

Green Flag School

Schools, Page 16

The National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools program recognizes Churchill Road Elementary School with their highest award, the Green Flag, Friday, Oct. 5. Churchill Road is the eighth school in the country to receive such an honor.

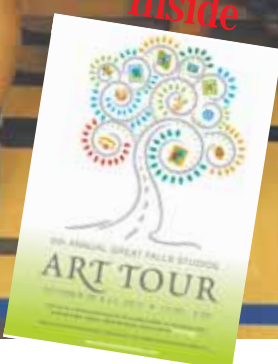


McLean, Great Falls
Market is Up in 2012

Real Estate, Page 23

Salona Task Force
Provides Update

News, Page 6



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President Barack Obama spoke before a raucous crowd of George Mason University students, teachers and volunteers Friday afternoon, Oct. 5.



Photos by
Victoria Ross/
The Connection

Women's Health, Jobs and Big Bird Top Talking Points at GMU Rally

During campaign stump speech at GMU, Obama rallies the women's vote.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

For President Barack Obama, 7.8 was the magic number that gave him and his supporters a reason to be hopeful again.

After a week that included a bruising debate with GOP challenger Mitt Romney and around-the-clock punditry detailing how Romney "cleaned Obama's clock" during Wednesday's debate, the president got a useful October surprise.

And he bragged about it Friday as he swooped onto the stage at George Mason University in Fairfax to deliver the good news that the jobless rate had fallen to 7.8 percent, dropping below the critical 8 percent for the first time since he took office. During a raucous campaign rally at the university, Obama boasted about the jobs report, mocked Romney's "Big Bird" comments and criticized his opponent's political pivots during their debate on Wednesday in Denver.

"My opponent has been trying to do a two-step and reposition, and got an extreme makeover," Obama said, drawing cheers and laughter from the crowd of 300-plus students and teachers.

Obama reminded the crowd that when Romney was asked specifics about cutting spending and reducing the deficit, he went after public television.

"So for all you moms and kids out there, don't worry, someone is finally getting tough on Big Bird. Rounding him up. Elmo has got to watch out, too," Obama said, clearly enjoying the college crowd's cheers and shouts of "we love you" as dozens of people in the audience jumped up to wave their Big Bird stickers.

While Big Bird got the laugh lines, it was women's health issues that resonated with crowd of mostly female supporters—from high-school age students to female professors.

STANDING IN FRONT of a backdrop of more than 50 women waving "Forward" signs, Obama tore into



President Barack Obama spent time after the speech at GMU Friday, Oct. 5 shaking hands and giving fist bumps to supporters.

Romney on women's health issues and outlined the "stark choice the women of Virginia are facing in this election," warning that Romney's policies would turn back the clock for women to the 1950s, when abortion was illegal, and breast cancer was something women had to be ashamed of.

He said his new healthcare laws have secured access to preventive care like mammograms and cancer screenings with no copay, no deductible, and no out-of-pocket cost for more than 20 million women.

"Now, before this new law, many health care plans charged high deductibles or copays for these preventive services, or they just didn't cover them at all... more than half of all women put off the care they needed because of that," Obama said, shaking his head.

See Obama, Page 15



Photo by Alex McVeigh/The Connection

Joe LaHait, deputy coordinator for the County's Department of Management and Budget, speaks to community members at a meeting on Tysons Corner redevelopment at the McLean Community Center Tuesday, Oct. 2.

Tysons Debated in McLean

County officials speak about latest on Tysons redevelopment.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The McLean Citizens Association hosted a program about Tysons Corner transportation funding Tuesday, Oct. 2 at the McLean Community Center. County officials briefed the public on ways to pay for the \$2.3 billion in projected costs.

Currently Tysons Corner has 46 million square feet of office, hotel, retail and residential space, which includes more than 100,000 workers. There are 17,000 residents.

The Tysons Task Force was created in 2005, and in 2008 the County's Planning Commission Tysons Corner Committee made major revisions to the recommendations, which included greatly reduced density in response to community concerns.

The Tysons Corner Comprehensive Plan was passed June 22, 2010. It calls for concentration of density around the four Metrorail stations, with no limit on building density within a quarter mile of each station, but with a building height limit of 400 feet. Based on growth estimates from George Mason University, total office development is limited at 45 million square feet.

THE PLAN calls for an effective limit of 84 million square feet, because for approval beyond that number, the development must not generate addi-

tional vehicle trips.

"The County's ultimate goals are about 200,000 workers and 100,000 residents, they want to balance, they want to give people the ability to work, live and play in Tysons," said Rob Jackson, co-chair of the MCA's Tysons Corner Liaison Committee. "The County also wants to reduce the relative single occupant vehicle use, get people to take transit, to walk, to bike. Single occupant vehicles will continue to be the chief mode of travel to and from Tysons, even after the silver line, so we're going to see more traffic, but what we want to do is see many people take other options... they've got to change people's behavior, or they can't build all the buildings. It's a major change in behavior and the way we think and do things."

The County has planned for increased bus service in Tysons as a way to supplement the rail in an attempt to reduce automobile use.

Jackson also pointed out the massive infrastructure needs of a redeveloped Tysons.

"If you're going to put 100,000 people living there and 200,000 people working there, we're going to have public safety needs, as well as schools, libraries, parks and recreation, storm water management, a community center, open space, drinking water, sanitary sewer,"

See MCA, Page 15



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News



(From left) Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large) and Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation Director Tom Biesiadny prepare to address the audience at their Countywide Dialogue on Transportation.

Photo by
Andrea Worker/
The Connection

Citizens Urged to Speak Up On Transportation Funding

County looks for public's opinions and suggestions on funding options.

What issue could be so important that the mayors and chairs of 38 jurisdictions within Virginia's "Urban Crescent," the area stretching from Northern Virginia to Richmond and Hampton Roads, could set aside political affiliations and sometimes conflicting agendas to sign off on a letter sent collectively to the governor, lieutenant governor and the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia? Long question, short answer: transportation.

"You know the issues are urgent when you can get that many leaders in this partisan atmosphere to all agree and to take action quickly," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large). Bulova was speaking at a public meeting held at the North Government Center in Reston on Oct. 3, the fifth in a series called "Countywide Dialogues on Transportation."

Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) opened the session. "There is a negative change in how we are being funded by the state," she said. "The County doesn't have a dedicated revenue source to fund transportation. Legislatively, it is the state's

responsibility, but we need to address those changes. We are here to talk about what our challenges are and how do we meet them."

Chairman Bulova was next up. "The well of state funds for secondary and primary road construction will be dry by 2017," she warned. "Even the funds meant to match federal dollars. The money you pay in gasoline taxes that go to the federal government to be a match for states won't be eligible, and there are no refunds. That's a real problem."

THIS LOOMING FUNDING CRISIS and the fact that Virginia has slipped from number 10 to 33 in the CNBC study "Top States for Business" rankings released in July was the reason for the Sept. 4 letter sent by the Urban Crescent officials to the Commonwealth. "That letter is a show of solidarity. It's important," Bulova added. "But we can't wait for the answers. Fairfax County has to act now."

Part of the County's action plan was to task their Department of Transportation (DOT) with a study of needs and funding shortfalls over the next 10 years, to develop a benefit cost analysis tool to utilize when considering transportation projects, and to identify potential revenue sources to address the funding gaps. Another key component of the County DOT's assignment was to disseminate their findings in public meetings and solicit public feedback be

See Citizens, Page 19

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News

HOV Ramp from I-66 East to I-495 North Closing

After morning rush hour on or about Friday, Oct. 12, the left-lane HOV (high occupancy vehicle) ramp from east-bound I-66 to north-bound I-495 will close to traffic until the 495 Express Lanes open to traffic later this year and the ramp re-opens as a new, dedicated 495 Express Lanes ramp. During the closure, carpools will use the ramp from the right lane of I-66 East to I-495 North (Capital Beltway's Inner Loop).

HOV-drivers affected by this new traffic pattern are urged to follow highway message signs that will be in place along I-66, approaching I-495. Drivers should expect additional delays in this area for several weeks, and should allow extra time in their commutes.

When the 495 Express Lanes open later this year, the new I-66 East Express Lanes Ramp taking drivers to I-495 North on the left will be available for free to HOVs with three or more

people, or to drivers with fewer than three occupants who choose to pay a toll. All drivers choosing to use the new 495 Express Lanes must have an E-ZPass, and HOV vehicles must have an E-ZPass Flex in order to travel the Express Lanes for free. All other vehicles traveling in this direction must exit from the right lane of I-66 East to access I-495 North.

For updated project information, please visit www.VAMegaprojects.com.



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Salona Task Force Provides Update

Community discusses development possibilities.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

The McLean Community Center was packed to the brim Thursday, Oct. 4 with community members waiting to hear the latest from the Salona Park Task Force, which has been charged with coming up with a master plan for a portion of the 51-acre historic Salona property. Located just east of downtown McLean on Dolley Madison Boulevard, 41 acres of the property was purchased from the DuVal family by the County for \$16.5 million.

"Tonight's meeting is a culmination of a yearlong effort by the task force to consult with the residents of McLean so that we can develop recommendations for Salona that reflect the views of the community," said Margaret Malone, chair of the task force. "The comments we've gotten have demonstrated that there are many alternative ideas for how to develop the Salona property into a park that will serve this community. Many comments reflected a broad recognition that Salona is a very special place with a rich history and a prime location in the heart of McLean."

Salona used to be a farm, and was where the family of President James Madison fled during the assault of Washington, D.C. during the War of 1812, and was also the site of the Union's Camp Griffin during the Civil War.

Dan DuVal's family purchased the property in 1953. Terms of the December 2005 sale included the placement of a conservation easement, negotiated between the DuVal family, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Park Authority, as well as the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust.

THE EASEMENT allows for uses such as recreation (10 acres), rectangle fields, up to 100 parking spaces, playground and picnic areas, trails and agricultural uses. No synthetic turf, lights, cutting of trees and non-agricultural structures are allowed.

In November 2010, the park authority created a draft master plan that included preserving the property's meadows, adding two rectangular fields, 100 parking spaces, a playground and picnic area, trails, an agricultural education area and a dog park.

Kevin Fay, the Dranesville representative for the park authority board, called Salona a "crown jewel" of the County, which is why the process has been so deliberate and filled with public input.

"Looking at the Salona property and issues such as trails, traffic and environmental integrity, as well as what types of appropriate uses are there, are all things the task force will be looking at once we resume the master planning process," he said. "We've



Ed Pickens, a member of the Salona Park Task Force, presents information on the park at a meeting at the McLean Community Center Thursday, Oct. 4.

Photos by Alex McVeigh/The Connection



Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) speaks at a meeting about the future of Salona at the McLean Community Center Thursday, Oct. 4.

got a great deal of work to do and a great deal of listening to do."

The Salona Park Task Force consists of members of the McLean Citizens Association, Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, McLean Youth Athletics, Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, Fairfax County History Commission, as well as members of the surrounding neighborhoods and Beth Chung, appointed by Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Ed Pickens, appointed by Fay.

Community members presented a wide variety of alternatives in public meetings following the draft plan's release, which have included features such as a bluebird trail, a nature/history center, a green building, community garden plots, picnic areas and even leaving the land as it is now.

The Oct. 4 meeting featured stations presenting the history and archaeology of the site, neighborhood concerns, as well as pos-

sibilities for active and passive recreation, education, a green building, athletic fields and more.

"This area has a shortage of good fields, and we've already seen from the park authority that it's possible to get two fields in here, I don't think we're in the position to be throwing that away," said Randy James of McLean, who has a son that plays sports in the area. "From some of the back and forth at meetings over the past year or so, there have been people acting like athletic fields will destroy this place, but what better way for a location to serve the community than to have its residents play and have fun throughout the year? We're not paving over it, we're not putting up lights or turf."

Members of the Fairfax County Master Naturalists hope, regardless of the final approved use, to help keep the area free of invasive species and perform other environmental tasks.

"From some of the back and forth at meetings over the past year or so, there have been people acting like athletic fields will destroy this place, but what better way for a location to serve the community than to have its residents play and have fun throughout the year?"

— Randy James of McLean

"We'll support whatever happens here, we just hope to be able to do things like remove invasive species and perform stream monitoring and maybe some bird studies," said Judi Booker, chapter president of the all-volunteer organization. "The Salona meadows are unparalleled in Fairfax County when it comes to hosting many rare species."

NEIGHBORS SAY they have concerns about any further development on the property, because it will increase traffic along Buchanan Street, which runs to the house, and connecting roads such as Sothoron Road, which are hilly and have large curves.

"We've had a wonderful relationship with the task force, but we're concerned about the increased traffic should something like an athletic field be put in. VDOT has already told us that there won't be a light put in at Buchanan and Dolley Madison, and the County said VDOT might conduct a traffic study, but only after it's developed," said Katherine Powell, who lives in the neighborhoods. "If you figure two teams of 25 kids each on the fields at the same time, then another two teams with 25 kids each coming in as the others are leaving, and no sidewalk, crosswalk, or traffic light, that's a big concern."

"There is, at this point, no funding for Salona, that is yet to come," Malone said. "Before ground can be broken, there will have to be an archaeological survey of the property to uncover evidence of Salona's history and ensure that important archaeological elements aren't damaged. In addition, there has to be a thorough study of environmental conditions, drainage, RPA and soil issues. We've requested preliminary studies, however it is County policy to await the development of a [master] plan before expending the resources for a complete study."

