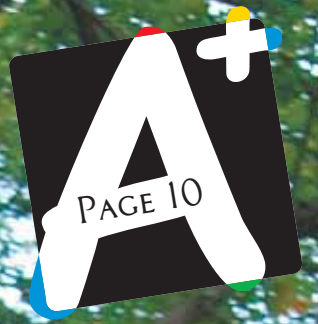


Great Falls  
**CONNECTION**

# Local Companies Sponsor Lift Me Up! Fencing

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## GFCA Wants to Speed Up MTBE Cleanup

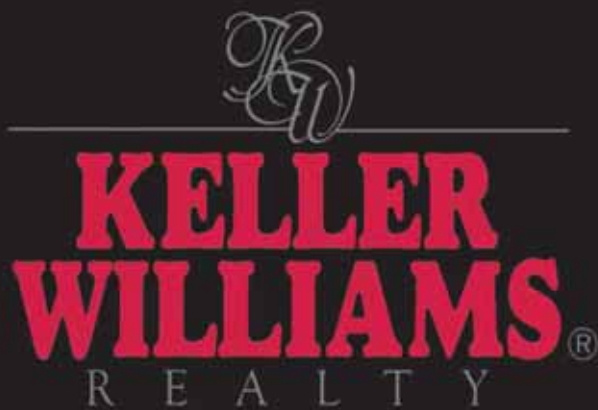
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## 550-plus Against Cluster Development

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Richard Tucker is led by  
Caroline Graham during a  
trail walk at Lift Me Up!  
riding program.





Bob Nelson



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## GFCA Wants to Speed Up MTBE Cleanup

**Toxic plume heads towards nearby neighborhood.**

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he gasoline plume under Walker Road is worse than previously thought — and is moving in the direction of a nearby neighborhood.

Great Falls Citizen Association wants Fairfax Petroleum Company and environmental consultant Kleinfelder East to build two new pumps to assist the one removing toxic Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether from the soil surrounding the old Exxon station.

“In Great Falls, we don’t appreciate downplaying issues concerning groundwater,” said GFCA member Glen Sjoblom.

About 80 percent of homes in Great Falls are on a private well system. At the moment, the underground gasoline plume is concentrated near the shopping center on Walker Road, but Sjoblom said it was bigger than previously thought after GFCA requested another map to be made.

“They said the plume is not too deep and is going southwest,” he said, adding that Kleinfelder was resistant to double checking the area. “In June, they called a special meeting and said the plume is going south.”

At the moment, the plume, once concentrated at the former Exxon station site at 9901 Georgetown Pike, has migrated underneath the Crossroads building and Bank of America.

If the plume was to be left alone for a few years, he said, it could contaminate the wells at nearby neighborhood Oliver Estates.

“This testing confirms what we told them 15 months ago,” he said.

**IN A LETTER** to Kleinfelder and Fairfax Petroleum Company, the GFCA asked that they be present at the Nov. 11 Town Hall Meeting at The Grange to answer questions from citizens and let them know whether they will consider the additional pumps.

“As such it is difficult to draw the contamination hundreds of feet underground to the well and processing system on the Exxon site,” states the letter signed by GFCA President Eric Knudsen. “Therefore, we believe it could be advantageous to install pumps at two additional locations, one to the southeast, and one to the south, in the vicinity of the leading edges of the plume in these directions.”

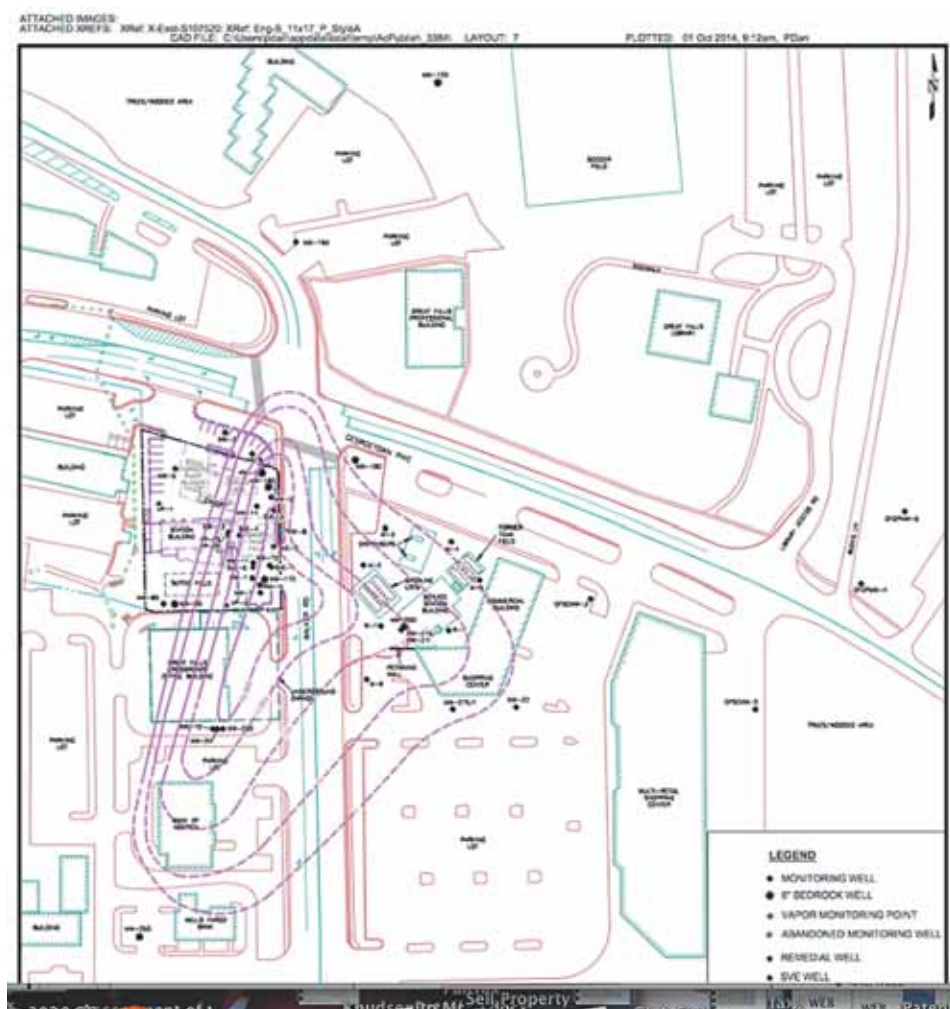
Kleinfelder Program Manager Mark Steele said he plans to attend the GFCA meeting with representatives from the state Department of Environmental Quality.

