

The current temporary bridge over Nichols Run on Beach Mill Road was scheduled to be replaced starting this month, but was pushed back to next summer.

Beach Mill Bridge Postponed

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A Complete Failure

Fairfax County says Verizon 'failed completely' during June 29 derecho.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The eerie silence is what Steve Souder, Fairfax County's 911 director, remembers about the night of June 29, when the derecho hit Fairfax County.

"The derecho was fierce and sudden, a lot of things most storms aren't," Souder said in an interview on Friday. "We were busy as all get-out."

The fast-moving storms slammed Fairfax County at about 10:20 p.m., resulting in a record number of emergency calls—a 415 percent jump for 911 dispatchers and a 2,000 percent jump for Fire and Rescue. Approximately 30 minutes later, power flickered and then died in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC), where 46 911 dispatchers were fielding hundreds of calls.

"We can't afford to be crippled, so our generators came on, and we're rocking and rollin' in the blink of an eye," Souder said.

At 1:30 a.m., the first wave of calls started to subside.

"We're taking a deep breath and looking ahead to sunrise, when we fully expected another wave of calls as people wake up and take a look around their homes at the damage," Souder said.

THE NEXT MORNING, as hundreds of thousands of county residents awoke to smashed cars, split fences and downed power lines from uprooted trees, the county's 911 operators braced themselves for another onslaught of calls.

But the next wave never came.

"The phones just stopped ringing. We were dead in the water... Never, ever, ever has this happened to us," said Souder, who has been in emergency op-



Fairfax County's 911 Call Center located in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center, named after former Fairfax County Supervisor Elaine McConnell.

PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

erations for 44 years.

It would be several more hours before Souder and other County officials learned that no calls were getting through due to a problem with Verizon. According to Souder, all calls to Fairfax County's 911 go through the Verizon network, regardless of the commercial carrier service. From 7:36 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 30, 911 service was completely down and for the next three days service was sporadic.

Souder said signs of trouble with Verizon came around 7 a.m., when Verizon sent a cryptic email to Fairfax County staff saying that the Arlington central office was without power or backup battery/generator. The references to Arlington, according to Souder, suggested that 911 service was affected only in Arlington County, so Fairfax County's 911 staff continued with their normal operations.

"We are completely unaware that incoming 911 call service from Verizon is slowly dying... We don't get officially notified until about 10 hours after [the] whole mess begins, which is completely unacceptable," Souder said, adding:

"It's like the Captain of the Titanic telling passengers the ship hit an iceberg when the bow is on the bottom of the ocean floor."

As a result of this critical outage, Fairfax County submitted official comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) detailing what happened, suggestions for Verizon to improve its service and exhibits to show supporting documentation and actions.

"During and after a storm, and in any emergency or disaster, the loss of the public's ability to contact emergency responders is most profoundly felt," according to County officials. "Families in darkened homes crushed by fallen trees, motorists unable to get through roadways blocked by downed electric power lines, elderly residents in care facilities without power in temperatures over 90 degrees, and any other citizens in need of emergency services must be able to call 911 to seek

"It's like the Captain of the Titanic telling passengers the ship hit an iceberg when the bow is on the bottom of the ocean floor."

—Steve Souder, Fairfax County 911 Director



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Steve Souder

SEE COMPLAINT, PAGE 7



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

A temporary bridge and box culvert built on Beach Mill Road over Nichols Run. VDOT had proposed to close and build the new, permanent bridge starting this month, but moved it back to June 2013.

Beach Mill Bridge Postponed

Replacement of temporary bridge will begin June 2013.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Virginia Department of Transportation has postponed the scheduled replacement of the bridge over Nichols Run on Beach Mill Road. Originally scheduled to close from Aug. 13 to December, construction has been pushed back, and will start after the 2012-13 school year lets out.

"If we wait until next summer we can begin work as soon as school lets out and re-open the bridge by Labor Day," said VDOT Project Engineer Nicholas Roper.

The detour with the bridge closed is about six miles, routing traffic to Springvale Road to Leesburg Pike to Utterback Store Road.

The bridge was scheduled for years to be replaced by VDOT, due to its overall poor condition. According to VDOT engineers, it scored a 43.8 on a scale from zero (the worst) to 100 (the best) on a Federal Highway Administration rating system.

During storms last September it was destroyed, and a temporary bridge and box culvert were installed. The construction for next year will replace those with a design VDOT hopes will last 50-75 years.

According to VDOT numbers, the bridge sees about 1,700 car trips per day. Many residents say they are concerned that the traffic burden on surrounding

roads will be too much.

"That sounds like a whole lot of trips that won't go away, they'll just be shifted to roads like Springvale and Utterback Store, not to mention Georgetown Pike," said Jon Khaled, who lives on Utterback Store Road. "It's not like Great Falls is teeming with cross streets and shortcuts. When you take out one avenue, it's bound to wreak havoc with the others, where traffic isn't ideal at current levels."

Eric Knudsen, chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association's transportation committee, said that VDOT's engineers are in agreement that the current bridge, while completely safe for use, is not designed nor does it fit the requirements for a long-term replacement.

The bridge on Leigh Mill Road, which was designed to a similar standard as the proposed Beach Mill Road bridge when it was replaced in 2010, held up over last September's storms, even as water levels rose above it.

According to VDOT, the project will be incorporated into the Route 7 widening, and will be timed so that work is not being done at Beach Mill and at Georgetown Pike during the same time.

More information about the project can be found at http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/beach_mill_road_bridge_replacement.asp.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Holy Transfiguration's Jennifer Bawab (left) and Cathy Baroody are ready to help festival goers decide amongst the many options for sale, including the popular \$12 lamb dinner served Saturday from 6-9 p.m. and all day on Sunday.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The "Dabkeh" is an Arabic folk dance widely performed at weddings and joyous occasions. Festival dancers will entertain attendees, and invite them to join in the fun.

