

Great Falls
CONNECTION

Discover Area Parks

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The Story of Our Place – Great Falls, Virginia

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**Insiders
Edition**
Newcomers & Community
Guide 2012-2013

Jordan Libera, 22, and his
sister Anna Libera, 18, both of
Vienna, fish from a kayak in
River Bend Park.



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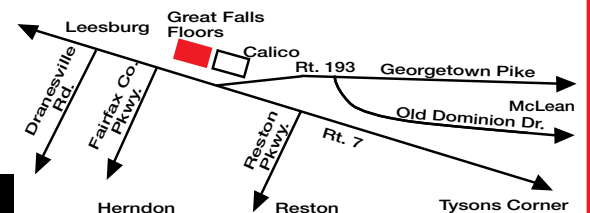
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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2012~13

Guests dine on the patio at the Old Brogue, which has been serving local residents since 1981.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Community Meets at Old Brogue

Katie's Coffee House, Cars and Coffee, traditional Irish fare are signatures of local restaurant.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

On most Saturday mornings, Matt Borland of Falls Church is up before sunrise, washing and waxing his red and white 1965 Mustang. Though Saturday is only one of two mornings during the week Borland doesn't have to be in Washington, D.C. by 8 a.m., he doesn't mind getting up early, he has a purpose.

"During the summer I try and drive the Mustang during the week, not into the city, but back and forth on errands. So by the end of the week, it's getting a little dusty," he said. "And Saturday mornings are really the day it needs to look its best."

Borland's car needs to look his best Saturday mornings because it will be on display among dozens of cars, many of which have been as painstakingly restored as his.

"Saturday mornings, after the car is clean, I head into Great Falls to the Old Brogue for Cars and Coffee, which is one of my favorite local traditions," he said. "As a car nut, it's really paradise, because people come up asking me questions about what I've done, and I can wander freely to ask questions about what other people have done with theirs."

CARS AND COFFEE has been a weekly tradition at the Old

Brogue, where local (and sometimes not so local) people come to get a cup of coffee, open their hoods and exchange information, stories and chat casually.

"I drive from Montclair, New Jersey to Naples, Florida twice a year, in February and August, to visit my brother and his family. It's a 22-hour drive, and over the years I've cut down on as many stops as possible, so I only make one, right here in Virginia," said Martin Diego of Montclair, who drives a 2004 Nissan 350Z. "I found out about Cars and Coffee on one of my 350Z discussion boards, and after my first

stop, I was hooked. Every single time I'm here I see a car I've never seen in real life before, and I speak to someone that knows more about cars than I ever could."

While Cars and Coffee is an informal event, its regularity makes it a popular draw from auto-enthusiast groups to casual car fans. It begins around 7 a.m. and by 9 p.m. the last cars are making their way out of the Great Falls Village Centre.

Until 2 p.m. on weekends and 3 p.m. on weekdays, the Old Brogue exists to most customers as Katie's Coffee House. Open in the restaurant section, it serves coffee, tea, snacks and light breakfast and lunch items.

"I've never been much of a coffee shop kind of person, not Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts, but I've also been coming to the Old Brogue since I moved here in



Visitors to Cars and Coffee at The Old Brogue admire an Austin convertible. Katie's Coffee House, Cars and Coffee, traditional Irish fare are signatures of local restaurant.

SEE OLD BROGUE, PAGE 13



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The Weck family, from left, Karen, Frederick, Jennifer and Christopher, sit along the river at Riverbend Park.

Great Falls Has Development Standards

Comprehensive plan, community involvement, designed to keep semi-rural character.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

With an area of just under 18 square miles and one of the lowest densities in the county, Great Falls is designed to have a semi-rural character. The Great Falls Citizens Association, a non-partisan committee made up of residents, has as a primary goal to "preserve the historic, low density semi-rural character of Great Falls and its natural resources."

Great Falls is zoned as a mixture of residential and commercial, located at the areas around the intersections of Walker Road and Georgetown Pike and Walker Road and Colvin Run Road. Bill Harvey, chair of the GFCA's Land Use and Zoning Committee, says his group's agenda comes at the intersection of the comprehensive plan and the GFCA's mission statement.

"The types of land-use narrow the available choices for development, there are only a handful of uses that can go on each piece of land," he said. "Ideally, each piece of land will be developed with what is the highest and best use, and that starts with what is legally permissible. Barring legal action, such as a zoning change or the granting of a special exception, a lot of possibilities are impossible."

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), said that development in Great Falls comes with a lot of community input.

"Great Falls has a very community-driven land-use review process," he said. "Any applicant that comes in, we ask that they meet with the GFCA, but there are very few applications that come in because there isn't much zoning in place to accommodate new development."

He cited the new Great Falls Fire Station as an example of locally inspired design.

"The fire station is a good example of how the community played a huge part in working with the county, finalizing the look to fit into the semi-rural character here," he said.

A SOLUTION to the wastewater issues at the commercial center could bring change to Great Falls. Currently running on septic fields, many of which are not functioning to full capacity, alternatives such as a sewer line or a private, onsite treatment system have been considered.

There has been much community debate about whether a sewer would be a precursor to increased density, since the current septic fields in most residential properties prevent dense development.

"It's sort of the ultimate safe

SEE PLANNING, PAGE 13

School System Committed to Excellence

FCPS inspires, enables and empowers students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives and demonstrate responsible citizenship.

BY ILRYONG MOON
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBER AT
LARGE, FAIRFAX COUNTY
SCHOOL BOARD



Welcome to Fairfax County! One of the primary reasons you chose to live here may be the excellent reputation of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). As chairman of the Fairfax County School Board, I am pleased to inform you that our reputation as one of the best public school systems in the country is well-deserved.

FCPS is the largest school division in Virginia and the 11th largest in the United States out of more than 15,000 school divisions. The organizational structure of FCPS is focused on meeting the needs of more than 180,000 students while managing 196 schools and centers.

The Fairfax County School Board sets general school policy and, within the framework of state regulations, establishes guidelines and rules that will ensure the proper administration of the county school program. The division superintendent works closely with the deputy superintendent and the assistant superintendents who oversee the day-to-day operations of the schools. As a world-class school system, FCPS inspires, enables and empowers students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives and demonstrate responsible citizenship.

Despite the economic challenges our school system has faced over the past four years, our students have continued to succeed at the highest levels. Our commitment to the achievement



Members of the Langley Class of 2012 receive their diplomas at DAR Constitution Hall Thursday, June 14. FCPS is the largest school division in Virginia and the 11th largest in the United States out of more than 15,000 school divisions.

of all students is reflected in our students' SAT scores; FCPS' SAT average of 1654 exceeds both the state average of 1516 and the na-

tional average of 1500. For the 2010-11 school year, FCPS' pass rates for the Virginia Standards of Learning assessments were 93 percent in English and 92 percent in mathematics and the achievement gap continued to narrow in reading for Black students and in mathematics for Hispanic students. About 92 percent of FCPS graduates plan to continue on to postsecondary education. In the 2011 ranking of public high schools in the nation by the Washington Post, nearly all FCPS high schools were listed in the top 6 percent. Complete implementation of full-day kindergarten during the 2011-12 school year has been a vital success for the division, ensuring that all of our youngest students will benefit from the same educational opportunities. The commitment to serve our students is evident, with a majority of resources directed to

the classroom. In FY 2013, 93 percent of our employees will be based in schools and a majority of the operating budget, nearly 86 percent, will be spent on instruction. Hiring and retaining the very best teachers and divisionwide staff is also an essential component of our success.

FCPS values its diversity and a well-rounded education that goes beyond basics and encompasses the arts, literacy technology and preparation for the world of work. In return, the residents of Fairfax County embrace their schools. Businesses and community members generously volunteer their time and resources to help students. Schools are integrated into the fabric of the community, and residents take pride in the success of FCPS. Additionally, FCPS facilities and athletic fields are available for use by the community, and adult and community education classes are offered throughout the year at locations throughout the county.

Once again, welcome to Fairfax County. Enjoy all that our community has to offer including our world-class school system!



Celebrate Great Falls Foundation

Join the Celebration !



Celebrate Great Falls is a nonprofit foundation that has become the umbrella organization for many of our town's major annual events.

Celebrate Great Falls also provides information for and about community schools, nonprofits, sports organizations and other local entities via our website and online calendar at www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org



Our Main Events

<p>Halloween Spooktacular</p> <p>Trick or Treat!</p> <p>Children up to age 12 are encouraged to wear their favorite Halloween costume and enjoy trick or treating with local merchants.</p> <p> <i>Be sure to visit the Haunted House!</i></p>	<p>Concerts on The Green</p> <p>Sunday Evenings June and July Village Centre Green at the Gazebo</p> <p>Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of live, free music.</p>	<p>Celebrate Great Falls Days</p> <p>A whirlwind weekend of local hometown events the 1st weekend in June</p> <p><i>Cars and Coffee</i> <i>Alumni Baseball Game</i> <i>June Fest</i> <i>Summer Concert on the Green</i> <i>Annual Golf Tournament</i></p>	<p>July 4th Celebration</p> <p>Join us for a real Hometown 4th of July Celebration. </p> <p>Activities include a 5K Run/Walk, The Little Patriot Baby & Toddler Parade and the Main Parade through Village Centre with games & food immediately after.</p>	<p>Celebration of Lights</p> <p>Celebrate the beginning of the season with our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting.</p> <p>The petting zoo and pony rides will keep your kids busy until Mr. & Mrs. Claus arrive by fire truck.</p> <p><i>1st Saturday in December</i></p>
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For more information go to
www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org

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The current market is in transition.
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The Story of Our Place – Great Falls, Virginia

BY KATHLEEN J. MURPHY
PRESIDENT, GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

We have chosen to make our homes on a village of land where the footsteps of George Washington still echo. From the land close to Difficult Run Stream Valley (where the Colvin Run Mill now stands on Colvin Run Road) that he once owned and envisioned that a grain mill would stand on, to the Powtomack (Potomac) Canal System at the foot of Seneca Road with its Lock system at Great Falls Park, which he envisioned as a transport system for farmers to move their grain down toward Alexandria for export, George Washington surveyed, knew the potential of, owned and invested in the development of important pieces of our specific place, now called Great Falls. So you might say that being the hometown of people of invention and entrepreneurialism makes inherent sense.

Our journey to the present has had its ups and downs. After Washington's death, the grain mill was built on Difficult Run by Colville. It went through a few owners, some very successful, however John Powell went bankrupt due to the disruption of the mill during the Civil War. Although the Civil War was not fought on land in Great Falls, there was one skir-

ish—the Battle of Dranesville on Dec. 20, 1861; local farmers were harassed throughout the war as both Union and Confederate soldiers came to Great Falls to forage for food for men and horses. Bitter feelings and mistrust lingered after the war. Many churches sprang up over the next 40 to 50 years. Searching for viable economic activity after the Civil War, the benefits of dairy farming slowly became apparent. The dairy farmers of Great Falls grew to be among the most economically and commercially successful in Fairfax County, known for their fine product and productive herds. Dairy industry success lasted from the late 1880s to the 1950s when it slowly began its demise due to refrigerated trucks, giving remote dairy farmers entry to the DC market. The last standing dairy farm, The Nalls Farm, was sold in the mid-1980s. New waves of economic fortune have touched our community, as the CIA and other government and high tech workers moved in, turning Great Falls into a bedroom community for people who work in DC, followed by the emergence of the Dulles Corridor of offices, to being the home of entrepreneurs who work from home and enjoy country living close to urban areas.

Great Falls is unique today because it is a place

SEE KEEPING, PAGE 7



1890s Baseball Team, Great Falls. Front Row: Neal Johnson, Tom Dickey, Walter Follin, Page Sanders, Sidney Follin, Sr. Second Row: Howard Cunningham, Joe Money, George Gunnell, Harvey B. Cornwall. Last Row: Albert Cornwell



The Turner Farmhouse on Georgetown Pike, 1987.