Members of the task force have solicited opinions from various groups. The task force is expected to take comments received at the Oct. 4 meeting and make their final recommendation by the end of the year.

Bulletin Board

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

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 10

Chronic Pain Support Group. 1:30-3:30 p.m., at the Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm Street, Suite 300, McLean. A free monthly support group for people suffering from chronic pain. 703-532-4892.

Promoting Your Business After Hours. 5:30-7 p.m., at Elysee 360 Concierge Med Spa, 6858 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Learn how to promote at this mixer. www.mcleanchamber.org.

County Transportation Community Dialogue. 7 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Discuss what funding priorities should be, learn about funding options and voice your concerns. chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/OCT. 11

Family Abuse. 6:30-9:30 p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St NE, Vienna. On family abuse; Judge Mann will speak about the Protective Order court process. 703-281-2657, ext. 276. or www.thewomenscenter.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 13

Basic Literacy Tutor Training Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Adult See Bulletin, Page 19



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We're partnering with Acumen Solutions for their 4th Annual Race for a Cause™ 8K and 1 Mile Fun Run race on Sunday, October 14, 2012 in Arlington, VA. Alexandria and Fairfax Region Boys and Girls Club will be one of 10 charities benefitting from the race and it's up to the runner or walker to pick which charity their donation will benefit. \$2,000 in combined prizes will be awarded to top race winners. Please choose the Boys and Girls Club - Alexandria Olympic and Fairfax as your charitable preference!

Location: Arlington, VA

Date: October 14, 2012 • **Time:** 8:00 A.M.

The race will be on a fast out-and-back, flat course that begins and ends on North Quincy Street near the intersection of Wilson Boulevard. Runners of all levels, as well as walkers, are encouraged to participate. For more information and to register, visit: <http://communications.acumensolutions.com/Theraceforacause/index.html>



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Opinion Cancer Awareness

Success with breast cancer awareness should help other cancers.

October is breast cancer awareness month. Anyone connected to media of any variety already knows this. A massive marketing success, we all know that pink shows support for breast cancer prevention, especially in October.

For me, last month marked three years since I completed chemotherapy and radiation for breast cancer. Because of early detection, advances in treatment (surgery, radiation, chemotherapy and ongoing hormonal treatment in my case), and ongoing monitoring, my prognosis, and the prognosis for most of the 2.5 million breast cancer survivors in the United States, is excellent.

Still in 2008, the last year reported by the CDC, 40,589 women died from breast cancer. The same year, 210,203 U.S. women were diagnosed with breast cancer. It is the most common cancer for U.S. women other than skin cancers.

Breast cancer awareness month is the perfect time to be sure that you and/or the women in your life are following best practices for breast cancer screening. While in recent years, there has been some confusion about breast cancer screening, if you have a family history of breast cancer, it is never too early to talk to your doctor about how to approach your preventative care. All women age 40 or over should talk with a doctor experienced in breast health about when to begin screening mammograms and how often to have them. When it comes to what is best for your breasts, self exam, knowing your own breasts and what feels normal, is a low-tech, low-cost measure.

In January 2009, I found a lump in my breast that I knew immediately was not normal. A

coworker's diagnosis of breast cancer had prompted me to have an overdue mammogram seven months before I found the lump, and that mammogram was perfectly normal. The mammogram after I found the lump showed the difference, a glowing spot that led the radiologist to say he would be "very concerned." The biopsy of the lump confirmed the concern.

Now three years later and cancer free, I can tell you that if I did not find that lump, if I waited two years for my next mammogram, my outcome would very likely have been different.

I share my experience in breast cancer awareness month, not because the experience defines me, but because I know how easy it is to put off a mammogram, how easy it is to miss months of self-checks, and because I know, early detection in breast cancer really can save lives.

THE SUCCESS of the breast cancer awareness movement has resulted in more than \$630 million annually in spending on research. It is not too much.

But at Connection Newspapers, we have two other employees who are in ongoing treatment for cancer. Kenny Lourie, who has stage 4 lung cancer, writes a weekly column that appears in most of our papers that discusses his more than three-year journey with candor and humor. Jean Card was diagnosed with Acute Promyelocytic Leukemia in early 2011 and has also written about her experience as she raises money for leukemia research and outreach. Visit www.LighttheNight.org and search APL Dumping Gang.

Lung cancer kills more people in the United States every year than any other kind of can-

cer, in fact more than the other top cancers combined. In 2008, more than 208,000 people were diagnosed with lung cancer and more than 158,500 died of lung cancer. This is more than the deaths from breast, prostate and colon cancer combined. Spending on lung cancer research? Less than half spent on breast cancer, about \$280 million annually. As Lourie wryly points out, part of the problem may be that you can't turn out tens of thousands of lung cancer survivors for a march because, well, there are very few survivors over time.

Prostate cancer has more new cases per year and about the same death rate as breast cancer, but half the funding.

In 2012, there were an estimated 47,150 new cases of leukemia with 23,540 deaths, more than half the number of annual breast cancer deaths. But funding for leukemia research lags behind.

Nothing should be taken away from the efforts of breast health advocates. But clearly more effort is needed in other areas.

SPEAKING OF HEALTH RISKS, on average more than 20,000 people a year in the United States die from the flu. The numbers vary from year to year, with as many as 50,000 deaths in some years, and some studies showing the average number of deaths to be more than 35,000. The influenza vaccine is a cheap and effective method of preventing or reducing the impact of the flu.

Remember that no matter what health plan you have, there is just one person in charge of your health care: you.

— Mary Kimm,

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Letters to the Editor

The Salona Park: Fields to Nowhere

To the Editor:

In December 2005, the Fairfax County Park Authority and Board of Supervisors agreed to pay Dan DuVal the extraordinary amount of \$16,050,000 for an open space easement on land owned by DuVal, which is generally known as Salona Park. Among other things DuVal expressly granted the Park Authority and the County Board, in paragraph 3.9 of the Easement Agreement (and which the County paid for), "the right to use approximately 10 acres of the Property for recreation purposes" (emphasis added). Paragraph 3.9 further states that these recreation purposes include "two natural turf rectangular athletic fields." At the time of this agreement, it was re-

peatedly represented to the McLean community that this expenditure of taxpayer dollars was intended to help alleviate the critical shortage of playing fields for youth sports like lacrosse, soccer, field hockey, rugby and football. In fact, our Dranesville Supervisor John Faust stated at the FCPA Nov. 17, 2010 public forum meeting that "The opportunity to deliver two playing fields to McLean was a key factor in the Board of Supervisors agreeing to purchase this very, very expensive property."

Now, seven years later, in 2012, where are those fields? Nowhere. Seven years. \$16.05 million. No fields. The land is in exactly the same state as when the County acquired the easement.

Incredibly, in 2011, six years after the 2005 agreement, Supervisor Faust, instead of moving forward with building the fields, appointed a task force. Why wait six years to appoint a task force? And why a task

force? The Easement Agreement already grants the Park Authority and the County the right to build the two fields. The taxpayers paid \$16 million for that right. Supervisor Faust himself acknowledges that the fields were the "key factor" in entering the agreement. So why a task force? It is certainly obstructing the building of the fields. At this point the task force (which includes DuVal) has been meeting for 15 months and the meetings go on and on. No fields have been built and there are no plans to build the fields. This is worse than the "bridge to nowhere" financed by our federal government.

It is time to end this seven-year travesty. It is time now—indeed it was time years ago—to build the fields. Build the fields the community desperately needs. Build them now for the children of our community.

Michael Clancy
McLean

Spirit of Amadeus Among Us

To the Editor:

I happened on an old friend's doorstep to remember her birthday and her husband popped out and mentioned his volunteer work with the McLean based Amadeus Concert series. I had seen the concerts in event calendar listings and it just so happened that my schedule was free and my family was available to attend. I felt some kind of inner tug that I should go (despite my kids protestations) and oh was I rewarded! We attended the 32nd season's first concert at St. Luke's Catholic Church in McLean. The parking was free, kids under 17 are free and the premise is "orchestra up close and personal."

See Letters, Page 11

McLean
CONNECTION

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News

Bigger, Better MPAartfest

More artists, a community art project and MPAartfest Idol make the 50th anniversary celebration golden.

McLean Project for the Arts is in the midst of their 50th anniversary year, celebrating with special exhibitions and programs and activities, the biggest of which will be the MPAartfest. With 50 selected artists and events including returning favorites like the Children's Art Walk and Innovation Station among new additions like MPAartfest Idol and the community art project Leaf Your Mark, the 50th anniversary will live up to the mark of gold that 50 years deserves.

MPAartfest co-chair Margi Vanderhye said that the quality of the art sale will still be the thing that really makes the artfest stand out. They were able to expand the number of artists to 50 expressly because they received so many high quality entries this year. Capital One Executive George Swygerts is the other co-chair; he said the event serves as a wonderful showcase for the community's local artists and contributes to community vitality.

There are not only additions to the color palate of this year's event, but also to the taste palate: on tap will be the MPA Wine Cafe with wines from Chain Bridge Cellars accompanying hors d'oeuvres and tastings from Lebanese Taverna, Nourish Market and J. Gilbert's, Lost Dog Cafe and Mama's Donut Bites.

Live performances on the Gazebo Stage from 2012 MPAartfest Idol winner The Exceptions featuring Jason Saitta (15, from Chantilly) and Max Snyder (16, from Clifton) serve to amp up the atmosphere. Noelle Topetzes, a volunteer heading up the music project with Jeff Levin of Big V Productions, expressed their mutual desire to reach into the local art scene; MPAartfest Idol has helped them seek out local talent

and bring it to the community.

The Children's ArtWalk, the Senior Art Spotlight, Open Studio and Innovation Station art tent will all return, with some new features. Innovation Station, sponsored by TTR Sotheby's International Realty, gives children the chance to create arts birthday hats in honor of the 50th anniversary and both children and adults can "leaf their mark" on the community mural using natural leaf shapes as a key element of the total work. The mural will be displayed at MPA's gallery in the McLean Community Center Nov. 12-15.

The event is on Sunday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in McLean Central Park.; parking is available for free with shuttle buses courtesy of Montessori School of McLean. The event is free, however a \$5 donation is suggested; funds raised from the fest go to MPA's exhibition and art education program, in addition to funding the educational festival itself. For more information, including a schedule of performing artists, visit www.mpaart.org.

—Chelsea H. Bryan



Photos Contributed

MPAartfest will be hold at McLean Central Park this Sunday, Oct. 14 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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Volunteers at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in McLean unload pumpkins for their annual charity pumpkin patch Sunday, Oct. 7.



Photos by
Alex McVeigh/
The Connection



Volunteers form a line to unload pumpkins for the annual St. Thomas Episcopal Church pumpkin patch Sunday, Oct. 7.

St. Thomas Kicks off Annual Pumpkin Patch

Proceeds from sales go to local charities.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection



Volunteers sort pumpkins from a Navajo Reservation in New Mexico at St. Thomas Episcopal Church Sunday, Oct. 7.

The large green lawn in front of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in McLean had a few splashes of fall color added Sunday, Oct. 7 as dozens of volunteers helped unload a truck full of pumpkins for their annual charity pumpkin patch.

Volunteers spread out in different lines to unload the pumpkins, smaller ones were handed from person to person to be placed on the pallets all over the lawn, while bigger ones were loaded onto wheelbarrows and wagons for transport to their pallets.

"I'd never thought about how heavy pumpkins are before, but when you're passing hundreds of them down the line, you start to notice," said Ryan Smith, 14, who came to volunteer Sunday afternoon. "But it is cool to watch the yard get filled up with all these pumpkins so fast, I think we've done good work as a team."

This is the fourth year for the pumpkin patch, which raises money for charities such as Share of McLean, the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center, the FACETS Hypothermia Shelter program and the Samaritan Ministry in Washington, D.C.

"We got the idea from Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Alexandria, they've done it for 20-25 years," said Rev. Stephen Edmondson, pastor at St. Thomas. "Last year we went through about three-quarters of a truckload, and we were able to raise around \$5,000."

The church received a full truckload of pumpkins this year, up from three-fourths of a load last year and half a load in years past. The pumpkins come from a Navajo Reservation in New Mexico, which shares

the profits from the sale with the church on all pumpkins sold. All unsold pumpkins are donated to an animal refuge site, where they are used as feed.

"We're sort of unique in that we don't charge by the pound, but by the size category, it's the same price for the small and large pumpkins, even though they vary in exact weight," said Alison Pruitt a member of the church, and part of the publicity committee for the sale.

Volunteers will be manning the church's pumpkin stand from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday through Friday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays all the way to Halloween. For pumpkin shoppers out early or late, the church puts out an honor box for payment after hours.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church is located at 8991 Brook Road in McLean.

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Faith

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

Fall Festival. Fellowship Baptist Church will host Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 13, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. They are planning a fun filled day with plenty of food and activities, including two moon bounces set up and a variety of games for all ages. Lunch will be served at noon and you will not want to miss the cotton candy and popcorn. Contact the church office with any questions you may have. Fellowship Baptist Church is located at 11032 Oakton Road in Oakton, Tel: 703-385-8516. Visit www.fbcministries.net for more information.

