

# More Tree Troubles For Great Falls?

NEWS, PAGE 3

Fire and Rescue Personnel examine a car that was crushed by a fallen tree Tuesday, July 17, killing the driver inside, Albert Carl Roeth III.

## Turf Field Slated For Nike Park

NEWS, PAGE 13

## Meeting the Pets Of Great Falls

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 10



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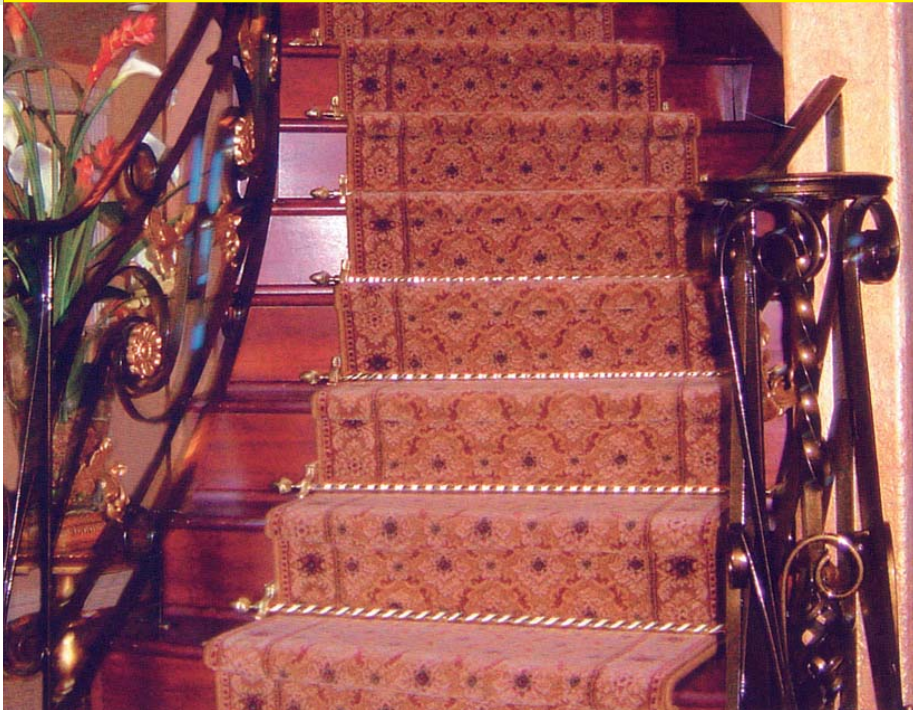
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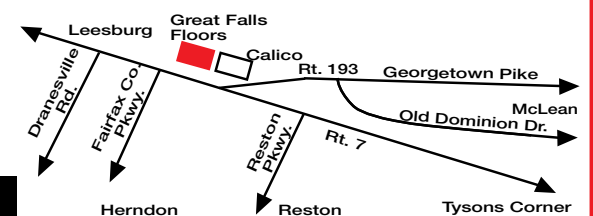
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**A crane removes a fallen tree from the car of Albert Carl Roeth III, who was killed while driving down Georgetown Pike Tuesday, July 17.**



PHOTOS BY  
STEPHEN RAINEY

## More Tree Troubles for Great Falls?

**Tree falls, kills one, residents concerned about others.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**A** tree on Georgetown Pike at Oliver's Corner in Great Falls fell over Tuesday, July 17, killing Albert Carl Roeth III while he was driving south at around 6:30 p.m.

The tree is one of several heritage trees that were located near the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker Road. The tree that fell July 17 was over 100 years old, and according to local arborists, was showing obvious signs of decay.

The tree measured almost six feet in diameter, and required the use of a crane from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue. The Virginia Department of Transportation also removed a nearby tree that was a similar age and showing similar signs of decay.

"The sound was like something you hear in a disaster movie, not so much a crash, but a crunch," said Doris Koenig of Vienna, who was returning from a visit with a friend when she stopped by the nearby Safeway. "When I first started walking toward the street, I saw the tree blocking the road and was thankful no one had run into it. But as I got closer I could see a car underneath, and that's when I feared the worst."

The tree's branches had been trimmed on the side of the Oliver's Corner building to make way for power lines, placing much of the weight on the Georgetown Pike side, which is how it fell.

Other members of the Great Falls community feel that there are other trees that might pose a similar danger. Dr. Ralph Lazaro, who owns the office building on the northeast corner of the intersection, says there are two trees on his property that could pose a hazard.

"I developed the property in 1977, and at that time, VDOT wanted the two trees next to the intersection taken down," he said. "It would improve sight distances and the corner could be lowered and possibly even a right turn lane added. But it was very much



**Community members watch as a tree is removed from a car Tuesday, July 17.**

contested."

Lazaro remembers the debate over the tree removals getting so heated, that someone placed a sign on the trees that read "You're killing me, Ralph."

"Being a young dentist and a newcomer to this community, I was overwhelmed with the controversy, and eventually the word came from Richmond that the trees were to be left in place," he said. "Over the years, I've still kept my concern, the trees have been struck twice by lightning, and the sight isn't much improved, but the use of the intersection has grown by a lot."

In addition to the sight distances, Lazaro says the trees' proximity could make it easy for falling branches to fall onto cars driving along Georgetown Pike. A county arborist recently examined the trees and said it wasn't in a condition as bad as the one that fell July 17, but a future analysis is planned.

"I love trees, and I know how important they are to this community, but I'm hoping this bad decision that was made 35 years ago will be corrected, hopefully before there's another tragedy," Lazaro said. "It took a fatal accident to get a light at the Utterback Store Road intersection, and a major accident to get one at Riverbend Road, I'm hoping we can be a little more proactive about this situation."

**A rendering of the proposed odor abatement facility in Great Falls, which will serve the Potomac Interceptor sewage pipeline.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## Potomac Interceptor Project Begins

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**E**astern Great Falls will be the site of a new odor abatement facility, part of the ongoing project from the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority.

The pipeline, which was constructed in the early 1960s, conveys wastewater from Fairfax, Loudoun and Montgomery Counties by gravity to the Potomac Pump Station in Washington, D.C. It is approximately 50 miles long and conveys about 60 million gallons per day, with a maximum capacity of 127 million gallons per day.

In 1991, due to odor complaints, a Potomac Interceptor Study recommended treatment of the hydrogen sulfide gas that came from the line, and six odor treatment locations were planned, one in Washington, D.C., three in Maryland and two in Virginia. One is planned for Loudoun County, the other for Great Falls. Barry Lucas of D.C. Water and Sewer said that maximum odor abatement won't happen until all six are operational.

"Each facility is designed for its location, for example, site 1995 in Washington, D.C. is designed to look like a canal lockhouse, since it's along the C and O Canal," Lucas said. "Back in 1999, we had an inspection video that showed a lot of the reinforcing of the pipe, which we're typically not supposed to see. We can see concrete pipe, so we know we have issues and this project is the means by which we hope to begin to stop some of the corrosion."

**The location of the new odor abatement facility to be constructed by the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority.**



The crews will access the site from Deepwoods Drive, Yarnick Road, River Park Lane. They will be placing speed humps, signs and will do some intersection improvements to Beach Mill Road and Deepwoods Drive.

"These are not high man-power jobs," said Allen McCullough of Ulliman Schutte Construction. "We are coming in to do some dome excavation and surface work, as well as some underground piping and pour some concrete structure foundation, then it will shift into some masonry structure. There will be fairly small crews, five or six people."

The facility will be approximately 57 feet by 25 feet, and is scheduled to begin construction this summer and conclude by Fall 2013. Working hours are expected to be from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The facilities will use activated carbon to combat the odor of the sewer gas, which will be in the facilities. The process is expected to reduce ambient odor and sewer corrosion. The carbon will be replaced approximately every one to two years.

After the odor abatement facility is constructed, the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority will be using the same access points to work on rehabilitation of the pipeline, to repair to the pipeline itself, as 5,300 feet of liner for the pipe in Fairfax County will be replaced, designed to project the life of the pipeline by another 75-100 years.

The rehabilitation project will be done by separate company and crews.





PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Workers observe as the final concrete span for the guideway for the Metrorail through Tysons Corner is lowered into place Tuesday, July 17.

## Final Metro Span Laid in Tysons

Workers complete overhead bridges, move to laying track.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Workers from Bechtel Construction placed the final aerial span for Metrorail in Tysons Corner Tuesday morning, the last of 258 that will support trains as they make their way from Falls Church to Wiehle Avenue along Phase One of the Silver Line.

"This is a major construction milestone for Phase One of the project, which will connect Tysons Corner and Reston to Metro's existing Orange Line and the entire 106-mile Metrorail system," said Pat Nowakowski, executive director of the project. "We plan to complete construction this time next summer and Metro will open Phase One in late 2013."

