it is a heavy burden every time the tax bill goes up. I want someone who understands and will respond to such burdens.

**Dick Dingman**  
Vienna

### Write

Letters to the Editor, The Connection  
7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, Va. 22102  
Call: 703-917-6444. By fax: 703-917-0991.  
By e-mail: [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com)

## THE CONNECTION

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
**To discuss ideas and concerns,**  
**Call: 703-917-6451**  
**Fax: 703-917-0991**  
**e-mail:**  
**greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com**  
**Web Site:**  
**www.ConnectionNewspapers.com**

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-917-6428  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mike DiCicco**  
Community Reporter  
703-917-6448  
[mdicicco@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mdicicco@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Julia O'Donoghue**  
Education and Politics  
703-917-6433

**Nicholas Horrock**  
Business and Transportation Editor  
[nhorrock@aol.com](mailto:nhorrock@aol.com)

**Ken Moore**  
Courts and Projects  
703-917-6417  
[kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Rich Sanders**  
Sports Editor ♦ 703-917-6439  
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Mary Kimm  
703-917-6416  
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**Managing Editors**  
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# CRIME

Activities reported by the McLean district of the Fairfax County police department through July 18.

## MCLEAN DISTRICT STATION

### INDECENT EXPOSURE

**Casemont Drive/Moly Drive.** A man allegedly exposed himself to an 11-year-old Falls Church-area girl on Wednesday, July 16 around 3:30 p.m. The youngster was walking to a known house near the intersection of Casemont Drive and Moly Drive when a man drove up and asked her several questions. The victim noticed the man in the car exposing himself as he spoke to her. She walked away and was not harmed. The suspect made no attempt to get the victim into his car. He fled on Moly Drive

toward Great Falls Street. The suspect was described as black, in his early 30s and clean shaven. He was about 6 feet tall and weighed approximately 160 pounds. He was wearing long, green pants and a red and white shirt. The car was described as a newer model, shiny red, four-door sedan.

### LARCENIES

**6500 block of Arlington Blvd.** Two cell phones stolen from business.

**1400 block of Chain Bridge Road.** Wallet stolen from business.

**1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** GPS stolen from vehicle.

**6700 block of Chestnut Ave.** Stereo stolen from vehicle.

**1600 block of Great Falls St.** Purse stolen from business.

**8200 block of Greensboro Drive.** Laptop stolen from business.

**7400 block of Lee Highway.** Vase stolen from cemetery.

**8300 block of Leesburg Pike.** GPS and map stolen from business.

**8500 block of Leesburg Pike.** Purse stolen from business.

**8900 block of Leesburg Pike.** Cell phone stolen from business.

**2600 block of Occidental Drive.** Scooter stolen from vehicle.

**7100 block of Sea Cliff Road.** Bicycle stolen from residence.

### VEHICLE THEFTS

**1900 block of Chain Bridge Road.** 2007 Suzuki motorcycle reported stolen.

**2800 block of Hartland Road.** 1998 Plymouth reported stolen.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### MONDAY/AUGUST 4

**Dance Camp for Kids and Teens.** All-star Adrenaline Dance Camp will be held Aug. 4 through 7 and Aug. 11 through 14, from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Learn routines in jazz, hip hop, and pom styles. The fee for each session is \$175 for Town of Vienna residents and \$218.75 for out-of-town participants. Call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Personal Safety Class for Women.** The popular crime

prevention class for women, will be held in four parts, on Aug. 4, 6, 11 and 13 from 7-10 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Specially trained police officers along with local volunteers will teach women to be alert and mindful of their personal safety. Escape and response techniques will be demonstrated in practical scenarios as well as several non-physical techniques to help women stay safe. The cost for all four sessions is \$5 for Town of Vienna residents and \$7.50 for out-of-town participants, plus a \$15 materials fee. Call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

### THURSDAY/AUGUST 7

**Art Contest at the Teen Center.**

An art contest for Vienna area 6th, 7th and 8th graders will be held on Thursday, Aug. 7 at 4 p.m. at Club Phoenix Teen Center, located in the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Show off artistic talent. Free; refreshments provided. Call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov). Club Phoenix features a big screen TV, VCR, jukebox, CD player, video games, pool and ping pong tables, food area and a state-of-the-art sound system.

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# CALENDAR



The Vienna Arts Center's August featured artist is George Lovelace, who will be showing his latest work "Enjoying Nature." Show dates are July 29 through Aug. 23. Lovelace is a member of the Vienna Photographic Society, Carolina's Nature Photographers and the North American Nature Photography Association. The Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.viennaartssociety.org](http://www.viennaartssociety.org).

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

## FRIDAY/AUGUST 1

**Vienna Youth Players in Stephen Sondheim's musical 'Into the Woods'.** Tickets are \$10 general, \$9 for students and senior citizens age 65 and older. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Call 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Tyson's Corner Barnes & Noble Bookstore will host a Breaking Dawn Party.** The store will remain open late to sell the final book in Stephenie Meyer's Twilight Saga, Breaking Dawn, at the stroke of midnight. Barnes & Noble invites fans to come in costume for photo opportunities, activities, trivia contests, crafts and more. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center. Call 703-506-6756 or visit [www.bn.com/breakingdawn](http://www.bn.com/breakingdawn).

**Shakespeare's A Winter's Tale.** 7 p.m. Free; bring chairs or blankets to sit on. Gourmet picnic dinner available; call to order. Madeira School Amphitheatre, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Call 703-987-1712.

**Susan Savia.** 6:30 p.m. Free. Acoustic music. Concerts on the Green, at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Call 703-255-6360.

## SATURDAY/AUGUST 2

**Vienna Youth Players in Stephen Sondheim's musical 'Into the Woods'.** Tickets are \$10 general, \$9 for students and senior citizens age 65 and older. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Call 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**The Seekers.** A classic rock cover band. 6-8 p.m. at Palladium Civic Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Call 703-288-9505.