The Shepherd's Center of McLean and Falls Church sponsors a concert at McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, called the **Lunch n' Life** performance and luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at noon, featuring the Harmony Heritage Singers. The men's chorus sings popular tunes from the "good old days," in barbershop style. \$10. Prepay by Oct. 11, 703-506-2199 or rekcockalb@hotmail.com.

Oktoberfest Bazaar and Craft Fair. Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, 6817 Dean Drive McLean is hosting Oktoberfest Bazaar and Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Handcrafted Jewelry, Silk Floral Arrangements, Hand Carved Birds, Baked Goods, and Loads of Crafts. Lunch will be

served between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. including: Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, Hot Dogs, Soft Pretzels, Chips, Drinks, and Desserts. Sponsored by the United Methodist Women of Charles Wesley United Methodist Church
h t t p : / / www.charleswesleyumc.org

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, at the intersection with Westmoreland Street has Sunday worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m., traditional style worship; 9:45 a.m., contemporary style worship; and 11 a.m., traditional style worship. Sunday School and Adult Forum is at 9:45 a.m..

Redeemer Lutheran Pre-school invites the community to help them celebrate their first 50 years with a birthday party for the young and young at heart on Saturday, Sept. 29 from 10-2 (rain or shine). There will moon bounces, slide, games, food and fun for all ages. In lieu of admission, there will be a Canned Food Drive for Share, Inc. of McLean to help neighbors in need, so you are encouraged to bring canned goods. Questions: call 703-356-3567. The address is 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

WFCM Fellowship Dinner will be held on Friday, Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m., at Fairview Park Marriott Hotel, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Dinner begins at 7:15; business professional attire. Register by Oct. 5 at <http://www.ministrysync.com/event/home.php?e=3822>.

Letters

From Page 8

My experience was nothing short of a revelation. I consider it a small miracle that a collection of wood, string and metal combined can emit such a glorious sound. Then to be up so close to experience the music. The conductor, A. Scott Wood, explained a little history of each piece and his moves at the podium only added to the delight. The violin solo by Elisabeth Adkins of "The Lark Ascending" was breathtaking! The program was not too long and then there was a reception at the end.

I bring this up because the Amadeus Concert series is truly a gem and we were one of the very few families or "young" people present. I am only a casual orchestral fan, but this was truly beautiful, accessible and well done—right in our backyard. For us, we put down the remote, logged off and did something "new" that was inspiring and refreshing. The next concert is October 14—make it a date, a family occasion, or a solo event just for the joy of music, just go!

AJ Assaadi
McLean

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Home LifeStyle

Decorating for Halloween

Suggestions for getting one's home ready for Fright Night and beyond.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Whether one's preference is witches and ghosts or candles and pumpkins, there is no reason why fall décor should be limited to one month, say area tastemakers. A few local designers offer autumn embellishment ideas that span the spectrum from spooky to all-natural.

"Decorating for fall is one of the most enjoyable times of the year for many people. We particularly like it because nature provides so many wonderful options to use for decorating," said Ann O'Shields, owner of The Nest Egg in Fairfax. "If you are purchasing seasonal decorations for fall, we suggest choosing items that can go past Halloween and into Thanksgiving."

Add spine-chilling accents to traditional fall accessories. "One thing that you can do is hang faux cobwebs between orange pillar candles," said Angela Phelps, owner of Le Village Marché in Arlington. "Remove the webs after Halloween."

Use black and orange strategically. "We like putting white and orange pumpkins inside the fireplace," said O'Shields. "They are striking against a black in-



Photo by Marilyn Campbell / The Connection

Pumpkins draped with cobwebs and spiders offer traditional Halloween décor that can be adjusted to last from October through Thanksgiving.

terior fireplace to fill the space until cooler fireplace weather arrives."

Be inspired by seasonal bounty. "The varieties of pumpkins and gourds available at local farmer's markets, nurseries and even grocery stores are the perfect start for seasonal décor," said O'Shields. "White pumpkins in particular are gorgeous and can make such a statement lined on a long table as a centerpiece. Mixed in with gourds of different colors and shapes, you have a simple, natural arrangement that is also eye catching. Wreaths with white pumpkins, branches, sunflowers and leaves welcome the season and extend into winter."

Make use of transparent containers like cylinder vases. "Fill glass containers with the miniature white and orange pumpkins or green or red apples and use them on a mantel or centerpiece," said O'Shields.

Marymount's Interior Design Department Receives 2012 Potomac Award

Program recognized for creative and intellectual contributions to the local community.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Marymount University's Interior Design faculty and students have been recognized for their creative and intellectual contributions to the local community. The Arlington school was recently awarded the 2012 Potomac Award from the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), making it the first university to receive the honor. Interior design classes are offered on the main campus or at the Reston Center.

"We have been blessed with intelligent, ambitious, dedicated students who have been willing to work hard and develop their understanding of the interior design field," said McLean resident Jean Freeman, an interior design professor at Marymount. "The awards that individual faculty have received and some of the articles and books they have published are...an indication of their efforts to extend the body of knowledge for the field and our students."



Photo Courtesy of Marymount University

McLean resident Jean Freeman of Marymount University's interior design department credits talented students and faculty with the program's success.

with which the [Interior Design] department at Marymount is keeping, you'll appreciate the prestige of the award."

Bridget May of Herndon, another professor of interior design at Marymount, believes that evidence-based design will become standard practice for future students. "A lot of research goes into optimal use of space for function," she said.

The award recognizes the university's interior design department for its contributions to the design industry, including its efforts in sustainable design, historic preservation and the lighting and design of commercial spaces. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and The National Portrait Gallery and the Smithsonian American Art Museum are among the past recipients of the award.

"It is a prestigious award," said Leslie Ehrmann, ASID Washington Metro Chapter administrator. "If you look at the company [of past awardees] [Interior Design] department at Marymount is keeping, you'll appreciate the prestige of the award."

Emergency Preparedness Tips

Are your home and family ready for a hurricane?

By Josh Baker

With this summer's severe weather, and the hurricane season upon us, a few simple preventative steps, outlined below, may help you to avoid costly repairs once the storms have passed.

Avoid wind damage: Clear away yard debris and dead/dying branches

Large branches or fallen trees can easily be tossed about by high winds during a storm. If you have trees near your home, be sure to trim any dead or dying branches, or ask your landscaper to do so at your next service visit.

The easiest way to avoid leaks: Make sure gutters are kept clean and in good shape

Before the storms arrive, remove any leaves, pine needles, branches or other debris from the gutter system. Also, perform a visual check to be sure there are no damaged areas. Clogged, leaky, or broken gutters can fail to properly drain water from your house, which may cause flooding and property damage.

The second easiest way to avoid leaks: Make sure areaway and storm drains are clear

If your basement has an areaway staircase, be sure to clear the drain at the bottom of leaves, dirt and other debris. Do the same for other storm drains located on or near your property. Failure to do so could lead to excess water backing up onto your property or into your home if the drains are clogged.

Save your electronics: Plug expensive household items into surge protectors, or unplug them entirely

Stereos, televisions, fitness equipment and computers should be either unplugged before the storm begins, or plugged into surge protectors. This may help to prevent damage to these items if lightning strikes.

Be the envy of your neighbors: Learn how to safely operate your portable generator

All generators are not the same, so be sure to read the manufacturer's instruction manual that came with your generator to ensure proper operation.

Before the storm, test your generator by turning it on to be sure that it is working properly. Also, make sure that you have a sufficient fuel supply to keep the generator running once it is needed.

Use the generator in a well-ventilated, outside area. Generators emit carbon monoxide, which can build up in an unventilated area and be hazardous to your family.

Plug appliances into the generator using heavy-duty extension cords that are well-maintained and not frayed or worn. Using incorrect or damaged extension cords could pose a fire hazard.

Turn the portable generator off and allow it to cool before refueling. Pouring fuel into a hot generator may cause an explosion or fire.

If you have a whole house generator make sure that it is well maintained with a service contract from a qualified vendor.

PREPARE YOUR POOL

A few simple steps will help prevent significant damage to your pool.

Do not drain all of the water from the pool. An empty pool is subject to "floating" or "popping" out of the ground due to "lift pressure," which is caused by excessive ground water during heavy rains. Also, the water in your pool will act as a shield to protect the finish from damage. Instead, only drain your pool water by one to two feet to allow for the accumulation of rainwater.

Turn off the power to any pool equipment (pump, motor, lights) that may be on.

Remove any loose pool items (filter housing tops, etc.). These can easily be taken away by strong winds.

Add extra chlorine to the pool. This will help to prevent contamination from any debris and storm water that enters the pool.

Move any unsecured items, such as patio furniture or potted plants, inside to keep them safe from driving rains or severe winds. Sinking furniture inside a pool is not recommended – the chlorine in the pool water may stain or rust expensive items, and this may also damage the bottom of the pool.

Josh Baker is founder of BOWA, www.bowa.com.

On the Rise

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

From transforming outdated bathrooms into serene spa-like retreats to creating dream kitchens with open-floor plans, high-end appliances and granite counters, homeowners are gradually re-engaging in remodeling projects, according to a report by The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI).

NARI's Second Quarterly Business Review, which is a compilation of business assessments by contractors, shows that homeowners are taking on slightly more home improvement tasks than in previous years. Some local builders agree and have seen this trend in the D.C. area.

"We just got done with the Capital Home Show, which can be an interesting indicator of how people are feeling, and it wasn't overwhelmingly gangbusters, but it was consistent traffic and we did well in terms of the number of people who wanted to set up appointments with us before we left the show," said Bob Gallagher, president of Sun Design Remodeling in Burke. "That is how we measure people's attitudes."

Low interest rates and a belief among homeowners that home improvement projects will increase home prices are helping drive the trend.

Jeff Pregman, the general manager of Two Poor Teachers in Fairfax, says that he has noticed an increase in kitchen and bathroom projects: "Your best return on investment is kitchens and baths," he said.

NARI also reports that 28 percent of homeowners now expect to stay in their homes up to five years longer than originally planned because of the economy.

"Interest rates are great, but getting banks to lend, even to truly qualified people, can be a hassle and can create real obstacles to new home ownership. With interest rates at historic lows, many times people find that they can get what they want by remodeling what they already have," said Andrew Moore, president, Arlington Designer Homes, Inc.

OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 & 14

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**

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3415 Oakton Chase Ct.....\$1,249,000...Sun 1-4.....Kim Kaufhold.....RE/MAX..703-850-4890

12652 Fantasia Dr.....\$429,900...Sun 1-4.....Cathy Lanni...Long & Foster..703-615-4237

Kingstowne/Alexandria

7100 Judith Ave.....\$769,900...Sun 1-4.....John Queeney.....Century 21..703-868-0061

Oakton

3203 History Dr.....\$800,000...Sun 1-4.....Jeremy Cunningham.....Redfin..703-955-1832

10041 Oakton Terr Rd.....\$335,000...Sun 1-4.....John Edelman Coldwell Banker..202-471-5219

Stone Ridge

24783 Prairie Grass.....\$569,900...Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662

Vienna

252 Glen Ave, SW.....\$1,285,000...Sun 1-3..Vicky Beach-Christner.....Fieldstone..703-669-3142

608 Thelma Cir, SW.....\$949,000...Sun 1-4.....Bettina Dee.....Premier..703-748-0001

1440 Crowell Rd.....\$939,000...Sun 1-4.....Sheila Cooper.....Weichert..703-759-6300

10116 Tamarack Dr.....\$685,000...Sun 1-4.....Peter Burke...Long & Foster..703-786-3334

2185 Wolftrap Ct.....\$669,999...Sun 4-7.....Donna Turner.....Chattel..202-338-0500

To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Trisha at 703-778-9419, or trisha@connectionnewspapers.com. All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

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Photos by Craig Sterbutzel /The Connection



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12 11776 Stratford House Place #1409, Reston — \$1,200,000