The blue and yellow truss, which is a 365-ton, 360-foot long horizontal crane, lowered the span, which is made of concrete cast at Dulles Airport, in about 40 minutes Tuesday morning. The span includes 12 segments, each weighing between 25 and 40 tons.

"The aerial guideway has been one of the most challenging aspects of the project, as we had to carry out this work safely above busy highways and in a congested area," said Larry Melton, Bechtel's executive director for the project. "Innovative construction techniques, the work of a dedicated and experienced crew and patience from the public were critical to the successful completion of the guideway."

The average span is made up of 12 segments and is 120 feet. The total length of the guideways required 2,769 segments to complete.

"With the completion of this guideway, if one were so inclined, they could now walk from Falls Church, through Tysons, all the way to the Wiehle Avenue station," Melton said. "But we do have fences and measures to discourage that of course."



Workers lower the final aerial span for the Metrorail track in Tysons Corner Tuesday, July 17.

Crews will spend the next four to five weeks dismantling the truss and will also begin laying track along the 11.7 miles between Falls Church and Reston.

"This is definitely an important milestone, and we're very close to being right on schedule," said Sam Carnaggio, the project's director from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. "The tunnel through Tysons was completed some time ago, and after completion of the aerial structures, we'll move on to connecting everything to the Orange Line."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left: David Kim (USNA), Matthew Ziegler (USMA), Ashley Paek (USNA), Molly Shannon (USMA), Chad Palmiotto (USNA Foundation Scholarship), Congressman Frank Wolf, Colin Laskodi (USAFA), Taylor Turchan (USNA), Zachary Oravec (USNA), Gavin McDonald (USAFA), Troy Dennis (USAFA) and Darby Nelson (USNA).

## Appointed to Academies

U.S. Rep. Wolf announces service academy appointments.

Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) announced the 10th District's Class of 2016 appointments to the nation's service academies, as well as those selected for Academy prep schools and scholarships to academy-affiliated prep schools.

**UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY:** Benjamin Davies,\*\* McLean, Laurel Springs, England; Molly Shannon,\*\* McLean, Thomas Jefferson; Matthew Ziegler,\*\* Centreville, Westfield; Tirone Young, Winchester, John Handley; Richard Xue, Centreville, Westfield.

**UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY:** David Kim,\*\* Great Falls, Langley; Richard Kuzma, Leesburg, Thomas Jefferson; Robert Mason, Oak Hill, Chantilly; Darby Nelson, Centreville, Westfield; Zachary Oravec,\*\* Ashburn, Stone Bridge; Ashley Paek,\*\* Leesburg, Thomas Jefferson; Spencer Shabshab,\*\* McLean, Langley; Megan Snyder, Ashburn, Stone Bridge; Taylor Turchan, Sterling, Dominion.

**UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY PREP SCHOOL:** Ryan Ochoa, Front Royal, Randolph Macon.

**UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP:** Catherine

Macklin, McLean, Langley and Chad Palmiotto, Sterling, Potomac Falls.

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY:** Shannon Daily, Leesburg, Heritage; Troy Dennis,\*\* Centreville, Westfield; John Laskodi,\*\* Haymarket, Battlefield; Gavin McDonald,\*\* Centreville, Westfield; Caleb Myhre,\*\* Sterling, Rift Valley, Kenya.

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY PREP SCHOOL:** Tyler Dietrich, Leesburg, Tuscarora.

**UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY:** Quinn Fleming,\*\* Ashburn, Gonzaga; Matthew Hassan, Warrenton, Seton; Hutton Jackson,\*\* Leesburg, Seton.

**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY:** Joseph Rizzardi, Ashburn, Briar Woods.

\*\*These appointees were nominated by Wolf's 10th District Service Academy Advisory Board, which interviews candidates and recommends nominees. The selection process is strictly a competitive one. Others listed above received their appointments through presidential, Senate or other nomination sources.



# BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

**Blood Drive.** 11 a.m.- 5 p.m. NVAR Fairfax, 8407 Pennell Street, Fairfax. Must bring donor card, ID, and names of medication currently taking. 703-207-3200.

**Business After Hours.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. M&T Bank. 703-356-5424.

**Cable TV/Internet: Know Your Options, Know Your Rights.** 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

## THURSDAY/JULY 26

**Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce LeadShare Meeting.** 7:30 a.m. Chesterbrook Residences, 2030 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. LeadShare events will be held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. Register at 267-346-1885.

## SATURDAY/JULY 28

**Fitness Outside the Gym.** 7 p.m. Goose Creek Consulting, 6723 Whittier Avenue, Suite 204, McLean. Methods to keep your body healthy without ever stepping foot into a gym.

**Plant Clinic Hosted by the Master Gardeners.** 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Gardeners will answer your gardening questions. 703-790-8088.

## MONDAY/JULY 30

**Personalized Computer/Internet Training.** 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

## TUESDAY/JULY 31

**Practice your English.** 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

## Great Falls Blue Knights U12 Soccer Tryouts

The Great Falls Blue Knights, a rising U12 Boys Travel Soccer team, are looking to strengthen their squad for their 2012-2013 ODSL campaign.

The Knights are a close knit squad, focused on maximizing player development with an emphasis on having great fun in an competitive environment for committed U12 players. Our licensed coaches & trainers work to constantly improve technical skills and strategies for the present with an eye on long-term success in the future.

The Knights will hold a summer tryout sessions for players born on or after 8/1/2000 at the following dates/time:

<b>Monday July 30th</b>	<b>Lake Fairfax Park</b>	<b>Field #4 6:30-8pm</b>
<b>Monday August 6th</b>	<b>Lake Fairfax Park</b>	<b>Field #4 6:30-8pm</b>



If you are interested, have questions or would like to register for tryouts, please email the Team Manager at [GFBLEKNIGHTS@LIVE.COM](mailto:GFBLEKNIGHTS@LIVE.COM)



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## SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to [greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

Three Great Falls residents have been named as 2012 National Merit \$2500 Scholarship winners:

❖ **Rachel Chuang** (Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, probable career field medicine)

❖ **Esther Wang** (Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, probable career field computer science), and

❖ **Holliday L. Shuler** (Langley High School, probable career field anthropology).

**Seventeen Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates** from the class of 2012 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

❖ **Meron Belayneh** of Edison High School (mathematics), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

❖ **David Kim** of Lake Braddock Secondary School (undecided),

National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.

❖ **Dylan Kriz** of Langley High School (international business), National Merit University of South Carolina Scholarship.

❖ **Nathaniel Banks** of Robinson Secondary School (music), National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.

❖ **Matthew Ferrell** of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (computer science), National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship.

❖ **Erika Fitzpatrick** of TJHSST (undecided), National Merit Carleton College Scholarship.

❖ **Mingming Hu** of TJHSST (computer science), National Merit Georgia Institute of Technology Scholarship.

❖ **Jerry Li** of TJHSST (engineering), National Merit Washington University in St. Louis Scholarship.

❖ **Aimi Nguyen** of TJHSST (dentistry), National Merit University of Texas at Dallas Scholarship.

❖ **Rithvik Prasannappa** of TJHSST (medicine), National Merit Washington University in St. Louis Scholarship.

❖ **Kelsey Rainey** of TJHSST (engineering), National Merit Auburn University Scholarship.

❖ **Peter Reischer** of TJHSST (psy-

chiatry), National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship.

❖ **Benjamin Torczon** of TJHSST (business), National Merit University of Alabama Scholarship.

❖ **Zachary Williams** of TJHSST (business/law), National Merit University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Scholarship.

❖ **Kerry Zhang** of TJHSST (economics), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

❖ **Rebecca Holley** of Westfield High School (Music/Education), National Merit University of Rochester Scholarship.

❖ **Ian Van Pelt** of Westfield High School (biology), National Merit Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Scholarship.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 8,100 students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2012.

**Jamison Fox-Canning** of Great Falls has been awarded a National Merit Rochester Institute of Technology Scholarship. The probable career field of the Langley High School graduate will be game design.

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PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



Founder Francois moved his Washington, D.C. restaurant to the Great Falls countryside 36 years ago. L'Auberge Chez Francois continues to be a dining icon drawing patrons from throughout the metro region.

L'Auberge Chez Francois chef de cuisine Pascal Perrochon with owner and executive chef Jacques Haeringer, son of founder Francois Haeringer.

# L'Auberge Chez Francois Grows a Garden, a Brasserie

Great Falls culinary icon integrates nature and heritage in classic French cuisine.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

Washington's iconic culinary destination, L'Auberge Chez Francois, is as much a cultural experience as it is a dining venue. From its garden boasting a palette of seasonal hues and its lively patio to its brasserie showcasing treasures from the restaurant's past, and the storied Alsatian-themed classic dining rooms, L'Auberge Chez Francois draws the prominent and local lives to the Great Falls countryside.