“I cannot speak to you about this matter,” he said when asked whether he is con-



**The former Exxon station at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker road is the cause behind a growing Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether plume making its way south.**

PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION



**The map tracks the direction the plume is heading in as well as the concentrations of Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether. The plume, once thought only going southeast, has begun migrating south.**

MAP COURTESY OF GREAT FALLS CITIZEN ASSOCIATION

sidering building two more pumps.

The method currently being used for groundwater cleanup to remove MTBE is called Soil Vapor Extraction that sucks the

air from the ground to the surface and processes it to get rid of the toxin.

“Because of the amount of time that has gone by, it has been dragged down by

groundwater and is percolating underground,” said Sjoblom.

**THE ONE PUMP** that is being used can pump eight gallons a minute. He said Kleinfelder claimed the cleanup can be done in about three months. As a former environmental engineer, he is a skeptic.

**“We’re looking for the most robust clean up possible.”**

—Phil Pifer, GFCA

“It’s optimistic that you can deal with this in 82 days when all the times at the past meetings, they said it would take several years,” he said.

GFCA hopes that alternative cleanup methods that involve adding two more pumps will speed up the process rather than risk residential wells becoming contaminated with a possible carcinogen.

“We’re looking for the most robust clean up possible,” said Phil Pifer.

Pifer said that out of the thousands of spills the state inspects, Great Falls has been one of the few to have state-funded remediation rather than just closing the site.

“They’ve never had a community in Virginia rise up and express concern and get involved like this,” he said.



**The former Exxon station at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Walker road.**





From left, Caroline McGranahan and Christina Saunders lead Richard Tucker and horse Nyles during a trail ride at Lift Me Up! riding program.



PHOTOS BY REENA SINGH/ THE CONNECTION

From left, Noah Coon and Stephen Phillips prepare to dismount after a riding lesson at Lift Me Up!

## Local Companies Sponsor Lift Me Up Fencing

**Therapeutic riding program nearly 40 years old.**

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**R**ichard Tucker gripped the reins of a prince-worthy white horse, steering it through a trail during a lesson at Lift Me Up therapeutic horseback riding program.

Sitting tall on his horse, he can be just like anyone his age.

"Unlike going to a therapist where they know it's therapy, they come here and they don't fight it," said Program Director Geor-

gia Bay. "They're with an animal that doesn't judge them."

The six-acre lot that Lift Me Up sits on is getting a makeover thanks to four donors. Three fields are getting new fencing — a project that can cost up to \$10,000 a pop.

Thanks to sponsorships from the Claude Moore Foundation, The Old Brogue, Celebrate Great Falls and an anonymous donor, Lift Me Up! can use their profits to add onto its therapy programs.

"A big part of what makes Great Falls special is our old-fashioned 'neighborliness' — the benefits of living in a small town where people get to know one another and try to help out when needed," said Celebrate Great Falls director Erin Lobato in an email. "I am so proud that Lift Me Up is able to do what they do right here in Great Falls to help children and adults with disabilities

experience the magic of horseback riding while gaining strength, confidence and many other skills. Great Falls is indeed a special place to live and Celebrate Great Falls Foundation is proud to be a small part of it."

Both the Old Brogue and Celebrate Great Falls donated \$5,000 for a field and Claude Moore Foundation donated \$5,000 earlier this year and an additional \$10,000 recently to match the community's support.

According to Director of Development Laura Smith, the current fence posts have been weakened by years of the soil freezing and thawing.

"The fencing is essential to keeping the horses where they need to be — safe," she said. "It's just something that's critical. We are a charity that's trying to get by."

Bay said the program will be 40 years old

next year and works hard to make sure the 107 riders with special needs can afford to benefit from riding horses.

"We do charge something for lessons, but it's not even close to what a lesson should cost," said Bay.

The program saves money by having nearly 200 volunteers help run the lessons and care for the horses. Another 200 volunteers join throughout the year for special projects.

She wants Lift Me Up to eventually become an industry leader, training instructors from all over the country and offering more workshops and camp programs.

"We talked about possibly bringing back vaulting and looking to expand other rider programs like a drill team," Bay said.

For more information about Lift Me Up, visit <http://www.liftmeup.org/lmu.cfm>.

## Susan Coll, Jim Lehrer to Speak in Great Falls

**T**he Great Falls Speaker's Series (GFFS) kicked off last month to a capacity crowd at the Great Falls Library by welcoming its first guest speaker, New York Times best-selling author Pamela Palmer.

The new monthly series will continue in October with guest speaker Susan Coll, another best-selling author whose recent novel, "The Stager," has been met with critical national acclaim and is set in suburban Washington, D.C.

Coll, who will appear at the Great Falls Library on Thursday, Oct. 23, is enthusiastic about participating. "Anytime I can be involved in stimulating, creative dialogue with the larger community, I'm in," said Coll. "And I'm especially pleased to see programming that supports literature proliferate around the region. I'm happy to do anything I can to help that cause."

Kristin Clark Taylor, creator of the new series and a four-time author herself, seeks to infuse more energy and creativity into the Great Falls community. "The goal of this monthly Series is to establish an easy, ongoing conversation with the larger community; to draw people in, sit them down, and start a lively, creative dialogue with interesting guest speakers. This area is brimming with talent and passion. Why not harness it altogether in one room and let the creative sparks fly?"

Taylor, also a freelance journalist and former White House communications strategist, likes to emphasize inclusion. "Dynamism, diversity and dialogue are out goals," she said. "I really want the audience to feel



LAURA SHAY LAVIN  
Susan Coll

like they're listening in on an easy, comfortable conversation in their own living room, so I drag in two of my favorite chairs from home to create an easy, intimate atmosphere between me and my guest. We do it in a theater-in-the-round style, so that the audience can jump right in. These aren't lectures. They're lively community conversations."

Great Falls resident Christina Wenks attended the first Speaker's Series meeting last month and says she's looking forward to the upcoming Oct. 23 event. "This is just the creative shot in the arm we need," she said. "It feels good to come together in a comfortable, cohesive group so that we can delve into interesting issues and deepen our

perspective," she said.

November's guest speaker will be veteran newsman Jim Lehrer, who will appear on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at 7 pm, at the Great Falls Library.

These forums begin with a short wine and cheese reception at 7 pm., with the formal program beginning at 7:30. They are free and open to the public. Seating is open; no reservations will be taken. For this reason, it's recommended that guests arrive a few minutes early. Unless otherwise noted, these forums are generally for adults only. On occasion, there will be youth-focused forums — children's book authors and other professionals whose words reach a younger demographic — and all of these will be announced. The formal program begins at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact the Great Falls Library at 703-757-8560.





