

The Turner Farmhouse, Great Falls, may be considered for a possible county resident curatorship program.

# Curator Program Study Being Finalized

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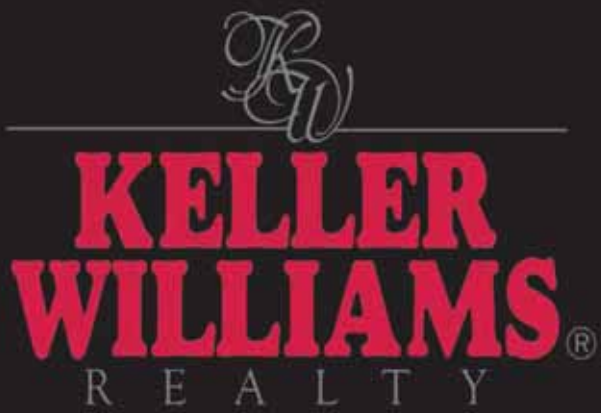
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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Annabelle Dennen played "Down By the Bay."

## 'Beach Party' in Great Falls

The piano students of Artstars Studio were excited about learning and practicing music for their "Beach Party" recital held recently. Selections included "Palm Tree Serenade" by Lynn Olson, "Sandcastles" by Martha Mier, and "Moonlit Tides" by Randall Hartsell.

The instructor for Artstars Studio is Mary Jane Cogan, who is also an artist. She encouraged her young musicians to become artists, too, and create artwork related to the music they played. The result was a recital filled with colorful sights and beautiful sounds.

Artstars Studio is located in Great Falls. For information on fall enrollment, call 703-430-0166 or contact Artstarsmj@ gmail.com



Calvin Dennen played "I Wish I Were a Fish"



Hayley Blankingship displays her mermaid drawing. She played "Jewel of the Sea" by W.T. Garcia.



Christina Lobbin performed "Rainbow Fish" by Catherine Rollin.



PHOTOS BY NEEKA EGHBAI/THE CONNECTION

High Five Worldwide performs in the Great Falls' Concerts on the Green series Sunday evening, Aug. 17.

## Great Falls Residents, Guests Enjoy Concerts on the Green

**Pam & Chuck Finley (Daughter & Father), U.S. Government & Retired Veteran, Ashburn resident & Potomac Falls/Sterling resident**

"We haven't heard of this group before and we decided on the schedule and it sounded good. We come to the Green a couple of times each summer. I love Iona; they're a Celtic band and they play at the Old Brogue. Also, Tom Principato was good last weekend. We watched him and bought his CD. We love the atmosphere of the Green, with children running around."



**Mark & Theresa O'Brien, Consultants, Great Falls residents**

"We come often to the Green, just the other week; whenever we're home. We remember seeing Tom Principato and also Diamond Alley was very good. We love that the Green is a community event and so easy and casual. We've brought many people to this place and everyone enjoys it."

**Nicole Kirkwood, U.S. State Department Diplomat, Great Falls resident**

"I have not heard of this band but they've been great. It's nice to have someplace to go on a Sunday. Every few weeks we come to the Green on Sundays for concerts. I absolutely love the Green; there's been beautiful weather so it's really nice to get out."



**Casey Roscoe, Advertiser, Great Falls resident**

"I've never heard of this group but they've got a funky beat and are also really fun to listen to. They feel fresh. This will be our third time coming to the Green, not this summer, but ever. I love coming here to the Green with kids because I can watch them play together."



— NEEKA EGHBAI



# New Day in Old Dominion

Gay couples eagerly anticipate same-sex marriage in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**D**wayne and Rodney Byrum will be at the Fairfax County Court house long before it opens this Thursday on a civic mission decades in the making — to become one of the first same-sex couples to receive a marriage license in Virginia. The couple has already been married on reality television, appearing in the pilot episode of the TLC show “Wedding Island.” The marriage took place on Dec. 12, 2012 at 12:12 p.m. in Vieques, Puerto Rico.

That was reality television. This week, the marriage license will become a real-life reality.

“We’re bouncing off the walls happy,” said Dwayne Byrum, a native of Lumberton, N.C., who lives in Groveton. “It’s come along a lot faster than we ever dreamed than it would.”

Just a few short years ago, voters in Virginia approved a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Since that time, a dramatic shift has happened as public opinion polls have flipped. That has allowed elected officials more latitude to take actions that would have been unthinkable a few short years ago. Democratic Attorney General Mark Herring, for example, voted in favor of the amendment as a member of the General Assembly. But now that he’s the commonwealth’s chief law-enforcement officer, he says it’s unconstitutional. Now the Virginia courts have struck down that law, and same-sex marriage could become legal in the commonwealth as early as this week unless the U.S. Supreme Court intervenes.

“This is especially exciting because Virginia had to be dragged kicking and scream-



**Liane Rozzell, left, and Linda Kaufman exchange wedding vows in a 2010 District of Columbia service.**

ing into marriage equality for races,” said Liane Rozzell, an Arlington resident whose D.C. marriage to her longtime partner could become legal this week. “So I think it’s really exciting to have Virginia be one of the states where marriage equality will be happening and it won’t be the last one.”

**LAST WEEK**, the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals declined to issue a stay of its ruling affirming that Virginia’s marriage ban is unconstitutional. Unless the U.S. Supreme Court issues its own stay, which it has done in nearly identical pending cases, Virginia’s marriage ban will end on Aug. 20. In a written statement outlining his action, the attorney general said he believes the case will prove compelling for the court because of the “stringent, discriminatory nature of Virginia’s marriage ban.” He also drew attention to Virginia’s previous ban on inter-

racial marriage, a legal precedent known as the Loving case.

“Virginia got that case wrong,” said Herring. “Now we have a chance to get it right and to help extend to all Americans the right to marry the person they love.”

Civil rights advocates across the commonwealth cheered the attorney general’s decision.

“There is no doubt that Virginia is ready for the freedom to marry,” said James Parrish, executive director of Equality Virginia in a written statement. “Marriage validates the commitment couples make to one another and, if the Supreme Court doesn’t intervene, achieving marriage equality in Virginia will be a tremendous step forward.”

**FOR THOSE** who have been fighting for marriage equality for years, recent events seem like a headlong rush into the future.

**“We’re bouncing off the walls happy. It’s come along a lot faster than we ever dreamed than it would.”**

**— Dwayne Byrum**

Back in 2006, many advocates for civil rights believed they could beat back the push toward adding a new amendment to the Virginia Constitution excluding a gays and lesbians from the institution of marriage. But advocates for the Marshall-Newman amendment won a decisive victory, winning with 57 percent of the vote.

“It was shocking,” a native of the Philippines who has lived with his partner in Ballston since 2001 and campaigned against the amendment. “I was surprised very much at how decisive than I thought it was going to be.”

Herring is the first state attorney general to argue successfully at the federal district and appeals levels that a state marriage ban should be struck down.

Virginia had supported a previous request for a stay because of the uncertainty that families could face if marriages proceed in Virginia and neighboring states and the Supreme Court ultimately rules against marriage equality.

