

Ed Heberg, president of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, speaks at the annual remembrance ceremony at the memorial Wednesday, Sept. 11.

# Great Falls Remembers 9/11

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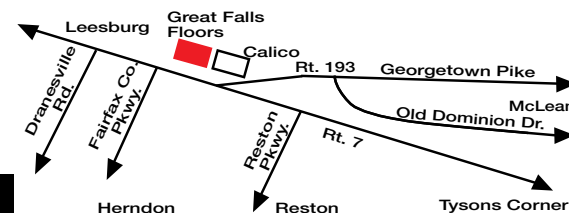
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# NEWS

**The Great Falls Freedom Memorial hosts the community's annual 9/11 remembrance ceremony Wednesday, Sept. 11.**

PHOTOS BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION



## First Responder Tells 9/11 Story

**Deputy Fire Chief Robert Zoldus speaks at annual remembrance.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial hosted their annual 9/11 remembrance ceremony Wednesday, Sept. 11. More than 40 people gathered at the memorial to reflect on the 12th anniversary of the attacks, and to pay tribute to the six Great Falls residents who died that day.

Great Falls residents Marine (Ret.) 1st Lt. Richard Gabriel, Ann C. Judge, Barbara K. Olson, Lisa J. Raines, Diane M. Simmons and George W. Simmons all died when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.

"The purpose of this monument is to provide a location for Great Falls residents to gather and remember those citizens who died in defense of our country, not only on Sept. 11, 2001, but in all of our previous wars," said Ed Heberg, president of the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial. "The monument is the location we use to remember our veterans and our first responders on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, as well as 9/11, or as it's now known, Patriots Day."

Members of the St. Thomas a Becket choir and Boy Scouts from Troop 55 assisted with the ceremony, leading the crowd in the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance, respectively.

**THE EVENT'S GUEST SPEAKER** was Deputy Fire Chief Robert Zoldus of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Zoldus was the commander of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team, which deploys around the world in response to disasters and attacks.

Zoldus was with the team during 11 deployments to Turkey, Iran, Haiti and Japan, but on Sept. 11, 2001, their assignment took them as close to home as they've ever been.

He said after the first planes hit in New York, the

team began to mobilize, expecting a possible deployment to assist the New York City first responders.

"With events around the world, we have as much as 24 hours to plan and prepare as we travel there, but on 9/11 we were game planning as we were coming down the street as if we were responding to a normal fire," Zoldus said. "On South Washington Boulevard with the team on buses and our equipment on trucks behind us. Squad leaders were prepping their teams like normal, but when we turned the corner, saw the smoke and saw the collapse a hush went over from the front to the back. There was a lot of 'Oh My God' and 'Can you believe this?' and then we steeled ourselves and got ready to go to work, because that's the way we can help fix the problem."



**Fairfax County Deputy Fire Chief Robert Zoldus speaks at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial about his experiences as a first responder to the Pentagon after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.**

American Airlines Flight 77 had hit the Pentagon in such a way that a corner of the building had to be shored before the rescuers could enter.

Zoldus said one of his strongest memories was placing the first American flag atop the Pentagon. Not the large one that was eventually draped over the side, but a smaller one on top of the roof, which was brought by two Marines Zoldus escorted to the roof.

"I remember in the hours going into Sept. 12, we had our air tanks and were crawling low to get below the smoke and the dust, and we were searching a hallway door to door and room to room. We opened up one door and crawl in, only to see a pair of immaculately shined shoes and the man wearing them was armed and not happy I was there," he said. "He asked what I was doing, and I told him we were with search and rescue and he said, very seriously, 'We're doing business right now.' And that signaled to me that the Pentagon was back in service, back protecting this nation."

**ZOLDUS** said while Sept. 11 taught him and his team valuable lessons about responding to an emergency, it was the lessons of Sept. 12 that he hopes people learn from.

"I remember the teamwork, the patriotism, the selfless sacrifice in days following the attack. That's why Sept. 12 is so important, it showed how our great country responded."



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

**Bottom from left, Ricki Harvey, Caroline Benitah, Kathleen Wells and Judy Shah Mahanes. Top from left, Allison Grandstedt, Annette Kerlin, Mary Butcher, Roz Drayer and Laura Bumpus. Benitah, Wells and Butcher were awarded scholarships by the Great Falls Friends and Neighbors Friday, Sept. 13.**

## Friends and Neighbors Award Scholarships

**Four local women receive total of \$7,500 in scholarship money.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Great Falls Friends and Neighbors awarded \$7,500 in scholarships to four local students at their annual meeting Friday, Sept. 13.

"We raise \$5,000 every year from our annual bridge jambo-ree, which is the bulk of the money we award," said Allison Grandstedt, a member of the group's scholarship committee. "The scholarships are meant to help women, mostly Northern Virginia women, who are in college or returning to college. This luncheon is always fun because we're able to meet some of the women we're giving scholarships to, and hear their stories."

George Mason University students Mary Butcher and Kathleen Wells received \$2,500 and Northern Virginia Community College student Kathleen Monroe received \$1,500. Caroline Benitah, a student at George Mason, was also awarded the \$1,000 Bette Carter Dance Scholarship.

Butcher, a resident of Manassas, is currently working on her degree in management from George Mason. She served for two years in the Air Force, and says the scholarship will allow her to graduate without any debt.

"This scholarship means more to me than words can say," Butcher said. "I'm thrilled and honored to have been selected."

Wells is a staff registered nurse at Reston Hospital Center and is enrolled in George Mason's nursing program, where she has been named to the dean's list.

"I've been putting myself through school for the past five years, and this is the first scholarship I've received," she said. "It's a huge relief knowing I won't have to be worried about paying back tuition for this semester, I can focus 100 percent on school."