Celebrating Middle Eastern Food, Culture

Holy Transfiguration Church hosts 12th annual food and culture festival on Labor Day weekend.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

If you love freshly-roasted aromatic meats, rich syrupy pastries, exotic dance and music and very congenial people, you'll love the ethnic food festival in McLean that brightens Labor Day weekend.

For the 12th consecutive year, the parishioners of Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church on Lewinsville Road are throwing its annual Middle Eastern Food Festival on Saturday, Sept. 1, and Sunday, Sept. 2.

The Middle Eastern Food Festival was created to introduce other people to the Melkite Greek-Catholic culture and to share a meal with the community.

"You never know somebody unless you share a meal with them," said Rt. Rev. Joseph "Father Joe" Francavilla, pastor of Holy Transfiguration Church. "We're sharing something on a very fundamental level. Breaking bread, sharing food, brings people together." He also noted that the festival offers the "best food going anywhere."

THE FOOD sold at Holy Transfiguration's food festival is not simply Arabic cooking, it's cooking and baking that has been handed down from mother to daughter for generations. Everyone in the church helps out for this festival, which is as much an introduction to Arabic culture as it is a food-fest.

"The most important thing about this festival is exposure of our church to the people of the D.C. area," said Rt. Rev. "Father Charles" Aboody, festival chairman. The



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Rt. Rev. Charles Aboody, festival chairman, Nikki Haddad, parishioner and food coordinator, and Rt. Rev. Joseph Francavilla talk about Middle Eastern food and culture. The cookbook compiled by Haddad is on sale at the Labor Day weekend food festival on the church grounds.

church itself looks like no other in the area with its gilded icons. "We feel we have a unique church in the area, culturally and in its beauty," Father Charles said. "We're also known to have the best food in the whole D.C. area."

Admission to the festival is free. There is a charge for the food and children's activities. Plates, featuring stuffed grape leaves, kabobs, falafel, spinach and meat pies, are priced individually and served throughout

the day, as are the pastries and sweets from the 50-plus-foot long dessert table. Pastries start at \$1 per piece.

The highlighted meal of the food festival is the Saturday evening spit-roasted-lamb dinner, priced at \$12 per person. While fragrant seasoned lamb and chicken fill the air with an aroma that only grilled meats have, most likely it's the dessert table that all age groups gravitate toward. Women of the church have been baking for weeks for this event.

"The lamb dinner is something you don't want to miss," said Nikki Haddad, food coordinator for the festival. "And we serve a great cup of real Arabic coffee."

The lamb dinner "hafli," beginning at 6 p.m., features live music and dancing, as well.

The dessert buffet showcases an assortment of honey-rich baklava made with different nuts, date-filled mamoul cookies, and pastries dipped in rosewater syrup, among a myriad of other popular Arabic sweets.

THE FESTIVAL introduced pony rides for children in 2011 and the rides were such a big hit with children that they will run again this year. The kids' all-day pass is \$10. That includes unlimited activities—face painting, moon bounce, games, and one pony ride. Pony rides can be bought separately for \$5 per ride.

One of the festival's non-eating highlights is the series of food demonstrations throughout the weekend by home "chefs." The focus, said Haddad, is on healthy Middle Eastern eating. At the festival, the church is selling its recipe book, compiled by Haddad, a personal chef and dietary consultant.

The Middle Eastern Food Festival kicks off at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 1, running to 11 p.m. that day, and reopens on Sunday at noon, running until 6 p.m.

To volunteer as an apprentice cook, learning Arabic recipes from the people who prepare Arabic meals at home, call Father Joe at 703-734-9566 and he'll pass your contact details along to the festival's food coordinators.

"This food festival is definitely a gift we have to share with our community," Father Joe said. "The whole person is touched by God's grace through food, music and our icons."

For details on the Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church Middle Eastern Food Festival, go to www.middleeasternfoodfestival.com. The Church is located at 8501 Lewinsville Road, near the intersection of Spring Hill Road.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Roger Bailey, a sundial designer, speaks at the Great Falls Library Aug. 15 about a replica sundial he hopes to build at Observatory Park in Great Falls.

Charles Olin of the Analemma Society shows off a pocket sundial at the Great Falls Library Aug. 15. The society is raising funds to create a new sundial, a replica of the one at the Great Mosque in Damascus, at Observatory Park.

Analemma Raises Funds for Sundial

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Sundial designer speaks at library on dial proposed for Observatory Park.

While most of the tools available at Observatory Park at Turner Farm are designed to look upward, there are plans for additional features on the ground

as well. The Analemma Society, which hosts programs and facilities at Observatory Park, is raising funds to build a second sundial.

Canadian sundial designer and secretary of the North American Sundial Society Roger Bailey spoke at the Great Falls Library

Aug. 15, which was followed by a fundraiser for the dial. Bailey is hoping to build a replica of the sundial at Damascus at Observatory Park.

THE SUNDIAL Bailey will base his design

SEE SUNDIAL, PAGE 6

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Sundial Proposed for Observatory Park

FROM PAGE 5

on was built by Arab astronomer Ibn al-Shatir in 1371 at the Great Mosque in Damascus. It was a breakthrough piece of technology in many ways.