Nestled on six acres of mature woodland, the chalet-inspired L'Auberge Chez Francois was sprung from the youth of its founder, Alsatian Francois Haeringer. Haeringer's original Washington-area restaurant was in the District, Chez Francois. When he moved his restaurant into the country 36 years ago, business associates thought Haeringer was crazy. Who would travel 20 miles, along winding two-lane hilly roads, for a meal? By all accounts, thousands and thousands would, have and do.

"It's a wonderful place," said Virgil Webb, lunching on the patio with his wife Susan on a recent afternoon. Virgil was waiting for his appetizer lobster bisque to cool down as Susan dove into her mushroom crepe. The couple, from Arlington, missed a birthday and an anniversary on the patio because it had been too hot. L'Auberge is worth the trip from Arlington four or five times a year. "It's the best place in the whole area," said Virgil Webb. "Wonderful food, wonderful people, wonderful customer service. Everything is always just great."

**L'AUBERGE CHEZ FRANCOIS** offers three dining sections: the original dining



A Great Falls family enjoys a gourmet luncheon in L'Auberge's dining room.

room, the umbrella-shaded patio and Jacques' Brasserie, opened about a year ago.

A diner in the brasserie orders the vegetable tarte flambe. L'Auberge Chez Francois chef/owner Jacques Haeringer himself takes a basket out to his garden, picking the ingredients that will top the flatbread crust ... tomatoes, peppers, onions, zucchini, yellow squash. A chef will garnish the toppings with cheese, basil and kalamata olives, and the tarte is baked in a pizza oven. It is summer on a plate.

Haeringer's new garden is close to a quarter-acre. Monet could not have painted a more colorful landscape. There are purple peppers, orangy-yellow pumpkins, red tomatoes of diverse varieties from small to heirloom, and lots of green, whether it's leaves or plants. Yellow squash and green zucchini sprawl out. The herb garden was moved to the new area because the mature trees towering over the earlier herb garden give off too much shade for thriving herb plants.

Haeringer calls himself a "real" gardener. "I got that from Dad," he said. "We were both big-time gardeners." He plans on ex-

panding the vegetable garden next year. "We just love this."

Between his garden, his local growers and suppliers, he is emphasizing more and more local ingredients. Haeringer buys hormone-free meat because that is their "preference." "We've been around so long, we're old-fashioned. This is the only way we know how to run the restaurant."

Jacques Haeringer got much from Dad.

When Francois Haeringer died two years ago at age 91, he left his business, his passion, really, to the adept hands of his son, executive chef Jacques Haeringer. Brother Paul continues to operate Chez Francois with Jacques. Although they have made some changes to the restaurant's layout, they have kept the heart of L'Auberge Chez Francois as "Papa" developed it.

"Jacques' Brasserie" took over unused space downstairs on lawn level. The room, with windows overlooking the gardens, was transformed into a traditional French-style brasserie. The hand-painted ceramic-topped tables are more than 50 years old. "Dad had these tables built himself when he was downtown," said Haeringer. "We decided to

use them down here. They're part of our heritage."

And there's more from Francois Haeringer's past. The copper on a wall came from Francois. Behind the banquette is fabric from bolts that Jacques found at his father's home. The brasserie's sconces come not from the Haeringer collection but from the National Cathedral.

**THE NEW BAR**, called Bar Rouge, is off the brasserie and is named for its dazzling scarlet granite counter top. It opened in early July. Haeringer plans on offering "happy hour" drinks and appetizers there.

Pascal Perrochon, from France, is the chef de cuisine, in the kitchen from early morning to early evening.

Talking about L'Auberge Chez Francois, waiter Alejandro Garza of Herndon said, "it is, in itself, a destination."

What hasn't changed much are the menu classics, the heart of L'Auberge. While the menu changes seasonally, it retains the Alsatian focus L'Auberge has perfected since its inception. The restaurant offers daily specials to reflect special bounty, such as Dover sole flown in from France, but its core is the traditional cuisine patrons love. "Dad was a genius," said Haeringer. "He knew what people wanted. You go to a classic French restaurant because you want classic French food."

L'Auberge Chez Francois offers a 6-course prix-fixe dinner menu for the price of the entrée, ranging in price from \$62.00 to \$74.00.

The dining room menu is exhaustive. Most dishes are distinctively French, from frog legs to choucroute, from rack of lamb with herbs de Provence and a tarragon sauce, to chateaubriand, seasonal vegetables, roasted potatoes, with béarnaise and truffle sauce, and roasted breast of duckling with oranges and a Grand Marnier sauce.

Appetizers include from-scratch soups, including a garden-fresh gazpacho, to crepes and seafood.

SEE CHEZ FRANCOIS, PAGE 15



# OPINION

# Separate and Unequal?

If we don't believe that poor students are less innately talented, then the disparities in Northern Virginia are truly unfair.

The numbers are eye-popping. Latino students are 22 percent of Fairfax County Public Schools students, but 2.7 percent of the incoming Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology freshman class, the class of 2016. Of the 480 students, seven are black. That's 1.4 percent, while black students are 10 percent of the county school system.

The class of 2016 includes 480 students: 126 white students (26 percent), 308 Asian students (64 percent), 13 Hispanic students (2.7 percent), seven black students (1.4 percent) and 27 other.

Almost all of the students accepted to TJ come from eight middle schools with advanced gifted-and-talented programs.

The disparities and lack of diversity at Northern Virginia's stellar magnet school, ranked the top high school in the nation, is a symptom of a much more pervasive problem in Fairfax County.

This week, two groups, the Coalition of The Silence led by former school board member Tina Hone, and the Fairfax County Branch of the NAACP filed a formal complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. The complaint argues that the current policies regarding admission to Thomas Jefferson and policies regarding identification of students for eligibility for gifted services within FCPS "disparately impact Black and Latino students in violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1965, which prohibits discrimination based on race,

color and national origin."

For well over a decade, FCPS has made a variety of attempts to address the exclusive nature of admissions to TJ, but with little effect and intense controversy.

The problem runs much deeper than freshman admission to Thomas Jefferson. Of 12,044 elementary and middle school students identified for "level 4" gifted-and-talented programs last year, only 455 were black, 3.8 percent, while 10 percent of FCPS students are black. Just 752 were Hispanic, about 6 percent, although 22 percent of FCPS students are Hispanic.

**GETTING ACCEPTED** to TJ, in general, is not an easy task for anyone, reported Julia O'Donoghue in 2010 in the Connection. The school admitted only 15.3 percent of the 3,119 students who applied to be part of the class of 2014. That means TJ had a lower acceptance rate for its incoming freshman class than either Cornell University or Swarthmore College that year.

Fairfax students also compete with children from around the region for slots at the Northern Virginia magnet school. About 80 percent of TJ's student body comes from Fairfax but residents from Arlington, Loudoun, Prince William and Fauquier counties and the City of Falls Church can also apply. (The City of Alexandria does not allow its students to apply to

TJ, and should reconsider its choice to opt out.)

While it may be difficult for all children, students who are black, Hispanic or poor have a particularly hard time getting admitted to TJ.

Out of 480 students admitted to the class of 2014, only nine were considered poor enough to qualify for free-or-reduced-priced lunch.

Across all four grades at TJ in 2009-10 school year, approximately 1.78 percent of students were black, 2.84 percent of students were Hispanic and 1.74 percent were poor.

Fully 25 percent of students in Fairfax County are poor enough to qualify for free-or-reduced-priced meals. Do we believe that poor students are less talented than students from wealthier families?

The complaint asserts that FCPS "has evolved into a system that essentially operates a network of separate and unequal schools."

Many if not most poor students lack access to quality enrichment programs and after-school activities, lack access to expensive and highly specific test preparation classes for the admissions test for TJ. And the complaint cites FCPS retreated from outreach programs for poor and minority students.

Addressing these issues from Kindergarten up would have many benefits beyond increasing diversity at one school. This could also decrease the achievement gap, increase the graduation rate for minority and poor students, and reduce disparities in the suspension and expulsion rate.

These are hot issues with many perspectives. We welcome letters and comments suggesting solutions and with different points of view.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Rejecting a Fairy Tale

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter titled "Making Care Affordable" from the July 18-24 edition of The Connection. This opinion article says that we should all celebrate now that Obamacare has been upheld by the Supreme Court as a tax. The article supposes that now millions of Americans will have access to care, as if they don't already, and that all our ills will be solved and we'll live happily ever after. Well I'm sorry. I don't believe in fairy tales, and that is exactly what Obamacare is. The truth about Obamacare is that it is a tax, it is not affordable, and many Americans will not be able to retain the doctors of their choice.

From the beginning, we were told that it was not a tax, yet the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court upheld it on the basis of it being a tax. Now the federal government

can force us to buy something we don't want or pay a penalty for not doing so. Sorry, this is not the America I know and love where federal bureaucrats now have the power to dictate what and how much of anything we need to buy for our families.