PHOTOS COURTESY
OF GREAT FALLS
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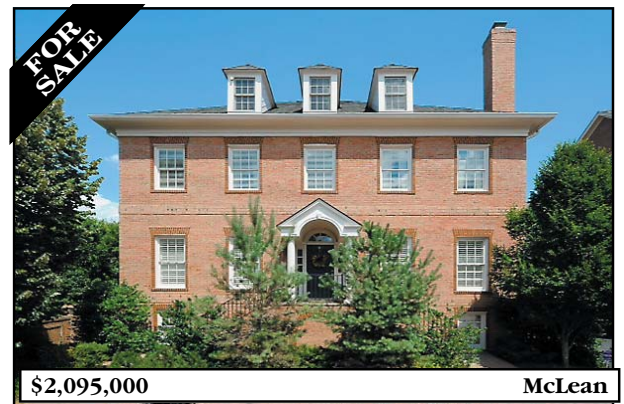
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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2012~13

Keeping the Past for the Future

FROM PAGE 6

where longstanding local families who have lived here their entire lives, and many of whom are descendants of families who have lived here for generations, inspired “more recent settlers” who arrived 35 to 40 years ago and worked together, with affection and imagination, to preserve and sustain a local culture.

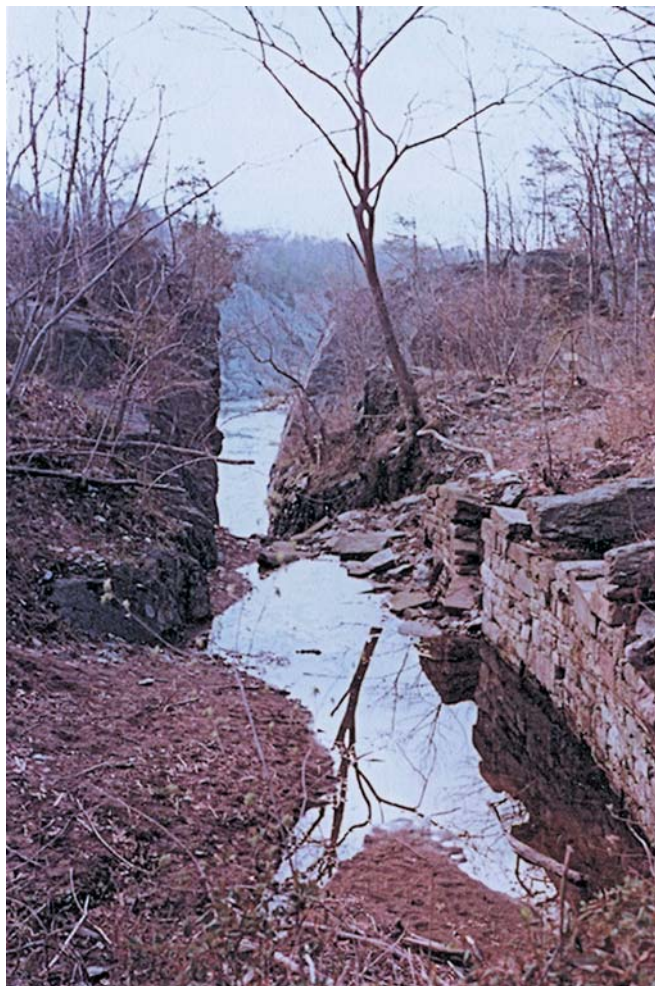
The Affection of ‘Local’

To get a sense of how things were, take a look at the local baseball team of 1890: The young men on the team were descendants of land-owners from some of the largest farms of Great Falls: Johnson, Dickey, Follin, Sanders, Cunningham, Money, Gunnell and Cornwell played their game in the cow pasture, often sliding through cow dung to touch home base. When their game was over, they walked home to their family farmhouse and helped out with the chores. You may recognize some of these names today. In 1890, each baseball player’s family owned a farm that made up a sizeable portion of the Great Falls we know today.

Wendell Berry says it so well: “To have a place, to live and belong in a place, to live from a place without destroying it, we must imagine it. By imagination we see it illuminated by its own unique character and by our love for it. By imagination we recognize with sympathy the fellow members, human and nonhuman, with whom we share our place. By that local experience we see the need to grant a sort of preemptive sympathy to all the fellow members, the neighbors, with whom we share the world. As imagination enables sympathy, sympathy enables affection. And it is in affection that we find the possibility of a neighborly, kind, and conserving economy,” (<http://www.neh.gov/about/awards/jefferson-lecture/wendell-e-berry-lecture>).

The Courage to Imagine

Imagination comes to bear when we see the severely dilapidated before us, but do not tear it down. It takes courage to look beyond the wear and tear to the possibility of functional adaptive reuse—preserv-



Potowmack Canal, Great Falls Park, Virginia Last Lock Before Drop to the River (1987)

ing the character of original craftsmanship, while achieving functionality for today that is beautiful and unique. A case in point is The Turner Farmhouse.

The Turner Farm was a lively, enterprising local farm owned by a dynamic leader in the community, the dairy industry, a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and the first master of the Great Falls Grange, Mark Turner. The farmhouse, recently purchased by the Fairfax County Park Authority, is currently in need of major restoration. Built in the Queen Anne-style, it is the only other remaining example, besides The Dr. Alfred Leigh House—now Dante’s Restaurant. The Turner Farm awaits the Resi-

SEE LOCAL MEMORY, PAGE 17

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OPINION

About the Connection

Newcomers and Community Guide 2012-2013

The paper you're reading, the Great Falls Connection is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md.

Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

This spring, our papers won some very special awards, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service and the Fairfax County Media Partnership Award, along with dozens of others.

We're proud of our commitment to community service, and delighted when it results in awards. We have staff and contributors here at the Connection with remarkable talent and experience, far greater than one might expect. While the last few years have brought many challenges to the newspaper business everywhere, affecting us as well, we continue to publish 15 distinct papers every week that serve their communities in distinct ways.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to bring the local news you need, to gather information about the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

Here in our Newcomers and Community

Guide, we've included an insider's look at the parks, plus details of how to vote in the upcoming elections. Many voters will be surprised when they look at the map on our elections page and discover that their Congressional district has changed.

We invite newcomers and long-time residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an e-mail, contact us on Facebook or send us a tweet. You can even call.

We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an e-mail with feedback about our coverage. You can read and comment on our stories online at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events

ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

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— MARY KIMM,
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Welcome to Fairfax County

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Greetings and welcome to Fairfax County! Fairfax County is an exceptional place to live, work and play. We have a range of fantastic parks, trails and recreational attractions as well as one of the best public school systems in the country. We are also one of the safest jurisdictions of our size in the United States. I'm sure that after experiencing what Fairfax has to offer, you will see why so many families, professionals and top-tier businesses call Fairfax County home.

The Fairfax County Public School system, with a budget this year of \$2.4 billion, is consistently ranked among the top public school systems in America. Twenty-three Fairfax county high schools have been featured in the Washington Post's 2012 list of 1,800 top high schools in the nation, putting these Fairfax County schools in the top nine percent nationwide.

Fairfax County is also home to George Mason University, which is centrally located and an easy commute from all parts of the County. Mason has become one of Virginia's premier universities and was recently added to Kiplinger's list of best value universities

in the country.

We are a business-friendly community. Fairfax County is home to nearly 600,000 jobs, with companies ranging from startups to Fortune 500 companies, ten of which have located their headquarters here. Our range of business start-up resources via the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority makes it easier for firms of any size to thrive. In fact, about 97 percent of the companies in Fairfax County are small businesses with fewer than 100 employees and less than \$1 million in annual revenue. When a corporate leader recently moved his medium sized technology company to Fairfax County, he announced that he did so because he liked the "mood" in Fairfax, explaining that he wanted to be close to others who were as excited as he about their work and engagement in the community.

Accredited and nationally recognized for excellence by the award of the prestigious Gold Medal for Parks and Recreation, Fairfax County's parks are ranked among the best in the nation. We have more than 22,500 acres in 416 parks, with 80 percent of residents utilizing our park services each year. Fairfax County also boasts more than 500 miles of bi-

cycle and walking trails. The bicycle trail system is tied into the county transit system to make it easier to reach destinations without using a car. Fairfax Connector buses are all equipped with bicycle racks and VRE and Metro stations have bicycle racks or lockers – commuting by bicycle has never been easier!

Fairfax County also has a vibrant and growing arts community. The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, an historic county attraction and now converted arts space, allows visitors to watch artists perform their craft, and hosts many events ranging from exhibitions to plays.

As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I am elected at-large by all registered voters in Fairfax County. Community engagement is my hallmark. Visit my website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/> to be kept up-to-date on what is going on in the County. Whenever you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email me at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov or call my office at 703-324-2321.

Thanks for making Fairfax County your home!

Sharon Bulova, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Senior Olympics Deadline

Saturday, Sept. 1., register at www.nvso.us for the 2012 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, to take place throughout Northern Virginia, Sept. 15-26. Participants can compete in over 40 events anywhere from swimming to yo-yo tricks. Events will take place on Sept. 15-26 at 18 venues throughout Northern Virginia. Registration fee of \$12. For more information, call 703-228-4721 or go to www.nvso.us.

THURSDAY/AUG. 23

Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce LeadShare Meeting. 7:30 a.m., at 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.

FRIDAY/AUG. 24

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m., at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., East Vienna. 703-938-0405.
Pokemon League. 3 p.m., at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., East Vienna. Learn and play. Ages 5-12. 703-938-0405.

SATURDAY/AUG. 25

CASA Volunteer Information Session. 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. The Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is hosting an information session to promote awareness and advocacy for neglected or abused children. 703-273-3526 x22 or ekosarin@casafairfax.org.
TJ Michael will be creating balloon art and there will be a "tomato demonstration" at the Vienna Saturday Farmers Market. The market is located at the caboose parking lot across from 131 Church Street NE, in Vienna. Additional parking is located at Assembly of God Church (corner of Center and Ayr Hill Road NE—just a short walk down the W&OD trail to the market). For updated information visit [Facebook/Vienna-Farmers-Market](https://www.facebook.com/Vienna-Farmers-Market) or viennafarmersmarket.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 27

English Conversation. 10:30 a.m., Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. 703-242-4020.

TUESDAY/AUG. 28

One-on-One English Practice. 1:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Call for an appointment with an ESL volunteer. 703-242-4020.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the internet, Word and Excel. Call for an appointment. 703-242-4020.

THURSDAY/AUG. 30

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the internet, Word and Excel. Call for an appointment. 703-242-4020.

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Great Falls Becomes an 'Artful Community'

Great Falls is home to more than 100 working artists.

New arrivals to Great Falls will encounter a vibrant community of artists whose creations add to the quality of life in the village and beyond to the Washington, D.C. Metro area.

More than 100 painters, photographers, potters, jewelry designers, quilters, sculptors, printmakers, weavers, wood carvers and other artists call Great Falls home. They are members of Great Falls Studios, a network of creative people that works to promote artistic expression and make Great Falls a more artful place.

"Our community embraces creativity, and that helps to improve the quality of life for the whole town when residents can enjoy locally made art in public spaces, or visit artists in their home studios during our annual studio

tour," says Laura Nichols, a potter and the president of Great Falls Studios. "We want to invite new residents to join us and take part. Our member artists have moved here from many parts of the US

"We want to invite new residents to join us and take part."

— Laura Nichols, President of Great Falls Studios

and from around the world, including creative people originally from Sri Lanka, South Korea, China, Pakistan, Iran, England, Israel, India and Argentina. We welcome new members because their distinct creative experiences lead to mutual growth."

The first community arts event of fall is a big one: The Ninth Annual Great Falls Art Studios Tour. It is a free driving experience that takes visitors to the home-based studios of local artists to meet the artists where they work. This celebration of creativity has become a major regional event and will take place Oct. 20 and 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Last year it generated more than 7,300 studio visits as art lovers from across the metro area traveled to Great Falls.