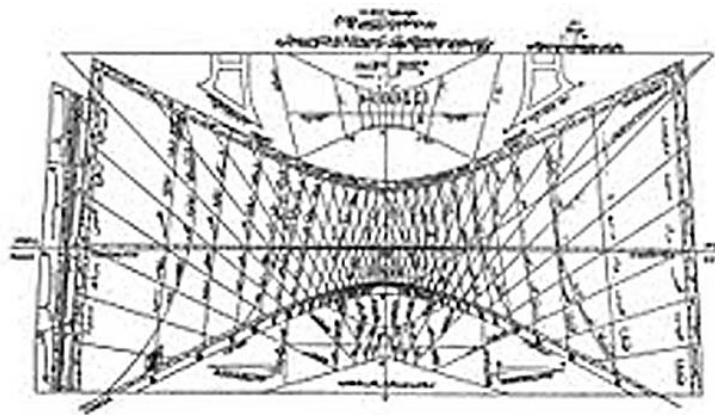
"I'm interested in sundials because it's the way I see the world, it's something I look for when I travel," he said. "And when I find them, they tell me a tremendous amount about the culture and history of the people there. What they knew, when, and it's a remarkable story. This technology was very advanced 650 years ago."

Fred Mancinella of Great Falls stopped by the lecture while returning some books, and said he had no idea how complex the history of sundials was.

"I think of sundials as those cheesy things in a birdbath, I had no idea how connected they were to the way we measure time to this day," he said. "I think it would be a great addition to this community, because a lot of people will be interested."

Bailey's last design, at the Botanical Gardens in Missouri, is the only public-used Islamic sundial in the United States.

"This defined a new standard for time. That



A diagram of the sundial at the Great Mosque in Damascus, which the Analemma Society hopes to replicate at Observatory Park.

was significant not just in the Islamic world, but in the whole Western world... Muslim sundials are so important because the question they were trying to answer is, 'how do I know what time it is? I know when I'm hungry and I need sleep,'" he said. "But the need for time is determined by other reasons, one of those is the time to pray. In their culture, all their prayer times have to do with the position of the sun, the sun is their clock." Bailey will take specific measurements for Great Falls and the exact location of the dial.

"There is a lot of technology and engineer-

ing put into making the dial readable for this latitude," Olin said. "Damascus, where it originally was, is at a different latitude, and sundials are very latitude dependent."

Bailey said that he is unable to design the Arabic script as part of his plan, but the society is planning on reproducing the script, along with a translation.

"The one thing that my design does not have is the Arabic script. There have been people working with the Analemma society traveling to Damascus and read and find out what the script says, and we're looking at that information coming back.

THE KEY CHALLENGE then will be someone that knows calligraphy, because it's not a trivial thing to reproduce."

Charles Olin of the Analemma Society said that in addition to the dial itself, other features will be added.

"We're going to spend some money on security for the dial, because of things that have been happening, it's a Muslim dial," Olin said. "So we'll take some precautions to protect it."

More information on the Analemma Society can be found at www.analemma.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

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

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

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

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

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

Nathan Berkley Cox of Great Falls has graduated with a bachelor of landscape architecture from Clemson University of Clemson, S.C.

Richard Joseph Hanna II of Great Falls has graduated with a bachelor of science in management (international management emphasis) from Clemson University of Clemson, S.C.

John F. Palus of Great Falls has graduated from the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. Palus was a broadcast communications major.



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County Files FCC Complaint

FROM PAGE 3

assistance.”

“Fairfax County is, and will stay, on top of this,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at large). The County’s response to the FCC, released last Thursday, lays the blame for the outage squarely at the feet of Verizon, and Verizon acknowledged some responsibility in its Aug. 13 report to the MWCOC.

After first denying it had major problems with Arlington County’s 911 service, Verizon officials admitted they did not know 911 emergency service was out in Fairfax County until alerted by County officials.

In the Verizon report, officials said two major generator failures—one in Fairfax and one in the central Arlington office, which routes 911 calls to multiple centers—caused “multiple failures cascading from these specific generator problems.”

Verizon also reported that it lost visibility over its own network, so that technicians did not know that power was draining from battery-operated generators until it was too late.

“When the batteries in the Arlington central office were being depleted... why was there a delay in deploying additional resources to remedy the situation before the Arlington facility went dark?” asked County officials, in concluding statements in the FCC report. “Verizon’s 911 service in Fairfax County failed

completely during the June 29, 2012, derecho. Both immediate and longer-term changes are needed to improve 911 service in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area.”

THE CURRENT FCC REPORT is one of several investigations launched into the 911 fiasco. According to officials, Fairfax County is pursuing the issue from many angles, including the report to the FCC and regional work through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government.

“We are very fortunate that no one died as a result of the 911 outage,” said Supervisor Pat Herrity, (R-Springfield). Herrity is a member of the statewide 911 panel tasked with looking into the outage.

“I have every confidence that Fairfax County is up to whatever emergency comes our way—in as much as we have control. I’m more worried about third parties such as Verizon based on our 911 experience. Frankly, that was wholly unacceptable and we are going to do everything necessary to hold their feet to the fire,” said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Souder said it’s gratifying to know Verizon is taking some responsibility, and attempting to fix its communication problems.

“The public should know that, seven weeks after this storm, we’re still a long way from being done from making sure this (911 failure) doesn’t happen again,” Souder said.

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First Day of School Coming Up

And never too early for parents to get involved.

The first day of school in most of Northern Virginia is Tuesday, Sept. 4. We don't agree with having the General Assembly dictate the first day of school, requiring the start date to be after Labor Day, but starting school after Labor Day does seem more hospitable than the Aug. 27 start in many other areas.

Attending Back to School Night and making contact with teachers is one of the most important things parents can do to set up the school year for success. Back to School Nights begin the first week of September. Find the date for yours:

Fairfax County <http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool/>.

This school year will be the last for superintendent for Fairfax County Public Schools Jack Dale, who has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2013. The School Board will spend much of the coming months in the search

and selection of the new superintendent.

In Fairfax County, students will be encouraged to BYOD. That's "bring your own device." With written parental permission, students will be allowed to connect to school wireless with their smart phones, tablets and laptops. Students and parents should remember that school officials will be able to examine those devices and discipline students for content and activities that are in violation of conduct rules and act accordingly. More at <http://www.fcps.edu/it/byod>.