“Throughout this process, we have fought for the principle of equality, moving the case forward in a swift and orderly way,” said Herring. “That is why I have asked the Supreme Court to review the case to quickly and definitively resolve the issue for the Commonwealth and all the states.”

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to assist participants Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Sully Senior Center in Chantilly needs a certified personal trainer, preferably with experience working with older adults, for one hour, twice a week. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Wakefield Senior Center in Annandale needs an art instructor, who can teach a variety of mediums, and a garden group leader. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Senior Center in Alexandria needs an experienced boater to share the ins and outs of boating. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria needs a DJ to provide a wide array of music from ballroom to line dancing, Wednesdays 2-4 p.m. and a ballroom dance instructor to teach a basic class on Thursday afternoons. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Adult Day Health Care Centers need marketing assistants to distribute brochures to health care providers. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Bailey’s Senior Center in Falls Church needs office assistance with the front desk and data entry, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs a certified volunteer Zumba Instructor to teach a class on Friday afternoons. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Lorton, Clifton, Franconia, McLean and Falls Church between the hours of 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Mon-

day, Wednesday and Friday. Substitute drivers needed throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Korean Meals on Wheels needs Korean speaking volunteers to deliver meals 11a.m.-1p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Centreville, Reston area. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

❖Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor’s appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).



# Super H 5K Funds Paraplegic Rehabilitation

Unique race allows handcyclists and wheelchair-bound racers to compete.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**H**arry Freedman wears his baseball cap low over his eyes. He speaks quietly, recounting the accident that made him start a 5K eleven years ago.

It was just another day of work for him at Auto Recyclers of Leesburg until an 18 ton front loader backed up onto him, crushing his leg.

He arrived at the hospital in a helicopter under "code blue" - what he says is when the paramedics give up hope.

When he came out of the hospital 54 days later, he had a prosthetic leg.

Eleven years later, his Super H 5k "Walk and Wheel" in Tysons Corner is attracting more adaptive athletes every year. Prosthetic legs, wheelchairs and handcycles are the first to whiz by due to tradition. Then the runners - who have the advantage with both legs - take off.

As a triathlete, training for a race again - his race - felt like a part of the healing process at the time. "The terrible thing I went through gives it some meaning," he said. "It takes a lot to survive something like this, and this was a part of it."

This year's race will begin at the Sport and Health Fitness Club in Tysons at 8 a.m. on Sept. 21.

That first race was to help to offset the cost of a running and biking leg. Now, him and his wife Renie Freedman, donate the proceeds to the adaptive sports program at Medstar Rehabilitation Center. Last year, the 5k made

about \$40,000 thanks to the sponsors and 400 runners who participated in whatever way they could.

His training partner, Don Brazelton, was the one who originally convinced him to start the 5k. Brazelton was a personal trainer at Sport and Health, a place that supported Harry when he was learning how to walk again. Now every year, Brazelton wears a Super H costume - which looks a lot like a Superman costume, but with an H on his chest - to get everyone excited before the race.

"Being an instructor here, he has to convince people to do things they might not want to do," said Harry. "He has personality and the ability to turn people around."

Rather than running this year, Harry will be leading the race in Volkswagen Bug - one of the race's newer sponsors. The founding sponsor of the race is Darren Star of Sex and the City fame. He still donates \$5,000 per year.

With the money, the rehabilita-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY RENIE FREEDMAN

**Renie Freedman and Harry Freedman. Super H 5k was started by Harry Freedman after an accident left him learning how to walk again.**

tion center builds traveling adaptive sports teams. Even though the money is for a good cause, Harry said his favorite part is watching the paraplegics and runners conquer the last hill of the race.

"These kids that come in their wheelchairs and handcycles, they go up that hill and when they get over it, it's hard to describe," he said.

His face lights up - the only way he knows how to describe the feeling of conquering a physically and

mentally draining experience.

He jokes with his wife, who he recently celebrated 40 years of marriage with, that she won't get rid of him any time soon. She laughs.

"You just have to go through life and make the best of it," Renie said.

To register for the race, visit <http://www.MedStarNRH.org/SuperH5K> or call 202-877-1781. The registration fee is \$35 until Sept. 1 and \$45 after.

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# OPINION

## Accountability for Police in Northern Virginia

**There is more transparency in the police shooting in Ferguson last week than in police shootings in Northern Virginia.**

**T**his is not Ferguson, and tanks do not roll down the streets of Northern Virginia driven by police officers pointing sniper rifles at residents. But police departments here are engaged in serious and significant abuse of power. This is the perfect moment to do something about it.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That

means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should, whether the case is open or closed, whether they are about a “police-involved shooting” or information requested by a family about a homicide victim.

This isn’t about race; this is about abuse of power. This is about lack of accountability and denying the public access to information that must be made public.

Consider:

Police shot and killed 46-year-old John Geer standing unarmed in the doorway of his home on Pebble Brook Court in Springfield on Aug. 29, 2013. Unlike in the case in Ferguson last week, the officer who shot him remains unnamed, and we have no official explanation of what happened or why.

In December, 2008, Fairfax County police officers chased 19-year-old Hailu Brook across the county line into Arlington and shot him dead. Brook, a senior at Yorktown High School, had reportedly robbed a BB&T in McLean. The autopsy report, one of the few documents his parents were able to obtain, shows that the teen was shot 20-25 times by three officers with large caliber handguns. Baffled by what happened to their son, the parents sought access to police reports and documents, but even now that the case is closed, their requests have been denied.

Other police-involved shootings include the November 2013 death of James Bryant, 28, a

resident at the Eleanor Kennedy homeless shelter in Mount Vernon, who assaulted other residents at the shelter and then police when they arrived, wrestling away the baton of one police officer; David Masters, an unarmed man with mental illness who was shot and killed by police in 2009 on Route 1 in Mount Vernon; there are many other examples.

Even for family members of crime victims, documents are routinely withheld by police agencies. One example is the 2009 murder of 19-year-old Kossi Djossou, who was shot at his workplace in Alexandria. After the murder, the Djossou family tried to find out what had happened, but their repeated attempts to get documents in the cases were denied. “How can something happen to your son, and you’re never going to know the facts?” asked Geoffrey Josseau.

Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, the power to use deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

It’s time for a change.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Good Old Times

To the Editor:

I really enjoyed Marilyn Campbell’s article about “Keeping School Clutter Under Control” [Connection, Aug. 13-19, 2014], which contains great advice about maintaining a tidy environment in the home relating to school activities and assignments. But I was a bit misled, thinking the local schools were finally putting an end

to clutter in the classroom. I went to elementary school from 1948 - 1956 in Chicago when a classroom consisted of 40 desks in rows and columns, a globe, a flag, and a blackboard. My First Grade class photo even shows 20 extra chairs around the back of the room for 20 more students who weren’t gifted with a regular desk. That was when our students were ranked number 1 in the world, dropping to number 2 when the

USSR launched Sputnik. I’ve only visited a few classrooms recently, but I was shocked by the amount of distracting clutter in each one. Desks aren’t in rows and columns, and some rooms didn’t even have desks. One of my nephews in Chicago has to sit face to face with a classmate. I suggested that he wear a bag over his head. At a class function in Fairfax County, the classroom had so much clutter most visitors couldn’t even pass

through on a tour. Supplies for every activity, project and lesson were strewn around the room or hanging on a wall much like an antique shop. I’m not sure when this trend got started nor the rationale behind it, but considering the ranking of our students in the world today, it might be time to go back to standards that existed when the U.S. was number 1.