We were told that health care will be "affordable," yet the March CBO scoring of this disgraceful law shows that it will be nothing of the sort. It has updated its cost estimate for the first ten years to be 1.76 trillion dollars, up from its original scoring of \$940 billion when this was signed into law. How will this country, with an already downgraded debt rating, an anemic economic growth rate of 1 percent, staggering unemployment and underemployment, and a President that is outright hostile to free enterprise, ever pay for such a monstrous new government entitlement? My liberal friends will say let's make the evil 1 percent pay for it. But with only half the working population even paying federal income taxes, I think

the answer is we won't pay for it. We will pass this burden on to our children and grandchildren and their grandchildren.

We were told that more people will have coverage under Obamacare and that we will be able to keep the doctors we like. Yet the March CBO scoring shows that 3 million more people will require health care through Medicaid, and that private employers will drop their coverage for employees, forcing more people onto Medicaid rolls and into government run health exchanges. And from the beginning, Obamacare cut \$500 billion from Medicare.

So once again, I say this American is not celebrating. The Affordable Care Law is anything but affordable. This disastrous law is full of empty promises and represents a heavy handed federal government bent on eroding our freedoms and burdening generations of Americans with outrageous bills. I live in the real world where budgets are made and benefits get paid for, not passed on to future

generations of Americans not even born yet. I pray the rest of my fellow citizens will see through the fairy tale that is Obamacare and elect representatives in November who will overturn this despicable law.

**Gina Ryan**  
Great Falls

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.  
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Local Media Connection LLC**

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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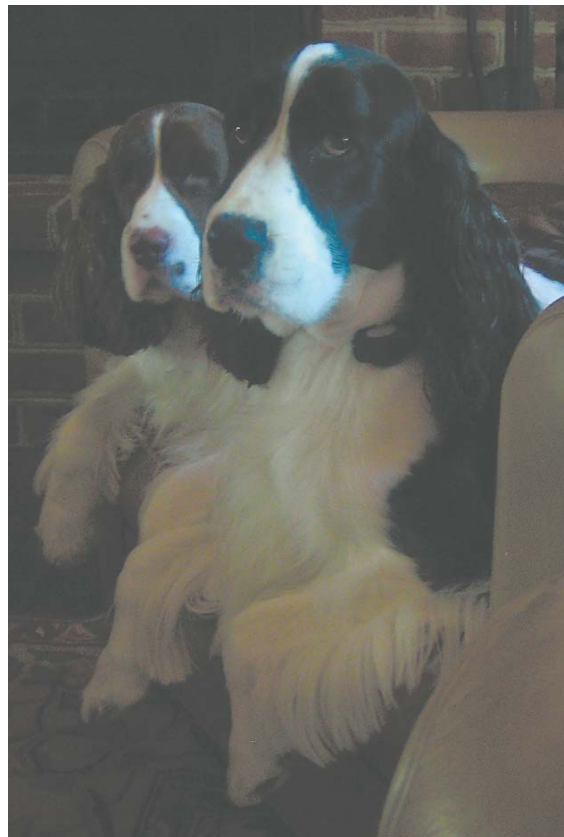
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# PET CONNECTION



## Blackjack and Lucy

**Dear Pet Lovers:** We appreciate the notoriety which last year's Connection sent our way. As a result, we carefully posed for two more pictures in the hopes that you would again grace us in your very special newspaper. We live with Russ and Audrey Ray in Great Falls. Your devoted readers, Blackjack and Lucy.

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# PET CONNECTION

PHOTO BY MORGAN SASSER/THE CONNECTION

Deuk Kim and Mash sit in their shop in Great Falls Village, where Mash has been accompanying his owners for twelve years.



The Pan family members, (from left to right) Garrett, Mitchell, Gary, Wendy, and Wesley hold their chickens in front of their backyard coop.



Raj, Sangita, and Neil Patil (from left to right) sit between their playful dogs, Pluto (left) and Goofy (right).



Lily boards her horse, Shine, at Stony Ridge Farm in Manassas.

## Meeting the Pets of Great Falls

Five stories on local people with pets.

BY MORGAN SASSER  
THE CONNECTION

At Kim's Tailor shop in Great Falls Village Center, clients are greeted not only by Deuk Kim, but by his friendly Yorkie, Mash. Mash has been accompanying Kim and his wife Soon to work every day since he was two-months-old—and according to Kim, “by now all Great Falls residents seem to know him.”

Mash is named after the famous television show by the same name, and was originally a graduation gift for the Kims' daughter. But after she left for school in California, Mash stayed with the family.

Kim says that his favorite thing about Mash is how smart and well-trained he is. Mash has even learned to let himself out to use the bathroom while his owners work with clients. “He just goes around the corner and comes right back, all by himself,” he said.

However, three years ago this trick got Mash into trouble. One day, Mash wandered outside—without a collar—to use the bathroom. Thinking that he was a stray dog, a woman picked him up at the Shell gas station behind the shop. After reporting a missing dog to the Fairfax Animal Shelter, she took him home with her to Manassas. “She wasn't a Great Falls resident, so she didn't recognize him as the Kim's Tailor dog,” said Kim.

After a panicked evening, the Kims eventually contacted the Fairfax shelter and promptly drove to Manassas to get their beloved dog. “We thought that we had lost him,” said Kim. “Fortunately, the woman who found him took good

care of him.”

At nine pounds, most would assume Mash to be a puppy—and clients are always astonished when Kim tells them that Mash is actually twelve years old. “We check him three or four times a year, and he's very healthy for his age,” said Kim.

Mash has certainly become well-known in the Great Falls community, and residents stop by the shop often to give him a pat on the head.

**AFTER TAKING A FEW STEPS** into the Pans' backyard, you start to hear the clucking from the red and white coop. Along with Scarlett, a German short-haired pointer, and Tommy, a turtle that was discovered in their pool, this family has four pet chickens.

The Pans got their first chicken—a hen named Lady—six years ago from a hatching project at St. Francis church. When it was announced that the chick needed a permanent home, the Pans decided to volunteer. “After that, we just started adding,” said Wendy Pan.

Next came Lady Two, Junior, and a rooster named Jabberwocky. “He was huge, and when he was out of the coop he would chase me and my brothers around our yard,” said son Garrett.

At that point, the Pans built a coop for their chickens. Complete with a solar heater to keep the birds warm in the winter, the structure provides protection from foxes and dogs that might otherwise attack. However, the chickens are allowed to wander around the yard—as long as Scarlett is inside.

Just like with any other pet, the Pans provide the chickens with fresh food and water every day, and

Wendy Pan regularly collects the eggs from the coop. “Sometimes our friends bring us empty egg cartons and ask us to fill them,” she said.

While chickens may seem like unconventional pets, Gary Pan says that most local families are intrigued. “But when I tell people who live outside of Great Falls, they're much more surprised,” he said. “I think it shows that our community still has a rural feeling.”

Although the Pans now refer to the birds collectively as “chickens,” they still consider them pets. “I grew up on a farm, so I like having them around,” said Wendy Pan. So far, the family has had almost twenty chickens, and plans continue adding them in the future.

**DURING THE POWER OUTAGES** that swept through the area in early July, the Patil family's miniature poodle, Pluto, proved himself a hero. The lamps lining their backyard had been off for five days due to the outages, and leaves had started to collect around them. Little to the family's knowledge, when the power returned the leaves caught fire and started to smoke.

“Pluto was running around and barking, so we finally came outside to see what was wrong,” said Raj Patil. “We put it out in time, but it could have spread to the house if it weren't for him.”

In addition to Pluto, who is almost three, six-year-old Goofy, a cocker spaniel and poodle mix, is also beloved by the Patils. This is the third dog named Goofy that the Patils have had; the first was a shih tzu that they adopted while living in Utah, and after moving to Virginia, said Sangita Patil, “we wanted to keep the tradition going.”

Both dogs are walked three times a day, and their favorite place to go is Great Falls Park. “We walk them, feed them. They love home-made Indian food,” said Sangita. “But if you give them something store-bought, they spit it out. It's so funny.”

The family describes the dogs as loving, and daughter Radika notes that even after so many years, “they're always so excited when one of us comes home.”

While Goofy is welcoming towards houseguests, Pluto—despite his stature—acts as the Patils guard dog. “He tries to protect us from everyone,” said Sangita.

And even Goofy has caused trouble in the house. “Goofy has chewed up two of my retainers, two pairs of glasses, two iPods, and my driver's education booklet,” said son Neil. “He even stole four twenty dollar bills out of someone's purse once and just walked off. Another time, he really did eat my homework.”