**Soprano Catherine Wethington.** 7:30 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Featuring opera arias and Broadway selections. Wethington is a 2005 graduate of Langley High School and a senior voice major at the University of Michigan School of Music. Free, followed by a reception with the artist. Call 703-356-3312 or visit [www.musicinmclean.org](http://www.musicinmclean.org).

## MONDAY/AUGUST 4

**Negotiating Your Property Settlement.** 7-9:30 p.m. Patti J. Philipse, attorney, will present the benefits of negotiation, negotiating strategies, provisions that can be gotten by negotiation but not in court, and common pitfalls to avoid. \$50 registration / \$40 members. The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. To register go to [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or call 703-281-2657.

## TUESDAY/AUGUST 5

**Mothers First of Great Falls** is a nonprofit support organization dedicated to helping women who have chosen to alter careers to raise children at home. Meetings are first Tuesdays of the month at 10 am at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call 703-827-5922 or visit [www.mothersfirst.org](http://www.mothersfirst.org).

## THURSDAY/AUGUST 7

### Summer Stories and Sprinklers.

1:30 p.m. Listen to stories then take a run through the sprinklers at Vienna's original one-room library, Freeman House, 131 Church Street, Vienna. Free. Call 703-255-6360.

**Will Hoge, Old Springs Pike.** Rock. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Tickets \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## FRIDAY/AUGUST 8

**Vienna Youth Players in Stephen Sondheim's musical 'Into the Woods'.** Tickets are \$10 general, \$9 for students and senior citizens age 65 and older. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Call 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Shane Hines.** Pop/rock. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Tickets \$12. 703-255-1566.

**Fat Chance.** 6:30 p.m. Free. Concerts on the Green, at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Call 703-255-6360.

## SATURDAY/AUGUST 9

**Vienna Youth Players in Stephen Sondheim's musical 'Into the Woods'.** Tickets are \$10 general, \$9 for students and senior citizens age 65 and older. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. Call 703-

255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov). **No Better Off.** Local group playing acoustic roots music, blending folk, rock, bluegrass, blues and country. 6-8 p.m. at Palladium Civic Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Call 703-288-9505.

**Mambo Sauce.** Rock/soul/hip-hop. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Tickets \$10. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Washington D.C. Pen Show.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Over two hundred exhibitors from around the world. Buy, sell or trade vintage and new pens. Sheraton Premiere Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Visit [www.pencentral.com](http://www.pencentral.com).

**Legal Aspects of Separation and Divorce.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. David Levy, PLC, explains the rights and responsibilities of parties involved in separation and divorce. Learn how the legal process works in Virginia courts and how to work with a lawyer. Support group available. \$55 registration / \$45 members. McLean Government Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. To register go to [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or call 703-281-2657.

## SUNDAY/AUGUST 10

**Open Mic Night for Musicians.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. Family-friendly musical act invited to sign up for a 15-minute performing block; acts will be scheduled in the order received. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue, Vienna. Contact Cathy Salgado at 703-255-6356 or [csaldo@viennava.gov](mailto:csaldo@viennava.gov) with a description of the act, including number of performers and types of equipment.

**Washington D.C. Pen Show.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Over 200 exhibitors from around the world. Buy, sell or trade vintage and new pens. Sheraton Premiere Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Visit [www.pencentral.com](http://www.pencentral.com).

## MONDAY/AUGUST 11

**Open Mic Night: Sign up for 15-minute sets.** Concerts on the Green, at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Call to register, 703-255-6360.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 13

**A Change of Pace, Houston Calls, You Me and Everyone We Know.** Rock. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Tickets \$12. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

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## FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-917-6428. Deadline is Friday.

**Vacation Bible School.** Cedar Run Community Church at 13560 McLearn Road, Oak Hill, presents the Good News Games Vacation Bible School, July 28 – Aug. 1 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. for age 4 through fifth grade. \$10 per week or \$20 maximum per family. Register at [www.cedarrun.net](http://www.cedarrun.net).

**The monthly peer support group** for survivors of clergy abuse and others affected by the abuse will meet on Wednesday, July 30 at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Tysons-Pimmit Hills Regional Library, 7684 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. This group is co-sponsored by Voice of the Faithful-Northern Virginia affiliate and meets on the last Wednesday of every month. Free. Confidential. No registration required. Contact Ellen Radday at 703-538-6128.

**Unity of Fairfax** will offer "A Journey into Divine Love." **Andrew Harvey, renowned mystical scholar**, describes why Rumi's poetry and sacred knowledge of Divine Love are being experienced all over the world. Friday, Aug. 1 from 7-9:30 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 2 from 9-5 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Tickets are \$25 for Friday, \$60 for Saturday, or \$75 for both events. Call 703-281-1767 or visit [www.unityoffairfax.org](http://www.unityoffairfax.org).

**The Alliance Church Center of the Christian & Missionary Alliance** will be holding their Vacation Bible School Thursday, Aug. 7 and Friday, Aug. 8 from 6:30-8:45 p.m., and Saturday, Aug. 10 from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. A picnic will be held for all on the church lawn Sunday, Aug. 10 at 12:30 p.m. Bible stories, crafts, games and snacks provided. On Saturday morning pony rides and farm animals will be on the premises for the children to enjoy, followed by a hot dog roast. All events free. Call 703-264-1273. Alliance Church Center, 12113 Vale Road, Oakton.

**Oakton Brethren Vacation Bible School.** Aug. 11- Aug. 15, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Call 703-281-4411 or register online at [www.vacationbibleschool.com/oaktonbrethren](http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/oaktonbrethren). Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna.

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center** offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy **Mondays** 7-8:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax at 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, \$10 per class. Call 202-331-2122 or visit [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**Vienna Assembly of God** has ministry to children on **Wednesdays**, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on **Sundays** is also available. 703-938-7736 or visit [www.ViennaAG.com](http://www.ViennaAG.com).

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms:** a place to receive healing. **Every Saturday**, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane, a team of Christians is available to pray for anyone requesting prayer. The rooms are open to the public without charge. For more information call 703-698-9779 or visit [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

**The Baha'i community of McLean** holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, beginning at 8 p.m. **every Friday**. The fireside is an opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith and why Baha'is find hope in a seemingly hopeless world. Call 703-556-3400.