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## Coming: Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

The annual Children's Connection is a tradition of well over a decade, and we begin getting inquiries from teachers and parents about submitting artwork and writing almost as soon as summer is over.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in .jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? What is the

best or worst thing that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

Email submissions for the Children's Connection to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com).

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Monday, Dec. 8.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Dec. 8. The Children's Connection will publish the week of Dec. 27, 2012.

## Halloween Parties, SoberRide

Halloween is now as much of an adult party as a children's festival. Along with the Fourth of July, the holiday period including New Year's Eve and a few other dates, Halloween stands

out as a holiday connected to increases in drinking and driving.

If you will be out celebrating with alcohol, you can plan ahead. Assign a designated driver. Celebrate at home. Take public transportation. But if these plans fall through, the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) Halloween SoberRide program provides a safety net.

For six hours from 10 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 31 until 4 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 1, SoberRide serves as a way to keep impaired drivers off the road. During this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home.

For more information visit [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org)

## Last Call for Letters

Letters to the editor from local residents about the upcoming election should be received by Friday, Oct. 24 to be considered for publication ahead of Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 4. Letters on candidates, bond questions, election procedure or any other local, election related topics are welcome and encouraged. Letters should be original, and include the writer's full name and address; we will print your town name, not your full address. Letters will be under 200 words and convey opinion with civility. Send letters to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

— MARY KIMM.

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Responding to Domestic Violence in Fairfax County

BY JOE MEYER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
SHELTER HOUSE, INC.

Domestic violence is a prevalent issue in Fairfax County and in some cases, too many cases, even result in fatalities. In fact, approximately 50 percent of the homicides occurring in the community are a direct result of domestic violence.

Relatively low homicide rates in the community overall prove that proactive public safety efforts are effective, but the presence of any domestic violence, regardless of the outcome, can not and should not be tolerated.

Shelter House, Inc. is a community-based non-profit organization that operates Artemis House, Fairfax County's only 24-hour emergency shelter for families and individuals fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking.

In a community comprising more than 1 million members,

with just 34 beds, Artemis House regularly stretches beyond capacity to accommodate those in need. Shelter House, Inc. also provides transitional housing and supportive services for survivors of domestic violence through the Community Housing Resources Program and NOVACO.

Shelter House also operates the Katherine Hanley and Patrick Henry Family Shelters where 33 percent of the homeless population experienced domestic violence.

The recently trending hashtag, #WhyIStayed, illustrates the complexities a victim faces when leaving the abuser and these programs are crucial in ensuring safe housing is available. However, these programs alone are not enough to eradicate domestic violence in our community.

Shelter House works alongside law enforcement, prosecutors, victim advocates, probation officers, courts, judges, offender service providers, mental health provid-

ers, homeless services and other human service providers to implement a coordinated community response orchestrated by Fairfax County's Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Each service component contributes to meeting the unique needs of those fleeing domestic violence.

Measuring the effectiveness of a collaborative response such as this can be challenging, but studies have shown that combining approaches in a coordinated effort reduces future incidents of violence. Collaboration is the solution to increasing victim safety and decreasing future violence in our community and your help is needed to continue our efforts.

Shelter House is participating in The Allstate Foundation's "Purple Purse Challenge," a project that is aimed at raising awareness and building the financial empowerment of domestic violence survivors. The Allstate Foundation part-

ners with leading national and local nonprofits to expand their efforts and Shelter House is honored to have been selected to participate. To learn more about the Purple Purse Challenge and to make a donation, visit [www.shelterhouse.org](http://www.shelterhouse.org). Contributions go directly to supporting our programs serving survivors of domestic violence. With 1-in-4 women estimated to have experienced domestic violence in her lifetime, expansion is needed to adequately serve those fleeing domestic violence in our community and ultimately work towards ending the occurrence domestic violence altogether. We hope you'll join us in the "Purple Purse Challenge" to help raise funds and awareness as we change the conversation from #WhyIStayed to #HowIHelped."

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, contact the 24-hour hotline or Artemis House to discuss: 24 hour hotline/helpline: 703-360-7273, TTY: 703-435-1235 Artemis House: 703-435-4940

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## NEWS

# 550-plus Against Cluster Development

Basheer and Edgemoore rezoning proposal leads to citizen-backed petition.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**here is a growing opposition to a cluster development proposal seeking rezoning in the village.

After residents found out that the Brooks Farm pasture might be rezoned by developer Basheer and Edgemoore to residential estate to increase the number of homes built on the property, more than 550 of them signed a petition voicing their disapproval.

"Our concern is not about trying to stop them," said Great Falls Homeowners Association board member Ed Ross. "Our concern is that they're going for a special exception to go from [Rural Agriculture] to [Residential Estate]."

**THE ONLINE PETITION** created by residents calling themselves the Citizens of the Heart of Great Falls - <http://tinyurl.com/nog62zy> - is also supplemented with a Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Save-Heart-of-Great-Falls/653948938037167>.

Ross said the residents are concerned that the increase in houses on the land near Walker Lake Road will not only lead to more traffic congestion but also deteriorate the environment and the village's well system.

"We don't think the development is consistent with the other types of developments in Great Falls," he said.

Rural Agriculture zoned land is meant to raise livestock and has a five-acre minimum lot, according to the Fairfax County website. Residential Estate, on the other hand, can be a minimum of 20 acres total for an entire cluster development.

"We have just filed an application with Fairfax County for the zoning of the 52-acre lot for a category 2-acre lot," said Basheer and Edgemoore founder Diane Cox Basheer. "We are waiting for comments from Fairfax County and will meet with Great Falls Citizen's Association Nov. 19. At that time, we will be presenting the community with that plan."

She said the company looks forward to working with the citizens as well as the development. When asked more questions, Basheer said she will not state more for the time being.

Resident Melonie Sullivan said her own lot is a wildlife habitat with a number of animals like deer and foxes that cross the yard over the course of the day and night.

"A large upstream development will destroy that; I'm concerned," she said.

Ross said it's more than just a personal, not-in-my-backyard issue. To him, the proposal means another step to turn Great Falls into a suburban community like the communities that surround it.

"Wherever you buy a home, presumably, you chose it because of the character of the location," said Sullivan.

She compared the current issue to the Cornwell Farm petition where more than 700 community residents signed an online petition, titled "Oppose Zon-



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/ CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

**Basheer and Edgemoore are seeking to rezone the former Brooks Farm pasture to allow for 2-acre lots. A petition has been started in opposition to the proposal.**

ing and Cluster Development of historic Cornwell Farm Property," over the course of several days in February. The developer withdrew its application the following week.