Reminder: Check Voter Status

While Northern Virginia has remarkable rates of voter registration, many changes to polling places, political district boundaries and rules for voting in Virginia, make it worth double checking your status now. Virginia's front seat role at the Republican National Convention serves as a reminder that every Virginia vote cast will count in November.

To vote on Election Day, you must be regis-

tered 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 your local elections office address.

Every Virginia voter should expect a new voter identification card in the mail at the beginning of October, very close to the Oct. 15 deadline, so better to check now.

Mail or FAX updates to your local Electoral Board.

Fairfax County Board of Elections,
703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
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email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Correction: Last week's *Newcomers and Community Guide* omitted the name of an independent candidate, Mark T. Gibson, running for U.S. House of Representatives in the 11th District. The same paragraph also mistakenly referred to that district by the wrong district number in a second reference. The correction have been made in our online and PDF editions.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deliberate Falsehoods in Health Care Debate

To the Editor:

When I saw the letter I "Questioning the War on Women," [Connection, August 15-21, 2012] I had that Yogi Berra feeling of "deja vu all over again" because I had read the same letter in a July edition of your paper. A second reading did not improve the contents or make them any more accurate.

Though the letter is replete with inaccuracies, one in particular stands out and demands a response. As a leader with the non-partisan Prevent Cancer Foundation, I was appalled to read the allegation linking abortions and contraception to an increased chance of getting cancer. These kinds of scare tactics and deliberate falsehoods are dangerous and as inimical to the public interest

as Congressman Akin's recent assertion that a woman won't get pregnant if she is a victim of "legitimate rape." Medical misinformation on this scale deliberately victimizes vulnerable people with both lies and intimidation.

Ms. Burke may "believe it or not" but most women expect to make their own health care decisions in consultation with their doctors, and they do not wish their government to obstruct access to those decisions. Among the options that they expect to have available is the right to contraception, whether directly provided by an employer or through an insurance mechanism such as an exchange. Regardless of how they feel personally about abortion, they expect to make their own decisions in consultation with their doctor on the need for an ultrasound. They know that conveying full rights to a zygote ignores some basic facts about physiology, let alone the implications for criminalizing the health care prescriptions their physicians might recommend.

Call it what you will, but if government presumes to dictate or otherwise proscribe a person's own personal health care decisions, that is wholesale disenfranchisement and a greater threat to the freedoms Ms. Burke seems to cherish so much. I suspect she is among the many who would be willing to deny women the right to make their own decisions while demanding that we "get government out of our health care."

Let's call an end to these false protestations of trying to protect women while patronizing them with misinformation, disenfranchising them in the name of health and safety, and then wrapping it all in the banner of liberty. The majority of Virginians, especially northern Virginians, aren't buying it.

Margaret Vanderhye
McLean

Vanderhye recently completed two terms as vice chairman of the Prevent Cancer Foundation, a national organization based in Alexandria, Va. and dedicated to cancer research, prevention and early detection. Their motto is "Stop Cancer Before it Starts".

It's Income, Not Values

To the Editor:

I think the suggestions in recent letters to the editor that the imbalance in admissions at TJ is the result of differing cultural priorities are mistaken. The imbalance has much more to do with a family's income than its cultural values. The contest is unfairly rigged to favor those who have the money and the time to enroll and transport their kids to and from the SCAT and STB prep courses for elementary school students, ACT and PSAT practice sessions for middle schoolers, math and science tutors, summer enrichment programs and other such costly means of giving students a leg up in the competition to get admit-

ted to TJ. Even the TJ Admissions Test Prep Seminar offered by the Fairfax County Public School System to rising eighth graders costs \$581 this year and reduced tuition is not offered to students with limited means. The inherent economic bias against promising students from low income households all but guarantees that they will continue to be disproportionately under-represented at TJ.

William Shapiro
McLean

Looking for Shelter

To the Editor:

I want to voice my opinion about the trees at the Great Falls Shopping Center. We have lived here for 59 years and seen a lot of changes but this one about the trees is disturbing to me. I know the trees are beautiful but... I like the one near the Safeway and CVS where the handicapped park for this was where I had to wait many times for someone to go in the store. I am 83 years old and in a wheelchair now and there is no shade for me anymore because no one thinks of older people, only money.

Is there any way to provide shelter for us besides the trees? Thanks for listening to me.

Edna Beall
Great Falls

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed.

Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Send to:

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1606 King St.
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Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail:
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OPINION

Preserving Summer Memories

Reflections on the Great Falls Farmers Market's 'Jelly Girls.'

BY CAITLYN SHUMWAY & KATHLEEN COLE
CK CREATIONS

We have completed our last Saturday at the Great Falls Farmers Market and we are heading back to Christopher Newport University. We are looking back on what a great idea it was to start a jelly-making business and get our feet wet at the Farmers Market. It was so much fun! We enjoyed talking to customers about how we prepare our jellies and it was such a treat when a customer came back the second time. But the loyal customers who came week after week to purchase again and again really made our day! We launched our company as "CK Creations," but word has it that we are known as "The Jelly Girls," as in, "What? The jelly girls are not here today?"

We got the idea that it would be great fun to prepare fruit jellies and sell them at the Great Falls Farmers Market. We approached Kathleen Murphy, market manager, in late May with our idea. She gave us the contract with all the details on what we needed: general liability insurance, a Virginia sales tax number, a corporate identity and signage, product recipes and labels, an inspected kitchen, a tent, tables and chairs, a table cloth and a way to allow people to sample the product—and lots of coaching all along the way. She spoke to us about regular fruit versus organic, and how to think about the difference between cost and price.