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### Church of the Brethren

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

### Catholic

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### Non-Denominational

Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

### Presbyterian

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## HEALTH

Health notes are for support groups, exercise classes, blood drives and similar events open to the public at no or minimal cost. Send information to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**"Dream Free" picnic for parents of children with epilepsy,** Saturday, **Aug. 23**, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lake Fairfax Park, Canopy G, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Cost per family \$45, per person \$15. Bring a side dish. To register, contact Dana at 703-698-0229 [ordanadouglass@cox.net](mailto:ordanadouglass@cox.net)

**Northern Virginia Epilepsy Group,** a support group for teens and adults meets **every Wednesday** 7-8 p.m. at Falls Church High School, Entrance 1, Room 100, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church. Free. Sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation of Virginia. For additional information, call Dana at 703-425-6660.

**Balance and Beyond.** Persons with Parkinson's Disease who can walk unassisted are invited to join a balance class that meets weekly on **Wednesdays** at 1:15 p.m., at the Vienna

Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E. The classes are sanctioned by the Parkinson Foundation for the National Capital Area (PFNCA) and are led by a certified instructor of the American Senior Fitness Association. Call Cheryl Bartholomew at 703-281-1560. To register, call 703-255-6360 and specify the "Balance and Beyond" class.

**The Parkinson's Foundation** offers weekly support groups (previously located at the Providence Recreation Center) for patients and caregivers. They meet **every Tuesday** at 10 and 11 a.m., at the Lewinsville Senior Center, 1609 Great Falls St., McLean. Call 703-891-0821 if interested in joining.

**Vienna Weight Watchers.** Meetings at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna are **every Tuesday** from noon-1:15 p.m. Cost is \$150 for 12 weekly luncheon sessions, payable in advance. To register call 703-255-6350.

**Vienna Community Center** has **open gym for ages 17 and under**, 3:30-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Call ahead to check on availability.

ity.

**Heart and Sole.** Persons with Parkinson's Disease are invited to join an exercise class that meets weekly on **Fridays and Tuesdays** at 12:30 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Care partners and family members are welcome to come and assist the PD patient. For session dates, fees and information, call Cheryl Bartholomew at 703-281-1560. To register, call 703-255-6360 and specify the "Heart and Sole" class.

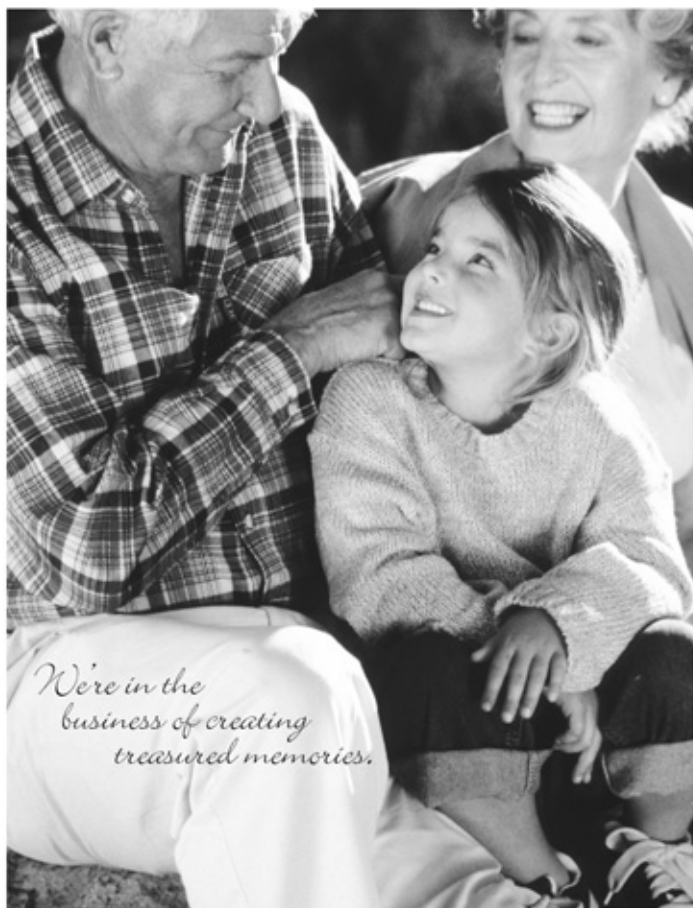
**Body and Soul fitness classes** recently began. Contact instructor for more information on individual classes; visit [www.bodyandsoul.org](http://www.bodyandsoul.org) for more classes. New students receive 15 percent discount. At McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, McLean, on **Mondays and Fridays**, 9:45-11:15 a.m., free childcare, call Mary Ward at 703-754-3722.

At McLean Presbyterian Church, 1020 Balls Hill Road, McLean on **Tuesdays and Thursdays**, 12:30-1:15 p.m., strength training only, call Dana Elsnick at 703-847-9814.

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# SPORTS

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION SPORTS EDITOR RICH SANDERS  
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## SUMMER SPORTS ROUNDUP

**In their first** ever state tournament, the **Great Falls 10-11 softball All-Stars** went 3-2 and captured third place in the tournament this past weekend.

"The girls did a great job during the tournament. When they got behind they didn't panic, fielded well, hit extremely well and really came together as a team," said Manager Mike Sharkey. "It was a tremendous learning experience for the girls and our softball program."

Great Falls started the tournament with a 14-5 win over Essex County. Emily Templin pitched a complete game, giving up five hits, while striking out 14 Essex batters. Offensively, Emily went 4-for-4 with a double and two triples. Caroline O'Connor went 3-for-5, while Julia Chirite went 3-for-4. Kerry Bush, Lauren Simons and Gabi Pijaca all chipped in with two hits.

The all-stars lost their second game, 15-10, to a talented Washington County team. The girls did well, coming back from several deficits. Great Falls was down by seven runs going into the last inning and left the bases loaded. Melanie Dronfield pitched a good game in the extreme heat. Again, Templin led the way offensively, going 3-for-3, with a triple and a double. Chirite also chipped in with two hits.