4 1028 Timbercreek Trail, Great Falls — \$2,110,000

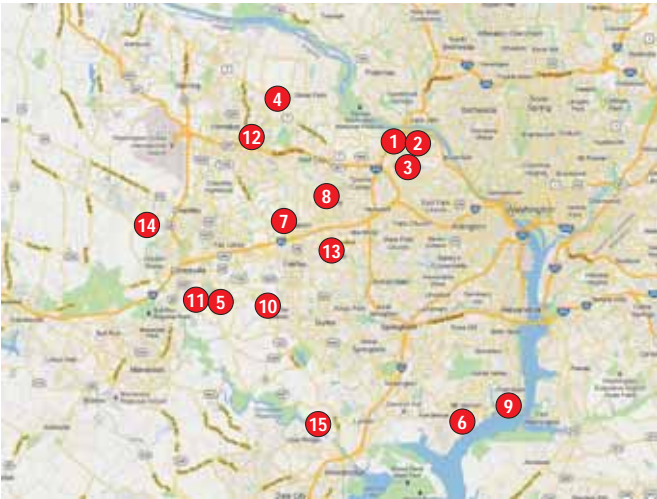


7 3001 Westhurst Court, Oakton — \$1,750,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	....	Postal	City	...	Sold Price	....	Type	.....	Lot AC	..	PostalCode	.....	Subdivision	.....	Date Sold	
1 6827 SORREL ST	8	11	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$6,700,000	.....	Detached	....	3.50	.....	22101	.....	22101	.....	LANGLEY FOREST	.....	08/31/12
2 6705 SORREL ST	6	7	2	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$3,700,000	.....	Detached	....	1.15	.....	22101	.....	22101	.....	LANGLEY FOREST	.....	08/30/12
3 1319 CALDER RD	5	5	1	.....	MCLEAN	.....	\$2,350,000	.....	Detached	....	0.58	.....	22101	.....	22101	.....	SALONA VILLAGE	.....	08/27/12
4 1028 TIMBERCREEK TRL	4	6	2	.....	GREAT FALLS	..	\$2,110,000	.....	Detached	....	1.80	.....	22066	..	22066	..	ESTATES AT LONGWOOD	.....	08/06/12
5 13120 LOTH LORIAN DR	6	7	1	.....	CLIFTON	.....	\$2,050,000	.....	Detached	....	5.02	.....	20124	.....	20124	.....	LOTH LORIAN	.....	08/24/12
6 4503 CARLBY LN #6	4	4	0	.....	MT VERNON	..	\$2,000,000	.....	Detached	....	1.72	.....	22309	.....	22309	.....	RIVERBEND AT MT VERNON	.....	08/16/12
7 3001 WESTHURST CT	5	5	2	.....	OAKTON	.....	\$1,750,000	.....	Detached	....	0.85	.....	22124	.....	22124	.....	WINDSONG	.....	08/15/12
8 412 GLYNDON ST NE	5	5	1	.....	VIENNA	.....	\$1,714,300	.....	Detached	....	1.50	.....	22180	.....	22180	.....	ARY HILL CHANCERY	.....	08/30/12
9 8724 PLYMOUTH RD	4	3	1	.....	MT VERNON	..	\$1,650,000	.....	Detached	....	0.52	.....	22308	.....	22308	.....	PLYMOUTH HAVEN	.....	08/03/12
10 5599 SMOKE RISE LN	5	4	2	.....	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,350,000	.....	Detached	....	8.86	.....	22039	.....	22039	.....	BEAUMONT	.....	08/01/12	
11 6417 UNION MILL RD	5	5	1	.....	CLIFTON	.....	\$1,240,000	.....	Detached	....	5.05	.....	20124	.....	20124	.....	UNION MILL ESTATES II	.....	08/02/12
12 11776 STRATFORD HOSE PL#1409 2 ..	3	0	.....	.....	RESTON	.....	\$1,200,000	.....	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	.....	20190	.....	20190	.....	20190	.....	STRAFORD	.....	08/20/12
13 9404 OLD RESERVE WAY	5	4	2	.....	FAIRFAX	.....	\$1,125,000	.....	Detached	....	0.20	.....	22031	.....	22031	.....	PICKETT'S RESERVE	.....	08/22/12
14 5132 PLEASANT FOREST DR ..	5	4	2	.....	CENTREVILLE	..	\$1,070,000	.....	Detached	....	1.00	.....	20120	.....	20120	.....	PLEASANT VALLEY	.....	08/31/12
15 9328 OCCOQUAN OVERLOOK DR .	6	6	2	LORTON	\$1,030,000	Detached	0.84	22079	...	22079	...	OCCOQUAN OVERLOOK	08/20/12

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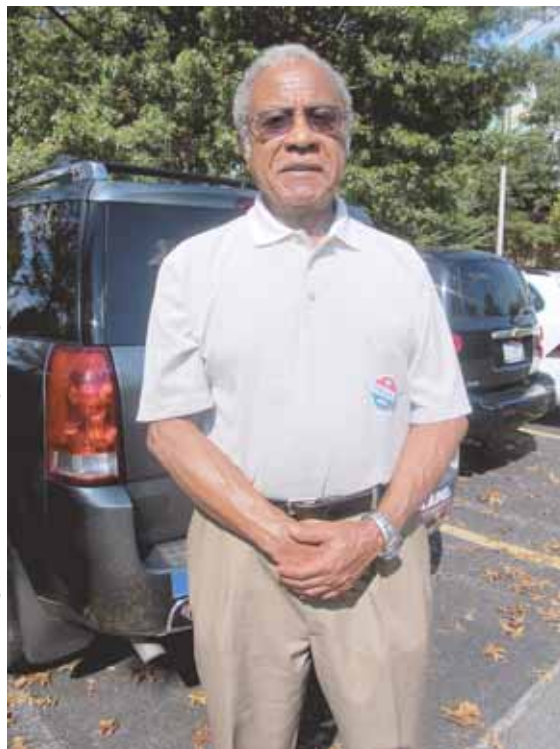


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Photos by Victoria Ross/The Connection

Kate and Beth Badgett of Reston got to sit behind President Obama on Friday and shake his hand.



Denver Lovett of Reston said he was working hard canvassing for President Obama, and didn't want to miss the opportunity to shake his hand at Friday's rally at GMU.

Obama Receives Enthusiastic Welcome

From Page 3

"I don't think a working mom in Arlington should have to wait to get a mammogram just because money is tight. I don't think a college student in Fairfax or Charlottesville should have to choose between textbooks or the preventive care that she needs. That's why we passed this law, and I am proud of it. It was the right thing to do, and we are going to keep it," Obama said, drawing applause after each line.

Polls show Obama with a strong lead (nearly 19 percent) among women voters, especially in battleground states such as Virginia. Before Obama took the stage, a parade of pro-choice women—a young mother from southwest Virginia, a former Republican supporter from Richmond, and Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41)—praised Obama's record on healthcare reform and women's issues.

Filler-Corn got a rousing response as she talked about the recent General Assembly session, when her state GOP colleagues passed a controversial ultrasound bill and proposed "personhood" legislation that attempts to make abortions illegal in Virginia.

"These decisions affect every woman's health...you deserve a president who will fight for your choice and your health," she said.

"He was great today," said Annandale resident Jane Wilson, who brought her daughter Sarah, 10 to the rally. "She was very excited about the whole experience."

Wilson said Obama's remarks on women's issues—equal pay for equal work, health care, affordability of education—are key issues for her.

"There is something to be said for a man who came from the middle class like us. He understands the issues we live every day," Wilson said.

"I thought his speech was really empowering," Sarah Wilson said. "You could believe what he was saying. I want a job someday where I get paid the same as my brothers."

Kate Badgett, a 17-year-old South Lakes High School senior, came to the debate with her mom Beth. She said education and women's rights were important issues for her.

"I wish I could vote," Badgett said. "Education impacts my life every single day. I have brothers in medical school, and I am planning on college, but the cost is scary," Badgett said. "He's right. We've come too far to turn back now, especially on issues that affect a woman's health."

Janice Allen, Dotte White and Jeannie Hicks, of Alexandria, said the president nailed it when talking about women's rights issues.

"We are all in this together, men and women. Preventative healthcare makes sense whether you care just about the economics of healthcare, or you really care about women's health," White said.

NIRA GUARE said she and her 15-year-old daughter, Madison, McLean residents, appreciated Obama's focus on women's issues.

"My daughter is very passionate on issues of social equality, and women's issues are clearly part of that. Pro-choice, for sure, but also topics like gay rights, equal access to education, pay equality for women, access to health care," Guare said.

"There's something about the 'pull yourself up by your bootstraps' message from Republicans that falls flat to me when so many people are born without boots. He and (former Virginia Governor) Tim Kaine both seemed to be framing 'women's issues' as just 'American Issues,' which I appreciated. If you are a man, and your mom or wife or daughter is dying of breast cancer and can't get health coverage, isn't that your issue too? I have four daughters, and my husband grew up with three sisters and no brothers, so we understand that a woman's issue is everyone's issue with great clarity," she said.

Obama told the crowd he would continue his fight for women's rights.

"The decisions that affect a woman's health aren't up to politicians; they're not up to insurance companies, they're up to you. They're up to you...So, one month. Just one month from tomorrow, Virginia, you're going to step into a voting booth, and you are going to have a very big choice to make."

Obama left the stage amid chants of "Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!"

MCA Hosts Tysons Corner Program

From Page 3

he said. "These facilities are required to serve Tysons residents so they don't need to drive to meet their needs."

Currently the planning commission is working on a financing plan to recommend to the County Board of Supervisors for adoption later this fall.

Joe LaHait, deputy coordinator for the County's Department of Management and Budget, said the County is currently planning on selling \$25 million in general obligation bonds annually from fiscal year 2018 to 2030, which is in addition to the \$233 million annual baseline of general obligation bonds sold.

He also said the county is sticking by its financial management principles while working on the financing plan and keeping county residents in mind.

"We've designed it to not require an increase on the real estate property tax rate," he said. "We're adhering to our normal debt ratios, where our annual debt service payments remain less than 10 percent of our total disbursements, and our net long term debt will not exceed three percent of taxable real [estate] and personal property in the County."

ONE CONCERN of groups like the McLean Citizens Association was that the taxpayer portion of the funding be capped at 25 percent of total costs of the \$2.3 billion in projected

capital costs for Tysons Redevelopment. Walter Alcorn, chair of the Tysons committee and an at-large planning commissioner with the County, said, "We've heard the MCA loud and clear saying that no more than 25 percent of the costs should be borne by the county [taxpayers]," he said. "In effect the developers and commercial landowners are projected to carry about 61 percent of the total capital costs in this financing plan. Basically over the next 40 years, they would end up paying about 62 percent of the \$2.3 billion in capital costs."

Alcorn said the general obligation bonds, which is the county's primary finding source, will comprise about 21 percent of the capital costs over the next 40 years.

"In addition to that, state and federal aid end up being about 10 percent of the total, and this is ongoing state and federal funding that comes in on a regular basis to fund capital needs, like Metro, and other expense," he said. "And we are asking for more, frankly, from federal and state sources... it could be somewhere between six and nine percent."

Del. Mark Keam (D-35) attended the meeting, and he said he wasn't optimistic about any funding for Tysons from the state.

"At the state level, I don't think we can expect a lot of new funding, certainly not from anything the General Assembly can authorize this year," he said.

Week in McLean

Fundraiser to Support Children's Science Center

A fundraiser for the Children's Science Center has been announced by HBC Realty Group's Community Charity Champions. Come to dinner on Monday, Oct. 15, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Pulcinella Italian Host in McLean to support Children's Science Center and approximately 60 percent of the proceeds from food and drink will go to the charity, as long as the diner brings the flyer for the event. Contact HBC Realty Group at 703-734-0192 or visit www.HBCRealtyGroup.com to receive a flyer.

The Children's Science Cen-

ter is an interactive hands-on museum being planned for Northern Virginia. The mission is to inspire a love of learning and STEM literacy (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in all children through meaningful creation, exploration and discovery.



Sponsors of the event are: Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy with the HBC Realty Group, Richard Moroscak with EagleBank, Marcus Simon with EKKO Title, Moe Jebali with Pulcinella Italian Host and Frank Vorndran with MorganStanley SmithBarney.

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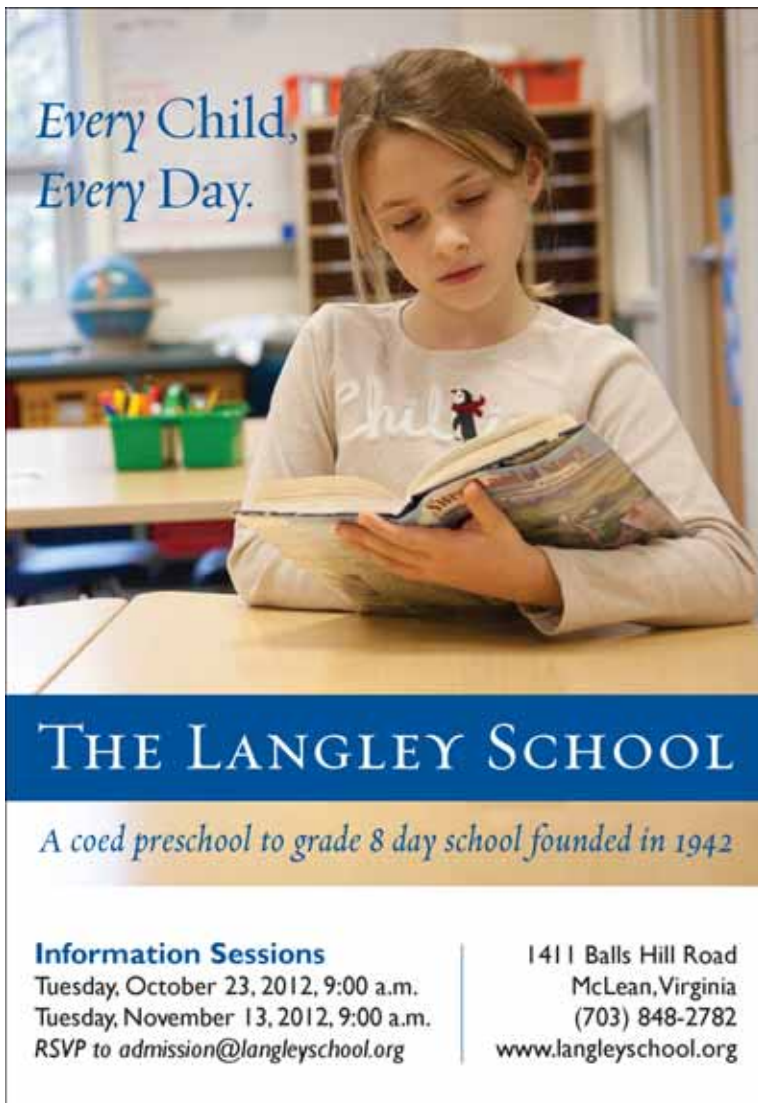


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Churchill Road Elementary School is named the eighth Green Flag school in the country Friday, Oct. 5, by the National Wildlife Federation's Eco-Schools program.