**TO FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD** Lily Barber, Shine is more than a pet; she's a teammate. The pair frequently competes in horse shows around the area, although Barber says that she values Shine for much more than her dressage and jumping abilities. “She has real personality,” said Barber. “She's sweet, but I've seen her be sassy sometimes.”

Barber has had Shine for two years now, and the duo met for the first time at a horse show. The Barber family was looking at several horses, but after riding Shine for a few minutes Barber says that she knew it was the perfect match. “I just had to convince my parents,” she said.

Now, Barber boards her horse at Stony Ridge Farm in Manassas, but still manages to see Shine every



Loretta Arey with her horse, Scottie, at their Great Falls home.

other day. The two have lessons once a week, but Barber enjoys going on rides with her horse whenever she gets the chance. “The barn is right at the Manassas battlefield, so we like going through the trails around there,” she said.

Aside from riding and competing, Barber values the other aspects of having a horse as well. She says that to have a pet like this, “you really have to love all parts of it. Mucking the stalls, grooming the horse, everything. It's more work than some people might think.”

However, Barber sees the time commitment as worthwhile, and has developed a strong connection with her horse. “I honestly believe that she understands what I'm saying,” said Barber. “I'll be talking to her, and she snickers back to me.”

**LAST FALL**, Loretta Arey found herself locked in her tack room.

Without a phone to call for help, she was finally forced to escape through the back window. Her horse, Scottie, had once again shown his aptitude for locks. “He's very smart,” she said. “He locked me in the tack room, and can let himself out of his stall, too.”

Despite his mischievous nature, Scottie has a special place in Arey's life. Not only is he sweet and gentle, but he is also Arey's largest horse. A cross between the Irish draft and Belgian breeds, Scottie is 17.3 hands—almost six feet tall—and fifteen hundred pounds.

Arey recalls when Scottie took advantage of his stature two years ago. “I had an injured horse that I was keeping in Scottie's stall,” she said. “I came back from teaching a lesson, and Scottie had lifted the stall door off its hinges. I guess he just wanted his space back.”

Arey has had Scottie for six years,

and first found him on the website equine.com. After her former riding horse passed away, she had decided to find a replacement. And when it came time to name the new horse, her husband helped her come up with ideas. “My husband joked that I had to get beamed up onto his back to ride him because he's so tall,” said Arey. “It reminded us of ‘beam me up Scotty’ from Star Trek.”

In spite of Scottie's strength and size, Arey has to take special care of him in some ways. “He has 26 allergies,” she said. “It's like a kid with allergies; it can be high maintenance.”

Aside from Scottie, Arey has seven other horses that she uses in her riding program, 20/20 Horsesight. While she allows students to ride the others during lessons, Arey reserves Scottie for her own riding. “He's just too big for most people to ride,” she said.



Frodo posing in a sea of pillows.



From left, Pepper and Portia sit side-by-side on Huang's boat.

## The Best Friends of Great Falls

BY SANDY JOLLES  
THE CONNECTION

When Frodo first spent the night at Eleeka Asayesh's house, he cried. After Frodo's crying got more and more urgent and insistent, Asayesh let him sleep on her bed, and from that point, they were inseparable.

“He put his head on my shoulder and went right to sleep, and ever since he's practically been my shadow, following me everywhere I go,” Asayesh said.

Buying this Maltese from a special breeder, Asayesh was told it would take a while for Frodo to bond, “but it happened and from that moment I felt I had found my best friend.”

When Frodo isn't jumping on his two hind legs, he's snuggling with Asayesh and family. According to Asayesh, he also has a peculiar way of observing someone by “tilting his head.”

The 4 1/2 month-year-old may have a lot of growing up to do, but one thing he'll keep in mind: there's no place like family.

**PEPER AND PORTIA** have two distinct personalities. Pepper carries the brains in the operation, while Portia displays the good looks.

As a Shiba Inu, Pepper resembles a miniature fox, while German shepherd Portia simply acts like one.

“Portia doesn't have the typical Great Dane Expression. And instead pretends to be a small lap dog,” said Nicole Hwang who owns these two animals. “She is a child's level of playful.”

Though Pepper is small in size, her perception matches that of a Great Dane.

“She's incredibly sassy to other dogs. She's like the queen bee, and needs to be treated like a princess,” Hwang said.

Pepper's audacious mindset lands her face-to-face with big dogs who later submit to her intimidation, according to Hwang. One arena that Pepper and Portia clash sharply in: their intellect.

“Portia seems to act her age, like a 4-year-old. Pepper, on the other hand, seems to have the mind of a 20-year-old,” Hwang said. “She's wise beyond her years.”

With their unfailing friendliness and affability,



Joe Gargan's dog Jack rests comfortably and poses for the camera.

Pepper and Portia are a “star dog duo,” according to Hwang.

Whenever Pepper sees a new person, she goes up to them looks at them, and rolls over,” Hwang said.

**JOE GARGAN CAN REMEMBER** the first time he welcomed a new addition to his household. He was in sixth grade at the time. Now a rising junior at college, his dog Jack still remains as a close-knit member of their family.

Before Gargan's family found Jack, the Portuguese water dog had participated as a show dog. Only retiring a year before, Jack still carries the instinct of incredible loyalty and steadfastness, especially to his mother.

“Sometimes it's incredibly hard for anyone but my mother to take him for a walk because he refuses to be separated from her,” Gargan said.

Not only did the shows sharpen Jack's sense of loyalty, they also enhanced Jack's manners.

“It might sound crazy, but he has this ‘gentlemanly’ posture about him that not all other dogs have. We've also never had much trouble with potty training him, keeping him away from the cat, or harassing other dogs or people,” Gargan said.

Even though Gargan is away at Wesleyan University for the majority of the year, Jack never trails out of his mind.

Regardless of his age, Gargan notes Jack still “has a lot of energy left in him.” As the “water” in his dog title suggests, Jack gravitates towards any pool of water for his favorite leisure activity: swimming.





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## PET CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Gloria Boos, 8, upcoming 3rd grader at Great Falls Elementary, right, with her twin sister Rose, also upcoming 3rd grader at Great Falls Elementary: Their pets are hermit crabs.**

## Caring for Crabs

BY GLORIA BOOS, 8  
GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

One evening my mom, my sister Rose and I were walking on the boardwalk at the beach and we saw a lot of people walking past us with interesting pets. We asked one person where they got it and they said at the store farther down the boardwalk. We thanked the person and started walking toward the shop. When we got there we discovered that they were selling hermit crabs. They all had different designs on their shells. The saleslady told us how to take care of them and my mom decided to get two, one for Rose and me.

To take care of hermit crabs all you have to do is: 1. Most importantly, get a sponge and keep it wet at all times. The hermit crab needs it to drink. 2. You should get a container of food that lasts 3 to 6 months and feed it to the hermit crab every morning. 3. Clean out the cage using a squirt bottle. Make sure in the bottle you only have water.

I chose a hermit crab that was colorful and named it Tie-die. There are colors on my hermit crab like purple, orange, green, yellow

and blue. Rose has a hermit crab that is named Hermie. She named hers Hermie because she couldn't think of a name for a yellow and grey striped crab. Hermie is much smaller than Tie-die. I don't think they like each other very much so if you get more than one hermit crab you should probably get a cage for each crab. Sometimes you should let them out on a grassy or hard area where they can walk.

Today we had a babysitter and she suggested that we have a hermit crab race. So we did. The race was on! Tie-die moved out of her shell, Hermie was still in his shell, not moving. Tie-die crawled toward the food. Hermie finally moved out of his shell. Halfway to the finish line, Tie-die was in the lead.

Close to the finish line Tie-die went back into her shell. She was afraid for some reason. Hermie was now getting closer to Tie-die. Rose was getting excited. Hermie passed Tie-die, but then Tie-die came back out of her shell and started after Hermie. The winner ... Tie-die! She came right in front of Hermie. The race was finished. Rose, the babysitter and I were cheering. What a close race. Maybe tomorrow we'll have a rematch. Whoever wins gets to have extra food for a week.