Great Falls rebounded with a 16-5 pounding of Luray. Again, Templin pitch beautifully, going just four innings due to the slaughter rule. She gave up five hits while striking out 10. Everyone contributed to the offensive barrage. One of the highlights was an inside the park home run by Caroline O'Connor. Dronfield, Templin, Katie Cynkar and Chirite pounded out two hits each, while Pijaca chipped in with three hits.

Since Great Falls was in the losers' bracket, they had to play a doubleheader on Monday to survive. In a rematch against Essex, the girls delivered a masterpiece of a game. Melanie Dronfield pitched a one-hitter in the four-inning game. Defense was the key to the win with the girls getting out of a bases loaded jam in the second inning. Maggie Natal was stellar at shortstop making huge plays, while Gabi Pijaca was solid behind the plate. Great Falls was up 6-0 going into the fourth, when they scored four runs to end the game. Pijaca ended it with her second hit of the day, a three-run inside the park home run. O'Connor, Dronfield, and Templin added two hits, while Kerry Bush and Natal delivered crucial two-out doubles to keep rallies alive.

The second game of the day proved to be difficult. The heat was in the mid 90's and the girls were tired from the first game, but they gave a valiant effort again before losing to Washington County, 15-5. Haley Falkenberry started for Great Falls and pitched three no-hit, scoreless inning. Haley worked out of a no-out bases loaded jam in the second inning. She was helped by an unbelievable catch by Caroline Potteiger in right field. With the bases loaded and one out, Washington County's big hitter scorched a line drive to right center. Caroline went to her right and made the catch of the year. This catch gave the Great Falls girls' momentum. In the top of the fourth inning of a scoreless game, Great falls



**The Langley Wildthings 8-under relay team broke a club record that had stood for 40 years. It occurred this past Saturday in the Wildthings' dual swim meet versus Pinecrest. Members of the relay team are, left to right: Claire Mullery, Helen Horan, Ally Bulford and Emily Wallach. Coach Colin Smith is standing in the back. The girls' foursome broke a mark originally set in 1968. Their record-breaking time last week was 1:24.24.**

loaded the bases. Gabi Pijaca then crushed a fastball over the 200-foot left field fence for a grand slam. It was the first-ever grand slam at that ball park since 1991 and the first-ever in District 1 history. The lead slowly evaporated, as the girls were getting hotter and more tired. Washington County scored 15 runs over the next two innings. The girls struggled offensively, scrapping out only five hits. Templin had two, while Pijaca, Dronfield and O'Connor had one each.

Overall it was a great tournament for Great Falls. As a team, they had a .448 batting average and a .654 slugging percentage. They were led by Emily Templin, who hit .867, and Julia Chirite (.643). Gabi Pijaca and Caroline O'Connor hit over .500. On the pitching side, Emily struck out 24 over two games. Melanie pitched a gem of a 1-hitter and Haley Falkenberry came through in a tough situation.

Also contributing to the team in many ways were Katie Studabaker, Caroline Potteiger, Katie Cynkar, Kerry Bush and Lauren Simons.

**In local swim action, Chesterbrook** defeated **Hamlet**, 267-135, on July 19.

Chesterbrook had nine double event winners, including: Jaya Kambhampaty (8-under Free and Back); Claire Wolff (8-under Free and Breast); Veronica Wolff (9-10 Back and Fly); Nowell Boardman (11-12 Free and Back); Joey Sullivan (11-12 Back and Fly); Alston Offutt (11-12 Breast, Fly); Matthew Kuhlik (13-14 Free, Back); Hannah Welch (13-14 Breast, Fly); and Steven Lee-Kramer (15-18 Free and Breast – the Breaststroke time of 31.50 was a new CB team record).

Chesterbrook, with the win, concluded the regular dual meet season at 4-1 and in second place within the NVSL, Div. 1 standings. Hamlet, meanwhile, finished 2-3, good

for fourth place in Div. 1.

Earlier in the week, Chesterbrook finished second at the All Star Relay Carnival with 523 points. Nearby Overlee won the meet with 620 points.

**The Langley Swim Club** broke three records at last Saturday's NVSL Div. 5 Divisionals. Individual champions for Langley included: Isaac Peress (9-10 free), Jacqueline Litschewski (9-10 back), Nathan Johnson (9-10 breast), Katie Robinson (11-12 back) and Nicole Johnson (13-14 breast). Three records were broken at the meet. Nathan Johnson broke the 9-10 backstroke record with a time of 37.06, Nicole Johnson broke the 13-14 breaststroke record with a time of 36.75 and Jamie Sexton broke the 15-18 breaststroke record with a time of 31.76.

**The Highlands Whomping Turtles** finished second at the Div. 3 meet held at Sleepy Hollow Bath and Racquet this past Saturday. Double event winners for Highlands were: Clayton Kiyonaga (Boys 8-under 25-Free and 25-Butterfly), Lina Zimmerman (Girls 13-14 50-Breast and the 50-Butterfly), and Stephen Richards (Boys 15-18 50-Breast and 100-IM). Richards set a new team record in the Boys 15-18 50-Breast with a time of 30.59 and in the 15-18 Boys 100-IM with a time of 1:00.38. Charlie Putnam tied Richard's record in the Boys 15-18 50 Back on Saturday with a time of 28.45.

Single event winners for the Whomping Turtles were Brian Murphy, Eleanor Doolittle, Claire Collins, Conor Evans and Rachel Romanowski.

Highlands will send 10 swimmers to All Stars.

**In an amazing** end to their season at the Divisional Swim Meet at Springfield, the

**Great Falls Rapids Swim Team** (4-1) captured the most first place medals and tied Springboard with 29 overall medals (13 gold, 8 silver and 8 bronze). The top medal winners were James Cutler (Free, Back); Mary Liz Elliott (IM, Back); Evan Guidi (Back); Jason Guidi (Back, Fly); Kendall Heebink (Back Fly); Jamie Keeler (Free); Annie Kemmerer (IM, Fly); Will Kemmerer (IM, Fly); Kevin Kennedy (IM); Ty Kovacs (Free); Elizabeth Longosz (Free, Fly); Ana Mulligan (IM, Free); John Mulligan (Breast, Fly); Eric Owens (Free); Karyle Pallotta (Back); Annie Thomas (Back); Stephen Thorsen (IM); Max Wingo (IM, Breast) and Allie Zeidan (Free).