**Gene Phillip**  
Great Falls

## Opposing Medicare Expansion

To the Editor:

Four years ago, a practical doctor said something like this: “So let me get this straight. We’re going to be gifted with a healthcare plan we are forced to purchase, and fined if we don’t, which purportedly covers at least 10 million more people, without adding a single new doctor, but provides for 16,000 new IRS agents, written by a committee whose chairman says he doesn’t understand it, passed by a Congress that didn’t read it (but exempted themselves from it), supported by a government which has already bankrupted Social Security and Medicare, all financed by a country that’s broke. So what the “blank” could possibly go wrong?”

Virginians are fortunate that

Medicaid Expansion was defeated in our state. The Fed’s promises of temporary bailouts are merely band-aids, inadequate to the task of repairing dysfunctional “business models” such as Medicaid, Medicare, Obamacare, and the Veterans Administration health care. Their inherent fraud, waste, and corruption end up destroying the very goals they aim to achieve; namely: quality, affordable, health care! Most doctors even refuse to accept new Medicaid patients anymore. They can’t afford to because Medicaid does not reimburse enough to cover their costs. This begs the question: Why would we want to expand a system that would put doctors out of business?

Last week, the California Insurance Commissioner, a Kaiser Fam-

ily Foundation survey, and a Government Accountability Report all reported cost increases, continued failures in the Healthcare.gov exchanges, and billions more in subsidies needed to prevent collapse. So where will the money come from to pay for the doctors, nurses, administrators, hospitals, clinics, contractors, pharmaceuticals, medical schools, research and development, retirement plans, supplies and suppliers, utilities, and overhead? If it’s all “free”, then who will pay for it? “Free” health care is unsustainable because people don’t make responsible decisions when something is free. Furthermore: When government pays our bill, then we lose our freedom because they get to tell us what to do. That’s a dangerous trade-off, because it leads to productive people being enslaved by

an insatiable government that promises to take care of all the world’s unproductive people. Poverty can only be cured by making people more productive, not by eroding their work ethic and creating a culture of dependency.

“Free” Care does not result in Health Care. It results in more layers of expensive bureaucracy that must be created (and paid for by us) in order to administer and enforce largely irrelevant regulations. This increases costs and destroys the doctor-patient relationship. Doctors should be accountable to patients, not bureaucrats. America’s health care system needs market-based solutions such as choice (that meets patient, not government, needs), portability, and tort reform.

**Elinor Bartlett**  
Vienna

## Great Falls CONNECTION

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# OBITUARY

## Stanley I. Richards, 78, of Reston, Dies

Stanley I. Richards, age 78, of Reston, died at INOVA Fairfax Hospital on Tuesday, July 29 after a brief illness. Mr. Richards was born on May 29, 1936 in Washington D.C. He was the first-born son of the late Henry I. Richards and Helen Wheeler Richards. He is survived by his wife Jacqueline Bower Berger Richards, his stepchildren Courtney (Richard) Powell, Gregory (Olivia) Berger, Christopher (Deanna) Berger, Joseph (Thea) Berger, his step grandchildren, Austin Rakes, Trevor Rakes, Cecelia Berger, Preston Berger, Seth Berger. He is also survived by his sister Margaret (Alfred) Hayes of Fort Collins, Colo., his brothers, Harold (Katherine) Richards of Purcellville, Va, George (Gretchen) Richards of Austin, Texas, his many nieces and nephews and his former wife Lilla McCutchen Richards of McLean.

Mr. Richards attended Arlington County elementary schools, graduating from Washington-Lee High School in 1954. After attending Purdue University he transferred to Oberlin College and graduated in 1958 with a BA in Economics. After two years working for Martin Marietta in Littleton, Colo. in Ground Support Equipment Manufacturing he entered The Littauer School (now Kennedy) at Harvard University graduating with a MPA in 1962. Mr. Richards worked at the US Department of Agriculture Management Services and was a Contracting Officer when he left in 1967 to join the family business. The Richards Corporation was a Designer & Manufacturer of Imagery Interpretations Equipment of the US and Western Intelligence Agencies. Light Tables, Film Handling Equipment and Microscope Mounts. The Richards Corporation was the dominant supplier of this equipment from the 1950's to the early 1990's. The Richards Corporation was established by his father in 1946. An example of the equipment, a Light Table is on display at the Smithsonian American History Museum in Washington, D.C. With the collapse

of the USSR, there was no longer any need for this intelligence equipment. Mr. Richards guided the family business in the purchase of a small manufacturer of Galley Inserts Equipment for Corporate Aircraft. The company was moved to Virginia and continues to manufacture Microwaves and Coffee Brewers for Corporate Aircraft. Mr. Richards served in many capacities through the last 50 years, President, Vice President, CEO, and Chairman until the company was sold in 2008 and he retired.

Mr. Richards was a long time resident of McLean, VA and gave his time freely to civic and community affairs having served as member of the Board and President of the following. The McLean Orchestra, McLean Rotary, McLean Business & Professional Association (now Chamber), President of the McLean Community Center, and the Woodside Association. He was appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Science Museum of Virginia in Richmond by three consecutive Governors for a term of fourteen years. Mr. Richards served Oberlin College as Class Agent for many years and led his Class of 1958 in the Capital Campaign in its 25th and 50th reunion years.

Stan loved flying (he received his license at seventeen), tennis, ballroom dancing, and visiting family and friends over good food and wine. His family and friends knew of his enjoyment of a classic gin martini. Mr. Richards was an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax. A memorial service in his honor is planned for 10 a.m. Saturday, September 20, 2014, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. The Reverend Laura Norton-Ludwig will preside.

The family requests the gifts to honor Mr. Richards' memory be sent to Our Daily Bread, 4080 Chain Bridge Rd, #2, Fairfax, VA.

Arrangements by Adams-Green Funeral Home, Herndon, VA.

### FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Temple Beth Torah**, a Reform Jewish congregation and member of the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), holds services and Religious School in the heart of Chantilly. The congregation offers the Northern Virginia Jewish community services that provide numerous spiritual, educational, support and social

opportunities including religious school for member children age 3 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah and confirmation. Our congregation welcomes all members of the community to attend any of our services or events.