Benitah, who is from Arlington, will graduate in May from George Mason with a degree in dance, a minor in business and a 3.6 GPA. She is a member of the executive board of the student-run Mason Dance Company.

"I'm so fortunate to get this scholarship, it can be a lot harder to get something like this when you're in dance or the arts," she said.

Benitah says after graduation she will return to Brazil, and says she plans to try out for a spot in the opening or closing ceremony for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

The Great Falls Friends and Neighbors were formed two years ago when the Great Falls Women's Club and Great Falls Neighbors joined forces.

In addition to their annual Bridge Jamboree, they host a poetry contest for local elementary school students, run a haunted house every Halloween and more.





## NEWS

**Employees of Great Falls Nails and Spa, which celebrated a new name and re-opening Saturday, Sept. 14.**

PHOTOS BY  
ALEX McVEIGH/  
THE CONNECTION



# Great Falls Nails and Spa Re-opens

## Salon has new name, second floor with spa facilities.

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

**G**reat Falls Nails and Spa officially re-opened under their new name with a party Saturday, Sept. 14. Formerly known as Glamour Nails and Spa, the owners decided to change the name to reflect their commitment to the community.

"We wanted the name change to reflect our connection to our customers in Great Falls, we offer facilities that people often have to travel to Tysons Corner and beyond to get, but right here in Great Falls," said Kim Tran, one of the owners. "We wanted people to know we are committed to being a local business, we pride ourselves on getting to know our clients and what they like."

The first floor of the salon, which is located just north of the Georgetown Pike-Walker Road intersection, contains standard manicure, pedicure and other services.

The new second level offers massage, facials and spa-style manicures and pedicures, and features a staff masseuse and aesthetician.

Kristin Morgan has been a client of the salon since they opened two years ago, and can attest firsthand to their connection with their clients.

"Every time I come, everyone knows my name, and I'm not the only one. Everyone who walks in seems to be a regular, the employees all know them and what they're here for," she said. "Plus, they know how to throw a great party."

The party Saturday included gift card giveaways for those who attended, as well as an appearance by Xtreme Game Experience, a 44-foot trailer with televisions inside and out, containing multiple Sony,



**The staff of Great Falls Nails and Spa in their second floor spa area Saturday, Sept. 14.**

Microsoft and Nintendo game consoles.

Great Falls Nails and Spa is located at 731 Walker Road, Suite H1. They can be found on Facebook and at [www.greatfallsspa.com](http://www.greatfallsspa.com).

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## Great Falls Historical Society Kicks Off Fall Season

The new season of the Great Falls Historical Society begins Sept. 18 with a re-enactment of Confederate guerilla fighter John S. Mosby.

Great Falls resident and Civil War enthusiast Rick Turner will speak in the first person about Mosby's legendary military career and Mosby's role in shepherding the Confederate Cavalry through Great Falls en route to Gettysburg 150 years ago. Turner will also discuss Mosby's life before and after the war, and the political and economic issues of the war.

Turner will be dressed in an exact replica of Mosby's Confederate dress uniform and will have authentic examples of the different Confederate uniforms, weapons and flag. Alongside Turner will be his wife Debbie, who will portray Mosby's wife Pauline, also dressed in the style of the day. A popular public speaker, Turner is currently commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. His great-great-grandfathers, several great-great uncles and great-great-cousins served in the Confederate Army. The free event is Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. For more information, go to the Great Falls Historical website at [www.gfhs.org](http://www.gfhs.org).

## Great Falls Grange to Host Political Debates

Local political debates sponsored by Great Falls Citizens Association will held be at the Great Falls Grange on Tuesday, Oct. 8. The program commences at 7 p.m. with a summary and vote on the GFCA budget and a briefing on the \$250 million school bond referendum, including provisions made for public schools attended by community students. The candidate presentations and debates start at 7:45 p.m.

The 34th District State Delegate contest is between two-term Republican incumbent Barbara Comstock and Democratic challenger Kathleen Murphy. Both are longtime McLean residents that previously worked for the federal government and U.S. Congressmen. Today, each is an officer and co-owner of a local consulting firm and strong supporters of job creation, education and transportation; albeit, they have sharp differences concerning financial priorities, defining certain U.S. Constitution rights, and Virginia obligations in connection with some federal legislation.

The agenda includes a shorter program for Fairfax County Sheriff candidates. Republican Bryan Wolfe will participate and answer questions whereas Democrat Stacey Kinkaid will have a substitute make a presentation on her behalf as she is participating in a concurrent League of Women's Voters event.

The Great Falls community is encouraged to submit questions to be utilized during the delegate and sheriff programs. All proposed questions should be emailed to [healthbp@verizon.net](mailto:healthbp@verizon.net) by Oct. 2 and will be reviewed by a non-partisan GFCA Debate Committee. After the debates, the audience and candidates can directly inter-mingle at the Grange for about 30 minutes.

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**Students in the Art Explorers class at Art at the Center in Mount Vernon explore mediums like clay, collage, painting and drawing. Experts say creating art helps children build relationships.**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ART AT THE CENTER

## Art Matters Local experts say art classes help children develop new skills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**I**f you walk into Art at the Center in Mount Vernon on a Tuesday morning, you might find a group of preschool students and their parents or caretakers squishing potting clay with their fingers. In the same room, several other tots could be brushing an array of paint colors across art paper, making a mess but having fun. The children are part of the Center's Art Explorers class, designed for children ranging from 18 months to 5 years old.

"Parents say it is their happy place where they can explore with their child without worrying about a mess," said Kathryn Horn Coneway, director of Art at the Center. "It brings both parent and child into the present moment."