Great Falls swimmers earned 56 personal bests in their Divisional events. Max Wingo broke a pool record with a 41.79 in Breaststroke. The following five Great Falls swimmers will advance to NVSL All Stars on Aug. 2 at Little Rocky Run: Mary Liz Elliott (IM, Back); Jason Guidi (Fly); William Kemmerer (IM, Fly); Elizabeth Longosz (Free, Fly); and Max Wingo (IM, Breast).

At the Divisional Swim Banquet, the top scoring swimmers were Mary Liz Elliott and Max Wingo. Great Falls honored their three senior swimmers in Kevin Kennedy, Lia McCarty and Rachel McGonigal. Kevin has been a Rapid for 10 years, a pool life guard for three years, and a Junior Assistant Swim Coach for three years. He plans to study neuroscience at the College of William and Mary this fall. Lia has been a Rapid for nine years. She swam all strokes and helped with swim team banquets and concessions. She will attend East Carolina University and major in special education and dance. Lia plans to open a dance studio with classes for children with special needs. Rachel has been a Rapid swimmer for 11 years. She won several Team Spirit awards, led the team as an assistant coach, and worked as a life guard. She will attend Clemson University this fall.

**Fall 2008 Registration for McLean Youth Soccer** (MYS) is open on the league website at **www.mcleansoccer.org** for all returning and new families. MYS offers various programs for children ages 4 through 18, including House/Recreation, Travel and McLean Premier Soccer Travel, U5 for Pre-K players, and TOP Soccer for children with special needs. The season will begin Sept. 8 and extend through mid-November. Contact the MYS Administrator at **admin@mcleansoccer.org** for questions, or call the MYS Office at 703-506-8068. MYS still has spots available for its **Premier Soccer Academy Summer Camp**, which runs weekly through Aug. 15.

**Nick Bollettieri**, legendary tennis coach of nine No. 1 players in the world – such stars as Agassi, Becker, Courier, Hingis, Rios, Seles, Sharapova, Venus and Serena Williams – will be featured at the highly anticipated LPSM Tennis Clinics in Reston, presented by PSM Academies. There will be clinics Aug. 4-7. For further information please contact Mr. Lumahn Brown of LP Sports Management at 913-231-7027 or by e-mail at lumahn.brown@psmworldwide.net



# Pollution Levels Rated 'Unacceptable'

Report card tracks pollution levels in nine streams along Potomac.

**O**f the nine Fairfax County streams that enter the Potomac River along upper George Washington Memorial Parkway only one — Mine Run — has earned an “acceptable” level of pollution in the past few years and that is only intermittently, according to National Park Service biologist Eric Oberg, the ranger in charge of managing these streams.

“It is not so terrible,” he said wryly. “Of nine streams we monitor, one stream — Mine Run — which is the northern most stream we monitor, sometimes, on some days, has an acceptable level of pollution.”

The rating system, he said, which grades waterways as unacceptable, acceptable, good and excellent, consistently find the other eight streams “unacceptable.”

From Mine Run in the west, Pimmit Run, Difficult Run, Turkey Run, Gulf Branch, Donaldson Run, Windy Run and Spout Run enter the Potomac River at different points.

These Fairfax County streams enter the Potomac River through some of the most historic and beautiful acres in the United States. The National Park Service manages the river’s shores from Great Falls Park to Mt. Vernon, the historic home of President George Washington.

**THE RIVER PARKS** pass the headquarters of the Central Intelligence Agency and Marine Corps Memorial, Arlington Cemetery and the Pentagon. From the Ronald Reagan National Airport, the river’s shore runs along the built up area of Alexandria, but soon turns back to Fairfax County as it follows the water to Mt. Vernon.

This shore was a leg of the defenses of Washington during the Civil War and some of the parks are around the artillery forts build to defend the Capital.

No one in storm water management expects that a time will come again when people could drink a cup of water from the streams and creeks of Fairfax County, but

what they hope to do is to retard the pollution that is now ravaging the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

When Oberg, 37, a native of Minnesota transferred from an assignment in California here last year, he was looking forward to eating the sea food he had heard so much about. “I love sea food and I wanted to have fresh sea food.” He went down to the market along Maine Avenue and bought a half bushel of crabs “for a big crab party at my house.”

Now after a year of monitoring the water along the Potomac and learning of the plight of the Chesapeake Bay, Oberg said, “I chose not to have crab.”

Oberg argues that the “choices we make in our backyards, results in the choices we have on our dinner tables.”

Every day thousands of cars pass along the George Washington Parkway to and from jobs in Washington and Northern Virginia. Many of the motorists are unaware of the often dense woodland along the river. For years the river from the area of Spout Run to Great Falls has been traversed by the Potomac Heritage National Scenic hiking trail which runs along the water.

On a hot July afternoon, Oberg and two National Park Service paid interns Megan Bauer, 21, of Mt. Sidney, Va. and Rachel Baudel, 21, of Williamsport, Pa. are sampling the health of Gulf Run.

This is part of an intense NPS program since 2001, engaging interns in the summer that come for 12 weeks and Marion Norris, a water quality specialist with NPS Center for Urban Ecology. Bauer will shortly graduate from James Madison University as will Baudel who is finishing at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina.

Compared to many small parks around the country, this is fairly intense water pollution scrutiny.

**THE MONITORS** are looking for acidity, conductivity nitrates, dissolved oxygen, and

temperature, standard measurements scientists use to gauge a stream

They gauge the physical elements over the year: the depth of the stream, width, water edge to water edge and stream bank to stream bank. Gulf Run’s banks show clear signs of erosion that makes the stream bed a small canyon in areas.