For more information, a newsletter, or a membership package call Jennifer Harding, 703-217-8938 or visit [www.BethTorah.net](http://www.BethTorah.net)

Upcoming service and event schedule:

❖ Shabbat Service, Friday, Sept. 5, 7:30 p.m., New/Prospective Member Shabbat

❖ Religious School, Sunday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. - First day of religious school

❖ Picnic, Sunday, Sept. 7, 12:30 p.m. - Annual Brotherhood Picnic, Frying Pan Farm Park

❖ Ladies' Book Club, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7:30 - Join us for this "pot-luck" style book club that meets every other month on the second Tuesday of the month. This club is open to all women. Plan to bring a drink or appetizer to share. We will be discussing "This is Where I Leave You" by Jonathan Tropper.

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# Curator Program Study Being Finalized

Historic preservation may reach county level.

By REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

Historic homes that have been abandoned - and perhaps lost their original charm - could have a second chance to return to their former glory.

Fairfax County Parks Authority is currently finalizing a resident Curator Program Implementation Study that would allow anyone with the time, money and expertise, to live in a historic place in order to fix it up.

According to County Planning and Zoning Historic Preservation Planner Linda Blank, this is the first program of its kind in the state. The finalized study - before it is looked over by the county Board of Supervisors - is scheduled to be completed in the early fall, according to the county website.

"The county has a stewardship responsibility," Blank said. "This would be an opportunity to provide a fiscally responsible means to preserve these properties."

Because the county Board of Supervisors has to vote on the plan before any decisions are made, the details of the program are still flexible. However, Blank said the buildings the county will allow to fall under the program need to be historical, publicly owned, underutilized and have no planned use in the future.

The people chosen will have to have the funding to do the work and preferably have experience with historical preservation.

**EACH ARRANGEMENT** for length of time the person, family or organization can stay in the building - free of utility costs and taxes - will be handled separately.

"I think that the general consensus is about five years," said Blank.

Because the utility bills and taxes will fall on the county's shoulders, they would be considered publicly owned property. Several times a year, the building will need to be open to the public if county residents want to see the progress of the work being done.

Blank said most of the comments and requests for the program have been for the Turner Farm House, a Victorian-style home that is located near the Great Falls park by the same name.

Another popular request has been for the Gabrielson House in Oakton.

The Turner farmhouse has been a controversial topic in the village for several years. The Save Turner Farm group, which advocates for equestrian clubs and the stargazing Analemma society, wants to keep the park low-impact and make sure no additional lights are placed near the site. The park and the farmhouse has been proposed by interest groups to be used as a recreation center and art studio, among other community areas.



The Turner farmhouse, Great Falls, may be considered for a possible county resident curatorship program.

**"For those of us who like the Turner Farm as it is, finding a use for the house may also offer the best protection to that current usage."**

— Ginger Nelson-Yale

Resident Ginger Nelson-Yale, Turner Farm Team, said the home has been identified as one of the last Queen Anne-style buildings in the county. Because it's not just an old, abandoned farmhouse to her anymore, she sees it as the opportunity to preserve what she calls a "viewshed" on well-traveled Georgetown Pike.

"So, there is a need to find an appropriate use for the house for this viewshed to be maintained," she said. "The county has to do something with the property, the house cannot stay as it is. For those of us who like the Turner Farm as it is, finding a use for the house may also offer the best protection to that current usage."

**IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER**, these are the properties that were listed in the study during its public comment period last month.

- Ash Grove
- Banks Property
- Barrett House
- Clark House



The Dranesville Tavern, Herndon, is one of the properties being considered for a possible resident curatorship program.

- Dranesville Tavern
- Ellmore Farm
- Gabrielson House
- Hannah P. Clark House (Enyedi House)
- Hunter House
- Lahey Lost Valley House
- Lamond House
- Laurel Hill Barn @ Nursery
- Laurel Hill Feed Barn #1
- Lewinsville House
- McDannald House
- Middlegate House

- Minnik House
- Mount Gilead House
- Physician's House
- Pimmit Barn
- Purple House
- Stempson House
- Stone Mansion
- Turner Farm

For more information on the study or a meeting schedule when the plan is finalized, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/resident-curator-program.htm>.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Great Falls Troop 55 Scouts reach the Summit of Mount Baldy, Philmont Scout Reservation. Front Row (from left): Scoutmaster Gary Pan, Daniel Devlin, Corey Hodge. Back Row: Assistant Scoutmaster Ted Reuss, John Fouse, Wesley Pan, Drew Dudzik, Mitchell Pan, Charles Sampson, Thomas Windus, Daniel Reuss, Will Frank

## Experiencing Adventure

Great Falls Troop 55 Boy Scouts discover wilderness, wildlife in New Mexico.

Ten teenage Scouts and two adult leaders from Troop 55 in Great Falls went on a life-changing trek through the Sangre de Cristo Mountains (part of the Rocky Mountains) at Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M., this summer. Philmont covers 214 square miles of wilderness with trails that climb from 6,500 feet to as high as 12,441 feet. During their trek Boy Scout Troop 55 High Adventure participants hiked almost 100 miles over 12 days. Based on Scoutmaster Gary Pan's Fitbit recordings, the crew took 343,375 steps, climbed the equivalent of 1,677 flights of stairs, and burned about 45,373 calories carrying packs that weighed more than 40 pounds.

The conditions were challenging, according to Scoutmaster Pan. "We endured high temperature sunny days, rain, flash

floods and even hail on two occasions. At one point we had 5.3 inches of rain in 45 minutes. Rivers were running through our camp as we were just starting to set up our tents. The rain came on without notice." The trek included a conservation project where Scouts participated in the upkeep of Philmont's ecosystem and helped with the construction of a new trail.

"We had a four foot rattlesnake in our first camp which was going after some birds in the bushes. It came within a couple of feet of us," recounts crew member Mitchell Pan, 15. "Another day, we saw a mountain lion eating a deer that it had just killed," continued Pan. "We even saw a bear asleep in a tree and watched him wake up and wander off down the trail."

Trek highlights included excursions to the Tooth of Time peak, and Mount Baldy (the



Great Falls Troop 55 Philmont Crew prepared to hoist the bear bag. From left: Will Frank, John Fouse, Mitchell Pan, Corey Hodge, Drew Dudzik.

highest peak in the Cimarron Range at elevation 12,445 ft. According to Daniel Reuss, 14, "It was awesome and eerie at the same time as we stood on rocks that seemed to just drop off over the edge. And when we got to the top of Mount Baldy, after a really tough rock scramble, and you could look back across the other mountains we had climbed over earlier in the week ... It was hard to believe we had hiked all that way and were so high up." On the second-to-last day of their trek, the crew added a burro to their crew. Seventeen-year-old John Fouse

recalled, "We worked with a burro for two days which was both a responsibility and relief as we cared for the animal, and he carried some of our gear."

Philmont Scout Ranch is the Boy Scouts of America's premier high adventure camp and the largest youth camp in the world. While the Crew was at Philmont they shared in the celebration of the one millionth participant since 1938.

"I'd go back again in a minute," said Drew Dudzik, 17, "It was awesome. It was a great trip I'll always remember."