Here is a summary of what's available to new residents (old ones, too) in Great Falls:

❖ **Artists in our community.** Great Falls Studios (GFS) is an all-volunteer membership organization of 101 working artists who

SEE ARTS, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY DEAN SOULELES

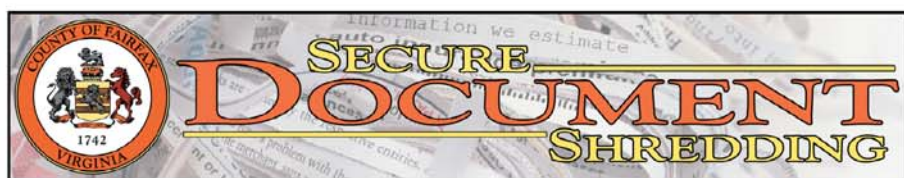
Great Falls artist Ronni Jolles works in her studio, designing a piece in her signature style of layered paper collage. Jolles is one of over 40 artists who will take part this year in the annual Great Falls Art Studio Tour sponsored by Great Falls Studios, now in its ninth year. The tour will be on Oct. 20 and 21.



PHOTO BY AL REITAN

Painter Alicia Sommers stands in front of her abstract creations at an art festival sponsored by Great Falls Studios. In addition to the annual studio tour, the group holds two festivals each year and hangs exhibits of art in area venues, including Katie's Coffee, the Great Falls Community Library and Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Resort & Spa.

Help make Fairfax a little **GREENER!**



SATURDAY, AUG. 25

from **8 a.m. to Noon** at
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SUNDAY, AUG. 26

from **10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the
I-66 Transfer Station
(4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax)

Residents may "E-cycle" televisions, computers and peripheral electronics - such as keyboards, scanners, printers, speakers, etc. - along with unbroken fluorescent tubes & light bulbs.

There is no cost to participate.

These free events are available to *Fairfax County residents only*. For complete details, go online to **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling**, or call 703-324-5052, TTY 711.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication.

For reasonable ADA accommodations, please call 703-324-5230, TTY 711.



NEWCOMERS

Arts Blossom in Great Falls

FROM PAGE 10

live or work in Great Falls. It encourages artistic expression, serves the professional interests of its members and functions as a community service organization. For more information, go to www.GreatFallsStudios.com. There you can view events, calendar and artist pages with information and samples of their work. To join, call Laura Nichols at 703-901-7002.

More than a dozen individual artists in Great Falls also teach in their home studios. Check the GFS website for names, contacts and artistic specialties.

❖ **Annual Studio Tour.** Great Falls' signature art event is an annual free driving tour to visit artists in their home studios on back roads throughout Great Falls and at other venues across town. The tour, which is run by Great Falls Studios, has established the village as a place for quality art in the metro area. Over the past eight years, the tour has generated more than 17,000 visits to Great Falls art studios. This year the tour will be held on October 20 and 21.

❖ **Art exhibits and festivals.** In addition to the annual studio tour, GFS organizes two annual art festivals where work by Great Falls artists is sold. These take place at the Village Green Day School—one just before the holidays and one in spring. GFS also hangs art exhibits year-round in Katie's Coffee, Great Falls Community Library, Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Resort & Spa and at other venues. Events are listed on the GFS website.

❖ **Online gallery.** Residents can check out a gallery of locally created art on a virtual gallery curated by Great Falls Studios. Each month has a different theme, and the new exhibition is posted at the start of each month. Go to the GFS website, www.GreatFallsStudios.com, to see the latest month's exhibit and more examples of the work of our artists.

❖ **Serving Great Falls.** GFS members give free talks to community groups about the stories behind their creations and organize periodic programs at the library on the arts and art-related issues. To arrange for an artist to talk to your group, call Jan Bender at 703-430 9566.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2012~13

Old Brogue

FROM PAGE 3

2005,” said Debbie Smith. “So when Katie’s opened up, I thought I’d give it a try, and sooner or later I was telling people to meet me there, and now I’m a two or three times a week customer.”

Smith said the coffee isn’t what keeps her coming back, but rather the sense of community that comes with knowing Katie’s is the local coffee shop.

“It’s a local business, and it’s hard to show up and not find somebody you know,” she said. “It’s also nice to see the Brogue during the daylight, the patio is beautiful and the inside is very homey, with the wood, fireplace and the Irish art.”

Planning

FROM PAGE 3

guard, it’s literally impossible to start stacking houses without a sewer system,” said David Padgett of Great Falls. “While I think a sewer would be best for the commercial district, keep them running and allow for some future flexibility. I don’t think there is an easy answer, but my preference would be to play it safe when it comes to keeping development to a minimum.”

Harvey says the installation of a sewer would involve “a fundamental change” to

AFTER KATIE’S CLOSES, The Old Brogue reverts to the identity it has held since opening on St. Patrick’s Day 1981, a classic Irish Pub. Owner Mike Kearney’s family has been in the Irish hospitality business since 1930, when his grandfather purchased a hotel in Derry, Ireland.

They serve a variety of traditional Irish fare, and many longtime customers have come to find their favorite dishes.

“The beef and Guinness pie is my absolute top choice at the Brogue, it’s absolutely the best I’ve ever had,” said Sidney Dannon of Reston. “The shepherd’s pie is also great, I find myself torn between the two whenever I eat here. That’s probably the only downside to coming here.”

the comprehensive plan.

“There are a lot of questions, who’s going to pay for it?” he said. “If we set up a sewer district, how will that work? Who pays? Who has access?”

Foust said that while the community discussed various possibilities in late 2010 through mid 2011, “It’s stalled right now while the business community of Great Falls decides what makes the most sense for them.” He said, “There are a lot of steps to making a final decision, but the first move will come from business owners.”



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Celebrate Great Falls Foundation Invites Residents to Get Involved

The Celebrate Great Falls Foundation wants residents of all ages to volunteer, serve as members of the Steering Committee, or volunteer with graphic design, website updates, fundraising or other areas of expertise or interest. "We are always happy to hear from people who are willing to roll up their sleeves and make something happen in their community," said President Candace Campbell. "The more new faces, the better. Even if you just want to submit ideas for ways we could do things better, we'd love to hear from you."

Celebrate Great Falls (CGF) is a nonprofit foundation that has become the umbrella organization for many of the town's major annual events: Cars & Coffee; Summer Concerts on the Green; Celebrate Great Falls Days, which includes the baseball game, golf tournament, and festival; July 4th Hometown Celebration; Halloween Spooktacular and the Holiday Festival of Lights in December. CGF also provides information for and about community businesses, schools, nonprofits, sports organizations and other local entities via our website and online calendar. "Our goal is to become the place to turn for information about our

town and local events," Campbell said.

"We want the community to understand that we haven't replaced other local organizations and we certainly don't want to push aside the groups that have been putting on spectacular events for many years, we just thought it would be helpful to bring them all under one umbrella, so to speak, so that efforts such as fundraising, volunteer coordination, and publicity could be done more efficiently," Campbell said. "For instance, Newcomers of Great Falls (now Great Falls Friends and Neighbors) has put on the Halloween Spooktacular for years. Their members still do the planning, organize the event and help staff it, but the funding and publicity can now come from CGF. Marshaling all our resources this way made sense."

All of the money raised through the Celebrate Great Falls Foundation is used to fund community events and projects and to meet critical needs in the community, including annual donations to our three elementary schools. For more information, to post events on the online calendar or to volunteer, please visit www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Remembering Great Falls Victims of Sept. 11

On Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m., the Great Falls Freedom Memorial Committee will hold its annual 9/11 Ceremony at the site of the Freedom Memorial (behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike). This ceremony especially remembers the six citizens of the Great Falls community who died when Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon on September 11, 2001. The speaker will be Reverend John Bradford, Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls and a retired Marine Corps Major. Choir members from the Great Falls United Methodist Church will join the ceremony.

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

Huckleberry's Frozen Yogurt

Great Falls now has its own version of the latest tasty treat craze sweeping the county: frozen yogurt. Huckleberry's Frozen Yogurt opened its doors in the Great Falls Village Center at the end of May. It's not a chain or a franchise, but a one-of-a-kind Great Falls original. In fact, the store is named after the Johnson family dog, and they display pictures of other family fidos as well.

Located between the Old Brogue and Adler's Jewelers, Huckleberry's features a self-serve platform with six changing flavors of yogurt like Black Raspberry, Coconut, Original Tart, Mint Chocolate Chip, Vanilla and Chocolate.

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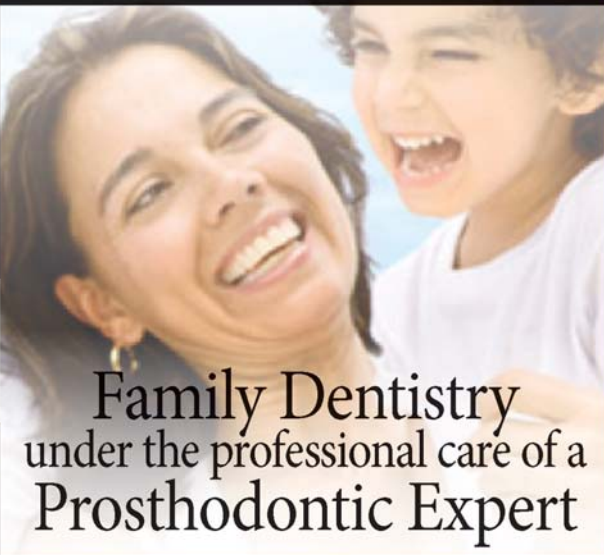
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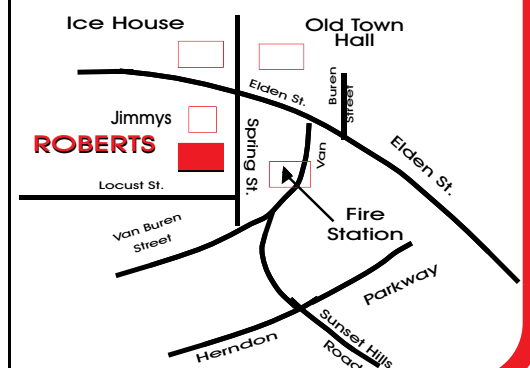
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Local Memory Preserved

FROM PAGE 7

dent Curatorship Program. The Resident Curatorship Program's policy (currently being written) will offer the property rent-free for life to an interested party who would agree to take on the care and maintenance (including its restoration) in entirety.

Sustaining the Past for the Future

As Wendell Berry says so well, cultural sustainability depends on establishing a cultural cycle within our local community: "The cultural cycle is an unending conversation between old people and young people, assuring the survival of local memory," (<http://www.neh.gov/about/awards/jefferson-lecture/wendell-e-berry-lecture>).

The Great Falls Grange represents a highpoint of Great Falls agricultural, economic and social life from 1920 to its suspension in 1979. The organization and the place served as a focal point of activities in the community such as Saturday night suppers on a regular basis, sponsoring an annual "Grange Fair" and maintaining "a baseball diamond for community use" (www.gfhs.org). It speaks to a time when agriculture, economic life and social life were integrated, whole and intact. Your family's economic life was an inherent part of each family member's identity as an individual and as a part of the community fabric. Today, economic life is entirely separate from com-

munity life.

A metaphor of the current detachment of place, economy, family and social life is the current condition of the Great Falls Grange. The building is barely utilized, has fallen into disrepair and is in need of maintenance. Our challenge is to re-imagine an adaptive reuse of the Grange and Old Schoolhouse that reflects who we are as a community today. Inspired by The Great Falls Grange heritage, can we imagine a place where economic engagement, family and friends and youth can come together in a common bond of collegiality, cooperation, enjoyment and mutual support? A metaphor for the Grange organization in Great Falls is the Great Falls Studios, where close to 100 local artists have joined together to show and co-market their artwork, many working from a home studio or sharing studio space with fellow members.

The Great Falls Historical Society provides a place for the continuing conversation between old people and young people in the interest of keeping our local memory alive and capturing the story of the past so as to enlighten our common future. Continuing our local village culture and legacy for future generations to enjoy depends on the active involvement of our residents today. There are historic stories to be written or filmed; there are photos and artifacts to be gathered; there are historic properties to be preserved and curated. Our continuing enthusiasm and curiosity is pivotal to the fulfillment of GFHS's mission—"To feel the pulse of earth where man has trod, and for the future keep the past."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Turner Farm, Aerial View



The Great Falls Grange members (circa 1930s).