**LONG TERM RESIDENT** Colleen Sheehy Orme said there is also a safety concern because there are only two main arteries heading out of the village. She felt that more traffic would make it more difficult to leave if there was ever a major catastrophe or weather event.

"This special exception if approved does not just mean 20-something homes," she said. "It means three to four cars per each of those homes totaling from say 70 to as many as 100 cars. More special exceptions and say five more developments of similar size could mean 1,000 more cars on already congested, country roads with limited sight visibility as well as maximizing our well and septic capacities."

She said that chains like Starbucks — which she said she loved to go to — have changed traffic and parking in Great Falls in a way that is not desirable. To her, the increase in cluster developments would result in bigger changes for the village — a move away from the atmosphere that makes Great Falls different from its surrounding communities.

"I hear people say they want convenience, but the truth is there is a trade-off to living in this gorgeous, rural town," she said. "We are simply not a convenient place to live and that's a price that many of us are willing to pay for the rural beauty that we both love and enjoy."

Orme noted that the petition does not mean she and the residents do not want Basheer and Edgemoore to build the development. They just do not want the zoning — and the lot acreage — to change. She urged residents in opposition to contact state Del. Barbara Comstock and Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust to voice their concerns before the county makes a decision.

"Haydown Farms — aka, The Brooks Farm — has been zoned Rural Agricultural for years and changing it to RE, sets a precedent that leaves Great Falls vulnerable," she said. "Our residents and our county officials need to unite to help us recognize a long term future for Great Falls."

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Photography by Matt Brinkman

## FOOD & WINE

# Wine-themed Dinners Served in Area

A sampling of upcoming “themed” dinners in neighboring restaurants.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

If the abundance of hosted “themed” dinners, particularly those paired with complementary wines, are an indication of popularity, one may then conclude that themed dinners are quite in vogue now. And fall seems to bring out seasonal themes, from harvest to rich beer, that celebrate nature and festivities. The restaurants featured not only serve finely-prepared cuisine, but, they are “good neighbors” to the area communities.

Here is a sampling of themed dinners open to the public from mid-October to mid-November.

❖ **Maple Avenue Restaurant** is intimate, unassuming, and loved by local folks. Owner/executive chef Tim Ma has a deft hand with updated classics. On Wednesday, Oct. 15, and Thursday, Oct. 16, beginning at 7 p.m., Ma hosts “tasting table” dinners. Only six seats are available each evening.

October’s tasting table dinner is dedicated to fall comfort food. The five-course dinner is \$59 per person and paired wines are available for an additional \$20 per person. Ma selects fresh, sustainably-farmed ingredients for his dishes.

To reserve a seat, e-mail name, phone number, dinner date, number of seats and any food allergies or restrictions to [Joey@mapleaverestaurant.com](mailto:Joey@mapleaverestaurant.com). Or call 703-319-2177.

Maple Avenue Restaurant is located at 147 Maple Ave. West, across the street from the Vienna Drug Center. To stay updated with menu selections, check out the restaurant’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MapleAveRestaurant>.

❖ **Bazin’s on Church** hosts a Joseph Phelps Vineyards wine-paired dinner on Monday, Oct. 20, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Oysters Casino partnered with a Sauvignon Blanc opens the menu, followed by salmon croquettes with a wild mushroom ragout paired with a Freestone Chardonnay. Third course is seared duck breast, sourdough bread pudding accompanied by Fog Dog Pinot Noir. For the fourth and main course, Chef Patrick is preparing Creekstone Farms New York strip steak, accented with a cabernet sauvignon sauce, paired with a Cabernet Sauvignon.

Dessert is fried apple pie with salted caramel ice cream.

Cost per person is \$115, excluding tax and gratuity. Reservations are required; call 703-255-7212 to book and confirm with credit card.

For full menu and cancellation fine print, go to [http://www.bazinsonchurch.com/josephphelps?no\\_redirect=true](http://www.bazinsonchurch.com/josephphelps?no_redirect=true).

❖ **L’Auberge Chez Francois**, in Great Falls, has been celebrating its 60th anniversary all year with specialty and themed dinners and special events. From wine-paired dinners with music to garden-to-



PHOTO COURTESY OF L’AUBERGE CHEZ FRANCOIS

**Proprietor and Executive Chef of L’Auberge Chez Francois, Jacques Haeringer, keeps a watchful eye during one of the restaurant’s wine dinners. Chez Francois sits along a winding Great Falls road on grassy acreage. The restaurant pulls fresh produce from its own gardens.**

table feasts, Chez Francois offers a selection of twice-monthly special hostings.

An Alsatian-styled inn set amidst a Great Falls country retreat, Chez Francois — under the direction of executive chef Jacques Haeringer — continues the tradition of classic French cuisine and attentive customer service brought to life by Papa Francois Haeringer.

On Wednesday, Oct. 22, L’Auberge Chez Francois hosts a Quintessa Family Estates Wine Dinner, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Jacques Haeringer is joined by Master Sommelier Larry Stone. Quintessa Estates Winery includes a valley, a lake, five hills, four microclimates and many soil types, producing 40 very different wine lots from 26 different vineyard blocks.

The wine celebration begins with hors d’oeuvres and an Illumination Sauvignon Blanc. Dinner starts off with a roulade of lemon sole stuffed with Julienne Vegetables and accompanied by Flowers Chardonnay. Dinner continues with grilled Gulf shrimp and a root vegetable puree and a Flowers Pinot Noir. A roasted veal loin chop with wild mushrooms takes center-stage, paired with a Faust Cabernet Sauvignon and a Quintessa Rutherford.

Hazelnut and almond cake with hazelnut sauce closes the meal. Cost per person is \$165, all-inclusive. Chez Francois accommodates dietary concerns.

For full menu and details and to book, go to <http://www.laubergechezfrancois.com/cooking-demos-wine/?ee=64> or call 703-759-3800. L’Auberge Chez Francois sits on a country road at 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls.

SEE RESTAURANTS, PAGE 13

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# CALENDAR

## THROUGH NOV. 13

**Adventures in Learning.** 10 a.m. on Thursdays. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Seniors: come in and learn during classes you can attend on a variety of topics of interest from health issues to world affairs for all adults age 50 or older, all taught by volunteer experts. Tuition payment of \$40 entitles you to attend any of the classes you like offered during the fall session. The class schedule and registration form will be available on: [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org). You may print the registration form and mail it at any time during the term with your payment.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 16

**Reading Buddies.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. Beginning readers and teens practice reading together.