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St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

#### Charismatic

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

#### Church of Christ

Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

#### Disciples of Christ

Antioch Church ... 703-938-6753

#### Episcopal

Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521

Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991  
St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

#### Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

#### Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church...703-938-2119  
Christ The King Lutheran Church...703-759-6068  
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

#### Methodist

Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509  
Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987  
The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336  
Epiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494  
Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705  
Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233  
Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594  
Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680  
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700

#### Non-Denominational

Celebration Center for Spiritual Living ... 703-560-2030  
Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

#### Presbyterian

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ... 703-560-6336  
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577  
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

#### Quaker

Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394

#### Seventh-Day Adventist

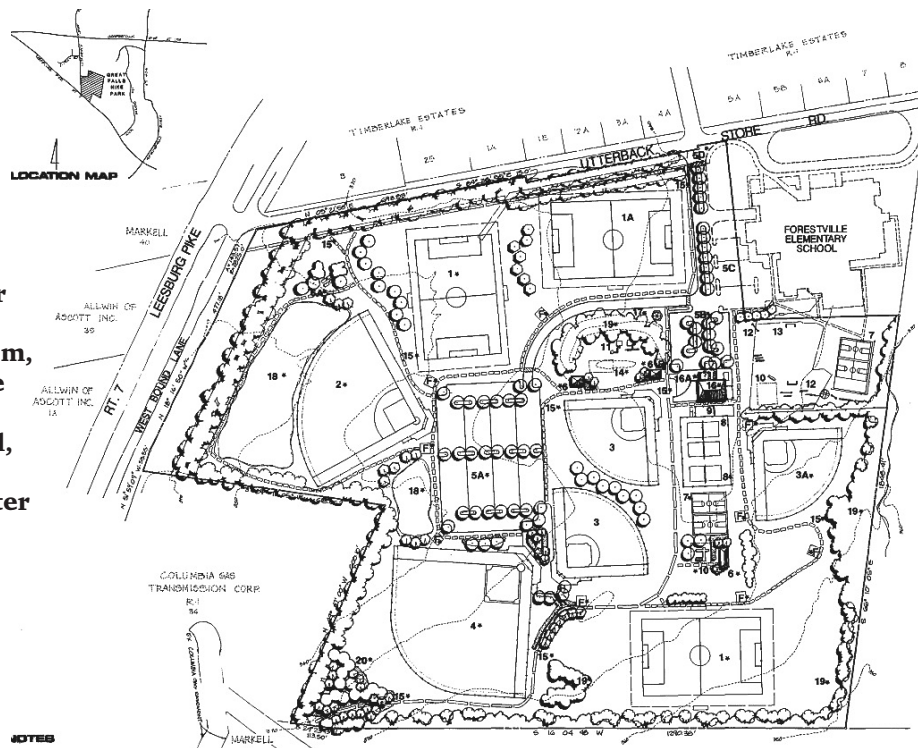
Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001  
Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-938-8383

#### Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230



# NEWS



Field number four at Nike Park, located at the bottom, is scheduled to be turned into an artificial turf field, as well as receive several storm water management improvements.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

NOTES

## Turf Field Slated for Nike Park

Project will look to increase usability, improve storm water management.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

Nike Field number four is set to become the first artificial turf field in Great Falls, through a joint effort between the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Great Falls Lacrosse Association and the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. In addition to allowing more playing time for local athletic groups, the project will also serve as part of the ongoing storm water management in the area.

The Fairfax County Park Authority did a needs assessment in 2004, which found that there were 94 fields short of meeting the needs of the community. Rectangular fields, like Nike Field 4, are in especially high demand.

"This project is estimated to increase playing capacity by 62 percent, in conjunction with the addition of lights, when compared to natural turf," said Deb Garris of the county's Athletic Field Management branch. "By increasing capacity on a lighted existing field, we're reducing the need to construct additional fields."

Garris said turfing also helps increase the durability of the fields while decreasing divots, bald spots and uneven terrain.

**THE FIELD** consists of the turf as a top layer, followed by a layer of finish stone, a layer of open graded aggregate base and an underground piping system.

The county is currently examining two options for the turf infill: FutrFill, which is a thermoplastic elastomer derived from an environmentally inert material process and a silica sand mixture; or PureFill, which is an organic, 100 percent recyclable project

harvested from cork oak trees and a silica sand mixture.

Garris said the industry standard for artificial turf fields is about eight to 10 years.

"Replacement means rolling up the carpet on the field, re-laying the surface below and then laying new carpet over it," she said.

The proposed field will also be used by the county's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to help manage the storm water in the area.

"By partnering up with DPWES, we're putting in an additional two inches of stone and six inches of aggregate base, but should provide additional volume reduction of water draining," Garris said. "Our goal for the field is to be able to retain the volume of a 100 year storm, and the design reduces the runoff rate for two-year and 10-year storm runoff to less than the predevelopment conditions."

Craig Carinci, director of storm water planning for DPWES, says the project will tie into their overall efforts to manage storm water in the area.

"We'll also be using additional filtration methods so the water that is running off the site is cleaner water," he said. "I'm not aware of any other project, public or private, in the county that's ever tried to retain a 100-year storm, it's unheard of."

According to DPWES, synthetic turf field systems reduce phosphorus runoff by an estimated 15 percent for the Nike Field project.

**THE WATER** from Nike Field is part of Piney Branch, which has a total draining area of about 36 acres. Emma Gutzler, an ecologist with the Stormwater Planning division of DPWES, estimated that the current project will focus on 3.5 acres of the drainage area.

Leo Santaballa Field, located behind the Great Falls Library which is currently used by lacrosse players, was originally supposed to be turfed.

"We were looking at Santaballa for a long time, but it was never the right place," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "It's the current home of the lacrosse players, so that's where we looked first, but the challenges we had there never got resolved."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Piano students from Artstars Studio LLC in Great Falls performed in Musical Olympics recitals recently, featuring music from all around the world.

## Presenting Musical Olympics in Great Falls

Piano students from Artstars Studio LLC performed in Musical Olympics recitals recently, featuring music from all around the world.

Some students chose to learn a piece tied to their heritage. For example, Caroline Stock has a Hungarian background, and so she

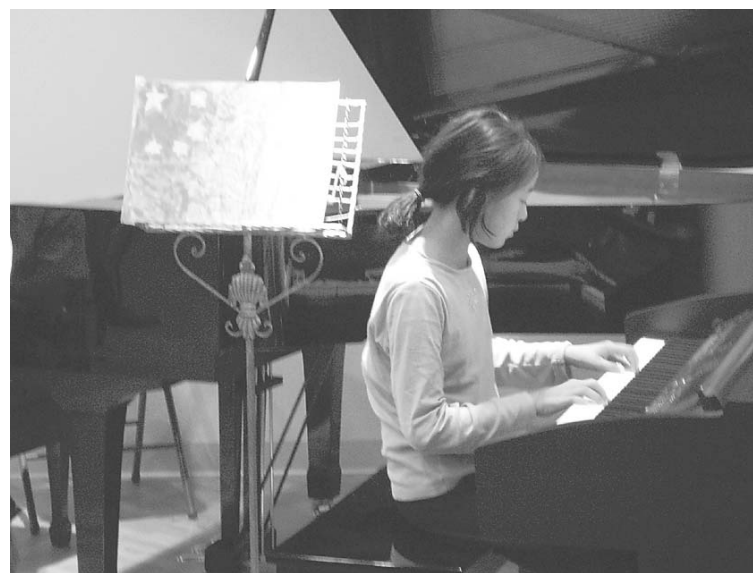
performed Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody #2. Each student created a flag, representing the country of their music's origin.

Artstars Studio LLC is located in Great Falls, and the instructor is Mary Jane Cogan.

To view more recital photos, visit [www.Artstars.biz](http://www.Artstars.biz).



Catherine Kruse played "Finlandia" by Sibelius while showing her flag of Finland.



Heidi Lin played "Beautiful Jasmine," a Chinese folk song.



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## PET CONNECTION

### Seneca Hill Holds Open House

By NIKKI CHESHIRE  
THE CONNECTION

During the hot and humid days of summer, most people like nothing more than a relaxing day at the pool. However, dogs are not always granted this luxury – that is, until Seneca Hill Animal Hospital, Resort and Spa's annual open house.

Dogs and their owners gathered from all over the area on Sunday, July 15, to treat themselves to free samples, raffles, unlimited playtime and access to the newly renovated aquatic facility. Additionally, owners could enjoy complimentary hot dogs, sides and drinks while their four-legged friends received dog treats, frozen Frosty Paws and ice water.

After cooling off with a swim, a Keeshond named Cassie enjoyed her time in the play yard and its plethora of toys. Her owners, Cynthia and Alan Houpt, came all the way from Oak Hill to take advantage of Seneca Hill's facilities. "Cassie used to be a regular in doggy day care here," explained Cynthia Houpt. "We thought it'd be nice to visit again." Cassie, who also visits an assisted living home and takes part in informal dog shows, got to have a day of fun and relaxation at Seneca.

The event, which according to Seneca Hill's general manager Heather Dallara is in its fourth year, is a "fun, excellent way to thank our customers." Dallara, who brought her Chihuahua mix, Moxie, to the event as well, continued: "We mainly do it as a community event" that everyone – both people and pets – can enjoy.