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State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

1101282.1



Join Great Falls Friends & Neighbors!

Whether you are new to Great Falls or have lived here for years, Great Falls Friends & Neighbors (GFFN) helps you get more involved in the community and meet fun people of all interests and ages. GFFN will offer a wide variety of social, cultural, educational and philanthropic activities for its members.

GFFN hosts events appealing to many interests. The club offers evolving interest groups such as casual and formal dining, cultural tours, fitness/walking, book groups, bridge, gardening, wine tasting, theatre and more. Special events such as family picnics, holiday parties and champagne brunches also bring members together. GFFN also offers you a chance to participate in civic events and to support other non-profit organizations. GFFN members have raised funds for organizations including shelters, outreach programs, women's programs, the volunteer fire department and many more. It also provides a separately incorporated scholarship fund for disadvantaged women seeking higher education.

The activities you choose may be daytime or evening, weekday or weekend, individuals, couples, families – it's entirely up to you. Annual dues are just \$35 per member, so join today! For more information and an application, please visit our Website at www.gffnva.org.

Great Falls Friends & Neighbors
PO Box 483, Great Falls, VA 22066
www.gffnva.org

A Year in Fairfax County

A sampling of some of the cherished, annual events of the county.



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Elliot, Isaac, 7, Oriana, 5, Zoe and Solomon Zaret, 3, who were named "Star Spangled Family" during the Little Patriot Parade in Great Falls Wednesday, July 4, 2012.

SEE THE WORLD'S LARGEST CIRCUS UNDER THE BIG TOP

COLE BROS. CIRCUS OF THE STARS

CENTREVILLE SPECIAL EVENTS FIELD AT BULL RUN REGIONAL PARK
FRI. AUG. 31 4:30 & 7:30
SAT. SEPT. 1 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30
SUN. SEPT. 2 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30
MON. SEPT. 3 1:30 & 4:30
 BUY ADVANCE TICKETS AT TICKETS.COM & 1-888-332-5200

ASHBURN VIRGINIA ACADEMY & THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
 19790 ASHBURN RD.
 HOSTED BY VIRGINIA ACADEMY & THE COMMUNITY CHURCH
FRI. 7 4:30 & 7:30
SAT. 8 1:30, 4:30 & 7:30
SUN. 9 2:00 & 5:00
 BUY ADVANCE TICKETS THRU 9/6 AT VIRGINIA ACADEMY ASHBURN CAMPUS OFFICE
 *TICKETS.COM & 1-888-332-5200

FREE TICKETS FOR KIDS AT GOTOTHECIRCUS.COM

SAVE \$5 ON ADVANCE ADULT TICKETS

SEE BABY VAL!

INFO 1.800.796.5672 M-F 9-5 GOTOTHECIRCUS.COM

22ND ANNIVERSARY

Saturday, Aug. 25, 2012
4 p.m.-10 p.m.
 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
 McLean, VA 22101
Free Admission

"McLean Teens Got Talent" Talent Show!

1990-2012
22 years of serving the community

Dunk Tank
Moon Bounce
Live Music by E3
The Wrecking Ball - the ride
Airbrushed Tattoos • Spin Art T-Shirts
Free Popcorn, Cotton Candy and Snow Cones
OFTC Living History Exhibit

OFTC is a satellite program of the McLean Community Center.

Old Firehouse teen center
 703-448-8336 (TEEN)
www.mcleancenter.org

AUGUST

Restaurant Week, Fairfax County
 Annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair, Herndon
 Old Firehouse Teen Center Block Party, McLean, Aug. 25
 La Sandia's Chile Relleno Festival, McLean, through Aug. 31
 2nd Annual Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition, Lorton, through Aug. 26
 Pakistan Festival, Centreville, Aug. 26

SEPTEMBER

Clifton Car Show, Sept. 3
 Herndon Labor Day Jazz and Wine Festival, Sept. 3
 St. Mary's 137th Labor Day Picnic, Fairfax Station, Sept. 3
 Burke Centre Festival, Sept. 8-9
 Great Grapes Wine, Arts and Food Festival, Reston, Sept. 8-9
 Reston Triathlon, Sept. 9
 Fall Festival and Taste of Falls Church, Sept. 15
 Dulles Day Plane Pull, Sept. 22
 Reston Multicultural Festival, Sept. 22
 Fall for the Book Festival at GMU, Fairfax, Sept. 26-30
 Walk to End Alzheimer's, Reston, Sept. 30

OCTOBER

Octoberfest Reston, Oct. 5-7
 Fifth Annual Oktoberfest, Vienna, Oct. 6
 Farm Day, Falls Church, Oct. 6
 Fall Festival in Old Town Historic Fairfax, Oct. 13
 Ninth Annual Great Falls Art Studio Tour, Oct. 20-21
 Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair, McLean, Oct. 20-21
 Vienna Halloween Parade, Oct. 24
 VolunteerFest, Fairfax County, Oct. 27
 Halloween Carnival, Falls Church, Oct. 27
 South Run RECenter 5th Annual Arts & Crafts Show, Springfield, Oct. 27-28
 Halloween Spooktacular, Great Falls, Oct. 31

NOVEMBER

The Washington West Film Festival, Herndon and Reston, Nov. 1-4
 The Robinson Marketplace, Fairfax, Nov. 10
 52nd Annual Holiday Bazaar, Vienna, Nov. 10
 Joyful Noise Holiday Bazaar and Bakeshop, Sterling, Nov. 17
 Bull Run Festival of Lights, Centreville, begins Nov. 21
 Civil War Thanksgiving, Falls Church, Nov. 24
 Christmas at Mount Vernon, begins Nov. 25
 30th Annual Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild Art and Craft Showcase, Vienna, Nov. 25-27

DECEMBER

Church Street Stroll, Vienna
 Great Falls Tree Lighting, Dec. 1
 City of Fairfax Festival of Lights and Carols, Dec. 1
 46th Holiday Homes Tour, McLean, Dec. 6
 Great Falls Celebration of Lights, Dec. 8
 Fairfax Four Miler, Dec. 31
 Watch Night, Falls Church, Dec. 31
 Fairfax County's Third Annual Frostival, Chantilly, begins last weekend in December
 Bull Run Festival of Lights, Centreville, Cont.

JANUARY

Fairfax County's Third Annual Frostival, Chantilly, through the first weekend of January
 Christmas at Mount Vernon, through Jan. 6
 Bull Run Festival of Lights, Centreville, through Jan. 6
 Sugarloaf Crafts Festival, Chantilly, Jan. 25
 Second Annual McLean Chocolate Festival, Jan. 27

FEBRUARY

Community Tax Assistance Days

MARCH

Annual Chocolate Lover's Festival, Fairfax
 Fairfax Brewfest
 Herndon Park Egg Hunt
 Chantilly Egg Hunt
 Northern Virginia Artists League 11th Anniversary, Herndon
 Herndon Bluegrass Concert Series

APRIL

Reston Founder's Day Fest, April 13
 22nd Annual Best of Reston Gala, April

11
 Historic Garden Tour, Fairfax County, April 20-27
 ValeArts Spring Fine Art Show, Oakton, last weekend in April
 Fairfax Fine Arts Festival, last weekend in April

MAY

Great Grapes Wine, Art and Food Festival, Reston
 22nd Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, Reston, May 17-19
 McLean Day, May 18
 Civil War Day, Falls Church
 Springfield Days
 Viva! Vienna
 Memorial Day Festival and Parade, Falls Church
 Herndon Festival, begins May 30

JUNE

Herndon Festival, through June 2
 Vintage Virginia Wine Festival, Centreville, first weekend in June
 Great Falls Days, first weekend in June
 Celebrate Fairfax! Festival, June 7-9
 Taste of Reston, June 14-16

JULY

Fairfax Salutes America, July 3
 Old Town Fairfax 4th of July
 Independence Day Parade, July 3
 Patriotic Picnic, Lorton, July 3
 Town of Vienna 4th of July Celebration, July 4
 An American Celebration at Mount Vernon, July 4
 Lake Fairfax Fireworks Spectacular, July 4
 Herndon Friday Night Live!
 Mount Vernon Nights Concert Series
 The 3rd Annual Workhouse Clay National Ceramics Exhibition begins, Lorton

EVENTS CALENDAR COMPILED BY
 CHELSEA BRYAN.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 23

Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons. 8 p.m., at the Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$45 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 24

Friday Afternoon Chess Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Players of all ages and all skill levels welcome. 703-757-8560.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-12. 703-938-0405.

Al Green; Special Guest: Taj Mahal. 8 p.m., at the Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$45 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.com.

The Christopher Linman Jazz Ensemble. 8:30 p.m.-Midnight, at the Wine Bar & Lounge at Entyse, Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tyson's Boulevard, McLean. Enjoy food, wine and jazz. 703-506-4300.

Movies in the Park. 8:45 p.m., at Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St. N.E., Vienna. "Kung Fu Panda 2." Free. In case of inclement weather, call 703-255-7842 two hours before show time.

SATURDAY/AUG. 25

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic. 10 a.m., Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Experts available to answer your gardening questions. 703-242-4020.

W&OD Safety Awareness Bike Rodeo. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., the Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. A safety and educational event on W&OD multi-purpose use, pedestrian awareness and bike-use skills. Pre-register at bac@viennava.gov.

SUNDAY/AUG. 26

Blue Steele and Charles Solomon. 2-5 p.m., at Open Kitchen Bistro, 7115 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Local Blues singer-guitarist and harmonica-player/guitarist perform. Gourmet snacks and artisans wines available. Reservations. Tickets at www.brownpapertickets.com. 703-942-8148.

Straight No Chaser. 8 p.m., at the Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.com.

MONDAY/AUG. 27

Madison H.S. Fall Kick Off. 4-6 p.m. James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Community event with food, games and information about James Madison High School. 703-319-2300.

Dead Can Dance. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The Australian world music duo makes its first Vienna appearance bringing guitar and vocals into Renaissance melodies for multicultural flair. \$30-45. www.wolftrap.org.

TUESDAY/AUG. 28

Week-long Fishing with Friends Camp. 8:30 a.m.-4:40 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. For ages 9-14. Learn beginner and intermediate tricks and tactics for freshwater fishing in nearby ponds and rivers. Virginia Fishing Adventures provides all food, drinks, bait, tackle, rods, reels and lifejackets. \$550-\$600. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.



Teens at last year's OFTC Block Party.

McLean Teens Got Talent

Saturday, Aug. 25. 4-10 p.m., at the Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. McLean Teens Got Talent is looking for a few young artists from Fairfax County in 7th-12th

grade to participate in the Teens Got Talent show during the OFTC Block Party. Free. Advance registration is required. For more information, call 703-448-8336 or go to www.mcleancenter.org.

The Fresh Beat Band. 3 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The hit from Nick Jr. teaches children lessons on problem solving, friendship and fun with songs. \$25-40. www.wolftrap.org.

Good Night, Sleep Tight. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Come in your pajamas and join us for stories and songs. 703-938-0405.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 29

Clarke/Duke 4 "Bring It Tour." 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Stanley Clarke and George Duke with Boney James, all jazz musicians, combine contemporary jazz, funk, R&B, rock and pop with urban jazz. \$25-42. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 30

Patrick Henry Book Club. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese. 703-938-0405.

FRIDAY/AUG. 31

Friday Afternoon Chess Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Players of all ages and all skill levels welcome. 703-757-8560.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-12. 703-938-0405.

The King and I. 8 p.m., on the Filene Center stage at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The classic musical features several Northern Virginia-based children who earned roles through Wolf Trap auditions. \$20-80. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 1

Vienna Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-Noon. Vienna Caboose, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Producers only, Saturdays through Oct. 27. viennafarmersmarket.com.

The King and I. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., on the Filene Center stage at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The classic musical features several Northern Virginia-based children who earned roles through Wolf Trap auditions. \$20-80. www.wolftrap.org.

Social Ballroom Dance. 7 p.m. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. First Saturday every month. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 2

Vienna AAUW Open House. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue E., Vienna. The Vienna Branch of the American Association of University Women will highlight their women's organization and activities. www.aauwofva.org/branches/vienna.

Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Adoption Event. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner. Adoption events every Sunday. <http://lostdogrescue.org/> and click on Adoptions.

The King and I. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., on the Filene Center stage at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The classic musical features several Northern Virginia-based children who earned roles through Wolf Trap auditions. \$20-80. www.wolftrap.org.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 4

Dance Every Tuesday. 7:15 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Introductory dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dancing 8-10:30 p.m. Swing, Latin, waltz, country and more. \$10 per person, includes lesson and snacks. No partner necessary. colvinrun.org or Ed.Cottrell@macp.org.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 6

Ingram Hill. 8 p.m., at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. The Memphis-based rock trio put determination and grit into their feel good shows. \$12 in advance. www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

Oak Marr Park Ribbon Cutting. 4 p.m., at Oak Marr Park, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. The completed fields open with their new sod, goal posts and \$400,000 lighting system. 703-324-8662.

West Coast Swing Dances. 7 p.m. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Second and third Saturday every month. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

McLean Fall Community Flea Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Intersection of Ingleside Avenue and Beverly Road, 1420 Beverly Road, McLean. Shop for goods and wares with no cover charge behind the Giant. www.mcleancenter.org.



Open a World of New Possibilities!
Register Now for
Fall Classes
at the
McLean Community Center

- Parent & Child Workshops
- Art and Computer
- Outdoor Adventure, Decorating & Design
- Culinary Program
- Dance & Fitness for all ages
- Music & Creative Play
- Writing & Theater
- Safety & more...



For a complete listing of classes, tours, performances and events, pick up a free Program Guide at the Center or visit our Web site at: www.mcleancenter.org—and register online.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123; TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org






PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2014 Budget
Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
at the Center.

The current fiscal year (FY 2013) has a tax rate of 2.2 cents per \$100 of real estate assessment, reduced from the previous fiscal year's rate of 2.3 cents.

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Written comments may be delivered to the Center's address (shown below), marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to ellen.barial@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Copies of the proposed budget will be available during the public hearing.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

PARKS

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO PARKS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

National Parks

GF Great Falls National Park
9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean
www.nps.gov/grfa
Great Falls Park is open daily from 7 a.m. until dark. The Visitor Center and bookstore are open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, spring through fall seasons. Picnic, hike along the Potomac River. Swimming and wading in the Potomac are prohibited.

GW The George Washington Memorial Parkway
www.nps.gov/gwmp
703-289-2500
The GW Parkway includes more than 25 sites, ranging from historic homes to wildlife preserves. Join a ranger for a free program or explore sites independently. Some park sites, including Turkey Run Park, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Great Falls Park, etc., close at dark. The Parkway itself remains open 24 hours a day to vehicle traffic.

WT Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts
1551 Trap Road, Vienna
www.nps.gov/wotr/
The only national park dedicated to presenting the performing arts. From May through September, multiple amphitheaters in the park present musicals, dance, opera, jazz, and popular and country music. Explore the park without the crowds from October - April. The Barns at Wolf Trap offer indoor entertainment through the winter months.

State Park

MN Mason Neck State Park
7301 High Point Rd. Lorton
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/mas.shtml#703-339-2385 or 703-339-2380 (visitor center)
masonneck@dcr.virginia.gov
The park's visitor center was expanded in 2010 to include a new exhibit room, gift shop and meeting room. There are several exhibits in the center, and with a view of Belmont Bay. Visitor center staff can answer questions and provide information on park trails, facilities and local points of interest. Pond study, bird watching, canoe trips, nature walks and talks, and GPS adventures are just a few of the exciting programs offered by park rangers.

Regional Parks

BR Bull Run Marina Regional Park
7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville
www.nvrpa.org/park/bull_run/
Main park open all year for picnicking, hiking and family camping. Bull Run Public Shooting Center open all year. Group Camping open daily Jan. 7 through Nov. 11. Mini and disc golf open April through October. Hours vary.

Atlantis Waterpark (at Bull Run Marina Regional Park)
7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville
www.atlantisbullrun.com/
703-631-0552
Atlantis Waterpark features pools, a giant dumping bucket, waterslides, and fun-filled activities for all ages. Atlantis is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and is a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Family of Waterparks. Aantis also features picnic pavilions, a deck great for sunning and playing, as well as plenty of shade. Neptune Reef snack bar sells food, beverages and sweets.

FH Fountainhead Regional Park
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
www.nvrpa.org/park/fountainhead/
703-250-9124
The observation deck of the Marina Building at Fountainhead commands a spectacular view of the widest point of the Occoquan Reservoir. Summer activities include catfish tournaments, children's fishing tournament, paddleboat tours and more.



commands a spectacular view of the widest point of the Occoquan Reservoir. Summer activities include catfish tournaments, children's fishing tournament, paddleboat tours and more.

HO Hemlock Overlook Regional Park
13220 Yates Ford Road, Clifton
www.nvrpa.org/park/hemlock_overlook/
800-877-0954; 571-281-3556;
Hemlock Overlook Regional Park offers a variety of outdoor and environmental education. Programs at Hemlock Overlook are open to the public and groups by reservation. Only the hiking and horse trails may be used without prior arrangement.

MBG Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna
www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens/
703-255-3631
This 95-acre complex of large ornamental display gardens and unique native plant collections round and include walking trails, lakes, more than 20 varieties of cherry trees, irises, peonies, an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and foliage. The Atrium's indoor tropical garden setting is a popular meeting, reception, wedding and workshop location. Interpretive displays accompany a restored 18th-century cabin. A picnic area beside the Gardens is available to visitors. Meadowlark

presents gardening and horticulture workshops, tours, field trips, concerts and volunteer programs.

OB Occoquan Regional Park
9751 Ox Road, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/occoquan/
703-690-2121
This park offers 400 acres of recreational space and a touch of the past with its historic brick kilns and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Park lands, trails and associated waters are part of the Fairfax Cross-County Trail. Kayak rentals. One hour Tour Boat Rides on the Occoquan River to Belmont Bay and back. Offered Saturdays noon-5 p.m., Sunday 1-8 p.m., April 2 through Nov. 27. \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, under age 4 are free.

PB Pohick Bay Regional Park
6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick_bay/
Pohick Bay is located on the Potomac River 25 miles south of the nation's capital. The boat launch facility is one of only three public access points to the Potomac River in northern Virginia. Pohick Bay offers canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and jon boats for rent on the weekends, as well as family and group camping, hiking, picnic areas and a large play area for children. For those interested in swimming, the park offers one of the largest, outdoor freeform pools on the east coast. Pohick Bay Regional Park, located on Mason Neck Peninsula is an ecologically fragile

land that shelters an abundance of wildlife, including the bald eagle. Nature lovers can expect to see blue birds, osprey, heron, deer, beavers and rare sightings of river otters.

Pirates Cove Waterpark
(at Pohick Bay Regional Park)
6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton
www.piratescovepohick.com
703-339-6102
Pirates Cove Waterpark is located at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Visitors can cool off under the 300-gallon dumping bucket, fire the water cannons and splash down the waterslide or search for buried treasure at Buccaneer Beach sand play area. Pirates Cove also features picnic pavilions, a deck for sunning and playing, as well as plenty of shade. Captain's Galley snack bar features food, beverages and sweets. Pirates Cove is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

PB Pohick Bay Golf Course
10301 Gunston Road, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick_bay_golf_course
703-339-8585
This scenic golf course is located on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Lorton. Pohick Bay's practice facility features a driving range with practice putting and chipping greens, and lessons from PGA pros. A full-service pro shop features an array of name-brand golf clubs, equipment and





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Frying Pan Farm Park, Herndon

apparel. Other services include club making, custom club fitting, regripping, reshafting and tournament coordinating.

SR

Sandy Run Regional Park

10450 Van Thompson Road, Fairfax Station
www.nvrpa.org/park/sandy_run/
703-690-4392

The park is open to the public for the purpose of education, training, practice, and racing for competitive and recreational sculling and rowing. Only shells and other boats authorized by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority may be launched from the docks or shoreline of Sandy Run. Sandy Run offers a facility for team training and competition for Olympic, college, high school and club canoe, kayak and crew athletes.

Arts Center

WAC

Workhouse Arts Center

9601 Ox Road, Lorton
www.lortonarts.org
703-584-2900

The Workhouse Arts Center consists of seven studio buildings, the main galleries and the recently opened Youth Arts Center. Visitors are encouraged to interact with artists. In addition to visual arts, the Workhouse Arts Center is home to performing arts, including theater, film institute, musical and dance performances. The education department supports both the visual and performing arts, offering classes and workshops in a variety of disciplines. Future plans for the Workhouse include an event center, amphitheater, Workhouse Theatre, restaurants, apartments, music barn and garden/horticultural area. Other buildings on site, yet to be renovated, may provide for other activities such as a visitors center, a blacksmith shop, theatre scene shops and rehearsal space.

Fairfax County Parks

1 Annandale Park

7701 Royce Street, Annandale
nature center
50.7 acres, district park

2 Baron Cameron School Site

11300 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston
softball (unlit), soccer/football (unlit), biking/
hiking trails, picnic area, playground
60 acres, district park

3 Braddock Park

13451 Braddock Road, Clifton
Softball field (lit), soccer/football (unlit and lit),
minigolf, biking trail, equestrian trail, hiking
trail, open picnic areas
227.1 acres, special purpose park

4 Burke Station Park

6031 Kerrwood Street, Burke
basketball, tennis (lit), hiking trail, playground, tot
lot
18.1 acres, community park

5 Centre Ridge North

Field Encampment Road And St. Germain Drive,
Centreville
basketball (lit), tennis (lit), biking/hiking/nature
trails, playground
8.9 acres, community park

6 Clarks Crossing

9850 Clarks Crossing Road, Vienna
soccer/football (unlit), biking/equestrian/hiking
trails, open areas
143.8 acres, district park

7 Collingwood Park

8200 West Boulevard Drive, Alexandria
soccer/football, basketball, tennis, playground
12 acres, community park

8 Cub Run RECenter

4630 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly
pool, water playground, fitness center, trails,
playground
9.3 acres, special purpose park

9 Dranesville Tavern

11919 Leesburg Pike, Herndon
historic structure, natural/picnic areas, meeting
room
14.6 acres, cultural resource park

SEE PARKS, PAGE 25

Sources: National Park Service, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Virginia State Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority. Map courtesy of Fairfax County Park Authority. Designed & compiled by Jean Card and Laurence Foong. Photos by Craig Sterbutzel.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sharon Bulova
in
Fairfax
Villa
Park.

10

'My Favorite Parks'

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS

The tree I am standing next to in this photo is one of a number of large American Beech trees that populate the forests in Villa Park where I like to hike and jog. Villa Park is located in the central Fairfax area, with an entrance into the park off of Park Drive near Shirley Gate Road.

This park is unique. It has been left in its natural wooded condition and designated a Heritage Resource park to preserve features such as Native American quarries and work/chipping areas. It also contains remnants of the never-completed Independent line of the Manassas Gap Railroad. While no track was ever laid along this rail line, it played a significant role in the Civil War, serving as a little-known transportation route for both Confederate and Union soldiers. The earthworks served as protection during skirmishes.

A number of years ago a Civil War historian told me that he believed soldiers had carved their initials into trees located in Villa Park. The trees near my running path are covered with initials and symbols carved into the smooth grey bark. On the larger trees, the markings have become pretty much unreadable. I don't know if it's true or not, but I like to think these may be the trees my history buff friend was referring to.

When running along this trail, I imagine passing Native American Indians chipping arrow heads out of hunks of quartz and Civil War camp sites with soldiers drawing water from the Popes Head Creek and passing time by carving their initials or troop insignia in the smooth-barked Beech trees growing nearby. The experience is a perfect marriage of my love for history and nature.