They also trap and count invertebrates. The monitors are looking for ecoli, evidence of untreated sewage and signs of pesticides and intrusive chemicals.

The monitors try to test the streams at the same time each year to compare changes and summer is the best time measure of invertebrates because it is the most active part of their life cycle.

Gulf Run, said Oberg, was the site of a “significant chemical spill” on Aug. 25, 2001. A golf course along the stream in Fairfax County treated the links with 8,400 pounds of a pesticide that instructions said to keep dry even though the club knew that a major rain storm had been forecasted. When the rains came, the pesticide became wet and released large quantities of cyanide that flowed into the Potomac River killing thousands of fish.

Fairfax authorities now say that they think their public education efforts would forestall such an instance of negligence.

Nevertheless, it is the increasing density of human habitation in Fairfax that has caused much of the pollution. Impervious surfaces, apartment complexes, roads, parking lots, driveways, offices, sports arenas all the elements of human habitation in the county with 1,300,000 people make it impossible for excess water to soak in the ground and it runs off carrying everything from fecal matter to engine oil.

## Learning To Be Cool

FROM PAGE 3

and turning down the temperature on the water heater. She and her husband had had an “energy audit” performed on the house to find out where the leaks were and then had them sealed.

Her husband, Prakash, said they had also put their outdoor lights on timers that know when the sun rises and sets, switched many of their light bulbs to compact fluorescent versions and started using “smart power strips,” which turn off their peripheral outlets when the device plugged into the primary outlet is shut off.

“If you’re cool, you can get cooler,” he said.

**IN ADDITION** to the recent pool repairs, Reid said his family set the thermostat to bring down the temperature around the time he and his wife come home from work, her arriving in a hybrid and he on the bicycle he rides to and from his job in D.C.

They put their second refrigerator in the basement, rather than the garage, so that it would not have to fight the outdoor heat. Also, over the years, when they renovated their bathrooms they replaced the toilets with low-water volume models, and they replaced the insulation and windows, just as they did when they renovated the kitchen and basement. They also upgraded their water heater and make a point to pull down their shades.

“People need to understand that they individually can have an impact,” said Bartram.

Prakash Nadkarni said the 2 percent annual figure was more to get people started than anything else. “Once you get the awareness, people do things on their own and don’t need to be prodded by a number,” he said.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly, who has been a proponent of the Cool Counties program, said the board would be trying to get other communities involved in Cool Neighborhoods, through its work with homeowners associations and civic associations. “We have an enthusiastic citizenry that wants to be engaged in this kind of program,” he said.

While a 2 percent annual reduction in emissions by 20 percent of the population would not come close to reducing overall residential emissions by 2050, Connolly said he thought advances in technology would continue to make emissions reduction easier. “No one’s asking you to become a Trappist monk,” he said. “I think there are lots of different things that can be done.”

The Cool Counties program, which started in Fairfax County, has now been adopted by about four dozen counties nationwide.

### Learn More

To learn more about Cool Neighborhoods and for tips on reducing household greenhouse gas emissions, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/coolcounties/neighborhoods](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/coolcounties/neighborhoods). More tips will be posted soon.

## Rail Tunnel Gaining More Support?

FROM PAGE 3

sors to urge the FTA to restudy the cost of tunnel construction. The Sierra letter said that the FTA should “fully consider” the wide-bore tunneling option for going underground. This technology, said Monet in an interview, “has been vastly improved” since a tunnel was first considered and is now being used in New York’s Second Avenue Subway as well as in several major European projects.

It is cheaper than open cut and other ways to go underground, he said.

They also want the Virginia Department of Transportation to “abandon” the negotiated contracts with the Dulles Transit Partners LLC and the WMAA and bid the project “through a formal request for proposals consistent with federal acquisition rules.”

Tunnel supporters were encouraged on July 7 when U.S. Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn, told a “town hall” meeting held by U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, D. that he was encouraged by plans for federal support of rail transit under a new administration in 2009. Oberstar is chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee which has oversight on certain aspects of the federal Transportation Administration.

**MEANWHILE** opponents of the rail plans were encouraged that the delay might spell the end to the rail plan.

Patrick McSweeney whose lawsuit earlier this year ended Gov. Tim Kaine’s plan to have the Northern Virginia Transit Authority apply a special tax and pay for certain transportation costs, urged Northern Virginia opponents to have a “full court press”

on the financing aspects of the rail project. The FTA last February told Virginia it was worried about WMAA’s capacity to run such a major project and about the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority’s ability to operate the rail connection due to an enormous shortfall in its own maintenance and repair costs.

McSweeney and other opponents see this as more evidence that a bus connection would be cheaper and easier to create. These express buses would run from Dulles to Washington, through Tysons Corner.

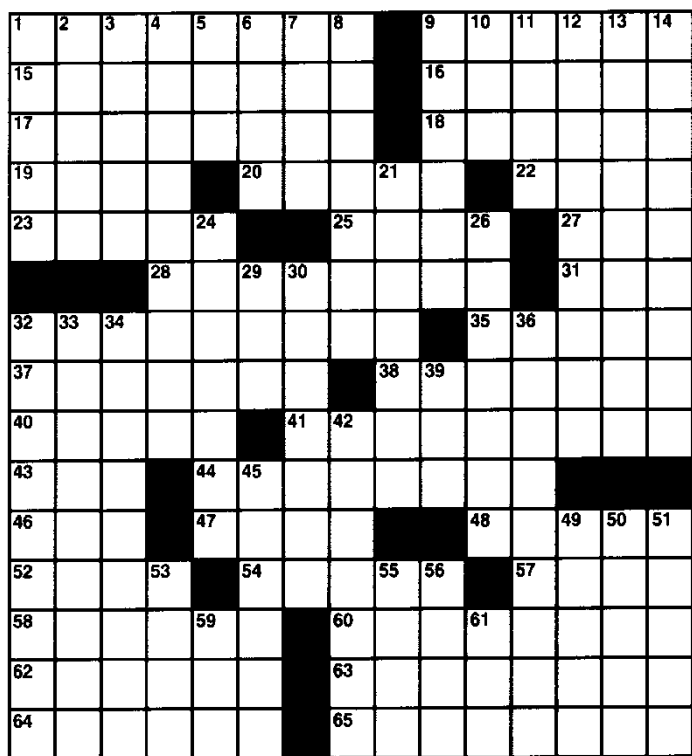
But Dulles Transit Partners LLC has been moving ahead. It announced it will release plans for the four rail stations planned for the Tysons Corner area.



# NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0320-6



Puzzle by Chuck Deodene

## ACROSS

- 1 Best-selling novel set in ancient Rome
- 9 Like salon customers
- 15 Rigor
- 16 When surfing is possible?
- 17 Béarnaise ingredient
- 18 Computing timesavers
- 19 Germs might grow in it
- 20 Catchall reason for failure
- 22 Quartermaster's post
- 23 Overhaul
- 25 Ward heelers
- 27 —Pitch
- 28 Cat's covering
- 31 Sequel tag
- 32 Leaner
- 35 The Osmonds' birthplace
- 37 Philosopher
- 38 Gary's "Desire" co-star
- 40 Scouting outing
- 41 David and others
- 43 Telegraph ender
- 44 Word after family or detail

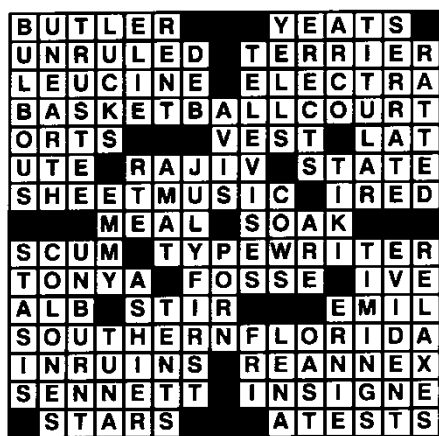
- 46 Subject of psych. experiments
- 47 Uses a shuttle
- 48 Homme — (French V.I.P.)
- 52 Letters for nine-to-fivers
- 54 The "Little Ol' Band From Texas"
- 57 Quince, e.g.
- 58 Pied
- 60 Heathen of sorts
- 62 Key of Beethoven's Seventh
- 63 Gay old time
- 64 Accouters anew
- 65 1945 Cahn/ Styne tune

## DOWN

- 1 Where to spend dirhams
- 2 Meter reader's concern
- 3 Sofia's portrayer in "The Color Purple"
- 4 First European to enter New York Bay
- 5 Southern Hemisphere constellation

- 6 Pad
- 7 Pour —
- 8 Neurotransmission site
- 9 Some clouds
- 10 W.W. II agcy.
- 11 It's a sensation
- 12 Chat sites
- 13 11-Down application
- 14 "State Fair" setting
- 21 Kind of bobsled
- 24 Option for the present
- 26 Charged
- 29 Inseparable
- 30 German battleship sunk in 1944
- 32 Source of much bell-ringing
- 33 Kings' milieu
- 34 Alternative to a baked potato
- 36 Aircraft's approach
- 39 Aircraft abbr.
- 42 39-line verse
- 45 They may be straight
- 49 Fields of comedy
- 50 Bahraini bigwig: Var.
- 51 Not windy
- 53 Land in which men wear skirts called sulus
- 55 One-eyed overlord
- 56 Pay (up)
- 59 Rollaway relative
- 61 1950's All-Star Burdette

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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## NEWS

# Mosque Seeks To Move

FROM PAGE 3

meeting last Wednesday, July 23.

The county's biggest concern has been that there is no break in the median on Route 7 in front of the site, so that people who would otherwise turn left onto the road would have to turn right and then make a U-turn at the intersection with Baron Cameron Avenue and Springvale Road. GFCA members also said they thought the plan would squeeze too much development onto a small parcel.

"If there is an intersection where a U-turn is safe and doable, this is it," McBride said at the meeting.

**HOWEVER**, Land Use and Zoning Committee member John Ulfelder pointed out that the road is expected to be widened to six lanes at some point, which would mean anyone who wanted to travel east out of the proposed center would have to head west and cross three through lanes and one left-turn lane in a short stretch to get into the far left-turn lane and make a U-turn. "I think that's a very dangerous proposition," said Ulfelder. He said he thought the issue of access alone would be reason for the county to deny the application.

Linda DaRocha, who lives on Springvale Court, directly behind the site proposed for the building, said she worried that people might find it easier to turn right on Springvale Road and turn around in her neighborhood.

There was nothing the group could do about the median, McBride said, but he said he thought any other concerns could be addressed.

The plan for the site is for a small mosque that would house a maximum of 176 worshippers at once, down from 200 in the original plan. Currently, services have attendances of less than 100, he said. The building would have 13,400 square feet of floor space and would be no taller than 35 feet, with 46 parking spaces. A 35-foot wooded buffer area between the building and the homes behind it was proposed, with about half those woods inside the property, but the buffer was later increased to 50 feet in response to concerns raised at the meeting.

The Heritage Center would also pay for the construction, along the front of the property, of a segment of service road, which would be extended when the three surrounding vacant parcels were occupied, in order to address the problem of access, said McBride.

**THE MOSQUE** would hold two services on Friday, originally from noon to 1 p.m. and from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., as well as youth classes from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Office hours would be from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and five daily prayer groups would also be held.

DaRocha pointed out that Friday's later service would let out at a time when school buses were beginning to drop students off on Springvale Road, and the Heritage Center amended its plans and made services

an hour earlier to avoid the conflict. A development condition was added, specifying that no more than 50 people would be onsite before 9 a.m. or between 2 and 7 p.m. during the week.

McBride said the site had been chosen because it was a residentially zoned parcel on an arterial road. While commercial districts are "not quite the right environment" for a place of worship, which would also cut into the tax base by taking up space that could be used for a business, a mosque in the middle of a neighborhood would generate unwanted traffic. A place of worship is an accepted uses in a residential area.