**Seneca Hill general manager Heather Dallara shows off her Chihuahua, Moxie, and her favorite way of travel: her sling.**

PHOTOS BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION



**Cassie, a Keeshond owned by Oak Hill residents Cynthia and Alan Houpt, relaxes next to a bowl of ice water in the play yard at Seneca Hill. The fenced area contained several places for the dogs to cool off.**

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## OPEN HOUSES

### SATURDAY/SUNDAY, JULY 28 & 29

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

#### Ashburn

22018 Ayr Hill Ct.....\$814,900.....Sun 1-4.....Bruce Young....Samson Props...571-331-6363

#### Burke

6208 Ormandy Dr.....\$527,900.....Sun 1-4.....Wendy Smith..Coldwell Banker..703-608-1725

#### Centreville

6803 Farrahs Cavalry Rd.....\$530,000.....Sun 1-4.....Rich Triplett....Samson Props...703-217-1348

#### Falls Church

7581 Chrisland Cove.....\$499,900.....Sat 12-3..Barbara Blumer..Coldwell Banker..703-405-5993

#### Oakton

11312 Timberline Dr.....\$1,100,000...Sat/Sun 1-4.....Steve Eaheart....Keller Williams..703-222-3300  
3204 Wheatland Farms Dr..\$1,149,000.....Sun 1-4.....Beth Dadisman ....Keller Williams..703-577-1144

#### Reston

1388 Cameron Dr.....\$1,185,000.....Sun 1-4.....Glynis Canto....Keller Williams...703-395-2355

#### Sterling

46750 Graham Cove Sq.....\$365,000.....Sun 1-4.....Lynn Thornell.....Weichert...703-777-3977

#### Vienna

1108 Hillcrest Dr SW.....\$1,039,000.....Sun 1-4...Casey Samson ....Samson Props..703-508-2535  
2423 Holt St.....\$565,000.....Sun 1-4...Casey Samson ....Samson Props..703-508-2535  
10511 William Terry Dr.....\$998,000.....Sun 12-5..Laura Maschler .....Century 21..571-338-3961

To add your **FREE** Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Salome Gaibler at 703-778-9421 or [salome@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:salome@connectionnewspapers.com)  
**All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.**

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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS





The vegetables for the vegetable tarte were freshly-picked from L'Auberge Chez Francois's on-site garden.

# Chez Francois Garden Inspires Menu

FROM PAGE 7

One of the restaurant's signature desserts, a tribute to Francois Haeringer's grandmother, is a creamy bread pudding topped with vanilla sauce ... heavenly.

L'Auberge now offers a la carte dishes in conjunction with its prix fixe menu. The choices are extensive because the "general," Francois himself, always said that people want choices.

Jacques' Brasserie extends the concept of choice. It offers some lighter fare, such as the vegetable tarte flambe, and is more casually-oriented. Choucroute is standard on the brasserie menu, as are pinot noir-braised beef and medallions of beef with a bearnaise sauce. The free-range chicken comes with spaetzle. The fresh calf's liver with bacon and caramelized onions is popular, too.

The whole restaurant is served by a single kitchen and staff. The brasserie concept has drawn in more local residents just "popping in," said Haeringer. They drive by, on the way home from work or activities, and stop by the brasserie.

Haeringer hosts quite a few fundraisers for the community throughout the year, including those with a personal mission. His wife died of breast cancer and fundraisers on behalf of breast cancer research funding are important to him.

**JACQUES HAERINGER** appears as guest chef on the "Today" show, eight appearances to-date, and on local Washington, D.C. stations. He is personable, deft with his culinary technique, smiling, and speaks French. His extroverted personality, charisma and passion for food makes for good TV. For his

July 11 demonstration on WUSA with J.C. Hayward, Haeringer prepared cantalope stuffed with crabmeat to celebrate Bastille Day on July 14.

OpenTable.com voters have placed L'Auberge consistently as one of the top 50 restaurants in the country. Couples, families, business people, celebrate at the restaurant.

Haeringer said that about 10 percent of the restaurant's clientele have dietary concerns, from gluten avoidance to sodium restriction. The restaurant accommodates dietary needs whenever possible. "We are happy and able to do custom dishes," said Haeringer. L'Auberge is putting together menu notations alerting customers to gluten.

For many patrons, the ambiance, the setting, is part of the dining experience. The Webbs waited for weather conducive to dining on the patio. For the group of retired teachers who came from Montgomery County for the three-course luncheon, the grounds "make" the experience.

When family from out of the area visited Susan and Virgil Webb a month ago, the Webbs brought them here, to the patio, for a great meal. "We brought them to the best place we know," said Virgil Webb.

L'Auberge Chez Francois is at 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls, in a residential area. It is across the corner of Springvale Road and Beach Mill Road. For reservations, call 703-759-3800. For more information on the restaurant, go to <http://www.laubergechezfrancois.com/>. Chef Jacques keeps a Facebook page, as well, updating specialties and garden bounty, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/LAuberge-Chez-Francois/137965396217685>.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@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)

### WEDNESDAY/JULY 25

**"The Wizard of Oz."** 7:30 p.m. Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This is a non-musical version of the show. [sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sabrina.anwah@fairfaxcounty.gov).  
**Wine Tasting.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wine Bar & Lounge at Entyse, Ritz Carlton 1700 Tyson's Boulevard, McLean. 703-506-4300.

### THURSDAY/JULY 26

**Sushi.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wine Bar & Lounge at Entyse, Ritz Carlton 1700 Tyson's Boulevard, McLean. 703-506-4300.  
**Matthias Kuchta.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Brothers Grimm fairytale, The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats. German puppeteer Matthias Kuchta uses life-size puppets to share the story of seven little goats that let a wicked wolf into their home. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).  
**Free Summer Concert Series:**  
**Toubab Krewe.** 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Nottoway Park, Vienna. Free. <http://toubabkrewe.com/>

### FRIDAY/JULY 27

**"Legally Blonde – the Musical"** 8 p.m. MCC Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. \$18-\$20. [www.mcleanplayers.org](http://www.mcleanplayers.org).  
**The Christopher Linman Jazz Ensemble.** 8:30 p.m.- 12 a.m. Wine Bar & Lounge at Entyse, Ritz Carlton 1700 Tyson's Boulevard, McLean. Food, wine and jazz entertainment. 703-506-4300.  
**Friday Afternoon Chess Group.** 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All ages. 703-757-8560.  
**Matthias Kuchta.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Brothers Grimm fairytale, The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats. German puppeteer Matthias Kuchta uses life-size puppets to share the story of seven little goats that let a wicked wolf into their home. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

### SATURDAY/JULY 28

**Rockneceros Presents: Colonel Purple Turtle.** 2:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Join Coach Cotton, Williebob and Boogie Woogie for a rockin' time. 703-790-8088.  
**The Folsom Prisoners.** 5-7 p.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free outdoor event featuring country music. 703-288-9505.  
**Children's Shows: Billy Kelly & the Blahblablahs.** 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).  
**"The Prince and the Troubadour."** 12 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. All tickets are for general admission seating. \$10. 703-854-1856 or email [boxoffice@1ststagetysons.org](mailto:boxoffice@1ststagetysons.org).  
**"Legally Blonde – the Musical"** 8 p.m. MCC Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. \$18-\$20. [www.mcleanplayers.org](http://www.mcleanplayers.org).  
**Matthias Kuchta.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Brothers Grimm fairytale, The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats. German puppeteer Matthias Kuchta uses life-size puppets to share the story of seven little goats that let a wicked wolf into their home. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or



Umbrella by Jane Rader

## Beach Photos on Exhibit at Great Falls Library

Local artist Jane Rader will be exhibiting her "Memories of the Beach" series of photographs at the Great Falls Library (9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls) from July to September 2012. Located in the conference room of the library, Rader's digital images on canvas feature beach scenes in a contemporary, impressionistic style. As a painter and a graphic designer, Rader utilizes a soft focus style of photography that allows her to "paint" with her camera.

[www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

### SUNDAY/JULY 29

**Wolf Trap Opera Company: Backstage Buzz Artist Panels.** 3 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Bringing the opera to life. Preshow talk one hour before performance. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).  
**"The Prince and the Troubadour."** 12 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. \$10. 703-854-1856 or email [boxoffice@1ststagetysons.org](mailto:boxoffice@1ststagetysons.org).  
**"Legally Blonde – the Musical"** 2 p.m. MCC Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. \$18-\$20. [www.mcleanplayers.org](http://www.mcleanplayers.org).  
**Happy Together Tour 2012; The Turtles featuring Flo & Eddie; The Monkees Lead Singer Mickey Dolenz; Gary Puckett & The Union Gap; The Grass Roots; The Buckinghams.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

### MONDAY/JULY 30

**Fun with Jonathan Austin.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Juggling, magic and unicycling. Ages 6-12. 703-757-8560.  
**Create a Comic Book.** 7 p.m. Age 12-18. Tysons-Pimmit Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

### TUESDAY/JULY 31

**Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Dance Company.** 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Jones presents autobiographical segments accompanied by music and dance. \$4-\$40. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).  
**Tuesday Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit Library, 7584

"Memories of the Beach" was photographed in 2010 along the coastline of Virginia.