**Black 47.** 7 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Black 47 plays a uniquely Irish form of rock 'n' roll that touches on many social and political issues, and yet is never less than entertaining and riveting. Purchase tickets at: [jamminjava.com/](http://jamminjava.com/)

**Sam Amidon with Bill Frisell and Shahzad Ismaily.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk artist Sam Amidon performs with jazz guitarist Frisell, bassist Ismaily, and rebel rock guitarist Cy Dune. Tickets: \$25-\$27. For more information, visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Evening Book Group.** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. Call branch for the title of the book being discussed, 703-757-8560.

**Book Sale.** All day. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Wide selection in excellent condition for all ages.

**Bunco! Fun-raising for the arts!** 7-9 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. A FUNraiser for the arts benefiting the Vienna Arts Society. Enjoy wine and Halloween-themed refreshments. See the current art show, "Autumn Glows," featuring dozens of works by Kinda Barazi and other VAS members. Win artsy prizes. No experience is needed to play. \$20. Call to make your reservation, 703-319-3971. [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

## THURSDAY/OCT. 16- SATURDAY/NOV. 1

**Great Pumpkin Gathering.** 6-10 p.m. Town Square at Tysons II, Tysons Blvd., Tysons Corner. Artisan pumpkin carvers showcase a display that changes every day. [www.tysonspartnership.com](http://www.tysonspartnership.com).

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 17-19

**11th Annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour.** 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. 1144 Walker Road, Suite G, Great Falls. Join Great Falls Studios on a self-guided driving tour to art studios tucked along the scenic roads of Great Falls. [www.greatfallsstudios.com/](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com/)

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 17-18

**"A Thurber Carnival."** 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. "A Thurber Carnival" is a collection of humorous scenes from American life including some of Thurber's most celebrated and insightful satires based on his cartoons and humorous short pieces from The New Yorker magazine. Tickets: \$14. [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org)

## FRIDAY/OCT. 17

**Book Sale.** All day. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Wide selection in excellent condition for all ages.

**Drop-in Chess and Backgammon.** 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. All skill levels welcome.

Send announcements to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

**Drop-In Chess.** 1-6 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All ages are welcome.

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

**Masters of Hawaiian Music.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Kona-born George Kahumoku Jr. will perform selections indigenous to Hawaii. Tickets: \$25-\$30. For more information, visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 18

**Cars & Coffee.** 7- 9 a.m. Located at 760 Walker Road Great Falls. Gathering of antique, custom and exotic cars at Katie's Coffee House.

**Farmers Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Bring recyclable bags. For more information visit [www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](http://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org).

**October Bulb Sale.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna Farmers Market, Center Street, Vienna. The Ayr Hill Garden Club will host their annual Spring bulb sale. This is the opportunity to buy unique premium spring blooming, fall planted, bulbs. Some of the many specialty bulbs offered include: four varieties of Alliums, the "Pittsburgh" tulip and an "instant garden" mix of bulbs. Sale proceeds go to support the five public gardens planted and maintained by Ayr Hill Garden Club in Vienna.

**Annual Vale Fall Fair.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. Vale Schoolhouse will once again be sponsoring its annual Fall Fair for the community. Free.

**Finding Wholesale Happiness in a Retail World.** 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Jeff Yeager (the Ultimate Cheapskate) delivers practical and even life changing advice about money, happiness, and our consumer culture. Books available for sale and signing. Adults. Free. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).

**Family Halloween Party.** 2-3 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. The hauntingly good time will feature festive games, crafts, door prizes, a hayride and fun for everyone. Come in costume. Vienna Parks and Recreation Department and Optimist Club of Vienna. 703-255-6360.

**Cheesetopia.** 2-5 p.m. Balducci's Food Lover's Markets, 6655 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Balducci's will host their second Cheesetopia. Jennifer Ong, [jong@bratskeir.com](mailto:jong@bratskeir.com).

**Alexandra Nechita.** 6-9 p.m. Wentworth Gallery Tysons Galleria, 1807 U. International Drive, McLean. Artist visit. RSVP, 703-883-0111 or [tysons@wentworthgallery.com](mailto:tysons@wentworthgallery.com).

**An Evening of Indian Dance.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Traditional dance featuring classical and folk Indian dance and music performed by professional dancers from the Indian Dance Educators Association. Tickets: \$20-\$25. For more information, visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Vocal Trash.** 8 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group's Broadway-style show features world-class singing, industrial drumming, light-hearted comedy and award-winning break dancing. \$20/\$15 MCC district residents. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Ballroom Dance.** 8-9 p.m. Tango Lesson. 9 -11:30 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ music with Craig Bukowski playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual. Everyone is welcome. \$15. 703-759-2685 or [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

**Black & White Masquerade.** 7-10 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Don your finest Black & White apparel and join ArtSpace

Herndon in celebrating its second annual Fall Gala. Enjoy an evening to support The Herndon Foundation for the Cultural Arts with hors d'oeuvres, desserts, wine, champagne, prizes and live music. Limited tickets. \$25 single, \$40 couple. Call 703-956-6590 or visit [www.artspaceherndon.org](http://www.artspaceherndon.org).

**Book Sale.** All day. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Wide selection in excellent condition for all ages.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 18-19

**Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair.** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. A variety of different activities and crafts will be available as well as traditional foods. \$3-\$6. 703-442-7557.

**Tyson's Harvest Festival.** 12-6 p.m. Town Square at Tysons II, Tysons Blvd., Tysons Corner. Crafter exhibits, cider, pumpkins, country music, tastings, farm mart and kids fun zone. [www.tysonspartnership.com](http://www.tysonspartnership.com)

## SUNDAY/OCT. 19

**Neighbors Feeding Neighbors 5K.** 9 a.m. 7925 Jones Branch Dr, McLean. Funds go to Foods for Others to support those living in poverty in Northern Virginia. \$38. <https://runsignup.com>

**Wasmuth String Quartet.** 4 - 6 p.m. Saint Francis Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. This concert will feature works by Anton Webern, Joseph Haydn, and Maurice Ravel. Tickets are \$30 at the door. Season passes are available for purchase online, at [www.amadeusconcerts.com](http://www.amadeusconcerts.com), or at 703-759-5334.

**Paula Cole.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Singer and songwriter Paula Cole will perform. Tickets: \$25-\$27. For more information, visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Chamber Music Concerts.** 3 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free chamber music concerts cosponsored by the Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library and The Alden.

**Grinding Grain.** 12-3 p.m. 10017 Colvin Run Road Great Falls. The miller will be grinding, conditions permitting. Cornmeal, grits and whole wheat flour for sale in the General Store. For more information call 703-759-2771.