Some other favorite Fairfax parks that

interpret our county's fascinating history and showcase its environmental beauty:

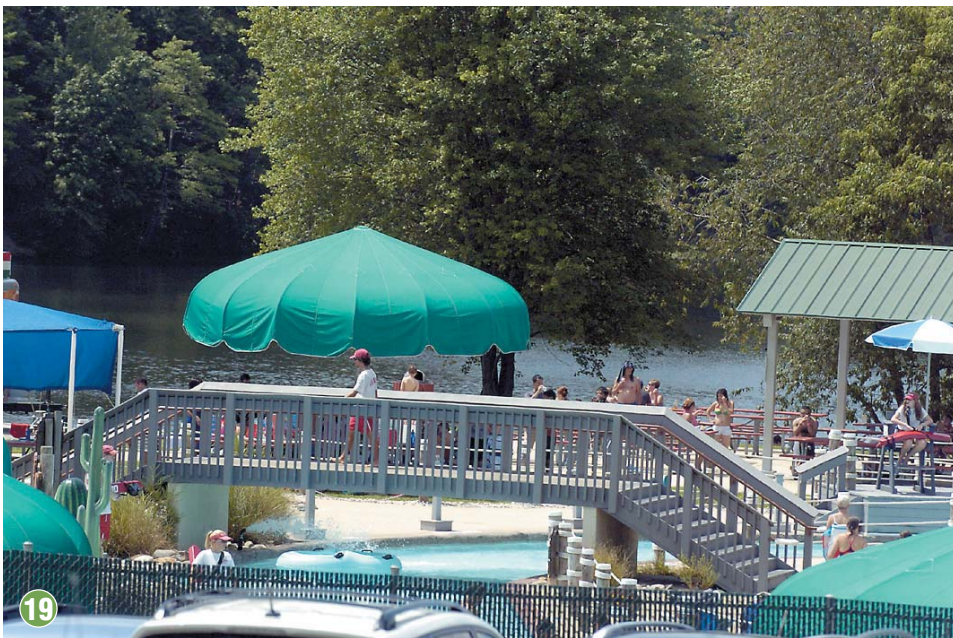
❖ Riverbend Park in Great Falls, includes more than 400 acres of forest, meadow and ponds. Trails include a 2.5-mile portion of the Potomac Heritage Trail linking national and regional parkland. Kayakers and canoeists can enjoy exploring many islands in the Potomac River.

Riverbend's visitor center overlooks the Potomac River and has an outdoor deck that is an ideal place to relax or have a snack after a hike. It has a wonderful interpretative display about the historic Native American presence in the area.

❖ In the South County Hybla Valley area, Huntley Meadows Park contains 1,425 acres of majestic forests, wildflower-speckled meadows and vast wetlands bursting with life. Some of the best wildlife watching in the Washington metropolitan area is enjoyed here. From the wetland boardwalk trail and observation tower, people have excellent views of beavers, frogs, dragonflies and herons. Huntley Meadows is well known as a prime birding spot, with more than 200 species identified in the park.

❖ Lake Accotink Park, located on 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield, is one of my favorite parks. Not only is this 493-acre park one of the most scenic in the county, it is also one of the most fun. In addition to boating, hiking, canoeing, and mini-golfing, you can always find a nice quiet spot to enjoy a picnic on the lake. Children love the beautiful antique carousel.

Lake Accotink was originally created to provide drinking water for troops stationed at Camp Humphries (which is now Fort Belvoir) during the early 1900s. The Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks carry D.C.-bound VRE commuter rail passengers over the Lake Accotink Dam. Remains of an older former railroad trestle make up part of the four-mile trail that winds around the lake and park.



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Lake Fairfax Park

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ❖ AUGUST 22-28, 2012 ❖ 21

How To Register, Vote and Vote Early

Election Day is Nov. 6, but you can vote as early as Sept. 21.

BY MARY KIMM
THE CONNECTION

Why does it matter? How important is it for Virginia voters to turn out on or before Nov. 6? As a critical “battleground” state, Virginia will be key in determining who will be the next President of the United States. Who will represent Virginia in the U.S. Senate is also too close to call. Since polling shows that there are very few undecided voters in the Commonwealth, every eligible voter will want to be sure to cast a ballot.

This area has very high rates of voter registration. Consider that Fairfax County, with a population of just more than 1.1 million people, has 711,817 registered voters. And 24 percent of Fairfax County’s population is under 18, so not eligible to vote.

Arlington has a population of about 216,000 and 157,236 registered voters. Sixteen percent are under 18.

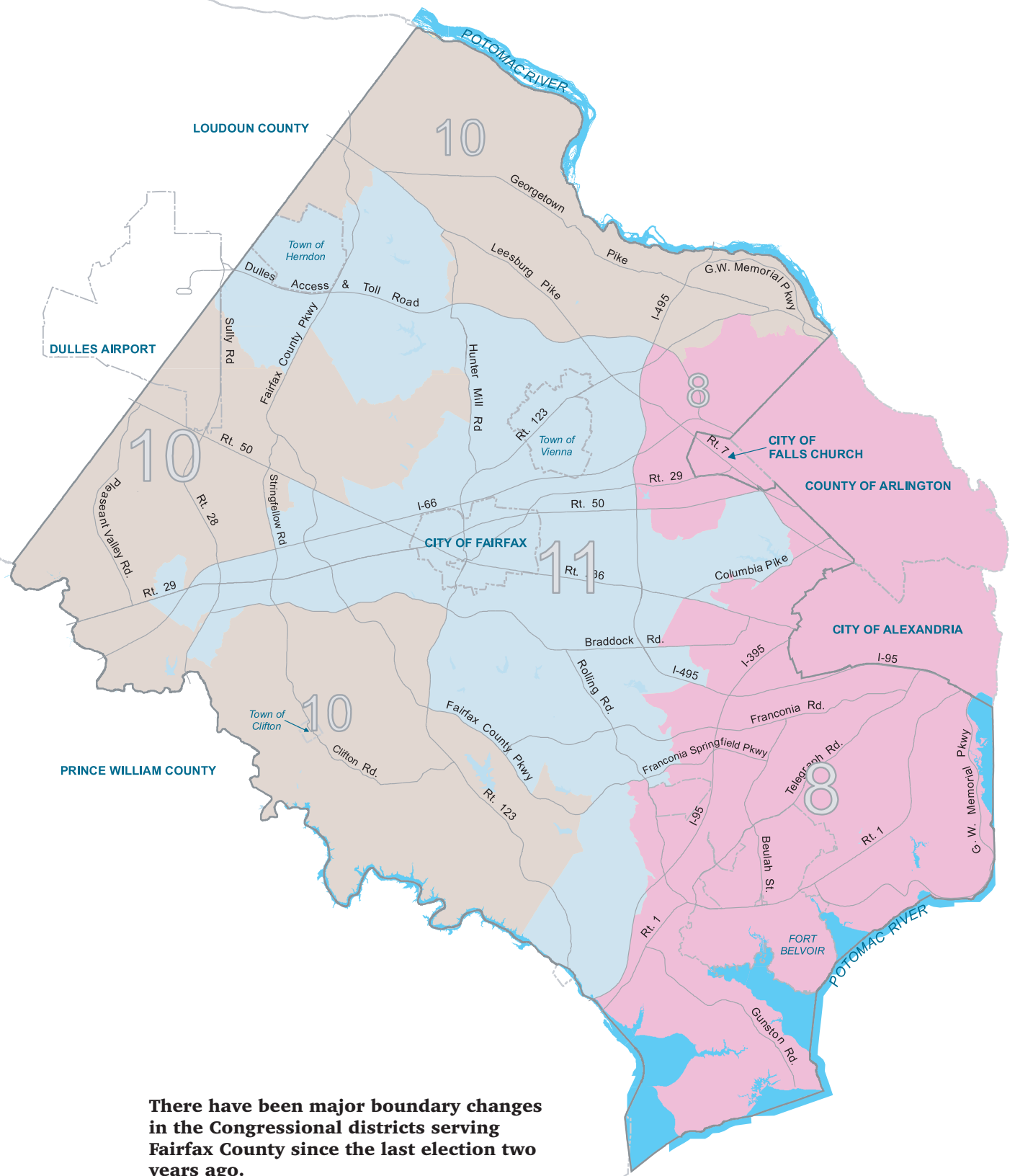
The City of Alexandria has a population of about 144,000 with 101,887 registered voters; 17 percent are under 18.

REGISTER, CHANGE OF ADDRESS: In order to vote on Election Day, you must be registered at your current address no later than Oct. 15, 2012. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov. There you can also download a voter registration form and mail it to the elections office address, listed above.

Voter ID: New laws also affect what identification voters must bring with them to the polling place. Acceptable forms of identification include: Virginia voter identification card; valid Virginia driver’s license; military ID; any Federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID; employer issued photo ID card; concealed handgun permit; valid student ID issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth of Virginia; current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck indicating the name and address of the voter.

Voters arriving to the polls without ID will be required to vote a provisional ballot and will have until noon on the Friday after the election to deliver a copy of identification to their locality’s electoral board in order for their provisional ballot to be counted.

All Virginia active registered voters will be mailed a new Virginia voter identification card prior to the November 2012 General Election. Call 804-864-8901 or toll free 800-552-9745, TTY toll free: 800-260-3466. According to the State Board of Elections at presstime, some of the voter identification requirements listed are pending



MAP PROVIDED BY FAIRFAX COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

preclearance from the Department of Justice.

VOTING EARLY, ABSENTEE

Virtually every voter in Virginia is eligible to vote absentee, which includes voting in-person absentee at a variety of locations between Sept. 21 and Nov. 2.

There are many reasons that voters are allowed to vote absentee, but the most

broad of these applies to almost anyone with a job: “Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation, will be at his place of work and commuting to and from his home to his place of work for 11 or more hours of the 13 that the polls are open (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.).”

See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/absentee_voting/index.html for a complete

list of acceptable reasons to vote absentee, links to download a request for an absentee ballot and other instructions.

You can download an absentee ballot and mail it to your local voter registration office, or you can vote “absentee in person.”

Absentee Voting in Person, Fairfax County:

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 23

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

INSIDER'S EDITION

* = incumbent

U.S. SENATE



Tim Kaine
(D)



George Allen
(R)

8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Jim Moran
(D)*



Patrick Murray
(R)

10TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Kristin A. Cabral
(D)



Frank Wolf
(R)*

11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT



Gerry Connolly
(D)*



Chris Perkins
(R)

Election Day Is Nov. 6; Absentee Voting Begins Sept. 21

FROM PAGE 22

❖ Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035

Absentee voting hours, Sept. 21-Oct. 16, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thursdays: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Oct. 17-Nov. 2, Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday Hours: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Office Closed On: Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 (Columbus Day)

Last Day to Vote In-Person: Saturday, Nov. 3

Absentee Voting in Person, Fairfax County Satellite Locations

Voting in the following seven locations is available Oct. 17 - Nov. 3, Monday - Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.:

❖ Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, VA 22310

❖ Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

❖ North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA

For More Election Information

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

804 864-8901 Toll Free: 800 552-9745 FAX: 804 371-0194

email: info@sbe.virginia.gov
http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.htm

FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

CITY OF FAIRFAX GENERAL REGISTRAR

703-385-7890, http://www.fairfaxva.gov/Registrar/GeneralRegistrar.asp
10455 Armstrong Street, Sisson House, Fairfax, 22030; FAX 703-591-8364; email kevin.linehan@fairfaxva.gov

ALEXANDRIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS

703-746-4050, http://alexandriava.gov/Elections
132 North Royal Street, Alexandria, 22314; FAX 703-838-6449; email tom.parkins@alexandriava.gov

ARLINGTON BOARD OF ELECTIONS

703-228-3456, http://www.arlingtonva.us/vote,
2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 320, Arlington, 22201; FAX 703-228-3659; email voters@arlingtonva.us

20190

❖ West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152

❖ Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306

❖ Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151

Absentee In-person Voting in the City of Alexandria:

In-person absentee voting starts Friday, Sept. 21 at 8 a.m. and ends Saturday, Nov. 3 at 5 p.m.

Regular hours for in-person absentee voting are Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. at the Office of Voter Registration and Elections, 132 North Royal Street, Suite 100 (the office is closed on Monday, Oct. 8).