We were determined to get into the market within one week, and quickly gathered everything we



From left, Katie Cole and Caitlyn Shumway at opening day of CK Creations at the Great Falls Farmers Market.

needed to show up and be present. We took on a "just do it" attitude, worked really hard, and we were ready to set up the following Saturday. The hardest part of everything we did all summer was to get the paperwork together that first week. We had to set up a business and contact VDACS to figure out how to get a kitchen inspected. Turns out, there is a certain number of jars of jelly that are permissible to sell without an inspection, as they are "homemade." Since we only prepare two jars of jelly at a time, we are very attentive to the process and our quantities fall under the guideline. We did not know this at first, and we got permission from St. Francis Episcopal Church to use their kitchen for our first production run. We pre-

pared 60 jars of jelly for opening day. It took a few days to get the Virginia Sales Tax certificate. Between us, our families had a tent, chairs, table, tablecloth, etc.

Our fondest memories of the market are the community spirit that we experienced at the market. The other vendors were great. We showed up the first Saturday with our jars of jelly, but we forgot gloves for serving, a knife, bread to use for sampling, etc. Baguette Republic gave us a loaf of bread every week for our sampling, at no charge. Deepa from Aromatic Spice Blends gave us advice on how to prepare for a kitchen inspection. Jennifer of Night Sky Farm recommended an insurance broker who could give us a good rate on an insurance policy. Mike from BaDaBing gave us some plastic spoons for sampling. Janet from the Virginia Tech Volunteer Master Chef Program gave us some rubber gloves for serving samples. Pastor from El Ceibo Chocolate gave us some napkins. Jeff Rainey's wife, Sharon, advertised our jellies on her Neighbors Network, while Jeff told us about the quantity rule and inspections. That attitude of teamwork and mutual support lasted well beyond the first day. That is one of the things that made the Great Falls Farmers Market so special—everyone is mutually supportive of each other.

We needed to change our labeling to say that we would not be making the jelly in an inspected kitchen. When we changed our labeling from handwritten to typed everyone had an opinion about it. That was so funny. Some of our customers loved the change. Others told us to return to handwritten. Everyone was trying to

SEE MEMORIES, PAGE 11

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF T R COOK/THE GREAT FALLS OPTIMIST CLUB

Benny Potter and Western Electric playing classic rock and rockabilly music.

Great Falls Optimist Club to Hold Annual Barn Dance

The Great Falls Optimist Club is holding its seventh annual Barn Dance, complete with a live band—"Benny Potter and Western Electric"—and barbecued ribs, chicken and bar-b-que from Famous Dave's on Saturday, Oct. 13, from 7 to 11 p.m. Proceeds from this year's event will go to the Great Falls Children's Fund and Childhood Cancer Charity.

Club member Linda Thompson has again donated the use of her refurbished bank barn in Great Falls for the upcoming event. Famous Dave's dinner, water and soft drinks will be provided by the Great Falls Optimist Club and beer and wine will be available for donations. The cost is \$60 per person. There will be donations from local businesses for raffles and an auction.

This year's party and dance will be held in a changed setting: Linda Thompson has fixed up the barn with lights, a stage and country-style decorations that create the perfect ambiance.

The Great Falls Optimist Club is a child-centered (501-c3) non-profit organization that focuses on supporting, encouraging and challenging children to reach greater heights. A voluntary organization, the club is always interested in welcoming new members and volunteers. Among the many annual family-oriented events sponsored or assisted by the club are the Great Falls Children's Spring Festival and Egg Hunt, the

Fall Spooktacular at Halloween and the Fourth of July celebration in Great Falls. In addition, the club has

- ❖ initiated and provided seed funding for a Great Falls Teen Center;
- ❖ raised funds for children's cancer research, HOPECAM, and specific children in need;
- ❖ supported local youth and sport groups;
- ❖ provided local families with needed meals and gifts during the holidays;
- ❖ supported Special Olympics, Operation Smile (a floating dental charity performing plastic surgery for children of third world countries), Habitat for Humanity;
- ❖ supported the Analemma Society in its efforts to establish an astrological education facility at Turner Farm Park;
- ❖ raised funds for Turner Farm Park;
- ❖ honored local police and emergency personnel for their work with youth;
- ❖ provided local schools with mentoring support, money and equipment to address the needs of learning and emotionally challenged students.

If you are interested in joining the Great Falls Optimist Club or volunteering at specific events, contact Membership Co-chair Angela Bongiorno at 703-759-2925 (vze3cxh6@verizon.net). Contributions can be mailed to P.O. Box 233, Great Falls, Virginia 22066.



Auctioneer Bruce Grammer, assisted by Linda Thompson with "a throw" showing Great Falls historic places.

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

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.

The Producers. 8 p.m., at James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Get a little Broadway with Mel Brooks' classic about the two men who produced the biggest flop in history. \$15 general admission, \$10 for students, seniors, military or groups of 10-plus. Info and reservations at 703-615-6626 or zina.bleck@gmail.com.

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.

Register to Vote. 8 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna Farmers Market, the corner of Church Street and Dominion and Mill Streets NE in Vienna. Stop by the League of Women Voters to register on your way to grab some crepes, donuts or Mexican breakfast. www.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.

The Producers. 8 p.m., at James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Get a little Broadway with Mel Brooks' classic about the two men who produced the biggest flop in history. \$15 general admission, \$10 for students, seniors, military or groups of 10-plus. Info and reservations at 703-615-6626 or zina.bleck@gmail.com.

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

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

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 Producers. 2 p.m., at James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Get a little Broadway with Mel Brooks' classic about the two men who produced the biggest flop in history. \$15 general admission, \$10 for students, seniors, military or groups of 10-plus. Info and reservations at 703-615-6626 or zina.bleck@gmail.com.