Rader is a graphic designer, member of Great Falls Studios and the Middleburg Arts Council, and has

taught visual communications in New York and the Washington, D.C. area. Rader recently launched a line of greeting cards and cell phone covers. For more information, visit [www.janeraderdesigns.com](http://www.janeraderdesigns.com).

Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Ages 1-2 with caregiver. 703-790-8088.

**Okee Dokee Brothers.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Bluegrass melodies. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

**Thinking Inside the Box.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tues. – Sat. Vienna Arts Society Gallery on the Village Green, 513 Maple Ave., W., Vienna. Many artists' insights and thoughts within the limits of a frame. [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**Book Talk for Book Lovers.** 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Adults. 703-790-8088.

### WEDNESDAY/AUG. 1

**George Thorogood & The Destroyers.** 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25-\$42. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Wine Tasting.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wine Bar & Lounge at Entyse, Ritz Carlton 1700 Tyson's Boulevard, McLean. Sample Sommelier Vincent Feraud's wines. 703-506-4300.

**Okee Dokee Brothers.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Bluegrass melodies. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).

### THURSDAY/AUG. 2

**The Temptations and The Four Tops.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22-\$38. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Sushi.** 5:30-8:30 p.m. Wine Bar & Lounge at Entyse, Ritz Carlton 1700 Tyson's Boulevard, McLean. Watch as expert chef creates sushi. 703-506-4300.

**Okee Dokee Brothers.** 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Bluegrass melodies. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org/TITW](http://www.wolftrap.org/TITW).





PHOTO BY GUY SPEERS

**The Langley Wildthings celebrate their victory over Hunter Mill and their Division 5 Champions Title.**

## Langley Wildthings Win Championship

**With victory over Hunter Mill, Langley completes a 5-0 season.**

**T**he Langley Wildthings defeated the Hunter Mill Sharks in a title battle for the top spot in Division 5. Langley was down four points as they entered the relay portion of the competition, and won the nail biter by taking eight of twelve; they clinched the meet with the second to last event, the Boys Mixed Age Relay. The final score was 218-202.

Coaches Mason Walsh, Sam Speers and Will Brumas inspired The Wildthings to bring their all to every practice and meet, resulting in an undefeated season.

The Wildthings last went undefeated and took the first place spot in 2005, when they swam in Division 8.

Liliana Schone set an 8 and Under Girls Butterfly club record by finishing the 25M race in 19.87 seconds.

Langley's double blue ribbon winners were: Luke Watson, Jack Hoeymans, Zach Johnson, Jinwon Bailar, Nathan Johnson, Tatiana Bennett and Schuyler Bailar.

Single blue ribbons went to: Nathalie Schmanske, Isabelle Schone, JJ Bellaschi, Katie Robinson, Katie Bellaschi, Audrey Wallach, Liliana Schone, Emily Wallach, Elena Skhlyar and Maggie Bellaschi.

Please contact Liz Holzapfel with questions: woodapple1@verizon.net.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Pictured with McCleary is Kent Gardens head dive coach Leigh Anne Methlie.**

## McLean Diver Wins 3-Meter Meet

Kent Gardens diver Caroline McCleary (15), of McLean, won first place in the Senior Girls (15-18) event at the NVSL's annual Wally Martin

Memorial 3-Meter Meet on Sunday, July 15, 2012. Pictured with McCleary is Kent Gardens head dive coach Leigh Anne Methlie.

## Adult Softball Teams Wanted

Fairfax Adult Softball is accepting applications for adult softball teams. Men, women, coed, social coed, corporate coed and senior (age 50 and older) leagues are available. Applications are accessible via the FAS Web site at [www.playsoftballnow.com](http://www.playsoftballnow.com). Sign up before Aug. 3 to ensure a spot.

Don't have a team yet? FAS will place you on a team. Visit the FAS website and register as an individual free agent.

For further information, call 703-815-9007 or email [office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com](mailto:office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com).

## RiverBend Defeats Westwood for DCCL Trophy

**T**he RiverBend Stingrays (5-0) defeated Westwood, 316-200, to win the DCCL Blue Division championship. This is the third year the undefeated Stingrays have won this title.

Will Koeppen continued his record-breaking streak with three new 9-10 boys' league records in the 50M free (30.96), 25M fly (15.59) and 100M IM (1:17.96), and four first-place finishes.

Katherine Allen, Anna Takis and Micaela Grassi each won four races.

Triple winners were: Carter Bennett, Thomas Youngkin and Ryan Windus.

Other first-place finishers included: Luke Buroker, Julian Villacorta, Sara Bailey Zeiller, Charlotte Bell, Colin O'Connor, Emma Grassi and Pearce Bloom.



**Members of the RiverBend developmental swim team, the Mini-Stingers, at their Lollipop Meet. Also pictured are coaches and swim team members who helped run this meet.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Members of RiverBend's developmental swim team, the Mini-Stingers, receive some last minute pointers from Assistant Coach Cindy Weir as they prepare to swim in their first meet — The Lollipop Meet — which is run by older team members.**



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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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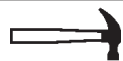
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## A Life Worth Living, Still



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It might be my age (as in getting older), or it might be the fact that I have cancer (you think?), but my brain and the related physical and mental tasks it coordinates are not exactly working at peak efficiency. Don't get me wrong, I'm not exactly "Forrest, Forrest Gump," but plans are not easily made and when they are made, not so easily or successfully carried out. Whether it's a drive to an unfamiliar destination, time spent with semi-unsuspecting (about me) acquaintances, or overnighting away from home (and out of my routine: alkaline water, pills, asparagus, baking soda, apple cider vinegar, etc.) as a few examples, what once seemed like ordinary and manageable acts of everyday-type life now present previously unfamiliar hurdles. Talk about making something out of nothing. Everything is something, even if it's nothing. And that's a change – for the worse.

Unfortunately, knowing this – and accepting it, hasn't lessened the burden and inevitability of living with it. I'm always relieved when whatever, wherever, however, we (meaning me) finish what we're doing: get to where we're going/solve the problem we're needing to solve/arrange the schedule we're attempting to arrange, and complete our miscellaneous activities. I can then settle back into what's familiar and relatively uncomplicated. If I've been there and am accustomed to doing it, it gets done, without much ado. However, if I haven't been there – literally and figuratively, getting there – and back, becomes increasingly more difficult. I don't necessarily want to blame this behavior on my age or my underlying problem ("NSCLC"), but at least if I blame it on something that makes sense – to me, I can live with the consequences of this preferred inaction. And the more I understand the reasons for certain "inaction," the less stress I'll feel. And the less stress I feel, the better off I'll be; as a cancer patient, first, and as a reasonably intelligent adult second (no comments from the peanut gallery, please).

I guess what I'm trying to do is what Jerry, Elaine, George and Kramer were competing to do years ago on a particularly memorable "Seinfeld" episode: master my own domain; trying to control the uncontrollable. However, if any set of circumstances is likely uncontrollable, it is the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual effects one experiences after receiving a terminal diagnosis. You're either ready for its demands or you're not. It's not like – at least for me, there was really any preparation or expectation that your life – as you knew it, was over. I suppose there's a handbook somewhere. (Maybe there's even some training or a class – Cancer 101, you can attend.) And though I can certainly appreciate the benefit and power of the written – and read word, a terminal diagnosis with a "13-month to two-year" prognosis requires – in my opinion, a more personal touch, one with a one-to-one/face-to-face-type connection. When the diagnosis is stage IV-serious, it's best to leave nothing to chance and/or misinterpretation. As much as you – as the patient/"diagnosee" think you're hearing and/or reading what's being said or handed to you concerning the facts of your case, the shock of what you're learning will not only cloud your judgment, but rewire your brain, emotionally speaking. It's hardly another day at the office. In fact, it's like no other day you've ever had at your office or any other office. The assimilation – or rather the attempted assimilation of your diagnosis, prognosis, treatment options, schedule of diagnostic scans and doctor appointments, best and worst case scenarios, will forever change the way you process information and plan your future.

What I'm finding out is, the longer I survive, it's the emotions I feel about having cancer more than the facts of having cancer that are causing me the most problems. One I can live with, the other is living with me. And it's not of my own choosing, either.

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



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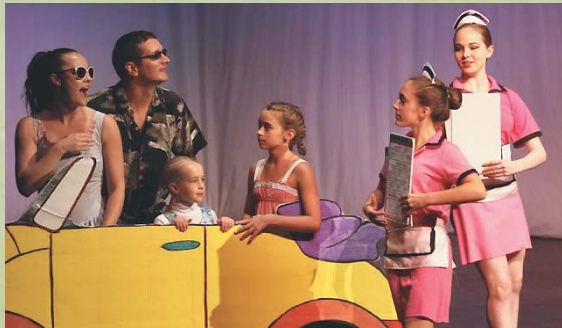
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