In addition to having fun, art educators say that art can help children develop a myriad of skills and abilities that range from self-expression to self-confidence.

"Creating art can help them work through their emotions," said Gioia Chilton, an art therapist who teaches art at Marymount University in Arlington. "It gives them a place where they can be confident, and where they can feel powerful and in control over something."

Creating art teaches patience, said Coneway. "When children are working with clay, for example, there is little instant gratification. You make a piece, it has to be fired and then glazed. It is a process. But at the end, they can tell the story of how they made it."

Chris Haggerty, a professor of fine and applied arts at Marymount University, says research shows that art develops the right side of the brain, which affects perception rather than logic. "Creating art teaches problem-solving skills," she said. "They get to try things out, see if they work, change their minds and start over."

Coneway, who is also an art

therapist, said she has seen first-hand how art can help children share feelings that are difficult to verbalize. "Making things is a wonderful way for kids to connect ideas, express emotions and share what is going on with them," she said. "Additionally, art is noncompetitive. Children progress at their own rate."

Art also helps establish a sense of community, she added. "Sometimes connections happen when children share their art," she said. "It is neat when kids ask questions of each other. The sharing of what they make is as important as what they make."

Carolyn Webber, an art teacher at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said, "Art is a universal language. Art education enables students to make creative connections with art and the world around them. [It] provides life-long learning in areas of visual arts, art history, interdisciplinary connections, multiculturalism and job opportunities."

Haggerty said, "The most successful people are creative thinkers, people who don't just think linearly, but who think outside of the box."

Coneway hopes that both her classes and others establish a life-long appreciation for art. "One of the things that I hope is happening is that parents and children are leaving my classes, going home and asking, 'Can we set up a corner of our basement and have an art studio at home?'"

**"Art is a universal language. Art education enables students to make creative connections with art and the world around them."**

— Carolyn Webber, art teacher, St. Andrew's Episcopal School



**Creating art projects, such as these, which were made by students at Art at the Center in Mount Vernon, helps strengthen artistic behaviors such as observation, persistence and reflection.**



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Skye Jannery-Barney of Great Falls on stage at the Miss Junior Teen America 2013 competition.**

## Great Falls Teen Represents Virginia in Miss Junior Teen Competition

Skye Jannery-Barney of Great Falls represented the state of Virginia in the National Miss Junior Teen America 2013 competition this summer in Orlando, Fla. She is the current Miss Junior Teen Virginia 2013. Skye is an eighth grader in the Academic Advanced Program (AAP) at Kilmer Middle School. Skye won the overall National Academic Achievement Award at the Miss Junior Teen America pageant competition.

Skye plays soccer and basketball for Great Falls and she loves to act and

perform as she demonstrated this spring by performing with Voices of Now on Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. (part of the Kilmer Drama Club program). Skye is interested in the business of fashion.

Girls were judged in the areas of academic achievement, athletics, fitness, interview, fashion and style, formal wear and performance.



**Skye Jannery-Barney**

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# OPINION

## Addressing Virginia's Economy

Ending gridlock in Congress and supporting health care reform would be huge steps in supporting economic recovery in Virginia.

**T**he strength of Virginia's economy, especially Northern Virginia's economy, comes significantly from federal spending.

So while the governor and other elected officials claim that Virginia's success is because Virginia is a low-tax state with fewer regulations, it's worth considering that the sequester and continuing gridlock in Congress threaten Virginia's most important resource, federal spending.

Virginia receives more federal money per capita than any other state except Alaska. Virginia received \$136 billion in federal funds in

2010, more than \$17,000 from the feds per capita, and paid \$2,807 per capita in federal income taxes. (Data from Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2010 by state and county from the Census Bureau.)

### EDITORIAL

Two examples: \$1.3 billion in federal transportation money came to Virginia. Virginia was on the receiving end of more than \$5,000 per capita in defense spending.

Current Virginia elected officials have barricaded the doors against expansion of an industry that would add more than 30,000 quality jobs in Virginia at no cost to taxpayers. The

expansion of Medicaid, which would provide healthcare to as many as 400,000 Virginians who currently cannot afford health insurance, would give Virginia's economy a significant boost, and create more than 30,000 jobs. Virginia taxpayers will still pay the taxes that will fund the expansion of Medicaid in other states without reaping the benefits of a healthier population and economic stimulus.

Private sector growth in Virginia depends on its educated and sophisticated workforce, on top school systems and universities. It depends on reliable transportation systems and access to high-speed Internet. And it depends on continuing to attract federal contracting dollars.

Virginia's U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner both work in the best interests of the commonwealth when they work to promote a culture of moderation and compromise in Congress.

## Combatting Human Trafficking in Our Own Communities

BY DELEGATE BARBARA COMSTOCK  
R-34TH DISTRICT



**“Y**ou're pretty. You could make some money.”

That was the headline of a recent Washingtonian Magazine article about young girls in our region who are lured through social media into the terrifying world of human trafficking.

The piece featured the experience of a Fairfax County girl who responded to that message on Facebook only to find herself utterly vulnerable in a car with four complete strangers. One of the men told her they were going to prostitute her as a type of initiation. She pushed the man's hands away when he offered her cocaine. When the white powder spilled over the car seat, the man then smashed her head into the window.

She was pulled out of the car and led around the corner of an apartment building. Her nightmare was just beginning to unfold. The man held a knife to her neck and when she refused his sexual demands sliced her across the forearm with the knife. She was raped 15 times that night—first by the man in the car and then subsequently by a string of other johns. Early the next morning, the men called her a “whore” and a “slut” as they drove her home and threatened to kill her if she ever told anyone what happened.