## MONDAY/OCT. 20

**Preschool Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. Join in for stories, songs and activities. Ages 3-5 with adult.

**Kids Book Club.** 5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. Featuring the Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman. Ages 8-12.

**Lachlan Bryan.** Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Winner of the alt-country Album of the Year at the 2014 Australian Country Music Awards, Lachlan Bryan & The Wildes are on their Black Coffee USA Tour. 703-255-1566.

## SUNDAY/OCT 19 - TUESDAY/OCT 21

**Kay Witt Pastel Workshop.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. The workshop will include warm up exercises of Kay's light touch application technique using multiple layers of pastels on mounted velour paper, photo transfer techniques to the painting surface, an eye study exercise, painting demonstrations and individual instruction. \$300. To register go to [www.artspaceherndon.org](http://www.artspaceherndon.org). 703-956-6590.

## TUESDAY/OCT. 21

**Lego Club.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop in and play with LEGOs. For preschool and school-aged children.



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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

**Friday Field Trips**  
**Kings Dominion Halloween Haunt**  
**Friday, Oct. 17, 3:30-10 p.m.**  
\$75/\$65 MCC district residents



**Onstage @ The Alden**  
**Vocal Trash**  
**Saturday, Oct. 18, 8 p.m.**  
\$20/\$15 MCC district residents

**Silent Film Series**  
**Alfred Hitchcock's**  
**"Blackmail" (1929)**  
**Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.**  
\$12/\$8 MCC district residents

**Haunted Gingerbread**  
**House Workshop**  
**Thursday, Oct. 23, 6:30-8 p.m.**  
\$45 per house/\$35 MCC district residents  
Activity No: 1271.214

**Monster Mash 5th & 6th Grader Party**  
**Friday, Oct. 24, 7-9 p.m.**  
\$30/\$20 MCC district residents.  
*Registration is required.*

**ArtsPower's**  
**"The Monster Who**  
**Ate My Peas"**  
**Saturday, Oct. 25, 2 p.m.**  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

**Sunday Soirée Series Dance**  
**"Ghouls and Ghosts"**  
**Sunday, Oct. 26, 3-5 p.m.**  
Admission: \$15 per couple or \$8 single

**The McLean Community Center**  
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# The Private School Admissions Process

Local educators offer insider tips on how to select and get your child admitted to the perfect school.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hile this school year might still feel new, some parents are already thinking about next fall. Or if they're not, they should be. For parents who are considering sending their children to one of the area's private schools for the 2015-2016 school year, the application process should be underway.

"Now is the time to begin the independent school admission process for the 2015-2016 academic year," said Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "Application deadlines vary by school, but generally fall between mid-December and late January.

"Parents often start the process by exploring school websites and speaking with trusted friends who have personal experience with specific schools. Doing your research may be time-consuming, but what

could be more important than finding the right educational fit for your child?"

Use this time to peruse school websites and get to know the schools you think might be a good fit for your child. "Go beyond the admission [web] pages," said Mimi Mulligan, assistant head and director of admission and enrollment management at Norwood School in Bethesda, Md. "Read a school's magazine or its weekly parent memo. Follow a school's Facebook page or Twitter feed. Looking at a school through varied lenses will provide a better sense of culture at the school.

"Talk as a family about what would be the best kind of school for your child," she continued. "Coed versus single gender, traditional versus progressive, suburban versus urban, no uniform versus uniform, kindergarten through second versus kindergarten through eighth versus kindergarten through 12th."



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORWOOD SCHOOL

**Visiting prospective schools will give parents and students a sense of the institution's atmosphere and culture.**

Consider your child's strengths and weaknesses, and what they need to be happy and successful in school. "Keep your mind open," said Mulligan. "The spectrum of excellent schools in our area is broad, enabling parents to think beyond name recognition and focus on right fit when selecting a school."

There are a few factors for parents to consider: "Does a school's mission resonate with your family's values?" asks Dunning. "Will the curriculum challenge your child's strengths and support him or her in other areas?"

**PARENTS AND STUDENTS** should begin by creating a list of schools where they plan to apply and start contacting their top choices. "The most important piece of advice for a family is to visit the school website often. That is full of interesting stories about a school," said Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid at The Madeira School in McLean.

"Once you've narrowed down your choices, make plans to visit the schools. Tours have started, and there will be additional opportunities such as open houses, student visiting days, and curriculum nights," said Dunning. "It is impor-

tant to experience the culture of the school to get an accurate picture. Each independent school has its own distinctive mission, and you will feel it as soon as you step onto campus."

Miller says open houses can help reduce the potential anxiety a student might have about other parts of the application process, such as an interview or standardized test, which are often requirements for private school admissions. She also suggests attending a school play or athletic event. "Those are great ways to see a school community."

**Fall Open House**  
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“Artists on the Green” Studio.



PHOTO BY GAIL PÉAN

## ‘Artists on the Green’ Welcome Art Lovers

“Artists on the Green,” a local cooperative Studio and Gallery, is located in the Great Falls Village Centre in Great Falls next to Jinny Beyer Quilts. Founded in May of 2013 by five artists — Gail Péan, Layla Gray, Connie Costello, Tom Stack and Mary Nesbitt — the artists’ studio is a cooperative workplace that provides a gallery for 12 local artists. Their charter agreement and lease were signed on a bench on the Village Green hence their name “Artists on the Green.” Other local artist members include Coty Dickson of Great Falls, and Leslie Anthony of Reston, Yoshiko Doherty of Vienna, Stephanie Pickens of Ashburn, Donna Moseley of Clifton, Moses Rayo and Aliyah Pandolfi of Great Falls.

Each full-time member has designated floor and wall space. Associate members share space and can opt for gallery wall space. A percentage of sales and teaching fees goes to support the studio. The artists have bonded over painting and decorating the studio when they moved in and have continually made space adaptations as they prosper.

Molly Hockman of Great Falls and friend and neighbor of Stack is their volunteer business manager who handles their expenses and rent payment. This frees the artists to spend their time creating and not worrying about the administrative paperwork.

Artists on the Green also hosts guest artist workshops and classes for the members who seek to learn more. On Thursday mornings artist Kurt Schwarz provides instruction and guidance to the members after teaching at the Torpedo Factory on Wednesdays in Alexandria. Trisha Adams held a “Loosen Up” workshop and will provide another in December. These sessions filled up immediately after being advertised to non-member artists. They have been so successful that they are starting a waiting list of associate members.