## McLean Fall Community Flea Market to Be Held Sept. 13

Bargain hunters can find precious treasures and save on a variety of house hold items at the McLean Fall Community Flea Market. Sponsored by the McLean Community Center, the sale will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13, in the parking garage at 1420 Beverly Road (behind the Giant Shopping Center). Admission to the sale is free. More than 50 sellers participate in the sale, which includes commercial vendors and flea market vendors as well as individuals. A limited number of selling spaces are still available and

will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis for \$45. Vendors can register in person at the Center or online at [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org), using Activity No. 2001.214. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, Sept. 10. To register or for more detailed information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**More than 50 sellers participate in the sale, which includes commercial vendors and flea market vendors as well as individuals.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCC



# Removing Barriers to College

**Local services help students complete college paperwork, remove barriers.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION



COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

**Parents and students attend a college readiness presentation at Westover Public Library in Arlington. While completing the necessary paperwork to attend college can overwhelm some, local educators say there are community resources to help.**

## Where to Go for Help with College Paperwork

### Fairfax County

❖ George Mason University, <http://eip.gmu.edu/>  
❖ Department of Family Services, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/disabilities/transition.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/disabilities/transition.htm)

are some students who don't know how to fill out forms and our counselors have a full range of tools to help those students."

For example, NOVA's College Pathway Initiatives is a set of four programs that provides support and service to students from underrepresented populations. The initiatives help remove some barriers to higher education while helping increase the number of students who succeed in and graduate from college.

**REYES HAS SEEN FIRST-HAND** how a simple bit of assistance can mean the difference between attending college and not. "[There is] a Mason student who comes from a single parent household. ... The student was granted a scholarship through the Early Identification Program and Mason's financial aid services that has helped to pay for the student's college education," she said. "The student is currently a senior working on a degree in bioengineering."

Mason's Early Identification Program (EIP) has a long record of helping first generation students from low-income families cross some of the hurdles to a higher education. "Mason's Admissions Office plays an instrumental role of support in collaborating with EIP regarding the college application process so that it is more simple, and that our students re-

ceive advice and resources to complete the application and successfully transition to Mason," said Reyes.

Some of the services that George Mason University offers are college essay and resume workshops where students have access to a computer lab and assistance completing college entrance essays. Mason also has no-cost Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) workshops where students and their families meet in a computer lab and get assistance completing financial aid forms.

Reyes points to other programs on campus that are available to assist students:

❖ College Prep — For three weeks during the summer, students are introduced to financial aid advisors, academic advisors, and others who could be a resource to students once they are in college.

❖ During Mason's Early Identification Program annual Summer Academy at the Fairfax and Prince William campuses, they begin to work on the Mason admissions application so that it is ready to submit in the fall.

❖ During their senior year of high school, Mason officials work to make sure students in the Early Identification Program submit the online application and required documents such as the essay, recommendation letters, secondary school report, SAT/ACT scores.

**AT MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY** in Arlington, newly accepted students receive an acceptance package with detailed instructions on completing forms.

The university hosts campus visit days where students can learn about the school and get assistance completing necessary paperwork.

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**L**aQuita King relocated across the state from Chesapeake, Va., to Alexandria in the summer of 2013, moving into an apartment with her aunt and three cousins. King had just graduated from high school and was looking forward to taking classes at Northern Virginia Community College. So far, that hasn't happened.

"There were a lot of financial aid forms that I needed to fill out," said King, who is one of six children in her family and the first to finish high school. "Everything is online and if you make one mistake you have to start over. There were a ton of registration forms that I had to fill out. It just got to be too much."

Finally, King got a job, although she still hopes to attend college one day. Her plight, say college officials, is not uncommon. In fact, the amount of paperwork that students must complete can overwhelm some students, particularly those with limited financial means and who might be the first in their families to seek higher education. A recent study by researchers at Stanford University showed that the stacks of forms that students must complete in order to enroll in college deter students from lower and working class backgrounds.

"Paperwork can sometimes hinder some students from attending because they may not know how to follow up in regards to what documents to submit, or may be afraid to do it and get discouraged if they do not have someone to help them figure out how to complete paperwork and requirements," said Laydy Reyes, program coordinator, Early Identification Program in George Mason University's Division of University Life.

However, programs, on college campuses and in the community can assist students. "There are counselors and programs available to help them," said Jennifer Gonzalez of the Public Information Office at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). "There



# OBITUARY

## Richard L. Andrews, 80, of Great Falls, Dies

**R**ichard L. Andrews, born Oct. 6, 1933, in New York City, died on Aug. 1, 2014, in Alexandria, after a valiant seven-year battle against melanoma, leukemia, mesothelioma, and, finally, liver cancer. Richard, a chemist by training, served in the U.S. Army and worked at the Pickatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, and later at the U.S. Bureau of Mines in D.C., before moving to the U.S. Patent Office, where he worked as a patent examiner for 20 years until he retired in 1988. Along the way, Richard obtained two patents of his own for methods he designed for electroplating



**Richard L. Andrews**

metals. Richard filled his life with a variety of interests, including classical music, fishing, international travel, birding, photography, and

gemology. He is survived by his life partner, Carol Bernstein of Great Falls; his nieces, Joan Maurier and Carolyn Troutman, of Santa Cruz, Calif., and Bellingham, Wash., respectively; his nephew Tom Andrews, of Bellingham; and his sister-in-law, Louise Andrews, also of Bellingham. Richard will be honored at a memorial service on Sept. 6, in Great Falls. For details about the service, contact Carol at 703-200-8105. Donations in Richard's memory can be made to the Lombardi Cancer Center of Georgetown: (<http://lombardi.georgetown.edu/about/support/commemorative.html>).

### WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

## Remembrance Ceremony to be Held on Sept. 11

On Thursday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m., the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial will hold their annual September 11 Remembrance Ceremony at the site of the Freedom Memorial (behind the Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike). The event will include the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop 55, patriotic songs, remarks by Richard R. Bowers, Jr., Chief of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, and a bell-ringing for each of the residents of Great Falls who perished on September 11. It has been said that Great Falls suffered the highest per-capita casualties on September 11 of any locale in the country. The proceedings will conclude with a wreath-laying by lo-

cal dignitaries.

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

## Dance Benefit to Support Food Allergy Research

This year's "The One I Feed" Dance Benefit will take place on Saturday, Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m. at the Potomac Falls High School in Sterling. Last year "The One I Feed" Dance Benefit raised almost \$25,000 for the Division of Allergy and Immunology at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Those funds specifically created a new job position for a research assistant to help doctors and nurses collect data from their patients in food allergy studies. One hundred

percent of all ticket sales and donations directly benefited this cause. "The One I Feed" Dance Benefit takes world renowned performers who donate their time and talents to put on a captivating and entertaining show that all can enjoy. The performance benefits food allergy research through art, compassion, and education. It also supports the local arts community and helps dance companies thrive and have more visibility.