Beatley Library will be used as a second absentee voting site beginning Thursday, Oct. 25.

More details, including dates of extended hours at <http://alexandriava.gov/elections/info/default.aspx?id=1720>

Arlington In-person Absentee Voting:

Will be available starting Sept. 21 and ending 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3 at 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Lobby Level, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday, (closed Oct. 8) with some extended hours, and Saturdays beginning Sept. 29.

Two satellite locations, Barcroft Sport and Fitness Center, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive and Madison Community Center, 3829 N. Stafford St., will have in-person absentee voting from Oct. 6 - Nov. 3. For hours, visit <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/voterregistration/voterregistrationabsenteevoting.aspx>

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

Every voter in Virginia will vote for U.S. senator and their member in the U.S. House of Representatives, in addition to President of the United States and two constitutional questions.

For Senate, Tim Kaine (D), former governor will face George Allen (R), also former governor and former U.S. senator, to replace U.S. Sen. Jim Webb (D) who is retiring from the Senate after a single term. Webb defeated George Allen six years ago. Connection coverage of the U.S. Senate race is available at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Election/National/Senate/>

Two constitutional questions will appear

on all Virginia ballots, one about the use of eminent domain and one about the timing of a particular session of the General Assembly to consider overriding vetoes by the governor of legislation that was passed by the assembly. See <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/webdocs/201211ConstitutionalAmendmentsPoster.pdf>.

In the races for U.S. House of Representatives, it's worth noting that redistricting resulted in significant changes in Northern Virginia in terms of who your U.S. representative will be. If you live in Reston, for example, while last election you were represented by Jim Moran and the 8th district, now you are in the 11th district where the incumbent is Gerry Connolly. See the map for details. Fairfax County is represented by three Congressional Districts, 8, 10 and 11. Connection coverage of congressional races is available at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Election/National/Representatives>.

In the 8th District, incumbent Rep. Jim Moran (D), seeking his 12th term since being elected in 1990, will face Patrick Murray (R), and two independent candidates, Janet Murphy and Jason Howell. The 8th district includes all of Alexandria and Arlington, plus parts of Fairfax County including Mount Vernon, Lorton and parts of McLean, Tysons and Falls Church.

In the 10th District, Frank Wolf (R), elected to office in 1982, will face Democrat Kristin A. Cabral and independent J. Kevin Chisholm. The 10th district sprawls from McLean to Winchester, and includes Great Falls, Chantilly, parts of Fairfax Station, the Town of Clifton, part of Burke and Springfield.

In the 11th District, Gerry Connolly (D), former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, elected to Congress in 2008, will face Republican Chris Perkins and Independents Joe Galdo and Peter M. Marchetti. The 10th district now includes the City of Fairfax, the Town of Herndon, Reston, central Fairfax County including parts of Burke, Springfield and Lorton.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, voters will also decide whether to invest in infrastructure based on four bond questions, answering yes or no to supporting \$75 million for parks, \$55 million for public safety facilities, \$25 million for library facilities and \$30 million for stormwater and sewer improvements. http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/nov_2012_county_bond_issues.pdf

IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA, voters will also choose a mayor, members of the city council and school board.

The Alexandria City Council is composed of a Mayor and six Council members who are elected at-large for three-year terms. Incumbent mayor Bill Euille (D) will face Andrew H. Macdonald (I) in the race for mayor.

Voters will choose six City Council members from the list of 12: Frank H. Fannon IV (R)*, Alicia R. Hughes (R)*, John R. "Bob" Wood (R), John Taylor Chapman (D), Timothy Lovain (D), Del Pepper *(D), Allison Silberberg (D), Paul C. Smedberg❖ (D), Justin M. Wilson (D), Glenda B. Davis (I), Robert Krause (L), Jermaine A. Mincey (I). ❖ means incumbent.

The Alexandria City School Board is a nine-member elected body that adopts policy for the daily operation of schools and sees that school laws are properly explained, enforced, and observed. The city is divided into three voting districts, and three Board members are elected from each district. Each member serves a three-year term. Incumbents marked *.

School Board District A: Stephanie Amann Kapsis, William E. "Bill" Campbell*, Karen A. Graf, Helen F. Morris*, Joyce D. Rawlings, Heath E. Wells

School Board District B: Michael A. Brookbank, Chyrell D. Bucksell, Kelly Carmichael Booz, Justin P. Keating, Marc Williams❖

School Board District C: Ronnie M. Campbell*, Patricia A. "Pat" Hennig, Christopher J. Lewis, Jeff N. Zack.

IN ARLINGTON, voters will choose one member of the County Board and one member of the School Board. Both Arlington boards are made up entirely of at-large members, so both races will appear on all Arlington ballots.

Incumbent Libby Garvey (D) will face Matthew A. Wavro (R) and Audrey R. Clement (I) for the seat on the County Board.

For School Board, incumbent Emma N. Violand-Sanchez will face Noah L. Simon.

Arlington voters will also decide yes or no on four bond questions, whether to authorize raising \$32 million public schools, \$28 million for community infrastructure, \$50 million for local parks and recreation, and \$32 million for Metro and transportation. <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/voterregistration/forms/Bonds2012ENG.pdf>

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Michael Lee Pope

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Breaking News Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*
 ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Government Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*
 ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, FIRST PLACE, Public Safety Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Montie Martin**, FIRST PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Montie Martin**, FIRST PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Montie Martin



Deb Cobb

❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, Photo Illustration, *Burke Connection*

❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, General News Photo, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Deb Cobb**, FIRST PLACE, Online Slide Show, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, FIRST PLACE, Education Writing, *Centre View North*

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, FIRST PLACE, Feature Writing Portfolio, *Centre View North*

❖ **Michael O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs,**

Amber Healy, FIRST PLACE, Multimedia Feature Report, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Alex McVeigh**, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Great Falls Connection*

Victoria Ross

❖ **Kenny Lourie**, FIRST PLACE, Local Column, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Kenny Lourie**, FIRST PLACE, Sports Column, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Ken Moore, Mary Kimm, Robbie Hammer**, FIRST PLACE, Continuing News Coverage, *Potomac Almanac*



Mary Kimm

❖ **Staff**, SECOND PLACE, General Makeup, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Staff**, SECOND PLACE, Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Robbie Hammer

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Headline Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Feature Story Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, *Arlington Connection*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Lashawn Avery-Simon**, SECOND PLACE, General News Photo, *Arlington Connection*

❖ **Mike O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy**, SECOND PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Julia O'Donoghue**, SECOND PLACE, Education Writing, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Marilyn Campbell**, SECOND PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Great Falls Connection*

❖ **Victoria Ross**, SECOND PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection*

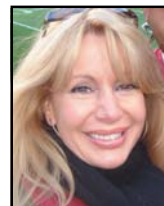
❖ **Jon Roetman**, SECOND PLACE, Sports Writing Portfolio, *Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection*



Kenny Lourie



Ken Moore



Jeanne Theismann



Lashawn Avery-Simon



Marilyn Campbell

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION



Louise Krafft

❖ **Louise Krafft**, SECOND PLACE, Picture Story or Essay, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Ken Moore, Laurence Foong**, SECOND PLACE, Infographics, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Carole Dell**, SECOND PLACE, Local Column, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Susan Belford**, SECOND PLACE, Feature Story, Profile, *Potomac Almanac*



Laurence Foong



Susan Belford

❖ **Louise Krafft**, THIRD PLACE, Pictorial Photo, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, Breaking News Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Mary Kimm**, THIRD PLACE, Editorial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Mary Kimm**, THIRD PLACE, Editorial Writing, *Burke Connection*

❖ **Victoria Ross**, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Fairfax Connection*



Kemal Kurspahic

❖ **Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Amna Rehmatulla**, THIRD PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, *Reston Connection*



Amna Rehmatulla

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AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO AREA PARKS

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Scotts Run, McLean

FROM PAGE 21

10 Fairfax Villa Park

4420 Belden Street, Fairfax
historic structure, biking/historic/hiking trails, natural areas
59.7 acres, community park

11 Fred Crabtree Park

2801 Fox Mill Road, Herndon
Little league (lit), soccer/football field (unlit), historical structure, biking/equestrian/hiking/nature trails
208.5 acres, district park

12 Frying Pan Farm Park

2717 West Ox Road, Herndon
historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, open areas, playground
135.3 acres, multiple resource park

13 Great Falls Nike Park

1089 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls
baseball field (lit), soccer/football field (unlit), basketball (unlit), tennis (unlit), playground, biking/hiking trails
45.5 acres, district park

14 Grist Mill Park

4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria
baseball, soccer/football, basketball, biking/hiking trails, playground
75.5 acres, district park

15 Huntley Meadows Park

3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria
nature center, historic structure, biking/hiking/nature trails, observation tower, boardwalk
1444.8 acres, natural resource park

16 Hybla Valley Park

3431 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria
tennis, hiking trails, open areas
1.2 acres, neighborhood park

17 Lake Accotink Park

7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield
basketball, volleyball, minigolf, trails, picnic
448.1 acres, multiple resource park

18 Lake Braddock School Site

9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke
soccer/football (unlit), fitness trails, open areas
13.1 acres, community park

19 Lake Fairfax Park

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit), amphitheater, carousel, campground, tour boat, picnic shelters
479 acres, multiple resource park

20 Lake Mercer Park

9500 Silverbrook Road, Fairfax Station
historic structure, biking/hiking/historic trails, fishing
196.5 acres, multiple resource park

21 Langley Fork Park

6250 Georgetown Pike, McLean
baseball (lit), soccer/football (unlit), basketball (unlit), biking/fitness trails
54 acres, district park

22 Laurel Hill Park

8515 Silverbrook Rd., Lorton
baseball (unlit), softball (unlit), clubhouse, driving range, 18 hole, disc golf, picnic areas, hiking/biking
1197.5 acres, countywide park

23 Lee District Park

6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia
softball, soccer/football, tennis, basketball, volleyball, trails, treehouse
138 acres, district park

24 Lewinsville Park

1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean
baseball, soccer/football (lit), basketball, tennis, biking/fitness trails, picnic, playground, tot lot
37.7 acres, district park

25 Mason District Park

6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit/lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), shuffleboard, dog park, amphitheater, biking/hiking/fitness
121.2 acres, district park

26 Muddy Hole Farm Park

7941 Kidd Street, Alexandria
soccer/football, basketball, tennis, hiking trails, picnic areas, playground
13.6 acres, community park

27 Newington Heights Park

8590 Heller Road, Lorton
soccer/football, basketball, tennis, biking/hiking trail, playground
69.3 acres, district park

28 Nottoway Park

9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna
baseball (lit), soccer/football (lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), trails, picnic
90.9 acres, district park

29 Patriot Park

12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax
little league (lit), soccer/football (lit)
130.5 acres, district park

30 Pope Head Park

5635 Rivercomb Court, Clifton
soccer/football, basketball, tennis, biking/fitness/hiking trails, picnic, playground
75.6 acres, district park

31 Poplar Tree Park

4718 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly
baseball (lit), soccer/football (lit), biking, hiking, picnic, playground
48.3 acres, district park

32 Riverbend Park

8700 Potomac Hill Street, Great Falls
nature center, historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, picnic areas, craft room
411.2 acres, multiple resource park

33 Rolling Valley West Park

6512 Sydenstricker Road, Burke
softball, soccer/football (lit), basketball, tennis, biking, hiking, playground
20.7 acres, community park

34 South Run District

7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield
baseball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, equestrian, playground, swimming
196 acres, district park

35 Spring Hill Park

1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean
swimming, fitness rooms, racquetball, picnic, playground, soccer/football
46.1 acres, district park

36 Wakefield Park & RECenter

8100 Braddock Road, Annandale
softball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, biking, fitness trail, skate park
292.6 acres, multiple resource park



Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Chantilly



Frying Pan Farm Park, Herndon



Burke Lake Park, Fairfax Station

FAITH NOTES

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

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, offers a 9 a.m. traditional service and a 10:30 a.m. contemporary service on Sundays. Also offers two services during the summer—both of which will include children's sermons. 703-356-3346.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers three Sunday services and a host of musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries to enrich spiritual

growth. 7:45 a.m. Worship Service without music; 9 a.m. Worship Service, Children's Chapel and Children's Choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Forum; and 11 a.m. Worship Service with Adult Choir. 703-759-2082.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or umtrinity.org.