Photo by
Alex McVeigh/
The Connection

Churchill Road Named Green Flag School

Eco-Schools program gives school highest award.

By Alex McVeigh
The Connection

Churchill Road Elementary School became just the eighth school in the country to earn the Eco-Schools USA Green Flag award Friday, Oct. 7. The Eco-Schools program is hosted by the National Wildlife Federation, and there are more than 50 eco schools in the County, along with two other Green Flag schools in the state, the highest award level.

"This district is the most awarded and decorated school district in the country," said Laura Hickey, senior director of the Eco-Schools USA program. "It's not easy to be a Green Flag school, there are only eight in the country, so it's clear how hard this school worked, they've done some truly amazing things."

The school's students, staff and administrators all helped the school achieve the Green Flag award, taking a holistic approach to almost every aspect of the

school's functions. Students started composting, up cycling and recycling food and trash where they could, donating unopened food to a local food bank.

Principal Don Hutzel said their efforts help redistribute 270 pounds of trash per day. The school has seen its lunch waste drop by 90 percent following the implementation of the programs.

The school also helped with storm water management by placing rain barrels, helped reduce energy consumption, created an edible garden and sold produce at a fourth grade farmer's market.

"The student council officers have been instrumental in promoting this program to their fellow students," said Sharon Jones, assistant principal.

Students formed teams focusing on energy, art, communications, business and waste reduction. They also incorporated green measures into the curriculum, such as growing papyrus, cotton and soybeans while learning about ancient civilizations.

In their environmental studies program, they grew herbs in the school's greenhouse, then developed product pricing, branding and packing strategies for the farmer's market.

More information about Eco-Schools can be found at www.eco-schools.org.

Churchill Road Inducts its SCA Officers

On Friday, Oct. 5, the Churchill Road SCA held its induction ceremony for its newly elected officers for 2011-2012. This year's induction ceremony was coupled with the Green Flag Eco-Schools award from the National Wildlife Federation. After reciting the SCA pledge, the officers were presented with seasonal bouquets to mark the occasion.



Photo by Kim Moran

Pictured are the Churchill Road Student Council Association officers for the 2012-2013 school year: (front row) Whit Walter, historian; J.J. Bellaschi, vice president; Walker Haynes, president; Matthew Strong, treasurer; and (back row) Donald Hutzel, principal; Lauren Maloney, secretary; Izzy Schone, sergeant-at-arms and Sharon Jones, SCA sponsor and assistant principal.

Schools

Marshall High's Model UN Conference Focuses on Cyber Security

Cyber security and the threats posed to national infrastructure and economic networks will be the focus of Marshall High School's ninth annual My First Model United Nations (UN) training conference on Saturday, Oct. 13.

Marshall High's Model UN Club will partner with the University of Virginia's (U.Va.) International Relations Organization to present the one-day conference for middle and high school students interested in international relations, diplomacy and issues facing the UN. Approximately 250 students from public and private schools throughout the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area are expected to attend.

This year's conference will focus on cyber security, which in recent months has increased in urgency as countries, corporations, and international organizations—including the United Nations—attempt to reach

consensus regarding the nature of the threat and the measures that should be taken to safeguard critical infrastructure, including transportation, electrical grids, communication systems, water supplies and financial networks.

The day-long, hands-on conference will include a morning session on advanced Internet research, public speaking, and how to write position papers and UN resolutions, that will be taught by Marshall High social studies teachers and outside experts. The afternoon will be devoted to small group sessions chaired by U.Va. students. In those sessions, students will represent some of the 193 nations in the UN as well as corporations and non-governmental agencies. A background guide on cyber security, written by Marshall High juniors Taruni Paleru and Manjari Kumarappan, will be made available to registered delegates in mid-September.

Motivating Girls for Math and Science

McLean Area AAUW is hosting a program on Oct. 23, 7 p.m. at the McLean Community Center (1234 Ingleside Ave.) on How We Can Make a Difference in Local Girls' Education and Future Careers. Fairfax County leaders in the areas of STEM, GEMS and MAGiC are the featured speakers. These acronyms all relate to efforts designed to motivate girls to pursue science, technology, engineering and math—the four areas that are referred to collectively as STEM.

Advanced Academic Resource Teacher Naomi Sweet at Chesterbrook Elementary School in McLean will talk about the GEMS programs—Girls Excelling in Math and Science—and other related programs that she has implemented at Chesterbrook. GEMS Clubs for fifth and sixth grade girls were started in Fairfax County in 1994 to expose girls to the fun and excitement of STEM fields. Sweet will explain the current Chesterbrook programs and describe a typical GEMS session.

Billie Feldhaus will talk about the new GEMS Club

that she is starting this school year at Haycock Elementary School. The Haycock GEMS Club for 4th and 5th grade girls will be meeting on most Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. Feldhaus will discuss ways to support the program and become involved.

Elizabeth Vandenburg, an AAUW Reston-Herndon Branch member, is co-leader of MAGiC—the Mid-Atlantic Girls Collaborative. MAGiC is a coalition of corporate, educational and nonprofit organizations dedicated to promoting girls' involvement in STEM that is funded by the National Science Foundation. Vandenburg and two branch partners received an AAUW Community Action Grant in 2001 for producing an award-winning video, "Tech Savvy Girls," which received a \$100,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to be disseminated nationally and translated into Spanish. Vandenburg will discuss her involvement with STEM activities and provide additional ideas for how to participate in encouraging area girls to pursue STEM-related education and careers.

New Preschool for Homeless Children

Homestretch, a nonprofit dedicated to helping homeless Fairfax families become self-sufficient, opened a preschool at its headquarters on Maple Avenue in Falls Church. Christopher Fay, executive director of Homestretch, and Kim Baker, preschool director, officiated at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Sept. 13.

Opening of the preschool, called Kidstretch, involved support from many public and private organizations. The City of Falls Church agreed to have a nearby park serve as the preschool playground. Dulin United Methodist Church provided substantial funding. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church provided money and books. Temple Rodef Shalom provided books and school supplies and helped assemble furniture. Clark Builders Group did the renovations of existing office space. Sherwin Williams donated the paint and their employees did the painting. Integrity Management bought the office furniture. Employees of Primatics Financial built the furniture and set up the classrooms. Ten Rotary clubs (McLean, Alexandria, Burke, Bailey's Crossroads, Falls Church, Fairfax, Reston, Rosslyn/Fort Myer, Tysons, and Vienna) funded instructional materials and class-



Kim Baker, preschool director; Christopher Fay, Homestretch executive director; Richard Lanier, Tysons Rotary club; Mary Edwards, Tysons Rotary club; Jan Auerbach, McLean Rotary club; Gerry Hamilton, Vienna Rotary club; and Cherry Baumbusch, McLean Rotary club, pictured at the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

room supplies. These efforts will go to help children become "kindergarten-ready" so they can succeed in elementary school and beyond. Ultimately, the center hopes to have 30 children enrolled from among its 110 families.

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Entertainment

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WEDNESDAY/OCT. 10

Preview of the 9th Annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour. 6-8 p.m., Gulick Group Winthrop Model Home, 1051 Autumn Mist Lane, Great Falls. An "Evening of Artistry" with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at the exclusive preview. 571-393-1683.

Oktoberfest Potluck. 6:30 p.m., at The Great Falls Grange Hall, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Folklore and ghost stories, oom-pah German dance music and gemütlichkeit (friendship and congeniality). \$15, adults; children 12 and under free. Reservations by Oct. 4. 703-759-2378.

Ben Taylor w/ Grace Weber. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, the Barns, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Son of James Taylor and Carly Simon is an artist in his own right with mellow, bittersweet melodies sung in a smooth voice. \$20. 703-255-1900 or www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 12

Interior Design Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn how to read and draw a floor plan, arrange furniture, analyze interior paint colors, select textiles and coordinate furnishings and accessories. \$65-75. www.mpaart.org.

Arts Awards Luncheon. Noon-2 p.m., at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, Tysons Corner. An annual program to



recognize outstanding arts organizations, artists and arts philanthropists in the County. 703-642-0862 ext. 4 or <http://artsfairfax.org/arts-award-luncheon>.

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, the Barns, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The distinguished group plays an evening in celebration of Wolf Trap founder Catherine Filene Shouse; chamber works from the Romantic era. \$40. 703-255-1900 or www.wolftrap.org.

LMFAO Comedy Night: Vijai Nathan. 8 p.m., at Diya Restaurant Tysons, 2070 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Manan Singh Katohora, PepperTree Productions and Shalabh Entertainment present a night to cure the most belligerent boredom. \$27. 202-656-3630 or www.desiclub.com/lmfao.

SATURDAY/OCT. 13

Great Falls Optimist Club Barn Dance. 7-11 p.m., at the barn at 964 Walker Road, Great Falls. Ribs and bar-b-que, dancing, beer/wine cash bar, a raffle/auction and classic rock and rockabilly from Benny Potter and Western Electric to benefit the Great Falls Children's Fund and Childhood Cancer Charity. \$60. 703-759-2959, Linda.Thompson@LongandFoster.com or www.greatfallsoptimist.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 14

MPAartfest. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at McLean Central Park, intersection of Old Dominion Drive and Dolley Madison Boulevard, McLean. The park transforms into a a landscape of mini art galleries showcasing the work of Ann Barbieri and 49 other artists; live

Fine Art Photographs at the Old Brogue

Oct. 1-31, Richard Suib's dramatic water, mountain landscapes and wildlife photographs of Great Falls National Park and the Blue Ridge mountains are on display at the Old Brogue in Great Falls, 760 Walker Road, 703-759-0067 or www.richardsuibimages.com.

Westerly View From Skyline Drive, Pigment Print, framed under glass (24" x 32")

entertainment, children's ArtWalk and Innovation Station, a Senior Art Space, Open Studio and live entertainment are activities at the fest. www.mpaart.org.

Washington Symphonic Brass: Danza. 4 p.m., at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Experience South American music and its Spanish roots; post-concert reception. \$30; students 17 and under, free. www.amadeusconcerts.com.

MONDAY/OCT. 15

Knife Skills Workshop. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 7-10 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A popular, informative class on techniques to take the chore- aspect out of cooking; bone a chicken, dice, paste garlic and the like. \$60-81. www.mpaart.org.

HBC Community Charity Champions Fundraising Dinner. 5-8 p.m., at Pulcinella Italian Host, 6852 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Enjoy dinner or takeout and present a flyer to donate 60 percent of proceeds to support the Children's Science Center. Find flyer at 703-734-0192 or www.HBCRealtyGroup.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

John Jorgenson. 7:30 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. "The U.S. Ambassador of Gypsy Jazz" and his quintet bring world class music to town. \$20. www.jamminjava.com.

Vienna Photographic Society's Photo Competition. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Northern VPS Photographer of the Year Sandi Croan will judge the competition's three categories: digital, print and "Cemeteries" photos. 703-451-7298 or www.vps-va.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 19

Battlefield Band. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, the Barns, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. See the Scottish Folk Band of the Year in concert. \$24. 703-255-1900 or www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Oktoberfest Bazaar and Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. Handcrafted jewelry, silk floral arrangements, hand-carved birds, baked goods, crafts and German lunch items between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. www.charleswesleyumc.org.

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News

Director Tom Biesiadny addresses the attendees, surrounded by boards depicting the Fairfax County Dept. of Transportation's report on the state of transportation in the County and possible revenue options to meet transportation needs.



Photo by Andrea Worker/The Connection

Citizens' Input Sought

From Page 4

fore any action is taken. The "Countywide Dialogues" are the DOT's method to fulfill that aspect of their mission.

Director of the DOT Tom Biesiadny led the presentation: "Our study identified \$8.1 billion in transportation related needs, but we only have \$5.1 billion in anticipated revenues from existing sources. Either we find new and sustainable revenue sources, or we must prioritize our needs and decide which ones we cannot go forward with."

Maintenance of our roads—the responsibility of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)—is a major concern. According to VDOT, 26 percent of all of the state's roadways are in poor condition. In Northern Virginia, 39 percent of the roads under VDOT's domain are so classified. New road construction funding by the state has decreased from \$29 million in FY2004 to \$0 in FY2010 and is projected to stay at nil for at least the next six years. The federal government has increased funding loans available for transportation, but those dollars can only be accessed if a funding source for loan repayment is identified. Some of the unfunded projects that need attention according to the DOT include the Tysons Corner Redevelopment, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) improvements, transit service expansions and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

After enumerating the issues and reviewing some of the projects identified in the study, Director Biesiadny moved into part two of the discussion: potential revenue sources.