This year the guest speaker is Dr. Robert Wood of Johns Hopkins Children's Center and the theme is "Crossing Cultures." Food allergies affect every ethnicity, color, country, age, gender, and socioeconomic status. Therefore the performance program is composed of multi-cultural dances from Bollywood to Contemporary Ballet with some live music as well. For more information, visit [www.helpmakemiracles.org/event/theoneifeed](http://www.helpmakemiracles.org/event/theoneifeed)

## Local Elementary School Artists Exhibit at Starbucks Great Falls

**G**rab a cup (iced, of course) and enjoy with an erupting volcano, snowcapped peaks, joyful portraits, complicated landscapes and tiny prints.

Great Falls Studios (GFS) sponsors a continuing schedule of exhibits in the conference room at the Great Falls Starbucks, Great Falls Center, 9863 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls. Forestville Elementary School student art is currently on display through September – a bright collection guaranteed to delight.

The Great Falls Starbucks regular hours are 5:30 a.m. – 8:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; 6 a.m. – 7:30 p.m., Satur-



**Images from the Forestville Elementary exhibit are by GFS member Kathy Owens.**

day and Sunday. The Conference room is often in use.



Images from the exhibit are by GFS member Kathy Owens.

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# Langley Lax Standout Duenkel Committed to JMU

**Junior an all-conference field hockey player, enjoys cooking.**

**I**t didn't take long before Halle Duenkel was a two-sport standout at Langley High School. As a freshman, Duenkel, a midfielder on the girls' lacrosse team, received second-team All-Liberty District honors and helped the Saxons reach the state championship game.

In the fall of 2013, Duenkel, then a sophomore forward on the field hockey team, received first-team All-Conference 6 honors. Later in the school year, Duenkel garnered first-team all-conference and second-team all-region accolades in lacrosse.

It also didn't take long for Duenkel to figure out her future.

As a sophomore, Duenkel committed to play lacrosse at James Madison University. Now entering her junior year, Duenkel recently participated in a Q&A via email with The Connection.

❖Connection: You're committed to James Madison University. What made JMU the right fit for you?

Duenkel: James Madison was the right fit for me because it is a top-20 Division I lacrosse program and it has a top-20 business school. I love the coaches and I already feel at home!

❖Connection: At what age did you start playing lacrosse? When did you realize playing college lacrosse was a possibility for you?

Duenkel: I started playing lacrosse when I was in third grade and realized that playing in college was a possibility for me when I was in seventh grade and quit soccer to focus on my lacrosse career. The recruiting process began so early that I committed in November of my sophomore year. I could have committed sooner but I wanted to take my time and find the perfect school for me.

❖Connection: You're a junior. How do you feel about your lacrosse game now compared to when you were a freshman on the



**Langley junior Halle Duenkel is committed to James Madison University.**

varsity?

Duenkel: I feel that there is more responsibility for me to be a leader on the team because when I was a freshman the upperclassmen were great role models for me. I really want to help the team go to states and win a state title for Langley. I'm excited about this year!

❖Connection: How much time do you spend working on your lacrosse skills in the offseason?

Duenkel: Between wall ball and running I spend a couple hours every day to work on my skills in the offseason. I am also working on strength training at Max with Doug Vasiliadis to get a stronger shot and be bet-

ter on defense.

❖Connection: What is your favorite lacrosse moment from your first two years at Langley?

Duenkel: Beating Westfield my freshman year in a last-second buzzer beater and advancing into the state tournament.

❖Connection: You also play field hockey at Langley. At what age did you start playing?

Duenkel: I started playing field hockey in eighth grade for Potomac Field Hockey. I wanted to understand the game before I played in high school.

❖Connection: Do field hockey skills in any way translate to lacrosse?

Duenkel: Field hockey has taught me better body control and to move my feet on defense.

❖Connection: How would you describe the Langley-McLean rivalry?

Duenkel: The rivalry is awesome! My mom went to McLean so there is always teasing and fun in our household during that time.

❖Connection: What is your favorite food?

Duenkel: My favorite food is a good burger and a milkshake.

❖Connection: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?

Duenkel: Either Maroon 5 or Gavin DeGraw. I just saw Gavin DeGraw in concert last week at Wolf Trap. I love the lyrics to the music.

❖Connection: What is your favorite movie? Why?

Duenkel: 'The Hunger Games,' because I read the books, so it was interesting to see the director's spin on the book, or 'Happy Gilmore,' because any movie with Adam Sandler is hilarious.

❖Connection: What is your favorite hobby outside of lacrosse and field hockey?

Duenkel: I love to cook and bake! I could watch the Food Network 24/7.

❖Connection: What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

Duenkel: The farthest I have traveled is San Diego, Calif. The San Diego Zoo was incredible and I got a backstage tour with Shamu at Sea World. You can also just walk up to sea lions in La Jolla.

❖Connection: Are you a pro sports fan? If so, who are your favorite teams?

Duenkel: My favorite sports teams are the Pittsburgh Steelers, Washington Nationals, and Washington Capitals.

❖Connection: Do you have a favorite pro athlete(s)?

Duenkel: [Steelers safety] Troy Polamalu, [Nationals third baseman/outfielder] Ryan Zimmerman, and [Capitals right wing] Alex Ovechkin. I love it that Ryan Zimmerman lives in Great Falls now. Maybe someday I can coach his daughter if she wants to play lacrosse.

— JON ROETMAN

## SPORTS ROUNDUPS

### Reston to Host Charity Tennis Tournament

The 3rd Annual Rally for a Cause tennis tournament dates are set for Sept. 20-21, at Reston's Lake Newport tennis courts. The charity event will feature brackets for 3.0, 3.5 and 4.0 and above players, competing in men's and women's doubles and singles matches. The \$30 entry fee guarantees each player two matches with awards, raffle prizes and participation t-shirts. It is through the generosity of presenting sponsor, Dr.

Hani Thariani, and donations from local businesses that make this tournament possible. Entry is open to all tennis players, regardless of USTA membership. All proceeds will go to the charity organization of each participant's choice: USTA Serves Foundation/Wounded Warriors Program Curriculum, supporting rehabilitation through tennis for wounded, ill and injured military service members and veterans or Cornerstones/Laurel Learning Center, providing comprehensive family services and developmental childcare programs. Last year's event hosted 65 players and raised \$3,100 for charity organizations.

Registration is now open. For more information or to sign up, email

rally4acause@restontennis.org or visit [www.restontennis.org](http://www.restontennis.org).

### NVSO 10K, 20K Cycling Events Enter 5th Year

The 2014 NVSO will be held Sept. 13-24 with more than 50 events taking place at 19 venues throughout Northern Virginia. Events include 10K and 20K cycling, with each event entering its fifth year.

In addition to cycling, other events include 5K road race, badminton, volleyball, handball, racquetball, pickleball, tennis,

table tennis, swimming, diving, ten pin bowling, Wii bowling, card games, board games, track and field and more. Registration is available online at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us). Registration forms are also available at senior centers, community centers, senior residences or by calling 703-228-4721. Registration fee is \$12 which covers multiple events. There is no onsite registration for any event. Information is available at [nvso1982@gmail.com](mailto:nvso1982@gmail.com). Participants must be 50 years of age by Dec. 31, 2014 and live in a sponsoring jurisdiction. NVSO is sponsored by the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax.