These horrific events happened in Fairfax County—right in our community. That is why over the past four years, we in the Virginia

General Assembly have put together a bipartisan coalition that is working with groups like the Polaris Project, a leading anti-trafficking organization which administers the national human trafficking hotline, US Attorney Neil MacBride, and The Richmond Justice Initiative to pass new laws to combat human trafficking.

Our legislation cracks down on these predators and the gangs involved in this activity; increases penalties for those engaged in any way in this inhumane industry; and provides more public information and outreach to victims as well as parents, teachers and faith communities so this crime can no longer operate in the shadows. We used to think human trafficking only happened in foreign countries (which of course it does) or to women illegally smuggled into this country (which is also true). But this growing criminal enterprise knows no boundaries—it is present right in our backyard and must be battled on all fronts.

Since new laws have been implemented, police and federal agents have arrested 28 juvenile sex traffickers in Northern Virginia, and have identified 41 juvenile victims, and 100 reported adult victims—all of them American citizens, a majority from middle or upper-class families. We know this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Three years ago, Virginia was at the bottom of the Polaris Project's Anti-Human Trafficking State Rankings. Since we began our work with the coalition, my col-

leagues and I have been successful in passing significant legislation and finding partners in the law enforcement, business and religious communities to collaborate with in fighting this growing crime. Just last week, the Polaris Project announced that Virginia is now ranked in the top category (Tier 1) for our efforts in fighting human trafficking.

We have a great local partner in this effort, Fairfax County Detective Bill Woolf, whose work in cracking down on this crime led him to recommend numerous pieces of legislation to the General Assembly. HB546, which I introduced on the recommendation of Detective Woolf and other law enforcement supporters, provided additional penalties and tools for prosecutors pursuing traffickers, particularly in the area of gangs such as MS-13, who are now operating prostitution rings in our area that exploit local girls.

We also passed legislation that makes the soliciting of a minor a Class 5 Felony. Another bill passed this year, HB1870, would allow a multi-jurisdiction grand jury to investigate human trafficking activities in cases where the suspect received money for procuring another individual to engage in prostitution.

In May we hosted a Human Trafficking Forum to raise awareness of this growing issue. I was joined by our Congressman Frank Wolf, a leader in Congress on this issue; Detective Bill Woolf, our local law enforcement champion battling this crime; our House Republican Caucus Chair Delegate Tim Hugo; Sara Pomeroy, director of the Rich-

mond Justice Initiative; and Dr. Courtney Gaskins from Youth For Tomorrow, a residential facility that works with at risk youth—including those who have been victims of human trafficking. This forum was held as part of our continuing efforts to ensure that residents are educated on recent developments and can help us in preventing and exposing the human trafficking in our area.

This summer, I brought Sara Pomeroy as a guest speaker to our Young Women's Leadership Program Event. I established this summer program for young women currently enrolled in middle school or high school in the Northern Virginia area. The program's aim is to provide an opportunity for the participants to meet a variety of women leaders involved in various sectors, roles and occupations so that they can ask questions and engage in their own personal and career development. Sara Pomeroy was able to share with the young women her story, talk about how she became a leading advocate against human sex trafficking and educate the women so that they are better equipped to become leaders themselves on halting sex trafficking amongst their peers.

Our community efforts can and will have a real impact on the health and safety of our children and neighbors. Stopping this modern day slavery is very much a 21st century abolition effort. With increased tools to battle this growing crime and a growing group of partners, we can work together to halt this violence in our own communities and throughout the world.

## Great Falls CONNECTION

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## OPINION

### Joining Forces to Prevent Homelessness

To the Editor:

You can prevent homelessness, you can end chronic homelessness, you can move people rapidly out of homelessness. What you cannot do is stand aside and let people fall.

This simple belief—that together we can change the rate and severity of people losing their homes—brings together nonprofits, for-profits, civic leaders and government staff. We each play a special role, depending on our location and mission. For United Community Ministries (UCM), prevention is the key.

What does that look like day-to-day? Consider the children. They need early learning and safe care to get a good start. They need parents that understand how to help them. The children need early intervention for any physical or mental delays.

So programs such as the Bryant Early Learning Center, full-day care for parents of diverse incomes and backgrounds, ensures a good start. Healthy Families, operated by three nonprofits in Fairfax County, provides in-home education and support to new parents. And caring professionals in all these programs ensure that children receive the care they need and deserve.

Consider the adults. In Northern

Virginia, a minimum wage job does not get you far. Rent, transport, food and medicine, clothing... workers need help, not just to get a job, but to get training and support to move on to a career.

Without long term increases in income, workers fall further behind every year.

I have not mentioned housing. Many low cost options, such as boarding houses, have been zoned out of existence. We struggle to create enough homes for the workers in our midst. Land is expensive, businesses need profits and neighborhoods worry about property values.

We have had some notable successes in producing affordable units, especially nonprofit partners like Cornerstones and Wesley Housing. But to make an impact on the large number of families struggling to stay out of homelessness, we must do much more. We must increase our prevention efforts while we find new incentives for affordable housing development.

Homelessness literally is a lack of housing. Whether a family keeps their home through more earning power or through lower rent, the benefit to the community is the same: stability, security and success.

**Shirley Marshall**  
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PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Tresa Schlecht, a member of the Board of the Friends of Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, was one of five public speakers during the Sept. 11 Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees meeting held at George Mason Regional Library in Annandale. She criticized the library's process for discarding books and urged board members to reconsider the "beta" plan.



From left—Library Board of Trustees member Charles Fegan, Board Chairman Willard Jasper and Library Director Sam Clay listen to public testimony during the Sept. 11 Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees meeting held at George Mason Regional Library in Annandale. More than 250 people attended the meeting.

# A New Beginning for Fairfax County Public Libraries?

Library trustees vote to discard beta plan in favor of more public outreach sessions.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

On Wall Street, a "beta" test refers to assessing the risk, volatility and expected return of a particular portfolio.

If Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) officials had a crystal ball to assess the volatility of its planned beta tests this fall, it's likely they may have steered clear of the project that became a quagmire of epic proportions.

"Yes, absolutely, this is the worst PR nightmare," said Library Director Sam Clay, in an interview with The Connection Tuesday, Sept. 10. "I've been amazed at the power of social media, and the inaccuracies in all the blogs, emails and reporting. There's no one magic button to press to correct all the inaccuracies."

There may not be a magic button, but Library Board Chair Willard O. Jasper spoke the magic words that more than 250 critics



The Clements family of Fairfax held up signs protesting proposed "beta" changes during the Sept. 11 Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees meeting held at George Mason Regional Library in Annandale. More than 250 critics of the plan attended the meeting.

of the plan turned out to hear during the Library's Board of Trustees meeting on Sept. 11 at the George Mason Regional Library in Annandale.

Jasper announced that the library board had voted to immediately halt the beta tests until the

board could schedule more outreach and communication opportunities for employees and patrons. The crowd, which spilled out into a hallway where they could watch the proceedings on a video monitor, applauded as the board approved Jasper's motion to suspend

consideration of the plan, a motion submitted by library Director Sam Clay.

"This is a new beginning for us," Clay said after the two-hour meeting. "This is an opportunity to get

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 13

## What's Wrong With This Picture?

County suspends discarding of library books.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Just when Sam Clay, Fairfax County's Public Library director, thought FCPL's public image couldn't get any worse, Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) released photos of bins filled to the brim with discarded library books.

Acting on a tip from a volunteer Friend of the Library member, Smyth drove out to the library's technical operations center in Chantilly, glanced into a bin and saw hundreds of discarded books. A few days later, she made a second trip, found twice as many tossed books and filled a box full of rescued books.

Clay admits the photographs Smyth (D-Providence) took of books in seemingly good condition paid for by taxpayers tossed in trash bins are a powerful, startling image.

But he insists the story is more complex than the photographs suggest.

"The books that were in the dumpster were materials that, in a professional librarian's opinion, a librarian who holds an MLS degree, that these books were no longer usable," Clay said.

"Have we never thrown away a book that was [usable]? Have we ever made mistakes? Of course we have. ... But we go through all kinds of processes and options before the books go to the recycle bins. ... So the material that was discovered, those were carefully reviewed and vetted by our best minds, by MLS librarians," Clay said.

Clay said FCPL's collection includes nearly 300 million books.

"It's an incredible library asset that requires extensive library management; it's not just about acquiring, but de-acquiring. We don't build enough shelves to house all of our books, no library does, because a certain number is always in circulation," Clay said.

"But you see a dumpster full of books, and you think 'My God, what are they doing?' They are being efficient and good stewards of the taxpayer's money by maintaining a vibrant collection, a great collection. We've done that in the face of



PHOTOS BY SUPERVISOR LINDA SMYTH (D-PROVIDENCE)

Sup. Smyth found bins of discarded children's books behind the county libraries' technical operations center.



Dumpster filled with discarded library books.

50 percent budget reduction in past five years for books."

Smyth is not quite satisfied with that answer. After hearing allegations about trashed library books from members of the Friends groups, Smyth decided to investigate the claims herself. On Aug. 29, she drove to the Fairfax County Public Library's technical operations center in Chantilly.

WHAT SHE FOUND, she said, was mystifying and dismaying.

"I found stacks and stacks of books tossed away in these bins behind the center," Smyth said. A few days later, she went back and found that the pile of discarded books had grown.

Furious, she collected a box of books, several in seemingly good condition, and dumped them on the desk of Fairfax County Deputy County Executive David J. Molchany. Molchany is in charge of the county's libraries and archives. The next day, Molchany issued a directive to all branches suspending the practice until the

Board of Supervisors can gather more information, and the public can give its feedback.

According to Smyth, the library suspended the sharing of books with Friends of the Library groups from October, 2012 until May, when the library shifted to a "floating collection" system. Smyth said she estimated about 250,000 books have been thrown out since October.

"What really bothers me is the incredible waste of taxpayers' money. We're in Fairfax County, for Heaven's sake, and our libraries and books are important to us."

"Every system has discards, I assure you they all have discarded books," said Sam Clay, Fairfax County's library director, during an interview with The Connection on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Although the discard issue was not part of the beta plan

SEE DISCARDING, PAGE 15

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# Library Trustees Suspend Beta Plan

FROM PAGE 10

more feedback and people involved in the process.”

Karrie Delaney, the Sully District appointee to the Library Board of Trustees, acknowledged “challenges ahead,” but added that it was “great to see people so engaged and to know that our public libraries are treasured. ... With the support of our community, and the expertise of our library staff and administration, I believe we can build and sustain an exceptional library system that serves all the people of Fairfax County.” Delaney has already planned a series of public town hall forums at Centerville and Chantilly libraries in October.

**SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC** spoke briefly before the board’s vote, imploring board members to put the beta plan on hold.

“Libraries are sacred space. Books are sacred vehicles that transmit our culture,” said Kathy Kaplan, a longtime Reston resident and member of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. “You are the trustees of the library. You have a sacred trust to protect the libraries for the people of Fairfax County,” Kaplan said to applause from the audience.

Criticism of the beta plan had been building since July, when Clay unveiled a program that would test a new organization model at the Burke Centre Library and the Reston Regional Library, the busiest library branch in the county. The reorganization, Clay said, streamlined staffing and eliminated redundancies while retaining a high level of service.