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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.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

The Strawbs. 7:30 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. John Wesley Harding performs with the acoustic British band. \$25-30. 703-255-1566 or <http://jamminjava.com>.

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.

The Producers. 8 p.m., at James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Get a little Broadway with Mel Brooks' classic about the two men who produced the biggest flop in history. \$15 general admission, \$10 for students, seniors, military or groups of 10-plus. Info and reservations at 703-615-6626 or zina.bleck@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 7

The Producers. 8 p.m., at James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Get a little Broadway with Mel Brooks' classic about the two men who produced the biggest flop in history. \$15 general admission, \$10 for students, seniors, military or groups of 10-plus. Info and reservations at 703-615-6626 or zina.bleck@gmail.com.

Preserving Summer Memories

FROM PAGE 9

help us figure out what would bring us the most business.

Did we make money? We probably just broke even. We need to improve our production process, as right now we are doing small batches—two jars at a time. We have to watch it the entire time to make sure it does not burn and

make sure that the jelly keeps the right consistency. If we could grow our own fruit or preserve a grower's fruit, we could probably become more profitable. It is very expensive to purchase fruit retail from a store and compete with grocery store prices.

What will we remember most? We appreciate all of the wonderful families who came to the mar-

ket with their children, and how much our customers were really delighted with our product. The Great Falls Farmers Market is a small but very intimate market, where everyone gets to know each other and enjoy a good conversation. We are back to school, but you never know, we may be back for the holidays! Thanks to everyone for a really great experience.

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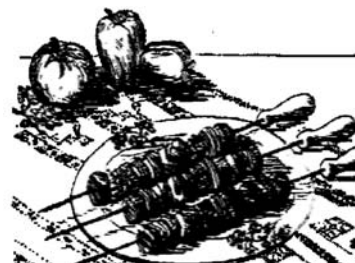
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Iconic Athlete Returns to Marshall

Kathrine Switzer to highlight 50th anniversary of George C. Marshall High School.

This year, Kathrine Switzer's been to celebratory events in Prague, Berlin, Athens, Vienna, New Zealand, New York and the London Olympics. And on Nov. 9, she returns to George Marshall High School in Falls Church, where much of it all began. Today, Marshall High School serves the cosmopolitan community of Tysons Corner.

Switzer has long been one of the most iconic figures in athletics and returns to her high school roots in one of sport's most dynamic years. She will be the honorary speaker for the George C. Marshall High School's 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church on Friday, Nov. 9, 2012.

"This is a big year for sports—and we are so excited to have Kathrine Switzer, the person who made so much of our history happen, here with us to celebrate and tell us about it," said Jay W. Pearson, principal of George C. Marshall HS.

"Mr. Pearson is so right," said Switzer. "This is a whopper of a year—it is the 40th anniversary of women being 'allowed' to run, of the first women's road race, and in the USA, of the passage of the Title IX amendment to the Constitution, which mandated equality of educational opportunities for women-including sports. This totally changed the landscape for women, socially as well as sport-wise. And, of course, this is an Olympic year and more than ever, that history will be reflected in amazing performances. By the time I get to the Marshall anniversary celebration on Nov. 9, we'll have a whole new set of heroes to talk about."

Kathrine Switzer was in the first class of graduates from Marshall in 1964. Three years later, she became the woman who changed sports history when she officially entered and finished the famous Boston Marathon in 1967. It was still a men's only event in those days and Switzer's entry created a worldwide uproar when the race director attacked her mid-stride and tried to remove her from the event. The photo of this incident flashed around the globe and became one of Time-Life's "100 Photos that Changed the World." Radicalized by the incident, Switzer campaigned to make women

official in the Boston Marathon in 1972 and later that year was one of the creators of the first women's road race...and the women's running boom was on. This year is that 40th anniversary. It is one of several important anniversaries this year.

Switzer went on to run 39 marathons, and won the New York City Marathon in 1974. She ran her personal best in 1975, finishing second in Boston (2:51:33). She then put her substantial energies into creating the Avon International Running Circuit of women's only races in 27 countries with over a million women participating from 1978 to the present time. It was this series of events, which showed global participation and performances that largely convinced the IOC to include a women's marathon for the first time in the 1984 Olympic Games.

Switzer is now an Emmy award-winning TV commentator and has covered the Olympic Games, World and National Championships as well as the New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and every televised edition of the Boston Marathon (34 consecutive years). She is a dynamic public speaker, journalist and author of three books, including her memoir, "Marathon Woman." Other books include "26.2 Marathon Stories," co-authored with her husband, Roger Robinson and "Running and Walking for Women Over 40."

At age 65, Switzer is still running marathons, having completed the Berlin Marathon in 2011 to launch the German edition of



PHOTO BY HARRY TRASK FOR AP IMAGES

A Historic Photo: In 1967, irate race official Jock Semple tried forcibly to remove Kathrine Switzer from the then all-male Boston Marathon simply because she was a woman. Luckily for Switzer, the official was bounced out of the race instead by her boyfriend and she went on to finish.

"Marathon Woman." She also won her age group in the extremely difficult 2011 Motatapu off-road mountain marathon in New Zealand, and in 2010 fulfilled a lifetime dream of running the 2500th anniversary race of the Athens Marathon.

Last year, when she was inducted into the U.S.A. National Women's Hall of Fame, it was not just for breaking barriers but also for creating positive global social change. Because of her, millions of women are now empowered by the simple act of running. Or as Kathrine says, "It's not about running. It's about changing people's lives."