"It's a site that's really not a good house site for a single family dwelling because of Route 7," McBride added.

Ulfelder agreed that it was an appropriate use for the area but said he thought the site was "way too tight, even for a small facility like this." Additionally, he said, "I've read a lot of staff reports over the years, and I've never seen one so negative." He noted that some of the staff's concerns were issues that had been brought up almost a year ago.

McBride said some problems that had been addressed since the last staff report, including items he had worked on with staff, appeared to be addressed in the new report with the same wording as they had been previously, in spite of the changes that had been made to the plan. Ulfelder asked if the staff coordinator had been changed during the process and was told this was the case. They agreed the staff change was likely the source of at least some of the confusion.

Julie Ben-Achour, another would-be neighbor, said the woods between her neighborhood and Route 7 acted as a buffer "from the fumes and gas and noise and lights" of the road and that she was concerned that the development would open a hole in that barrier.

"A building is the absolute best sound buffer," GFCA member and local developer Wayne Foley countered, although he agreed that the mosque would be a "heavy use" for the small site. Still, he said he thought that general area was better suited to a place of worship than a home.

DaRocha wondered where members of the center would park during weddings and funerals, and Heritage Center member Abdel Zahr assured her that the center did not hold either weddings or funerals at its place of worship. The center has since added this stipulation as a condition of the application. Zahr also said Ramadan dinners would not be held at the site.

"Just like any family, after a while, we wanted to invest in something for all of us," said Dina Ghannan, who mans the Islamic Heritage Center office, noting that the 10-year-old mosque has never had a permanent home.

She said the group hopes to work with neighbors of the Great Falls site to come to an agreement. "We don't want to be bad neighbors. We have our own community, and now we're going to be part of theirs," said Ghannan.



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## 21 Announcements



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Deadline for submitting applications is  
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## 21 Announcements

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### Notice of Application to

### Establish a Branch Office

Notice is hereby given that Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company of Alexandria, Virginia has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to establish a Branch Office at 302 Maple Avenue West, Vienna VA 22180

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments, in writing, with the regional director (DOS) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its regional office located at Suite 800, 10 Tenth Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3906, not later than 15 days after the date of this publication, unless the comment period has been extended or reopened in accordance with regulation 303.9 (b)(2). The non-confidential portions of the application are on file in the regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the nonconfidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company

By: E. Hunt Burke

President

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

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## Read But Not Spoken



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Emails, text messages, instant messages; the written word is rarely written any more. It is typed and then read and frequently responded to in similar fashion — non-verbally. It's been my experience that communicating in this manner has lead to the existence, you might say, of a parallel universe. It's as if these electronic/digital-type communications have a life of their own and once typed, sent and replied to, need not have any mention of their having been typed, sent or replied to. There's no doubt the exchange occurred, the information was definitely transmitted, but more often than not, I'm not seeing — or rather hearing — any acknowledgment of their transmission.

Moreover, geographic distance seems not to have any bearing on this lack of acknowledgment. Whether the contactee is miles away, out of state or in adjacent cubicle a mere desk divider away, seems likewise not to matter. Neither does it seem to matter if this individual is family, friend or foe. Communications made electronically (via computer, Blackberry, cell phone, etc.) need not, apparently, be synced up to any real-time, one-to-one, face-to-face actual-type conversation where words are spoken — and heard, and then responded to using your mouth rather than your fingers.

This is not to say that the substance of these electronic exchanges won't be worked into subsequent conversations, it's more that they won't be footnoted; they'll be understood but not worth referencing. Ironic given the fact that the current conversation is often built on the very information provided by that previous email. It's sort of the opposite of a house of cards. Rather than the foundation of this discussion (electronic exchange, actually) being built on shaky, unreliable grounds, grounds that under most circumstances wouldn't even exist, that is if people actually spoke to one another — with respect to the underlying emails previously received and likely responded to — this electronic house of cards does exist and on very solid, verifiable grounds, but its existence seems irrelevant, and in the very least, forgettable, and not worth mentioning, in current conversations anyway.

In fact, as I sit and write this column, I can't recall any in-person conversation I've had where someone has said, "I want to continue the discussion we were having electronically." No, what I've heard, what I'll hear, if anything is, a verbal signature, a Post Office-type return receipt, you might call it: no facts, no feelings — no nothing, just a hollow acknowledgment. That seems to be as good as it gets. No real personal touch, just a bland, robotic almost, Joe Friday (Dragnet)-type reply. Whether true or not, it sure looks — and feels — that way, pending further investigation of course.

And as I investigate further, what I anticipate finding, is more of the same electronic world that seems to exist unto itself, like the avatars in the make-believe, computer-generated faux universe that exists on-line. It certainly seems real but to whom, and why should I pay attention to its reality anyway? Or is it a more sophisticated form of horse play and its time has come and mine has passed? And with respect to email exchanges, which seem real enough (and are real, so far as I can tell), why aren't they integrated into the real world? Why do they seem to just float around, unclaimed by either the sender or the receiver? If they're not worth mentioning — or worth claiming, then why did you email me in the first place? And in the second place, if a phone call is too much trouble, then don't bother emailing.

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



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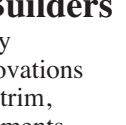
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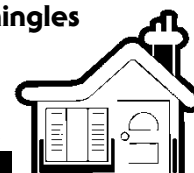
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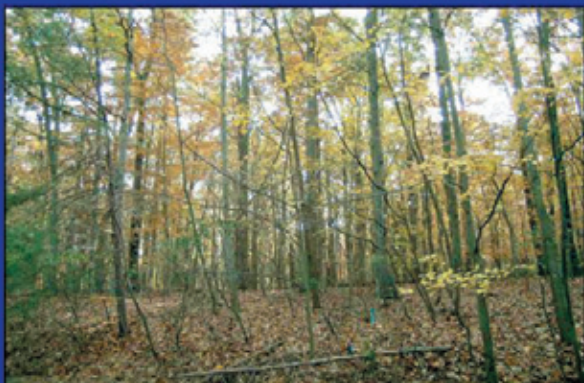
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