But the plan, which include reduced staffing, cross-training staff members and lowering the education requirements for librarians sparked outrage among library volunteers, staff and patrons who call the plan “disastrous,” “a library meltdown” and “the end of our libraries as we know it.”

Clay said he was taken aback by the tone and tenor of the criticism.

“Everyone has difficulty with change. When all is said and done, when you have been in a job for a while, change is quite rightly a concern. I understand that,” Clay said.

Clay, who has a Master’s of Library Science degree and has been head of the Fairfax library system for 31 years, said a makeover of the of the library system was necessary to deal not only with diminishing budgets, but also a digital

## Scheduled Public Library Outreach Forums

♦ **Sunday Sept. 29** at 2 p.m. at the SEIUVA office  
3545 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 106, Fairfax

♦ **Thursday, Oct. 3** at 7 p.m. at the Centerville Library

♦ **Monday, Oct. 7** at 7 p.m. at Chantilly Library

♦ **Thurs, Oct. 10** at 7 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, 22042

world, where the Internet has replaced newsprint, e-books have supplanted paperbacks, and the latest films stream directly to your laptop.

Clay noted that in the past five years, the libraries’ budget has been cut by 23 percent and library visits have declined about 10 percent. Circulation is down about 6 percent over that time.

“We have a responsibility to look at the future of libraries and find ways to evolve and compete,” Clay said. “It’s a constant question—‘can you try to change too much?’ The beta plan was not etched in stone. It was a test,” Clay said. “And it seemed to me it was prudent, to say, ‘let’s try these things out. Let’s look at things like appropriate staffing levels.’”

But certain measures in the beta

plan, such as giving the county the flexibility to hire librarians who may not have a master’s degree and reshaping the role of youth services librarians—infuriated employees and patrons and sparked a storm of protest.

Clay said he is committed to “starting from scratch,” getting feedback and input from stakeholders and employees. “New beginnings are always good. We welcome everyone’s input,” Clay said.

Michele Endow of Herndon said she looked forward to participating in the outreach meetings. A lifelong library patron, Endow said she was disappointed that Fairfax County seemed to be losing ground when it came to keeping up with library innovations.

“I signed up for computer classes, and instead of computer

terminals, the instructor had just a slide machine. These classes should be hands-on, with computer terminals for students.

**BUT SOME** library staff and members of the volunteer Friends of the Library groups remain skeptical of any real change as a result of outreach efforts.

“I’m glad they put this on hold,” said Anita Ramos of Centerville. “But I won’t be happy until this entire beta plan is dead. Dead, dead and dead. Fairfax libraries have played an important role for ethnic minorities and people who don’t speak English. We need specialists who can provide the knowledge that the Internet doesn’t.”

Another longtime library advocate who asked not to be named because of possible job repercussions said much of the damage has already been done.

“Trashing thousands of perfectly good books, proposing the elimination of librarians, proposing the elimination of services for kids, proposing the downgrading of li-

brary staff both in literal grade and in the variety of depth of their work, sidelining the staff and Friends in the planning process—it is almost a posture of resignation and despair,” he said. “There is already a ruptured trust and lack of confidence from almost every stakeholder group which makes it hard to envision a bright, hopeful new future for FCPL under this leadership.”

“My 32 year commitment has been to produce the very best public library services in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax,” Clay said. “There’s no way I would jeopardize that.”

Clay said the criticism stings—“It is hard. ... I can’t say this whole thing doesn’t bother me”—but what he needs to focus on is helping navigate the future of the library “at an incredibly perilous time.”

“Here’s the bottom line for me. I want the Fairfax County Public Library to be so vital and so vibrant in five years that no one could imagine going a day without interacting with our library,” Clay said.

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### WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/SEPT 18-OCT 4

**Artists Atelier Exhibit: Carol Howard and Lisa Tureson.**  
Reception Saturday, Sept. 28, noon-4 p.m., at The Artists Atelier, 1144 Walker road, Suite G, Great Falls. Meet the artists at the reception and view Tureson and Howard's work highlighting contrast as seen in both artists' style.

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

**Meet the Artist.** Morning hours, at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Terri Parent's fine art photographs are displayed in a show during the month of September. Meet and chat over coffee with Parent Thursday mornings.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

**Ballroom Dance.** 8-9 p.m., lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance at Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. American Tango lesson followed by a dance with DJ music by Bill Powers & TJ Ra playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. 703-759-2685 or [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

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### SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

**America's Adopt a Soldier 5K/10K Fun Walk/Run.** 10 a.m., at Lake Fairfax Park, 400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Wear red, white or blue and run or walk varied terrain in support of America's Adopt A Soldier projects and programs; donate coats for homeless veterans or other items (see at <http://run-walk.eventbrite.com/>) for care package assembly during and after the event. Preregistration only. \$40. <http://run-walk.eventbrite.com>.

**Tea 101: The Basics of Premium Teas.** 1-3 p.m., at Salud Healthy Pantry, 1137 Walker Road, Great Falls. Learn about white, wulong and pe erh teas, the difference between scented, blended and flavored, and taste teas from a variety of regions in the seminar. Advance reservations and payment required. \$25. 703-757-6209 or [www.greatfallsteagarden.com](http://www.greatfallsteagarden.com).

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

**Photograph Matting Workshop.** 7:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. The Vienna Photographic Society holds a workshop. [VPSVA@jnaman.com](mailto:VPSVA@jnaman.com) or [mhfriedm@gwu.edu](mailto:mhfriedm@gwu.edu).

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

**Great Falls Writer's Group.** 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Great Falls Public Library in the large conference room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Facilitator and author Kristin Clark Taylor will lead the group discussion on details of how to get published. Local writers and authors within the community are invited to take part in the twice-a-month meetings. 703-757-8560.