For more information about Kathrine Switzer, visit www.marathonwoman.com

Kathrine Switzer Career Highlights

- ◆ Inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in October 2011 for creating positive global social change
- ◆ Winner, 1974 NYC Marathon
- ◆ Broke Gender Barrier at 1967 Boston Marathon
- ◆ Emmy Award-winning TV commentator
- ◆ Author, *Marathon Woman* (DaCapo Press), *Running and Walking for Women Over 40*, *The Road to Sanity and Vanity* (St. Martin's Press), co-author *26.2 Marathon Stories* (Rodale Press)
- ◆ Founder, Avon Running Global Women's Circuit
- ◆ Winner of Abebe Bikila Award for Global Contribution to Sport of Running from New York Road Runners
- ◆ First class of inductees into the National Distance Running Hall of Fame
- ◆ Named one of the Visionaries of the Century (2000) and a Hero of Running (2012), and Runner of the Decade (1966-76) by *Runners World Magazine*

Ticket Information

The ticket prices are: \$90.62 per person / \$175.62 per couple (until Sept. 7). Prices will increase on Sept. 8 to \$110.00 per person / \$200 per couple. A silent auction will be featured at the event to raise money for specialty items and for the school which is now undergoing a \$60 million renovation to provide the community with a 21st century facility. Six nominees will be inducted to the Marshall Hall of Fame. Tickets may be purchased online www.gcmptsa.org or at the school (Marlene Felder-room 100).

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Oakton vs. Madison in Football Opener

The Oakton football team will open the 2012 season on the road against Madison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 31. The Cougars defeated Madison in each of the last three openers, including a 55-17 win last year.

Oakton is coming off an 8-3 season in 2011, where the Cougars started 7-0 and 8-1 before eventually losing to Lake Braddock, 50-21, in the opening round of the regional playoffs.

McLean, Langley Ready for Openers

The McLean football team will open the 2012 season on the road against Washington-Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30 in Arlington. McLean defeated W-L in each of the last three season openers, including a 7-6 victory in 2011.

The Highlanders are coming off a 6-5 season, including a 20-6 loss to eventual Division 5 Northern Region runner-up Yorktown in the first round of the playoffs.

Langley will open at home against Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Aug. 30. The Saxons defeated Herndon, 14-7, during last year's opener. Langley finished 5-6 last year, losing to Stone Bridge, 35-0, in the opening round of the Division 5 playoffs.

Worek Named McLean Boys' Lax Coach

Former Thomas Jefferson head coach and 2012 Liberty District Coach of the Year Nick Worek has been named head coach of the McLean boys' lacrosse team. Worek takes over for Jake Bullock.

Worek spent the last two seasons at TJ, leading the Colonials to the Northern Region tournament each season. Before coaching at TJ, he was an assistant at Chantilly for four seasons, where he coached in the 2008 and 2009 state championship games.

Worek played lacrosse for Fairfax High School and Virginia Military Institute.

HOME SALES

In July 2012, 24 Great Falls homes sold between \$2,175,000 and \$525,000.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
1005 SHALLOW CREEK PL	6	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$2,175,000	Detached	1.62	22066	ESTATES AT LONGWOOD	
11105 ELMVIEW PL	4	3	2	GREAT FALLS	\$2,000,000	Detached	1.91	22066	BEACH MILL ESTATES	
401 WALKER RD	4	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,450,000	Detached	1.77	22066	RIVER BEND WALK	
1230 COLVIN MEADOWS LN	5	5	2	GREAT FALLS	\$1,420,000	Detached	0.83	22066	COLVIN MEADOW ESTATES	
803 CREWS RD	5	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,355,000	Detached	0.90	22066	CREWS WOODS	
10650 CHADWELL CT	5	4	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,270,000	Detached	0.84	22066	EVONSHIRE	
1218 COLVIN MEADOWS LN	4	3	2	GREAT FALLS	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.83	22066	COLVIN MEADOW ESTATES	
624 NALLS FARM WAY	7	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,135,000	Detached	1.72	22066	GREAT FALLS WEST	
11450 SENECA VIEW WAY	4	4	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,125,000	Detached	2.00	22066	SENECA VIEW	
705 CLEAR SPRING RD	5	4	0	GREAT FALLS	\$1,085,000	Detached	5.40	22066	VALLEY STREAM	
11212 ELMVIEW PL	5	5	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,040,000	Detached	2.01	22066	OLD SAYBROOK	
811 LEIGH MILL RD	3	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$1,025,000	Detached	5.89	22066	FORESTVILLE	
450 RIVER BEND RD	5	4	2	GREAT FALLS	\$980,000	Detached	2.25	22066	HIDDEN SPRINGS	
630 UTTERBACK STORE RD	4	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$970,000	Detached	2.09	22066	RUNNING BROOK ESTATES	
323 CANTERWOOD LN	4	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$949,500	Detached	1.72	22066	CANTERWOOD	
10109 MINBURN ST	4	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$905,000	Detached	0.51	22066	HICKORY CREEK	
10413 OLD POST LN	4	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$895,000	Detached	3.16	22066	FORESTVILLE ESTATES	
10105 MINBURN ST	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$869,000	Detached	0.50	22066	HICKORY CREEK II	
601 WALKER RD	4	3	0	GREAT FALLS	\$848,000	Detached	2.90	22066	WALKER HILL ESTATES	
9413 VERNON DR	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$835,000	Detached	0.50	22066	KENMORE FARMS	
10726 WYNKOOP DR	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$831,950	Detached	0.46	22066	LOCKMEADE	
1002 RIVA RIDGE DR	4	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$756,000	Detached	0.53	22066	LOCKMEADE / FOXVALE FARMS	
11216 BIRMINGHAM CT	4	3	1	GREAT FALLS	\$565,000	Detached	0.25	22066	GREAT FALLS FOREST	
10903 LEEDS CT	4	2	1	GREAT FALLS	\$525,000	Detached	0.23	22066	GREAT FALLS FOREST	