# CALENDAR

Send announcements to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 21

**Robyn + Roysopp.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap - The Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Pop vocalist Robyn is joined by duo Roysopp. \$30-\$55. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Great Falls Rotary Club Weekly Speaker Series.** 7:30-8:30 a.m. River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit <http://www.rotarygreatfalls.org/> to join.

**Artists Meet for Coffee.** 8:30-10 a.m. Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local Artists meet for coffee. 703-759-2759.

**Teen Volunteer Sign Up for Reading Buddies.** 4:15 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Report at 4:15 for sign up. 703-757-8560.

**Reading Buddies.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Teens read with beginning readers and practice together. 703-757-8560.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 22

**Kayak Tour – Moonshine & Mayhem.** 5-7 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. What is now Riverbend Park once was a safe haven for illegal whiskey-making operations during the 1920s; kayak past river islands and discover its shady past. Ages 14+. \$59-\$74. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm>.

**Great Falls Library Drop-In Chess.** 1-5 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play chess. All skill levels and ages welcome. 703-757-8560.

**Look at the Stars! Observatory Open.** 7:30-10:30 p.m. Turner Farm Park, Springvale Road, Great Falls. Come to the observatory park for Friday Night viewings. [www.analemma.org](http://www.analemma.org).

**Evening Book Group.** 7:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call Branch for Title. 703-356-0770.

**Play Date Cafe.** 10 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Cafe and play area for children. 703-757-8560.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 23

**Cars & Coffee.** 7-9 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Early on Saturday mornings you'll find a gathering of cool cars – antique, custom, hotrods, exotic, sports cars, they're all here. 703-759-2759.

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Watch pop vocalist Robyn joined by duo Roysopp at Wolf Trap on Thursday, Aug. 21 at 8 p.m.



Great Falls Village, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Don't forget to bring your recyclable bag. [www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](http://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org).

**Colvin Run Dance for Everyone.** 6:30-11 p.m. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Beginner and Intermediate West Coast lesson and 'Dance for Everyone.' \$12. 703-435-5620.

**Davinci Challenge- Build a Drone Workshop.** 9:00 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Learn about building drones. 703-757-8560.

**Learn to Draw Cartoons.** 1:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Take drawing lessons with a professional cartoonist. 703-757-8560.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 24

**Picnic Dance.** 2-5:30 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Dance to your favorite tunes from the 1930s to today. Free admission when you bring a dish to share. 703-759-2685.

## MONDAY/AUG. 25

**Great Falls Library Read to the Dog.** 4:30-

5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers can practice reading to a furry friend. Call 703-757-8560 to sign up.

## MONDAY/AUG. 25-FRIDAY/AUG. 29

**All-American Girl- Living Dolls Camp.** 9 a.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Children bring their American Girl Dolls to camp and participate in activities with them. \$190-\$205. 703-759-2771.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 26

**Colvin Run Dance Lessons.** 6:30-10:30 p.m. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Weekly Dance/Lesson Series with Ed Cottrell & the NVA Dance Crew. \$12. 703-435-5620.

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 27

**Great Falls Library Pokemon League.** 4:30-6 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come play Pokemon with your friends. Ages 5-15. 703-757-8560.

**Preschool Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. Lynnhaven

Place, Oakton. Story time for young children. 703-242-4020.

**Pokemon League.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come play Pokemon with friends. 703-757-8560.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 28

**Great Falls Rotary Club Weekly Speaker Series.** 7:30-8:30 a.m. River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit <http://www.rotarygreatfalls.org/> to join.

**Artists Meet for Coffee.** 8:30-10 a.m. Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local Artists meet for Coffee; do drop in! 703-759-2759.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 29

**Great Falls Library Drop-In Chess.** 1-5 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play chess. All skill levels and ages welcome. 703-757-8560.

**Look at the Stars! Observatory Open.** 7:30-10:30 p.m. Turner Farm Park, Springvale Road, Great Falls. Come to the observatory park for Friday Night viewings. [www.analemma.org](http://www.analemma.org).

**Play Date Cafe.** 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Cafe and play area for children. 703-757-8560.

## SATURDAY/AUG. 30

**Cars & Coffee.** 7-9 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Early on Saturday mornings you'll find a gathering of cool cars – antique, custom, hotrods, exotic, sports cars, they're all here. 703-759-2759.

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Falls Village, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Don't forget to bring your recyclable bag. [www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](http://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org).

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 2

**Colvin Run Tuesday Dance for Everyone.** 6:30-10 p.m. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Come participate in weekly dance lessons ranging from 'Dance of the Month to General Hustle, Shug, Latin and more. Admissions: \$12. 703-435-5620 or Ed Cottrell, EdCottrell@MACP.org.

**Great Falls Citizen's Association Environment, Parks & Trails Committee Meeting.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Monthly meeting.

**Great Falls Transportation Committee Meeting.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Monthly meeting.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 3

**Pokemon League.** 4:30-6 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come play in Pokemon with friends, or meet new ones. For ages 5-15.

# A Summer with Suzanne Farrell

## Lily Campbell dances at Kennedy Center's three-week exclusive dance training program.

BY CAROLINE BURR  
THE CONNECTION

Ever since she could remember, Lily Campbell has been a dancer. Now 15 and a rising sophomore at James Madison High School, Lily just finished the three week 22nd Annual exclusive training program with Suzanne Farrell at The Kennedy Center. Of the hundreds of dancers from all over the country, ages 14-18, who auditioned last winter, only 26 were chosen to take part in the Kennedy Center's exclusive three-week ballet training pro-

gram, "Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell." Six days a week, the students took two daily ballet classes with legendary ballerina, Suzanne Farrell. When the dancers were not busy on their feet, they were able to participate in many D.C. cultural activities. Suzanne Farrell danced with the New York City Ballet from 1961-1969 and 1974-1989, originated 23 roles in Balanchine ballets, and received numerous awards including a 2005 Kennedy Center Honors.

"I am really grateful for this opportunity to train at the Kennedy Center. It's always been a goal of mine and I am thrilled to be there with Ms. Farrell," Lily said. Last year at 14, Lily first auditioned for the program and was lucky enough to be invited back for a second session. "Working with Suzanne Farrell who is a legend in the ballet world is truly amazing. Her classes are very challenging and very fun but very hard." When asked about her dedication and passion for dance, Lily said, "It's a real way to express myself through movement and it's something that we all dream of

when we are really little... and I just never stopped." Lily's mother, Jennifer Campbell, is "thrilled and proud" about her daughter's achievements. "As a parent," she said, "when your child goes to do something and is successful with what they do...it's very exciting." With ballet taking up so much time, Lily said she is "very academic, and besides dance, there isn't much time for much else."