"I want to emphasize that this is the beginning of a discussion," said Biesiadny. Responding to concerns raised by a Reston couple in attendance, he stressed, "We are not here to advocate for any particular revenue source, or package of sources." The Reston duo declined to be identified in the paper, but stated they came to the meeting after having read online that

the County was proposing to implement a toll on the Fairfax County Parkway. "We have lived here since before that road was built," said the female resident. "I am a dog walker in this area. If I had to pay a toll every time I drove on the Parkway, I would have to give up my job."

Biesiadny admitted that a Fairfax County Parkway toll had been used in the study as an example. Tolls were only one of 13 categories for revenue sourcing examined. Other categories included increased Income, Sales, Meals, Real Estate, Gas and Sales on Services Taxes. Currently there is no Sales on Service Tax in Fairfax County. Haircuts, repairs, and dry cleaning services were noted as examples of such services. "Again," assured Biesiadny, "this toll is not a proposal, or even a recommendation. We just used this as an example to show how our model works. Our model identifies a particular revenue source, then calculates the potential revenue to be gained. For each source we determine whether it is eligible for bonding, what legislative body must approve the source, and what would be the estimated household impact."

THE ENTIRE DIALOGUE PRESENTATION, as well as a brief survey asking the public to provide opinions and suggestions on possible funding options is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/cdot. The letter from the Urban Crescent officials can be found on Chairman Bulova's website www.Fairfaxcounty.gov/Chairman/. The chairman, Supervisor Hudgins and Director Biesiadny urged attendees to review the materials and complete the survey, which is also available in hardcopy from the DOT. To encourage greater response, Bulova gathered staff before departing, getting agreement to extend the survey deadline to take into consideration the Connection Newspapers publication dates. Survey responses will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Oct. 15.

Bulletin Board

From Page 7

students eager to improve literacy skills work one-on-one with a trained volunteer; get trained to tutor at this and a mandatory session to follow on Oct. 20 at the same time and location. \$40 (books and materials). 703-237-0866 x111 or volunteers@lcnv.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 14

Volunteer Fairfax Information Day. 12:30-2 p.m., at Tysons Corner Microsoft Store, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner. Learn about VolunteerFest, Youth Service Guide and other family volunteer opportunities. 703-246-3533 or memery@volunteerfairfax.org.

MONDAY/OCT. 15

Fundraiser. 5-10:30 p.m. The APL Dumpling Gang will receive a portion of the proceeds at Lost Dog Cafe in McLean at 1690A Anderson Road, McLean. The team is raising funds for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's 2012 Light the Night Walk. Visit www.lightthenight.org and search APL Dumpling Gang.

TUESDAY/OCT. 16

Deer Management Talk. 9:45 a.m., in the lower level of Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street NE, Vienna. Five Hills Garden Club hosts Fairfax County Wildlife biologist Jerry Peters who talks on deer management, urban archery programs and the vast overpopulation of and lack of predators for deer. 703-988-9324.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

Low Vision Support Group: "Remembering Music." 10-11 a.m., at Vinson Hall, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Join together to share common joys and challenges. 202-234-1010.

Fall Community Meeting Prescription Medicine Awareness Night. 7-8:30 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A community discussion with local health and law enforcement experts on the topic of prescription drug abuse. www.mpaarts.org.

2012 Election Issues Panel. 7-9 p.m., at the American Legion Auxiliary, 330 Center Street N, Vienna. The American Legions hosts a panel to help educate voters. 703-242-7651.

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Photos by Craig Sterputzel/The Connection

McLean senior Sofia Andreoli controls the ball against Oakton on Oct. 8.

Senior defender Sade Bowers is a captain for the McLean field hockey team.

Oakton Field Hockey Shuts Out McLean

Miller, Prosser score
for Cougars.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

The Oakton field hockey team ran a play called "Carpe Diem" during a penalty corner in the closing seconds of Monday's contest against McLean. While the play did not produce a goal, two first-half scores were enough for the Cougars to seize the victory.

"I'm excited for the postseason and I think that we're ready to go."

— McLean coach Summer Vanni

with one regular season game remaining.

"We've really been improving every game," first-year head coach Kaitlin Fleischmann said. "We have a philosophy of playing 'Oakton's game' and I just want us to keep doing that through the [postseason] and I feel like we'll be really successful."

Oakton's Catherine Miller scored less than five minutes into the game and Jennifer Prosser added a goal as the Cougars defeated the Highlanders, 2-0, on Oct. 8 at Oakton High School. The Cougars extended their win streak to four and improved their record to 8-7



Oakton junior Jennifer Prosser scored a goal against McLean during a 2-0 Cougar victory on Oct. 8 at Oakton High School.

What does playing "Oakton's game" involve?

"One of the big parts of it is—we've had a lot of physical games—maintaining composure and keeping it clean," Fleischmann said, "and keeping focused on our goal."

MONDAY'S GAME had some physical play, with multiple cards issued. Oakton senior captain Maggie Toye, who played with a broken right thumb, said the Cougars did a good job of keeping their composure.

"It was kind of physical and I think that was because [the Highlanders] started getting a little frustrated with us," Toye said. "But I'm really proud. Our girls really held

it together and they stayed very classy. They didn't throw any cheap shots or anything like that and they stayed very classy and kept their calm and played our game."

McLean head coach Summer Vanni, whose Highlanders play their home games on turf, said playing on Oakton's grass field affected her team's quick-pass attack.

"We definitely had some opportunities, but I think the way that the game was played tonight was not conducive to our kind of play," she said. "We're a finesse team, we're a turf team and I think the grass definitely threw us for a loop a little bit. ... Oakton is a strong team. I welcome a rematch. I welcome a turf rematch with this team."

After a 4-2 start to the season, Oakton dropped five straight games, during which the Cougars were outscored 13-2. But Oakton responded with four consecutive wins, outscoring Herndon, Robinson, Centreville and McLean by a total of 9-1. After losing to Westfield, 5-0, on Sept. 14, Oakton won its next three Concorde District games and will host Chantilly at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 10 with a chance to secure the No. 2 seed in the district tournament.

Fleischmann said Toye, Prosser and Annalise Capalbo have been standouts for the Cougars.

"We've really progressed throughout the year and I think we're coming into district play very strong," Toye said. "I think we have a good shot at placing high in the district, seeding-wise, and I think we might surprise some people. We usually do and I'd like to keep that up. I think we're peaking at just the right time for tournament play."

THE LOSS dropped McLean's record to 6-7-1. The Highlanders had won five of six heading into Monday's contest after starting the season 1-5-1. McLean was 3-1 in the Liberty District heading into its Oct. 9 contest against Marshall, which was played after The Connection's deadline.

Vanni said Kathleen Mulligan, Erika Eckrod and Christian Geisler have been standouts for the Highlanders.

"I'm excited for the postseason and I think that we're ready to go," Vanni said. "I don't think this night illustrated that but I welcome the rematch."

McLean will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 11.

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"Subjectively Speaking"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In my opinion. It's what I think. It's what I feel. It's what I think I feel. It may not be something I know, but it's certainly something that I hope I know. And if it's not exactly something that I know, then I hope it's something I believe. Because, if I don't believe it, hoping might not be enough. And if hoping is not enough, and I don't believe, then what I think I feel is simply mind over matter. Yet for all I know (not much really), my mind might matter more than any other weapon I have – real or imagined, in this battle, hopefully not 'til the death, against the stage IV NSCLC that has taken up residence in my body.

However, It's not as if I don't listen to what my oncologist says/has said. In fact, I take pride in my listening and observational skills, so I think I have paid particular attention throughout this entire process. (After all, my life was/is semi-at-stake here.) Now whether I actually heard/assimilated everything that was said to me by my oncologist is likely another issue/column entirely. Moreover, as much as I know how to focus on what the doctor is saying and to listen carefully in order to ask intelligent and potentially life-saving (at least life-sustaining) questions, later, when my wife and I are home reviewing what the doctor had said only a few hours before, invariably we have different impressions, different interpretations and overall different recollections. Unfortunately, there's no one really for us to call (who's available) to review and clarify questions and/or answers that a few hours later are amazingly less clear than they were when we initially heard them. The reality is, there are no do-overs.

As a result, it becomes impossible (nearly impossible) for the patient (this patient, anyway) to be objective about these kinds of life-and-death meetings/discussions, so what words come out, after internalizing everything you've seen and heard is, "subjectively speaking." Somewhere between your best "recollection," your best guess and your likely most positive spin on a set of facts and/or circumstances which might take a bit of getting used to, or at least, making sense of. And that's how life goes on: from one unforgettable (you know what I mean; not literally, but you sort of forget some of what you hear), potentially life-ending set of doctor-speak to the next round of scans, always to be coordinated with your oncologist-ordered lab work, followed up by yet another appointment/exam with the oncologist, the combination and interpretation of each will ultimately tell the tale: good, bad or indifferent.

"Good" and "bad" speak for themselves. "Indifferent" however, is another discussion altogether. Looking for the positive, minimizing the negative; this conversation turns grasping at straws into a literal event. You believe what you want and discount what you must, anything to induce yourself into believing that tomorrow is, as Scarlett O'Hara made famous at the end of "Gone With The Wind," "another day." One filled with hope and optimism, and one worth living, preferably without cancer. But being realistic – and occasionally honest – with yourself, the cancer is likely not disappearing anytime soon. Shrinkage (of the tumors) would be ideal, of course. But you can live with no growth, too. And as I have come to understand – and appreciate: "stable" is a pretty spectacular word, (my new favorite word, actually). In fact, I can live with "stable." But that's just my opinion, unrealistic though it may be.

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

Real Estate

McLean, Great Falls Market is Up in 2012

By Karen Briscoe

The residential real estate market is up 26.8 percent in McLean and Great Falls in terms of total number of sales. This represents a significant increase for the first three quarters of 2012 over the same time period for 2011.

Delving deeper into the data reveals that the lower bracket market segment, which is considered to be those homes below \$1.25 million in this market area, has had very little change year over year in terms of number of sales. What is significant about this market segment in McLean and Great Falls is that there is very little available to buy. With the current absorption of homes, there is about a two to three month supply of inventory. A balanced market is considered a six month supply of inventory, so this clearly indicates that in McLean and Great Falls for the under-\$1.25 million price range it is a great time to be a seller. Good homes priced correctly for the current market



Contributed

are selling quickly and in some cases with multiple offers.

The upper bracket market segment considered to be \$1.25 million in the McLean and Great Falls area also saw improvement in terms of number of transactions.

To date in 2012, there were 345 total upper bracket sales and in 2011 in the same time period there were only 162. That rep-

More Information

Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy are active and experienced Realtors® in the Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C. marketplace. The Huckaby Briscoe Group was recognized in September 2011 as one of the Wall Street Journal Top Real Estate Teams in the United States. Contact: www.HBCRealtyGroup.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCRealtyGroup.com.

resents an over 100 percent increase in number of sales, which is very good news indeed! The distinction with the upper bracket market is there is still substantial inventory available for purchase, currently equating to an over two year total supply. Even though this segment is still not at a balanced market, it is most definitely moving in the right direction.

The typical interim is seven years between market cycles from peak to peak. The Northern Virginia area saw real estate values peak in 2005-2006. Therefore, my prediction for this area is that values will return to market peak in some segments beginning in 2012. To date the numbers for 2012, should they sustain through the last quarter, indicate that we are on the road to that occurring.

McLean and Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales

FIRST THREE QTRS., 2012 COMPARED TO 2011

(Based on Final Closed Price)

	> \$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$1.25 Mil.	< \$750k
FIRST THREE QTRS. 2012					
22101	8	16	80	113	117
22102	6	12	28	68	120
22066	3	8	38	79	44
Total	17	36	146	260	281
Combined Total	345				541

ALL SALES FIRST THREE QTRS. 2012: 886

FIRST THREE QTRS. 2011					
22101	3	12	52	135	108
22102	6	7	33	57	131
22066	3	3	43	69	37
Total	12	22	162	261	276
Combined Total	162				537

ALL SALES FIRST THREE QTRS. 2011: 699

Briscoe, Conroy Receive Chamber Recognition

Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy with the HBC Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty received the award for Corporate Social Responsibility from the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Oct. 2. The award was presented at the Third annual Suits & Sneakers event at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm by Chairman of the Board Merritt J. Green and President Marcia Twomey. The award recognized HBC Realty Group's local fundraising endeavors via the company's charity arm—Community Charity Champions.

The Huckaby Briscoe Conroy Realty Group launched Community Charity Champions in 2012 as a venue to fundraise for local nonprofits. Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy were searching for a means to support charities in the community. The event is held at Pulcinella Italian Host in McLean. A portion of monies spent on food and drink by the diners is contributed to the charity of the month by the sponsors of Community Charity Champions.

"We are honored that the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce recognized us with the 2012 Corporate Social Responsibility award due to our efforts to support local charities through the Community Charity Champions arm of HBC Realty Group," said Briscoe.

Sponsors of Community Charity Champions include: Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy of HBC Realty Group, Moe Jebali with Pulcinella Italian Host, Marcus Simon with EKKO Title, Frank Vorndran with MorganStanley SmithBarney and Richard



Photo Contributed

Lizzy Conroy, Marcia S. Twomey (Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce president) and Karen Briscoe at the award ceremony.

Moroscak with EagleBank.