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 28

**Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Proceeds benefit Project Enduring Pride and children's charities; to rent a table contact Richard Cunningham. [drjazz777@mac.com](mailto:drjazz777@mac.com).

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

**Ralph Covert's "Ralph's World."** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The Grammy nominee performs songs from his eight Disney albums in two family-friendly performances. \$15. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).  
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## News

# Discarding of Books Suspended

FROM PAGE 11

discussion, Library Trustee Chair Willard Jasper said he was going to launch an "evaluation and communications committee that now will determine where we are right now and where we want to go."

He said David C.F. Ray would head the committee and that Susan C. Thorniley and Mary Petersen would also be on it, along with members of the public and library staff.

On Sept. 2, Tresa Schlecht, a member of the Friends of Tysons-Pimmit Library and one of five public speakers at the Library Board meeting on Sept. 11, sent an email to Smyth thanking her for investigating the matter:

"Apparently, there are several interpretations of the facts surrounding disposal of excessed books during the past year... I personally visited Tech Ops in Chantilly to

request that we be allowed to pick up discarded books, especially children's books, before the books were placed in the dumpster by Tech Ops. I was told that my request would be considered, but that it was unlikely that TY Friends could obtain discarded books, as it would be unfair to let

TY Friends have books simply because we were willing to pick the books up when other Friends groups could not.

... TY offered to share the books with any other Friends groups, or to use the discarded books as directed by FCPL. Thus,

our request for books would not have required FCPL personnel time, other than an e-mail to me naming the time/dates for pick-ups, nor would it have involved any cost to the county. TY Friends was not granted permission to pick up discarded books at Tech Ops ..."

**"I found stacks and stacks of books tossed away in these bins behind the center."**

— Supervisor Linda Smyth  
(D-Providence)



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# SPORTS

## Beckford Carries Episcopal Football Past Flint Hill

Senior running back runs for 312 yards, 5 touchdowns.

By JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

Episcopal head football coach Panos Voulgaris stood on the field at Flint Hill School and described Maroon running back Nigel Beckford following the team's season opener on Sept. 13.

"He's a Division I running back," Voulgaris said. "Someone's going to get real lucky when they get him at the next level."

While Beckford's future appears bright, the senior from Bridgeport, Conn., showed on Friday the Episcopal football team is lucky to have him now.

Beckford rushed for 312 yards and five touchdowns on 33 carries during Episcopal's 48-28 victory over Flint Hill. Ripping through the Huskies as part of the Maroon's no-huddle offense, Beckford scored on runs of 1, 5, 18, 1 and 36 yards.

"He's the best running back I've coached," Voulgaris said, "and as long as he stays disciplined, he can have a great year."

Episcopal's potent, up-tempo offense was on display early, as the Maroon marched 70 yards in eight plays during the game's opening drive. Beckford punched it in from 1 yard, capping the 2-minute, 20-second drive and giving Episcopal a 7-0 lead.

**AFTER FLINT HILL'S ENSUING DRIVE** stalled at the Episcopal 11-yard line, the Maroon drove 89 yards in five plays, taking just 66 seconds off the clock. Beckford's 5-yard touchdown gave Episcopal a 14-0 advantage.

"[This offense is] a new thing for me coming to Episcopal under Coach Voulgaris," Beckford said. "It's a fun offense. I'm new to the zone [scheme]. I'm a downhill-type runner, but ... [it has made me more] versatile."

Beckford's 18-yard touchdown run with less than 9 minutes left in the third quarter gave Episcopal its largest lead of the day at 28-6.

"I think he's a very good running back," Flint Hill head coach Tom Verbanic said. "I think he does a lot of things very well. ... To go along with that, we were out of position and against a back like that, when you put yourself out of position, you're in real trouble."

After falling behind by three scores, Flint Hill showed resiliency. A 28-yard pick-six by Jake Salewski and a two-point conversion cut the Episco-



Flint Hill running back Christian Martey carries the ball against Episcopal on Sept. 13.

pal lead to 28-14. Beckford scored on a 1-yard run to push the Maroon lead to 21 with 4:02 remaining in the third, but the Huskies quickly answered when Jonny Howard returned the ensuing kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown.

Flint Hill running back Christian Martey broke a 33-yard touchdown run with 10:17 left in the fourth quarter, pulling the Huskies within one score at 35-28, but Episcopal closed the contest with a pair of touchdowns, including a 68-yard interception return by defensive back Gary Williams, who picked off a pair of passes.

"We didn't do many things well today," Verbanic said. "... I just think that they came out and they outplayed us today. We fundamentally did not play very well. ... It was almost chaotic, to be very honest with you, which means that I didn't do a very good job, either."

Episcopal senior quarterback Will Hollister (Leesburg) completed 11 of 17 passes for 128 yards, one touchdown and one interception. He also rushed five times for 38 yards.

Maroon receiver Brian Chase (Baltimore) hauled in a 30-yard touchdown recep-

tion.

**FLINT HILL'S MARTEY** carried 24 times for 120 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore quarterback Justin Saleh completed 15 of 32 passes for 205 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

Episcopal will travel to face Bishop Ireton at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Flint Hill dropped to 1-1, including a 27-18 victory against Paul VI on Sept. 6. The Huskies will travel to face Collegiate at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20.



The McLean Galaxy Green U11 boys' soccer team won Maryland's August Cup. Pictured are: Coach Yuri Bogdanov, Jaz Bisset, Philip Bogdanov, Christopher Coppola, Hayden Evans, Michael Fields, Ian Gresenz, Jad Kanaan, Nico Karagounis, Luke Maloney, Luke Micale, Sami Qusrawi, Aidan Singer and Ryan Wiener.

## McLean Galaxy Green Wins August Cup

The McLean Galaxy Green U11 boys' soccer team won a championship in Maryland's August Cup on Aug. 25.