Her mother agreed. "Ballet is so physically taxing," said Jennifer Campbell, "you have to be driven to succeed in it. They have to be smart kids as well...For Lily, when she started getting very intensive in ballet, her grades actually went up and now she is a strong honors student." Currently, Lily studies under Jody Skye Schissler at a pre-professional program at The Skye Ballet Center in Herndon. Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell finished on Aug. 16, and Lily talked about how much she was able to grow in the two years she worked with her. "Ms. Farrell often talks about artistry and I've definitely learned about being an individual in my dancing and showing expression."



PHOTO BY CRAIG CAMPBELL

**Lily Campbell during Exploring Ballet with Suzanne Farrell.**



## All Write For Now

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



And so it goes, every three months or so; a CT Scan, a week or so of waiting, and then a face-to-face appointment with my oncologist to learn/discuss the results. Thankfully, the results continue to be amazing. My doctor has told me that I'm his third miracle; stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients generally don't live beyond two years. I'm in year six. And though this CT cycle never gets easy, it does get familiar, and with that familiarity comes a certain predictability that creates its own peculiar sort of calm (it probably helps that I've been asymptomatic most of the time). Still, from the initial diagnosis/prognosis ("cancer," "13 months to two years") given to me in late February, 2009, I've been characterized as "terminal." As my oncologist said to me at that very first Team Lourie meeting: "I can treat you but I can't cure you." Unsettling and surreal doesn't begin to describe my/our reaction to his words. However, five and a half years later, I've become accustomed to the precarious and indeterminate nature of my future.

It's somewhere (and I'm happy to be anywhere, rather than you know where) between a rock and hard place. Nevertheless, receiving encouraging CT Scan results ("diminution," "stable," "no change") feels like a reprieve on the one hand and a reward for good behavior on the other. Certainly nothing is guaranteed going forward, other than my eventual demise that is, but since nothing else is new, no problem. And though I'm not exactly counting deceased chickens before they've hatched (or after for that matter), I am assessing and considering the unexpected survival of a terminal patient (yours truly) who has far outlived his original prognosis. Ergo my ongoing dilemma: Am I closer to the end of my life or simply further from the beginning?

As much as I don't want to focus (you'll note I didn't say obsess) on my disease and my presumptive, abbreviated life expectancy, given the change in my lifestyle as well as my daily anti-cancer routine (pills, smoothies, alkaline water, apple cider vinegar, etc.), the best I can do is compartmentalize. Put it in the vault, to invoke a Seinfeld reference. And usually, I can manage it. However, "vaulting" it gets a bit more challenging and complicated – and more difficult to ignore/pretend/deny when you're rolling in and out of a CT Scan and being told to "hold your breath," and "breathe out" as the tomography scans your lungs looking for potential trouble.

In spite of it all, my life is going on. My next scan is in three months. For the next two and a half months, I can sort of relax and bask in the glow of these most recent results. A few weeks before the next scan, anxiety will return, however, as the cancer reasserts its figurative control and starts to break down my emotional barriers. It's inevitable but it's nothing I haven't experienced before. No complaints though, just observations and admissions. I may be compromised, but I'm still living and breathing – and lucky as hell.

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

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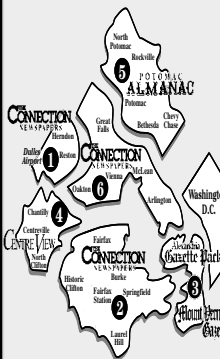
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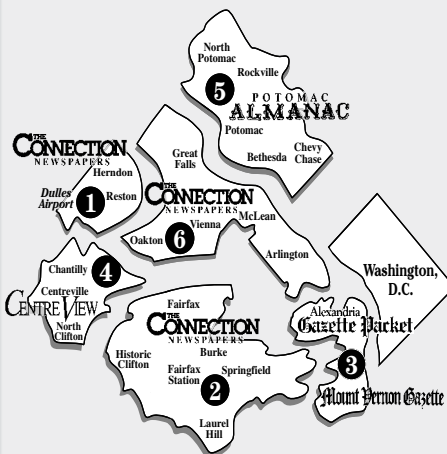
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To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 21

**Computer-one-on-one.** 11a.m. 10304

Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn how to work with the internet, Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. 703-242-4020.

**Okaton Book Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. 10304

Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Discussion will be on The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak. 703-242-4020.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 22

**English Conversation Group.** 10 a.m. Patrick

Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna.

Practice English conversational skills. 703-938-0405.

## MONDAY/AUG. 25

**English Conversation.** 7 p.m. 10304 Lynnhaven

Place, Oakton... Practice conversational English in a group setting. 703-356-0770.

**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. Dolley

Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue,

McLean. Practice conversational English in a

group setting. 703-356-0770.

**Spanish Conversation Group.** 1p.m. Great

Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great

Falls. Practice Spanish with a group. 703-757-

8560.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive.** 10 a.m.-

3:30 p.m. Cordia Partners, 8229 Boone Blvd.,

Vienna. To learn more and make an

appointment to donate blood, visit

redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

## TUESDAY/AUG. 26

**Improve Your English Skills.** 11a.m. Dolley

Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue,

McLean. Receive help with reading, speaking

and listening to English. 703-365-0770.

**Computer-one-on-one.** 11a.m. 10304

Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn how to work

with the internet, Microsoft Word, Excel, and

PowerPoint. 703-242-4020.

**English Conversation Group One-On-One.** 7

p.m. 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Practice

conversational English in a group setting. 703-

356-0770.

**One-On-One Computer Tutoring.** 11a.m.

Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East,

Vienna. Learn the basics of a computer. 703-

938-0405.

**WEDNESDAY/AUG. 27**

**Computer-one-on-one.** 11a.m. 10304

Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn how to work

with the internet, Microsoft Word, Excel, and

PowerPoint. 703-242-4020.

**One-On-One Computer Tutoring.** 11a.m.

Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East,

Vienna. Learn the basics of a computer. 703-

938-0405.

**ESL Conversation Group.** 2 p.m. Great Falls

Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

Practice English with a group. 703-757-8560.

**THURSDAY/AUG. 28**

**Computer-one-on-one.** 11 a.m. 10304

Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn how to work

with the Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel, and

PowerPoint. 703-242-4020.

**FRIDAY/AUG. 29**

**Drop-In-Chess.** 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830

Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All skill levels

welcome. 703-757-8560.

**English Conversation Group.** 10 a.m. Patrick

Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna.

Practice English conversational skills. 703-938-

0405.

**MONDAY/SEPT. 15**

**MCC Governing Board Work Session and**

**Public Hearing on FY 2016 Budget.** 7:30

p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside

Avenue, McLean. Open to the public.

www.mcleancenter.org or 703-790-0123.

**SATURDAY/SEPT. 27**

**McLean Child Safety Inspection.** 9:30 a.m. -

12 p.m. Lewinsville Center, 1609 Great Falls

Street, McLean. The Mclean District Police

Station holds child safety seat inspections once

per month.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 25**

**McLean Child Safety Inspection.** 9:30 a.m. -

12 p.m. Lewinsville Center, 1609 Great Falls

Street, McLean. The Mclean District Police

Station holds child safety seat inspections once

per month.





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