The inaugural event was in April of 2012 and the money raised benefited Lift Me Up! in Great Falls, a therapeutic horseback riding program dedicated to children and adults with a variety of disabilities. The following events raised funds for SHARE, Inc.; McLean Little League, Inc.; McLean Project for the Arts; and McLean

Youth Football.

Total funds raised to date by HBC Community Charity Champions is over \$6,500. Future events are scheduled for Oct. 15, 2012 to raise funds for Children's Science Museum and Nov. 5, 2012 for Clemyjontri Park. Other charities are currently being considered, call 703-734-0192 for more information.

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1870 Kirby Road, McLean.... Listed for \$1,325,000

MAJESTY and OPULENCE abound in this spectacular and palatial custom-built 2006 home featuring 5 bedrooms/5.5 bath on 3 finished levels!! Top-notch appliances & sparkling granite; wide plank cherry floors; 3 frpls; luxurious owner's suite!

FABULOUS RENOVATIONS THROUGHOUT!



1841 Birch Road, McLean.... Listed for \$765,000

WOW! GORGEOUS RENOVATIONS and UPDATES throughout this immaculate brick rambler with walk-up finished lower level! Bright living room w/ bay window, built-ins & gas frpl; beautifully renovated kit; owner's suite w/ updated bath; newer systems!

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5931 Chesterbrook Road, McLean.... Listed for \$749,900

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BE OUR GUEST AT NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S MOST UNIQUE ART TOUR



Photograph by Dean Soules

TO MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

What gives people the energy to do what they do? Some are motivated by the promise of financial reward, some crave social position, some are motivated by curiosity and some by something else. I invite you to ask any of the 49 artists on this, the Ninth Annual Great Falls Studios Tour, what drives them to give the time, resources, thought and hope to their art. Ask them also how they work, where they get their materials, where they look for inspiration, what they do when they draw a blank. Ask them—they may tell you something really surprising! Please join us!

Laura Nichols

President, Great Falls Studios

YOUR ART TOUR HOSTS: GREAT FALLS STUDIOS

In 2003, a handful of local artists sitting around a kitchen table launched a movement to help promote creativity in Great Falls. They started a group called Great Falls Studios. Today, this organization has more than 100 artist members. We serve our community while helping kindred spirits advance professionally in the arts. The Studios Tour is our signature event. In its first eight years, it has generated more than 21,500 visits to home-based art studios and other art venues in Great Falls and has become a "go to" arts event in the DC area.

To learn more about us and our artists, please visit our website: www.GreatFallsStudios.com. While there, you can see the artwork of our members, along with an online gallery of local art that changes monthly. Then enjoy our tour. Meet you in Great Falls.



2012 Studios Tour AT A GLANCE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NINTH ANNUAL GREAT FALLS STUDIOS TOUR

What it is: A self-guided driving tour to meet 49 artists in their home studios or in group venues.

Where: Great Falls, Virginia.

When: Saturday and Sunday, October 20 and 21, 2012. Hours: 10:00 to 5:00. Rain or shine.

Cost: Free.

What you'll see: Home-based art studios and other venues scattered on scenic back roads. Meet artists in their creative "habitats," including barns, historic buildings, rustic homes, contemporary houses. Enjoy fall colors.

How to navigate: Drive from venue to venue. Free maps and roadside directional signs will help you find your way. Pick up a brochure at any venue on tour days.

About the artists: Our artists include many leading talents in the DC area. You'll find a dozen different art mediums represented.

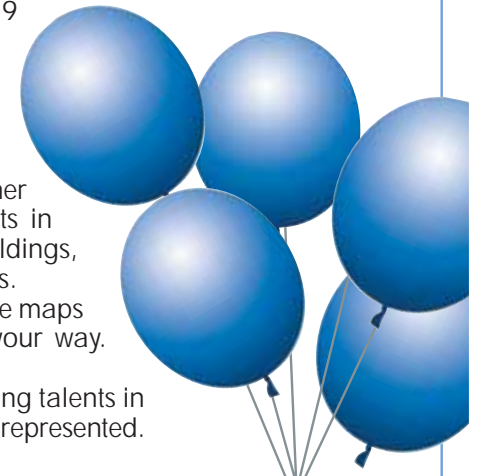
Buying local art: All artists will be selling their work. If buying art is on your agenda, bring a checkbook since many studios do not have credit-card capability.

"Art Buck" prizes: Win one of forty \$50 certificates good toward art purchases. Register for a drawing through October 18 at www.GreatFallsStudios.com. Winners will be notified by telephone before the tour.

Bonus home opening: Our tour is sponsored by Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, Inc., which will hold a concurrent tour featuring an open house at a Great Falls home it has renovated.

Discover elegant design solutions to remodeling challenges.

Meals: Four participating local restaurants will be open for lunch and/or dinner: BRX American Bistro, L'Auberge Chez François, The Old Brogue Irish Pub, and Mediterranean Restaurant (Saturday only).



FRIENDS OF THE ARTS: WE TIP OUR HATS

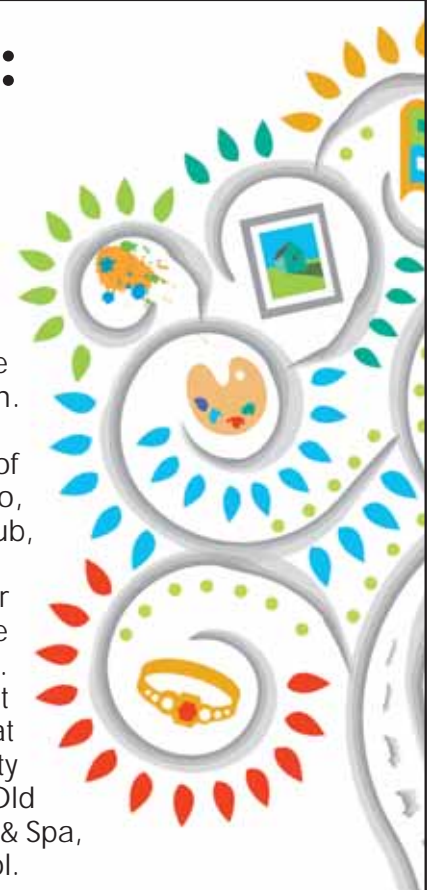
Our tour would be impossible without the help of those who support our vision. To them we offer a heartfelt thank you:

Tour sponsor: Sun Design, a home remodeling company, is our primary financial benefactor. Please visit Sun's home tour, concurrent with our own. www.SunDesignInc.com.

Restaurants: Stop for lunch or dinner at one of four official tour eateries: BRX American Bistro, L'Auberge Chez François, The Old Brogue Irish Pub, and Mediterranean Restaurant.

Advertisers: Please see ads in this newspaper insert for companies and non-profits that support the tour, and consider supporting them with your business.

Year-round partners: Special kudos to those that hang local art or otherwise support the arts: Great Falls Citizens Association, Great Falls Community Library, Great Falls Foundation for the Arts, The Old Brogue Irish Pub, Seneca Hill Animal Hospital Resort & Spa, Turner Framing, Inc., and Village Green Day School.





Ninth Annual Great Falls
Studios Tour 2012

Photo Guide To WHAT You'll SEE ON THE TOUR

The Ninth Annual Great Falls Studios Tour will transport you to creative outposts throughout our village. You can visit home studios, group studios and other venues to meet artists and chat about the creative process. Many studios are located in extraordinary contemporary or historic houses, or in old barns, converted garages or sheds. In all, 49 artists will take part. All live or work in Great Falls. The art you'll see varies dramatically in style, cost and subject matter.

The tour is free. You can go in any order. Use the map on page 8 of this newspaper insert as your guide. Brochures with artist information and sample art can be picked up at any venue on tour days.

HOUSES AND SPACES



Photograph by Al Reilian

Vad Moskowitz, fiber artist/weaver (Studio #3)



Photograph by Al Reilian

GuruSangat Khalsa, painter (Studio #26)



Photograph by Michael McDermott

Michael McDermott, digital artist/photographer (Studio #14)

ARTISTS CREATING



Photograph by Michael McDermott

Barbara Gatterdam, potter (Studio #21)



Photograph by Dean Souleles

Karen Bateman, painter (on location, Venue #14)



Photograph by Don Fowler

Dean Souleles, photographer (Studio #27)

STUDIOS AND WORKPLACES



Photograph by Al Reilian

Jo Fleming, painter (Studio #5)

ART of All Kinds



Robin Kent, photographer (Studio #28)



Photograph by Al Reilian

Artists' Atelier, multiple artists (Venue #24)



Jinny Beyer, fiber artist/quilter (Studio #20)



Photograph by Al Reilian

Will Tuthill, printmaker (Studio #8)



Kathleen O'Bryan Hedges, sculptor (Studio #25)



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GREAT FALLS, VA
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More room than you can imagine! This custom-built home has more charm than most Virginia Colonials. Large, bright rooms with lots of windows; fabulous neighborhood for a young, growing family. 4 Bedrooms upstairs with an additional huge expansion over the garage, large walk-in closets and an extra sitting room off the Master that can be converted to a 5th bedroom. Fabulous Neighborhood, great lot for a pool.



GREAT FALLS, VA
Offered at \$4,990,000

LUXURIOUS LIVING ~ PRIVATE FAMILY COMPOUND

Tucked away down a private, gated driveway, this SPECTACULAR "one-of-a-kind" Estate features everything a home buyer could wish for. This recently updated and unbelievably maintained property offers a rooftop deck, pond views, and complete privacy on 6 acres. Make this your own private retreat with a huge media room, sport court, in-home office space, along with embassy-size rooms for entertaining and 2 first floor bedroom suites. Two other homes available, additionally priced, and/or could be sold separately for a total of 12 acres.



McLEAN, VA
Offered at \$7,500,000

EXQUISITELY RENOVATED FARMHOUSE

Exquisite is the only way to describe this 1938 farmhouse completely renovated, restored and expanded by architect David Decker. A completely private 2 acres in the middle of one of McLean's most prestigious neighborhoods, this charming home has so much to offer. Beautiful finishes, grand rooms for entertaining, a wrap-around front porch, French doors throughout, beautiful views along with 7 fireplaces.





The Sun Design open house features a newly expanded kitchen with a warm farmhouse feel. It can be seen during a free Sun Design tour that runs concurrently with the Great Falls Studios Tour.

ART TOUR COMPANION EVENT FEATURES REMODELED HOME

*TOUR SPONSOR SUN DESIGN SHOWS OFF ITS CAPABILITIES,
BRINGS 'ART' TO HOME RESTORATION*

A second tour that runs concurrently with the Great Falls Studios Tour will be hosted by Sun Design, an architectural design-build remodeling firm—same days, same hours.

Visitors interested in reinventing their own homes can drop by an open house where Sun has partially remodeled the main living level, to include a kitchen that is now open to the family room, and more. Craftspeople from the company will guide visitors through the space while answering questions and educating them on the design-build process.

Sun Design, which is based in Burke and has been in business for more than two decades, has just opened its second office in McLean. For the second year, it is the sole sponsor of the Great Falls Studios Tour. The

company's financial support makes the art tour possible.

The partnership between a community arts organization and a regional company that brings new life to homes is based on the value of good design, each organization says. "We're delighted to have a company supporting our art event that places such importance on aesthetics in its home remodeling," said Laura Nichols, president of Great Falls Studios.

Location of the Sun Design open house is shown on our map, pages 8 and 9, with a yellow-and-brown icon. Two of the home-based art studios on the Studio Tour are also located in homes where Sun has completed renovation work. You can find out which ones by looking at the key with our map.

FOR HUNGRY TOUR VISITORS: A CHOICE OF LUNCH SPOTS

FOUR GREAT FALLS RESTAURANTS ARE OFFICIAL WATERING HOLES

Four Great Falls restaurants are participating in the 2012 Studios Tour as tour partners. They will be open for lunch or dinner.

The four are L'Auberge Chez François, BRX American Bistro, Mediteranee Restaurant and the Old Brogue Irish Pub. (Mediteranee will

be open on Saturday only.) All four are shown on our map and accompanying key, on pages 8 and 9 of this newspaper insert.

The restaurants provide a range of cuisines and price points. Dining at any of them offers a respite from busy art sightseeing.