The team advanced to the finals undefeated by winning against Loudoun Soccer Red, DC Stoddert Blue Metros and Maryland Rush Academy Blue. They went on to beat Braddock Road Youth Elite 4-0 in the finals. The team is coached by Yuri Bogdanov.



The Great Falls Soccer Courage Blue U10 girls' soccer team won a championship over Labor Day Weekend. Pictured are: Coaches Blake and Davorin, Elsa Billingslea, Lynley Birchard, Isabel Butler, Raya Davidson, Alexa Gianoplus, Macey Jacobs, Maya Kanaan, Avery Perez, Lexie Perez, Gianna Russo, Teresa Ryan and Caitlyn Shumadine.

## Great Falls Soccer Courage Blue Wins Title

The Great Falls Soccer Courage Blue U10 girls' soccer team won a championship in the Pride Division of the PWSI Toys for Tots Tournament over Labor Day Weekend. The team advanced to the finals undefeated by winning against McLean Gold, and two PWSI teams. They then beat McLean White U10 Girls 1-0 in a hard fought final championship game. The team is coached by Langley High School girls' soccer head coach Billy Blake and Coach Davorin Husazinovic.

## McLean Football Beats Marshall

The McLean football team defeated Marshall 32-3 on Sept. 12. The victory improved the Highlanders' record to 1-1. Marshall dropped to 0-2.

McLean will travel to face Falls Church at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20. Marshall will host Freedom at the same time.



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## 21 Announcements

### ABC LICENSE

Green Paradise, LLC trading as New Grand Mart, 6326 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22044.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Lydia Lee, Director

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200

### ABC LICENSE

Northern Virginia Deli and Restaurant Corp. trading as Deli Italiano, 9911 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises/Delivery Permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Yasser Baslios, Member

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## 21 Announcements

### ABC LICENSE

V@P of Pentagon Row, LLC trading as Thaiphon, 1301 S. Joyce St, #D4, Arlington, VA 22202.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises, Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Vinai Kulnarong, Managing Member of V@P of Pentagon Row, LLC

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## 21 Announcements

### OBITUARY

**Robert Ray, III** passed away February 6th, 2013 at 90 years of age. A funeral service will be held September 30th, 2013 at 2:45 PM at the Old Post Chapel on Ft. Myer, followed by burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

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## A Study in Contrasts



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The decision for yours truly to participate in a Phase 1 Study at N.I.H. or Johns Hopkins (depending upon availability and qualifications) discussed in last week's column has been put on hold, temporarily. It seems that my oncologist was thinking about me over the holiday weekend and called me on Wednesday following Labor Day to say he had a diagnostic idea concerning me: a 24-hour urine collection (a "Creatinine Clearance Study") which would provide a more accurate reading (than the regular lab work I have; from blood) of my kidney function. Although the logistics haven't been worked out – insofar as exactly how I get a sample to their lab – "the idea" as my father used to say, "has merit," so I happily agreed in principle and awaited a phone call from my oncology nurse to explain the dos and don'ts.

Apparently, there is yet one more chemotherapy drug – of recent vintage, and design, that my oncologist would like to try. He hasn't suggested its infusion previously, because like many drugs, it is filtered through the kidneys; and after four-and-a-half years of varying types of chemo/targeted therapy, (I.V. and oral) the damage to my kidneys – particularly as evidenced by my elevated creatinine level and below-average "glomerular filtration rate" (45 when 60 is normal) is and always has been cause for concern and caution. Collateral damage as I call it, is still damage, and renal failure/kidney dialysis is all it's cracked up to be: not good, so diagnosis-to-date, we've avoided the risk. I've always agreed that since trouble has already found me, I'm hesitant to look for it. Perhaps there will yet be a reward for our prudence and patience.

Per the over-the-phone instructions I eventually received, I submitted my 24-hour sample on Monday morning. At 10:11 that evening, my oncologist e-mailed my test results. Although the colors were not flying, the test results were nonetheless improved, sufficiently so that we are indeed going ahead with I.V. chemotherapy once again. Therefore, for the immediate future, anyway, N.I.H. and Johns Hopkins are "back-burnered." Alimta, the I.V. chemotherapy drug which I will be infusing, is my new best friend. A drug designed specifically for the treatment of patients with non-small cell lung cancer (me); every three weeks living forward, I will be infused at the Infusion Center. The entire process will take about two hours, I was told. "Two hours" I can do in my sleep, which sometimes is exactly what I do (the BarcaLoungers are extremely comfortable and the warm blankets are super cozy). So here we go, again. Nevertheless, it feels right.

If I had been accepted into a Study, my treatment would have been experimental and as much – if not more, about the next person. As it was explained to me by my oncologist, I would have been sort of a guinea pig, being injected with an experimental, non-FDA-approved medicine that previously had showed some promise when treating mice. I have no problem with this process and understand that such pursuits occasionally provide miraculous outcomes, and I'm certainly open to reconsidering should the opportunity present itself. However, going from a definite maybe at N.I.H. to an FDA-approved for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer drug seems like a no-brainer, even for me. Granted, I'm still a long way from anywhere, but it feels good to be back in the game, rather than being on the sidelines, sort of (with all due respect to N.I.H. and Johns Hopkins).

My future is now and thanks to this most recent diagnostic test, my treatment with Alimta can also be now; Friday the 20th, actually.

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

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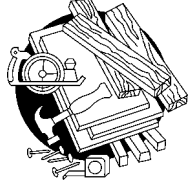
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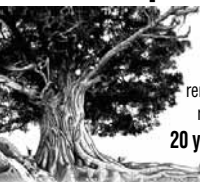
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