During the upcoming 11th Annual GFS Studio Tour, Dickson will be teaching children and adults how to paint and provide them with canvases they may take home. Anthony will be painting a crazy cow. Péan will demonstrate impasto pallet knife painting. Gray will create a landscape painting.

Observers will have the chance to watch the “Alla Prima” process over the three days to see paintings from sketch to completion. “Alla Prima,” which comes from Italian is the term for painting wet on wet and not allowing time to dry the painting. Artists will be there to answer questions about their finished paint-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Painter Leslie Anthony, a member of Artists on the Green, specializes in paintings of horses and dogs. Bring in a photo of your pet during the Great Falls Studios 2014 Studio Tour and she may paint it.**

### Great Falls Studios 2014 Studio Tour

Now in its eleventh year, the Great Falls Studios 2014 Studio Tour will take place on three days, October 17-19 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day. It’s a free self-guided driving tour to visit 50 artists in their own creative spaces—from a rustic farmhouse to a contemporary loft, from a converted garage to a contemporary home.

The multi-artist venues are all on Walker Road, including the studio and gallery of Artists on the Green, tucked in the original Village Green on Walker Road, the AHH! (Art Happens Here) Studio located north of the intersection of Walker Road and Georgetown Pike, and the Artists’ Atelier situated in an airy loft at the intersection of Walker Road and Colvin Mill Road.

The Tour Headquarters will be at the Great Falls Community Library, where there will be an example of the work of each artist on the tour. Visitors may sign in to win Art Bucks valued at \$50 toward the purchase of art during the tour. Go to the Great Falls Studios website at [www.GreatFallsStudios.com](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com) to plan your visit.

ings and techniques.

They welcome visitors to observe them painting and browse the selection of original oil paintings whenever they are there but especially during the upcoming GFSStudio tour Oct. 17-19. They are #14 on the Green GFSStudio Tour map next to Adler Jewelers and the Brogue. Visit their website at [www.artistsonthegreen.net](http://www.artistsonthegreen.net) for more info and photos.

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# SPORTS

## Langley, McLean, South Lakes Compete at Glory Days Invite

Langley, McLean and South Lakes were among the boys' teams that competed in the Glory Days Invitational cross country meet on Oct. 11 at Bull Run Regional Park.

South Lakes finished 25th out of 35 teams with a score of 656. Andrew McCool was the Seahawks' top finisher, placing 32nd with a time of 17 minutes, 2 seconds. Sean Miller finished 77th (17:32) for South Lakes.

McLean finished 29th with a score of 701. Alex Pierce came in 50th with a time of 17:13 for the Highlanders.

Langley came in 34th with a score of 845. Alessandro Shapiro led the Saxons with a 131st-place finish (18:02).

Loudoun Valley's Andrew Hunter was the top individual finisher with a time of 15:44. Millbrook's Tyler Cox-Philyaw finished runner-up (16:05). Chantilly's Ryan McGorty was the 6A North region's top finisher, placing third with a time of 16:11.

Thomas Jefferson had three harriers place in the top 15: Christopher Blagg (10th, 16:35), Saurav Velleleth (11th, 16:35) and Nate Foss (14th, 16:42).

Dulaney finished first in the team competition with a score of 71, followed by Good Counsel (160), Thomas Jefferson (189) and Chantilly (220).

## Marshall Football Gets Second Victory

The Marshall football team on Sept. 26 earned its first victory since 2011, beating Thomas Jefferson. Two weeks later, the Statesmen added another.

Marshall defeated Stuart 32-24 on Oct. 10 for the Statesmen's first home win of the season. Marshall improved to 2-4 this sea-



**Langley's Alessandro Shapiro (1491) runs during the Glory Days Invitational on Oct. 11 at Bull Run Regional Park.**



**McLean's Alex Pierce finished 50th in the boys' varsity race at the Glory Days Invitational on Oct. 11 at Bull Run Regional Park.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



**South Lakes' Andrew McCool came in 32nd with a time of 17:02 during the Glory Days Invitational on Oct. 11 at Bull Run Regional Park.**

son.

The Statesmen will host Stone Bridge at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17.

## South Lakes Football Earns First Win

In a battle of winless teams, South Lakes trounced Thomas Jefferson 49-6 on Oct. 10.

The Seahawks improved to 1-5. South Lakes will travel to face Langley at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17.

## McLean Football Drops to 3-3

The McLean football team traveled to Stone Bridge on Oct. 10 and lost 42-19, dropping its record to 3-3.

The Highlanders have lost three of their last four since starting 2-0.

McLean will host Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17.

## Langley Football Falls to Fairfax

The Langley football team, in its most tightly-contested game of the season, lost to Fairfax 35-28 on Oct. 10 dropping its record to 2-4.

The Saxons' previous five games were each decided by 11 points or more.

Langley will host South Lakes at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17.

## Herndon Blanked at Home

The Herndon football team lost to Edison 17-0 on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 11.

The Hornets fell to 3-3. Herndon will open Conference 5 play on the road against Chantilly at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17.

# Oakton Volleyball Succumbs to Injuries, Woodson

## Sophomore Yang plays well in expanded role.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Oakton volleyball team's starting setter and libero missed Monday's match against Woodson with ankle injuries. By the end of the night, the Cougars had lost a starting middle hitter to yet another ankle injury.

Oakton hung around early, winning the second set to even the match at 1-apiece. Eventually, however, the Cougars' unfamiliar rotations caught up with them and Woodson cruised to a 3-1 (25-18, 17-25, 25-11, 25-20) victory on Oct. 13 at Oakton High School.

After Oakton won the second set, Woodson took over behind the play of senior outside hitter Mackenzie Reed,

who finished with 12 kills and four aces. The Cavaliers finished with 18 aces as a team.

"We just fell apart in some rotations," Oakton head coach Dan Courain said. "Woodson really gained a lot of confidence on their serve, they served tough. We just lost a lot of confidence on that serve-receive and [from] each rotation trying out something new. We just didn't have it in games three and four.

"... I will say injuries [were a problem], but that's no excuse."

Oakton started the match with junior setter Meghan Wood and junior libero Alex Marquis on the bench. Wood suffered an ankle injury and could miss the remainder of the season, Courain said. Marquis had been playing through an ankle injury, but



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Oakton junior Emily Heier had six kills against Woodson on Monday.**

she sat out of Monday's match with hopes of returning at 100 percent.

Senior middle hitter Camille Baechler suffered an ankle injury during the match.

With multiple teammates out, sophomore outside hitter Alice Yang, already one of the

Cougars' best players, took on an expanded role, setting from the back row. She finished with eight kills, five digs and 10 assists.