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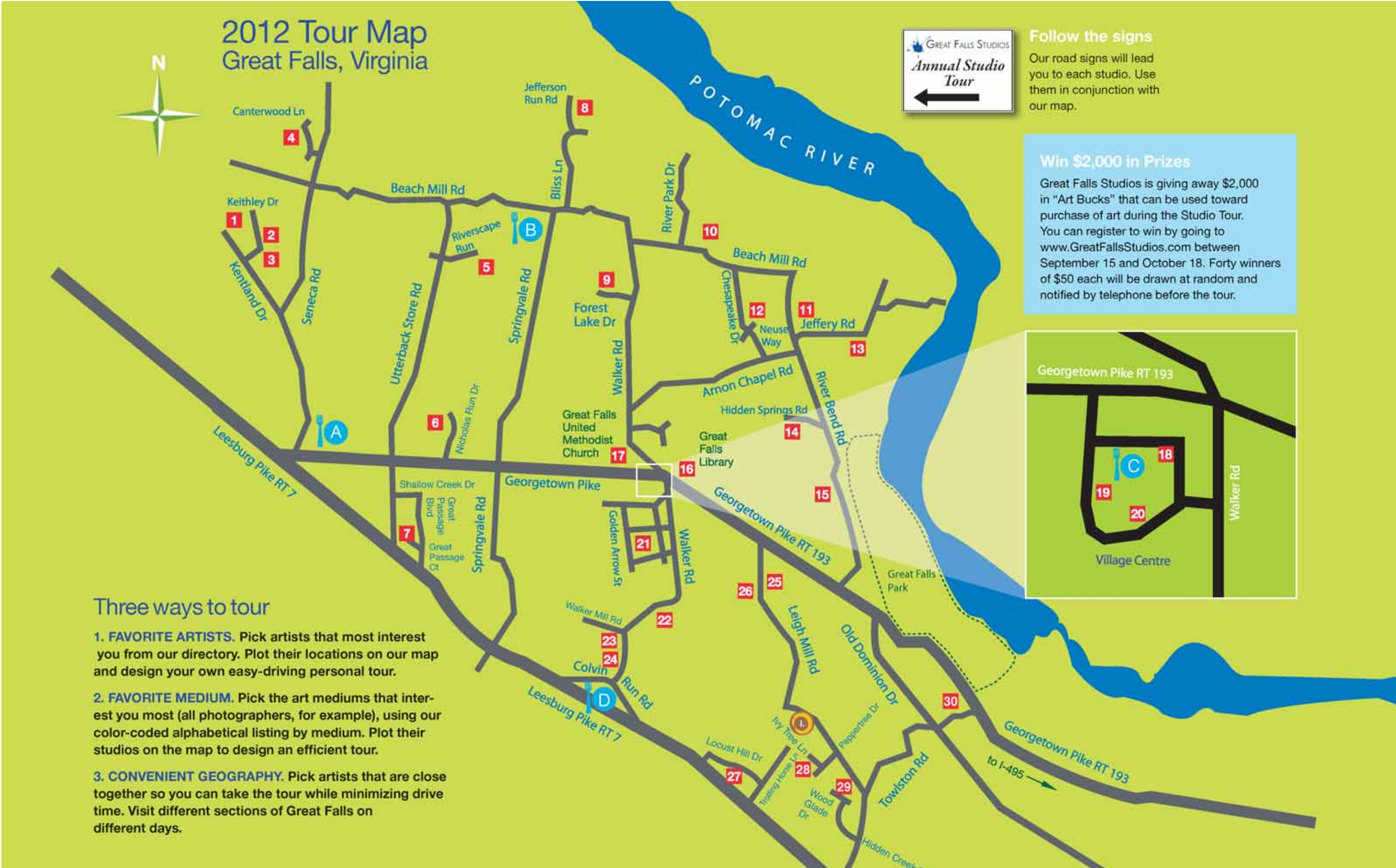
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MEET THE ARTISTS
Alphabetical listing of TOUR ARTISTS by MEDIUM

Table with 2 columns: Artist Name and Studio Location Number. Rows are categorized by medium: Digital Artists, Fiber Artists, Flower Designer, Jewelry Designers, Layered Paper Artist, Mixed Media Artists, Painters, Photographers, Potters, Printmaker, Sculptors, Wood Carver, and Art School.



How to Read Our Map

Finding the artists: Numerals in red squares on our map show the locations of individual art studios or other art venues. They are keyed to an alphabetical list of artists by medium.

Home restoration: A yellow-and-brown Sun icon shows the location where Sun Design staff will walk visitors through a recently completed home renovation. This home will be open to all visitors of the tour. Details are listed below:

Sun Design Home Remodel Site: 1052 Leigh Mill Road. Explore the warm farmhouse feel of a country, rustic kitchen with large center island, new pantry, breakfast area, powder room, and mud room.

Sun Design Bonus: When you visit the renovated art studio of painter Jennifer Duncan, #23 on map, and home of Nancy Broyhill and painter Robert Gilbert, #29 on map, you'll be seeing other reinvented spaces by Sun Design.

Where to have lunch or dinner: Letters in blue circles show the locations of four participating restaurants, representing a variety of cuisines and price points:

- A. BRX American Bistro
1025-I Seneca Road
703.433.9050
www.brxgf.com
American cuisine, alfresco dining, www.brixgreatfalls.com.
- B. L'Auberge Chez François
332 Springvale Road
703.759.3800
French Alsatian cuisine, serving lunch and dinner.
- C. The Old Brogue Irish Pub
760 Walker Road
703.759.3309
Art Studio Tour special luncheon \$11.95, 11:00-3:00.
- D. Mediterranean Restaurant
10123 Colvin Run Road
703.757.9300
French Mediterranean food, open for lunch and dinner, Saturday only

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Great Falls School of Art
is a Program of **Great Falls Foundation for the Arts**
www.greatfallsart.org

Save the Date: We are thrilled to offer a week long **Figure Painting Workshop** Monday – Friday, Nov. 5 – 9, by renowned Teaching Fellow **Lea Colie Wight**. Space is limited to 10 students, Register online at www.greatfallsart.org

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ARTISTS TO GIVE AWAY \$2000 in PRIZES ONLINE

*YOU CAN WIN ONE OF FORTY \$50 'ART BUCKS'
IN A RANDOM DRAWING AT GREAT FALLS STUDIOS' WEBSITE*

Great Falls Studios, organizer of the Ninth Annual Great Falls Studios Tour, has announced that its member artists are giving away forty gift certificates, each worth \$50, to be used toward purchase of art on the tour. The certificates are called Art Bucks.

The giveaway takes place via a drawing now being held, through October 18, at the Great Falls Studios website: www.GreatFallsStudios.com. To win, simply register online. Forty winners will be picked randomly and will be informed by phone prior to the Studio Tour. Winners can pick up their Art Bucks at the Great Falls

Library on tour days. The library is one of the venues on the tour.

The Art Buck program has two main goals. One is to encourage you to visit our website, where you can meet artists online while you are registering for an Art Buck or look at our virtual gallery, where the art changes monthly. The other is to stimulate sales of local art at the Studios Tour.

Each participating artist will be selling original art "Made in Great Falls." The work includes some of the finest art produced in the Metro area. And it is offered at reasonable prices—lower than you would pay in leading galleries.



You can win a \$50 gift certificate, called an Art Buck, by going online. In all, \$2,000 in prizes will be given away for purchase of art during the tour.

HOLIDAY ART SALE TO BENEFIT SCHOOL

*NEXT GREAT FALLS STUDIOS EVENT TO RAISE
MONEY FOR CHILDREN'S' ART RESOURCES*

Once the dust settles from the studio tour, there's more art on the horizon for Great Falls—and this time it will focus on art education for younger kids.

The annual Great Falls Studios Holiday Art Sale will be held December 8 and 9 from 10:00 to 5:00 at the Village Green Day School, 790 Walker Road, just south of the Village Centre. During the sale, selected artists from Great Falls Studios will sell paintings, photographs, pottery, jewelry, art quilts, cards and other art that is especially suitable for the gift-giving season. "

This is a great time to buy last-minute presents that are 'Made in Great Falls,'" said Linda Jones, a

painter who organizes the event for Great Falls Studios. "It's also an opportunity to buy high-quality artworks for yourself."

A percentage of all sales will be donated to the school to help build its art education program. The Village Green Day School is for pre-school-age children.

For up-to-date listings of other arts events scheduled throughout the year by Great Falls Studios, you can go to the calendar at the group's website: www.GreatFallsStudios.com. One upcoming event: the Great Falls Studios Art Boutique at Herndon ArtSpace (750 Center St., Herndon, VA). It will open Tuesday, October 28, through Saturday, November 3, 10:00 to 5:00.

Purchase tickets to all 8 performances and save \$40!

The Discovery Series

2012-2013

Chamber music at Wolf Trap:
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Enjoy a fascinating Q&A session with the artists + be part of a nationwide broadcast!

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center <i>Founder's Day Celebration</i> Bruch, Brahms, Dohnányi Fri., October 12 at 8 pm	Parker String Quartet Debussy, Liszt, Dvorák Fri., March 1 at 8 pm
Ingrid Fliter, piano Haydn, Beethoven, Chopin Fri., November 2 at 8 pm	Chatham Baroque J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Biber, Schmelzer Fri., March 15 at 8 pm
JACK Quartet Derek Bermel, clarinet World premiere Wolf Trap commission plus Ligeti and Brahms Fri., January 11 at 8 pm	Peter Kolkay, bassoon Wolf Trap Debut Artist with Alexandra Nguyen, piano and Deirdre Chadwick, oboe Moravec, Poulenc, Lalliet Fri., April 5 at 8 pm
Steven Isserlis, cello Kirill Gerstein, piano Liszt, Busoni, Brahms, Bartók Fri., January 25 at 8 pm	<p>Parker String Quartet: 3/1</p>
America's National Parks: Through the Artist's Lens, Vol. 2 Featuring Wolf Trap Opera Company alumni, pianist Kim Persinger Witman, and the photography of Terre Jones Fri., February 15 at 8 pm	

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Ninth Annual Great Falls
Studios Tour 2012

MEET A PALETTE OF ARTISTS: FROM POTTERS TO PAINTERS

*STUDIOS TOUR TAKES YOU ON A highly
PERSONAL ADVENTURE IN CREATIVITY*

On this year's studios tour you can find a wood carver wielding a chain saw. Or a weaver who dyes wool on her front porch. Or a printmaker

outsourcing lithographic stones on a historic printing press.

In all, there are 49 artists taking part, and they all have stories. Each

creates something different. And each works in a personal space that says something novel about the creative process. You can meet them

all and let some of the magic rub off.

Here's what you'll discover when you interact with the artists of Great Falls:

POWWOW With POTTERS

There are four potteries on the tour. They range from a historic outbuilding on an 18th-Century farm to a converted two-car garage. These studios are particularly interesting to visit because so much is going on—fiery kilns, splattery wheels, drying racks, earthen colors. Watch talented craftspeople transform wet clay into urns, mugs, dishes, fountains, serving plates—even miniature animals.



Laura Nichols, potter (Studio #14)

SCHMOOZE With SCULPTORS

You'll discover human figures and animals cast in bronze, or bright abstractions in wood. Studios this year: a converted shed that doubles as an art school and a small barn in an orchard. Witness the creative process in three dimensions and get insight into how the human brain copes with viewing art from multiple perspectives.



Jonathan Fisher, sculptor (Studio #4)

PUTTER With PAINTERS

Painters make up the biggest group on the Tour: 21 of them.

These artists are as different as cats and dogs, guns and butter, Romney and Obama. Some of them work in watercolor, oils, acrylics. Pastel and charcoal artists are in this group, too.

You can check out wildlife art, shimmering abstract pieces, ocean scenes, still lifes, landscapes, portraits. Some painters produce towering creations, some miniatures only a few inches across. You can even commission paintings for your home. Visit some of these brush-wielding artisans in group venues, such as the Artists' Atelier, where 15 creative types do their thing in a charming oversized garret. Find others at the Great Falls Library, the Great Falls United Methodist Church, or in a variety of home-based studios, one as entertaining as the next



Michela Mansuino, painter (Studio #24)

BEFRIEND PHOTOGRAPHERS

If you're a camera buff, expect great shooting tips. Visit an old-fashioned darkroom or discover cutting-edge digital wizardry via computer. Revel in incredible images that range from black-and-white photograms to stunning views of DC-area monuments. Learn about lenses and other equipment, but pay special attention to the greatest piece of photographic equipment of all—the human eye. There are eight photographers and a digital artist on the tour.



Jan Bender, photographer (Studio #2)

Jabber About Jewelry

Three designers are on the tour. You'll find one in an in-town shop, another in the treetops in a contemporary house off the beaten path, still another at the Methodist Church. Hear tales of design, adventure and inspiration. See amazing wearable art and high fashion.



Donna Barnako, jewelry designer (Studio #10)



Roberta Pruett Beasley, mixed media (Studio #24)

Mingle With Mixed Media

Look for the unexpected—from bathroom sinks to 3-D wall hangings made of weird stuff. Discover unlikely creations. Find out where offbeat ideas come from. "Mixed" means combinations of different art media, so there are always surprises, including bizarre textures.



Vad Moskowitz, weaver (Studio #3)

FRATERNIZE With Fiberists

See how quilting has become high art—with stunning traditional designs or mind-blowing contemporary works. Watch talented hands at work. There are two quilters in this group (some quilters prefer to be called fiber artists these days). There's also a weaver (her loom rocks) who makes small purses.

(Continued on page 14)



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CONTINUED

These may be the best of all. Meet a printmaker (old-fashioned press), a layered paper artist (complete with baby grand piano in the studio), a wood carver (that's the one with the chain saw), and a floral designer (see live flowers as art).

Ronni Jolles, layered paper (Studio #12)

Yeganeh Hejazi (Studio #7)

Every year our tour has artists you've never met before. In 2012, six of them are new to the event—or returning after an absence. And that means different art for you to see. You'll find these creative talents at venues #1, #7, # 16, #17, #24, #25.

Want to learn more about artists on the tour? For more samples of their work and a profile, go to: www.GreatFallsStudios.com. For some artists, you can also link to a personal website. Then enjoy the tour, the art, the studios, the creative process, friendly conversations, extraordinary properties, our artful community—and, at some unspecified studios, free cookies while they last.

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