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

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules

and registration information.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed and strength is

gained. 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean. The third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

Vienna Assembly of God has a 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 also available. 703-938-7736 or www.ViennaAG.com.





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OPEN HOUSES
SATURDAY/SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 & 26

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 and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link.
Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Chantilly
42344 Astors Beachwood...\$850,000...Sun 1-4...Chris Pezzana...Weichert..703-447-1662
41994 Kudu Ct...\$694,000...Sun 1-4...Rich Triplett...Samson Props..703-217-1348
3635 Beech Down Dr...\$524,900...Sun 1-4...Cristina Dougherty...Long & Foster..703-969-0471

Clifton
12406 Shari Hunt Grove...\$1,050,000...Sun 1-4...Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Fairfax Station
8303 Pinyon Pine Ct...\$749,500...Sun 1-4...Christine Shevock...RE/MAX..703-475-3986

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Getting to Know Area High School Sports



Mark Saunders, left, and the McLean boys' soccer team won a Liberty District championship in 2012.

McLean High: Boys' and girls' soccer teams won district titles in 2012.

School: McLean High School.
Mascot: Highlanders.
School Colors: Red and silver.
Athletic Director: Jim Patrick, 703-714-5700.
Football Coach: Dennis Worek (first year).

The Highlanders went 6-4 during the 2011 regular season and qualified for the Division 5 playoffs, where they lost to Yorktown in the quarterfinals.
Field Hockey Coach: Summer Vanni.
Boys' Basketball Coach: Kevin Roller.
Girls' Basketball Coach: Mike O'Brien.
Baseball Coach: John Thomas.
Softball Coach: Maurice Tawil.
Boys' Soccer Coach: Michael Anderson.
Girls' Soccer Coach: Rob Bouchard.
Rival School: Langley.

What Happened Last Year: The field hockey team finished Liberty District runner-up. The boys' basketball team went 23-

4, won a district title and reached the region semifinals. The boys' and girls' soccer teams won district championships. The baseball team reached the region quarterfinals.

Famous Graduate: Defensive end Eric Dorsey (1982 graduate) was a first-round choice of the New York Giants in the 1986 NFL Draft. He was a starter on the Giants' 1990-91 team that won Super Bowl XXV. He finished with seven sacks in seven seasons.

Quotable: "This is invigorating. I felt as a team we played great, kept it together. This has definitely been a goal for us from the beginning [of the season]. We wanted to win the district and did that." —Defender Brianna Nielsen after the McLean girls' soccer team won a district title in 2012.



Head Coach Earl Brewer (center) led the Langley boys' lacrosse team to its fourth consecutive state championship in 2012.

Langley High: Girls' tennis team goes undefeated in 2012.

School: Langley High School.
Mascot: Saxons.
School Colors: Green and gold.
Athletic Director: Geoff Noto, 703-287-2750.
Football Coach: John Howerton (10th year).

The Saxons started 3-1 in 2011, finished the regular season 5-5 and qualified for the Division 5 postseason, losing to Stone Bridge in the quarterfinals.
Field Hockey Coach: Jennifer Robb.
Volleyball Coach: Susan Shifflett.
Boys' Basketball Coach: Travis Hess.
Girls' Basketball Coach: Amanda Bates.
Baseball Coach: Kevin Healy.
Boys' Lacrosse Coach: Earl Brewer.
Girls' Lacrosse Coach: Richard DeSomma.
Boys' Soccer Coach: Bo Amato.
Girls' Soccer Coach: Ken Savittiere.
Rival School: McLean.

What Happened Last Year: The volleyball team finished Liberty District runner-up and reached the Northern Region

semifinals. The boys' lacrosse team won its fourth consecutive state championship. The girls' tennis team went 20-0 en route to a state championship. The boys' tennis team won a region title and finished state runner-up. The girls' lacrosse team finished district, region and state runner-up. The baseball team advanced to the region semifinals. The boys' soccer team finished district runner-up and reached the region semifinals.

Famous Graduate: Bruce Allen (1974 graduate) is the general manager of the Washington Redskins and son of former Redskins coach George Allen.

Quotable: "Coach [Earl] Brewer told us [after the win] that we've all made our mark in [Northern] Region and Virginia State lacrosse history." —Langley goalkeeper Andrew Spivey after the Saxons won their fourth consecutive boys' lacrosse state championship.

Marshall High: Field hockey team tallied 15 wins in 2011.

School: George C. Marshall High School.
Mascot: Statesmen.
School Colors: Scarlet and Columbia blue.
Athletic Director: Joe Swarm, 703-714-5409.
Football Coach: Greg Sullivan (first year).

The Statesmen went 2-8 in 2011, beating Falls Church and Thomas Jefferson.
Field Hockey Coach: Christina Carroll
Boys' Basketball Coach: Dan Hale.
Girls' Basketball Coach: Chad Scott.
Rival School: Madison.

What Happened Last Year: The field hockey team went 15-4 and reached the Northern Region quarterfinals. The girls' basketball team reached the regional tournament. The baseball team qualified for regionals. The girls' lacrosse team went 11-5 and qualified for regionals.

Famous Graduate: Pete Schourek (1987 graduate) was a pitcher in the Majors Leagues. He was drafted by the New York Mets in the second round of the 1987 MLB Draft. He played 11 seasons in the Majors and finished second in the Cy Young voting in 1995, when as a member of the Cincinnati Reds he went 18-7 with a 3.22 ERA. He also played for the Toronto Blue Jays, Houston Astros, Boston Red Sox, Pittsburgh Pirates and Boston Red Sox. Defensive lineman Michael McCrary (1988 graduate) played collegiately at Wake Forest and was a seventh-round selection of the Seattle Seahawks in the 1993 NFL Draft. He played 10 seasons with the Seahawks and Baltimore Ravens, earning two trips to the Pro Bowl and one All-Pro selection. He won one Super Bowl (XXXV) with Baltimore. He finished with 71 career sacks.



The Marshall girls' lacrosse team faces Langley.

INSIDERS' PERSPECTIVE

What are the greatest things about living in Great Falls?

— MORGAN SASSER



Anne Montgomery, librarian at Great Falls Public Library, 36 year resident

"There's a lot to like about Great Falls, but I would say my favorite part is the feeling of community here. For instance, here at the library people come for books, but they also use it as a place for meeting and gathering together. It makes it more than just a library. I feel like I'm connected with my town in a place like Great Falls."



Rashad Shakib, Langley High School student/Great Falls Safeway employee, 9 year resident

"My favorite part about our town is being able to play in the Great Falls basketball league each winter. It's nice to be able to play with the same kids every year, and we get closer each season. It's also a way for me to get involved with my community, because I think that sports are important here. I also like working in Great Falls Village because I see friends and families that I know every day. It's impossible to come to the Village and not recognize somebody."



Diane Strahan, consultant, 15 year resident

"I like that they've done an excellent job preserving the historical aspects of this community with places like the Colvin Run Mill. We don't have skyscraper buildings or huge roads—it's scenic instead of commercialized. I also like visiting the parks like Riverbend and the Great Falls."



Kevin Nejad, employee at Great Falls Starbucks/student at Northern Virginia Community College, 8 year resident

"I really appreciate the fact that living around here is safe. I can walk around without worrying about trouble. I also like the general attitude of the people here. Everyone who walks into where I work is nice and down to earth, and it's also cool to have repeat customers. It makes you feel the association here."



Ashley Irvin, student at James Madison University/veterinary assistant at the Great Falls Animal Hospital, 4 year resident

"I moved here from Southern California, and living here is very different. I like that it's smaller in Great Falls because it makes the town much more close-knit. All of my friends live near me, and that I can walk to work from my house because everything is accessible and close by. My co-workers are also Great Falls residents, so we hang out from time to time. Saying goodbye to everyone here before college was definitely sad, and I'll miss it."

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-Albert Einstein

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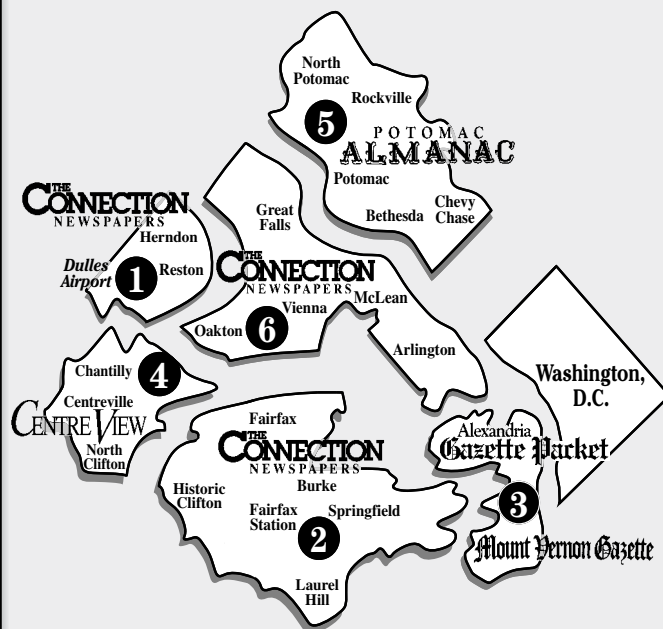
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Life in the Cancer Lane



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not to look a reasonably good result from my anti-cancer oral medication in the mouth, but however good I feel, however asymptomatic I am (other than the dry skin and pimply rash on my face), the results from my next CT Scan in early September will tell me how I should really feel. If the tumors (one in particular) have not grown or moved – or have even shrunk, I will feel Tony-the-Tiger “Great!” If on the contrary, the tumors have grown again, as they had in June – after my two previous chemotherapy infusions, then whatever I think I feel now will be replaced by what I don’t want to think about ever: the presumably inevitable, now-what?

“Now what” as in “what next,” has rarely been a discussion I’ve had with my oncologist, the scenario question as I refer to it. Whenever I would ask the perfectly logical question – to me, about what we might do if so and so happens or if such and such occurs (medically speaking relating to the cancer, that is) my doctor would always defer, and advise patience and caution, not wanting to get too far ahead of where we were but rather wait until we got there – considering that “there” is hardly a straight line. As difficult as it was for me to not always have clear options and strategies outlined for the future, what did become clear to me was that trying to anticipate such outcomes and plan treatment protocols accordingly, was not something my oncologist was comfortable doing, given the variability and unpredictability of how my body (cancer) would respond to whatever we had been doing. In a professional way, sort of, it was kind of a waste of his time to discuss treatment for eventualities which had not yet manifested themselves. The plan/his thinking was – as I soon learned, preempt what we could, treat what we knew, and wait for results to know what, or what not to do, next.

Presuming facts not yet in evidence and/or reactions not yet diagnosed/confirmed was natural for me – as a salesman. For an oncologist however, it would be unethical almost, to tell me things which are not yet true but might be or might not be, depending on... And so I’ve come to accept that (for awhile, I continued to ask except-type scenario/what if questions). Eventually, I grew comfortable with these perimeters and knew that waiting – and hoping – and wondering, was going to be the currency with which I was going to pay my emotional dues. Once having assimilated these dos and don’ts into my understanding and expectations, the planning of my present and future life became less stressful, oddly enough. Once I knew the limitations of our conversations projecting medically (into a very uncertain future), I could work it into my head and better manage the emotional roller coaster which had/has become my life. Oh sure, we had general discussions about treatment options, and there was a road map of sorts, but specifically visiting and discussing scenarios A, B and C either in person or electronically was rarely how our time together has been spent.

If I hadn’t learned to sit tight and wait for results – and then discuss those results and future treatment options, I might have driven myself and all those around me crazy. Now I’m waiting again – until September. Having been there and done that now for three and a half years certainly helps. And however familiar it may be and/or has become, it doesn’t exactly help to pass the time or affect the results, unfortunately. Cancer sucks! That much is clear. Now and in the future.

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

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