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FAITH NOTES

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

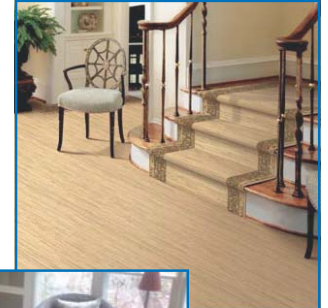
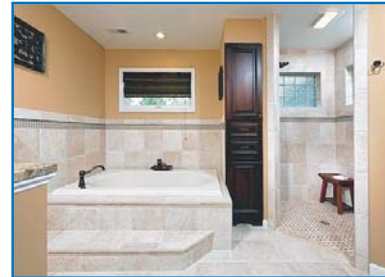
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Washington Christian Church...703-938-7720
Cristo Es Mi Refugio...703-938-7727

Baha'i

Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ... 703-821-3345

Baptist

Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ... 703-757-8134
Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075
Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516
First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525
The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

Church of the Brethren

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

Catholic

Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555
St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

Charismatic

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

Church of Christ

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

Disciples of Christ

Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

Episcopal

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

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

Jehovah's Witness

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

Lutheran

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

Methodist

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

Non-Denominational

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

Presbyterian

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

Quaker

Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394

Seventh-Day Adventist

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

Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230

OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 & 2

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

Annandale

8300 Taylor Ln.....\$799,999...Sat/Sun 1-5.....Zen Carague..Zendle Ann Carague..571-213-7331

Arlington

4951 14th St.....\$629,000...Sun 1-4..Cathy & John McCambridge..Samson Props..703-906-7067

Fairfax

5312 Windsor Hills Dr.....\$600,000...Sun 12-5.....Lena Restivo.....Weichert..703-855-7341

Oakton

11801 Stuart Mill Rd....\$1,199,000...Sun 1-4.....Alison Sherman..Keller Williams..703-636-7306

Potomac Falls

20425 Swan Creek Ct.....\$769,900...Sun 12-3.....Glynis Canto..Keller Williams..703-395-2355

Springfield

7055 Leewood Forest Dr..\$339,950...Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Vienna

608 Thelma Cir. SW.....\$975,900...Sun 1-4.....Bettina Dee.....Premier..703-748-0001
2401 Rocky Branch Rd.....\$674,900...Sun 1-4.....Mary Mandrgoc...Long & Foster..703-938-4200

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

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• McLEAN • VIENNA/OAKTON

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34 Pets

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34 Pets

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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MONDAY NOON

Diagnosed But Not Sick



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or so I tell myself – and others, as often as the opportunity presents itself. It's a distinction with which I can live, a distinction with which I'm comfortable, and a distinction which enables me to live my life as normally as possible; which when one considers my diagnosis: NSCLC (non-small cell lung cancer) and the original, terminal prognosis – received back in Feb. 2009: "13 months to two years," and my age when all this stuff hit the figurative fan: 54, it's no wonder I assimilate such delusions and don't give them a second thought. (The first thought: premature death, is bad enough.)

But it does take a little convincing. And it's not to say that having cancer isn't an excuse/explanation for me acting a certain way and/or requiring certain things (not exactly accommodations). Because it is. As much as I don't want having cancer to seep into my thoughts and/or actions, it is impossible to prevent it from doing so (and you regular readers know how much I try). Its reality has a life of its own, whereby it almost creates new instincts in how I think and feel and react, instincts that I am aware of when they happen, but not quite predisposed to prevent their appearance/occurrence. Being diagnosed with a terminal disease at age 54 and a half tends to narrow your vision and unleash – occasionally – the beast which resides within, a beast with which you're likely well acquainted but not particularly proud.

As much as I'm able to minimize the damage, collateral or otherwise, from these cancer-driven behaviors (see how easy it is to place blame), I still maintain that these behaviors are not because I'm sick, but rather because I'm diagnosed. My feeling is, once I start using/invoking sickness as an explanation, it might become a slippery slope. And once I've begun using and in turn becoming increasingly comfortable with the cause of, and description for, my inappropriate and selfish words and deeds, then the cancer has indeed won; and as a direct result, sooner rather than later these columns will cease as I will have permanently desisted.

I imagine these words probably sound like mind games, and too little too late at that. However, it's been my experience that being diagnosed with a terminal disease leads to an awful lot of self doubt, recrimination, insecurity, fear, anxiety, stress and non-stop introspection and deals you don't ever want to make with the devil. Ergo, any little thing I can do – or think, or tell myself – repeatedly, is what I have to do. I suppose it's a bastardized version of the power of positive thinking, or the act of a desperate man. Either way, I'm still alive and rationalizing my behavior.

If my not calling a spade a spade enables me to deal the cards with which I've been dealt a little bit longer, and I'm not cheating anybody but death in the process, then I will continue to do so. Having being diagnosed with cancer/a terminal disease is neither fun nor funny; however, unless I find some humor or wishful thinking in how I approach this situation, I don't suppose I'll be approaching it much longer. To me, it's always been mind over matter, and even though these matters are rather serious, I still don't mind.

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

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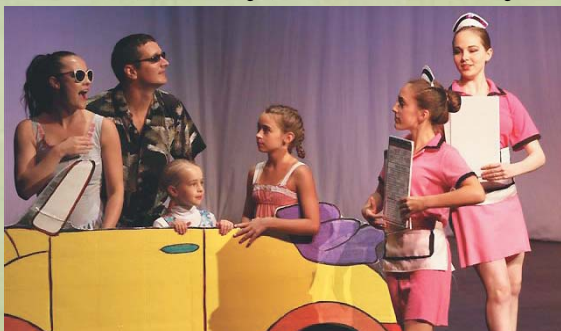
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Maine Lobsters: Alex Krieger, Alyssa Medici, Christa Medici, Anna Parks, London Tuma, Kimberly Purdy, Vivian Young, Evelyn Young



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