"She did a spectacular job," Courain said. "... She really stepped up."

Junior middle hitter Emily Heier finished six kills, three aces and four blocks. Junior libero Lindsey Wallen totaled a career-high 16 digs.

Courain said junior opposite hitter Coral Hulcher also played well.

The loss was Oakton's third straight and dropped its record to 12-9. The Cougars, who are 1-1 in Conference 5 matches, will travel to face Robinson at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16.

"We've got to be able to win," Courain said. "We've got another conference match Thursday against Robinson. ... We can't use injuries as an excuse."



## FOOD & WINE

**Wildfire Tysons Galleria hosts beer or wine-themed dinners monthly. Wildfire's focus is on steaks, chops and seafood.**



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

# Restaurants Serve 'Themed' Dinners

FROM PAGE 8

❖ **Pazzo Pomodoro** hosts monthly 4- to 5-course wine dinners featuring a global selection of wine varieties. The next wine dinner, spotlighting Conn Creek wine from Napa Valley, is on Monday, Nov. 3, starting at 7 p.m.

Dinner begins with an antipasto of prawns sautéed with mascarpone brandy sauce and risotto cake. First course is spinach ravioli stuffed with sausage and ricotta. Third and main course is beef tenderloin wrapped in pancetta and puff pastry served with rossini sauce and wild currants.

The grand finale, dessert, is centered around Pazzo Pomodoro's housemade gelato — a pumpkin cheesecake served with salted caramel gelato.

Each course is to be paired with a complementary wine that enhances the ingredients of each dish.

Only two years old, the restaurant was named Best New Restaurant by Washingtonian readers in 2013 and one of 50 Best Restaurants by Northern Virginia Magazine.

Pazzo Pomodoro is active in fundraising for the national capital area lymphoma society.

Cost of the Conn Creek wine dinner at Pazzo Pomodoro is \$75 per person, tax and gratuity not included.

Pazzo Pomodoro is located at 118 Branch Road SE, Vienna. To book the wine dinner, call 703-848-1747. See [www.PazzoPomodoro.com](http://www.PazzoPomodoro.com) for full wine dinner menu.

❖ **Wildfire** Executive Chef Eddie Ishaq and St. Michelle Wine Estates representative Benny Torman host a Stag's Leap Wine Cellars wine dinner on Monday, Nov. 10. The reception, with poached prawns in coconut-curry broth, and jumbo lump-crab beignets and Stag's Leap Wine Cellars Sauvignon Blanc begins at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m. Wildfire Tysons Galleria -Steaks, Chops and Seafood – is located at Tysons Galleria.

The four-course dinner includes pan-seared duck breast and Stag's Leap Karia Chardonnay to begin, followed by a second course of braised short ribs and stuffed chanterelle mushrooms and a Stag's Leap Wine Cellars "S.L.V." Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. Third course includes a hand-picked selection of artisan cheeses and a Stag's Leap Artemis cabernet sauvignon. Dessert is a raspberry trifle with compote and chocolate mousse, accompanied by a Stag's Leap Hands of Time red.

Charge per person is \$120 plus tax (gratuity not included). RSVP to Amanda or Erika at 703-442-9110. To see full menu and details, go to [www.wildfirerestaurant.com](http://www.wildfirerestaurant.com).

And while there will certainly be no wine included, there will be pumpkins galore when Wildfire hosts a pumpkin-carving workshop for children on Saturday, Oct. 25, from 3 to 4 p.m., and on Sunday, Oct. 26, 9 to 10 a.m. Each session costs \$20 per child. A portion of the proceeds benefits Food for Others.

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### ABC LICENSE

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#### PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK SITE

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The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Fairfax Petroleum Realty, LLC to develop a Corrective Action Plan Addendum (CAPA) to address cleanup of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in groundwater at the site. If you have questions regarding the cleanup, please contact:

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Attention: Mark Steele

The CAPA was submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ on October 2, 2014. If you would like to review or discuss the CAPA with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Alex Wardle (Alexander.Wardle@deq.virginia.gov) at (703) 583-3822. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the CAPA until December 5, 2014 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Hard copy of the CAPA will be available at the Great Falls Library. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC# 2010-3028.

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## Not in the Mood



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Sometimes, believe it or not, I'm not in the mood to be a terminal cancer patient (duh). Not that the effect is particularly tangible, but the weight of it, as well as the associated waits I've occasionally written about, can get awfully heavy. Moreover, in spite of my best psychological efforts, generally speaking, there seems little I can do to diminish its effect. More often than not, it's merely time; simply time passing and/or time spent trying to talk myself out-of how I feel and in-to how I haven't failed.

Obviously, surviving five years and almost eight months after initially receiving a "13-month to two-year" prognosis from my oncologist on February 27, 2009 is success with a capital "S." I understand that miraculous fact amazingly well. Nevertheless, on a daily basis, I might not feel so successful. I attribute it to things beyond my control: the underlying disease; the treatment/side effects; the figurative rewiring of my brain after it learned and began to live with the diagnosis/prognosis and the responsibilities of being a proactive cancer patient; these are certainly reasonable and customary considerations given the world in which I now exclusively reside. Still, it's my life and I have to live it.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not "woeing-is-me," nor am I the least bit ungrateful for the great good fortune I've had beating the hell out the original life-expectancy odds I was given. I'm thrilled, every day. But I'm still a cancer patient with incurable stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, one of the least desirable diagnoses in the cancer world. Lung cancer is a killer, almost always – and I don't mean inevitably so, I mean prematurely (not that every death isn't premature, but you get my meaning, right?).

Every day – or so it seems, there are words, phrases, references, articles, news/media reports, and miscellaneous reminders that I see, hear and/or read, that connect me with my situation. I haven't exactly completed a study on the nature of this exposure, but it sure seems/feels, however inadvertent or random it may be, that it is impossible to escape and next to impossible to ignore – although I try, and in reviewing the content of this column, it is an ongoing failure of mine.

Some days, I can shrug it off; most days in fact. But this day (today when I'm writing this column), I couldn't. I'm not exactly depressed, more like forlorn. I don't feel hopeless, maybe a little helpless. I don't feel unlucky, perhaps a bit unsettled. Nothing really out of my ordinary; but still, a little out of my character. I'm entitled; I understand that. I've been carrying this weight for over five and a half years. No one said being a terminal cancer patient was going to be easy; in fact, they said the exact opposite: that it was going to be the toughest thing I've had to do, and of course, they were right. Today is simply one of those days when it's most difficult. I'm sure tomorrow will better. Of that I'm positive (at least that's what I tell myself – ALL THE TIME).

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





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