



Animal lover
Samantha
Grayer of Great
Falls with her
dog, Bradley.

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Summer With
Books in Great Falls

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Old-fashioned Fair
At Claude Moore Farm

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THE BOB NELSON TEAM

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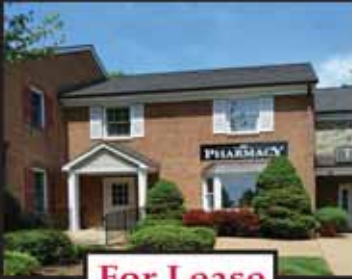


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PHOTO BY MADDY WEINGAST/THE CONNECTION

At Great Falls Library, the Summer Reading program is advertised in the Children's section. Special events are typically held in this area as well.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LEONAH ARROYO

Members from the Leesburg Animal Park offered the children at Great Falls Library an educational opportunity to learn about animals and see them up close.

Summer With Books in Great Falls

Great Falls Library promotes summer reading program.

BY MADDY WEINGAST
THE CONNECTION

Getting children to pick up a book over the summer is no easy feat. But the Fairfax County Public Libraries aim to do just that in their Summer Reading Program running from June 19 to Sept. 5.

The Summer Reading program targets preschool, school age and teenagers in offering special programming events, like a visit from the Leesburg Animal Park at Great Falls Library and a reading log. In Great Falls the program is co-sponsored by the Friends

of Great Falls Library.

"The kids get a list here at the library or they can sign up online. They have to read 15 books for kids up to sixth grade. If they're over sixth grade then they only have to read 6 books," said Leonah Arroyo, Community Youth manager librarian at Great Falls Public Library.

To get credit, children can read any new books they want but not the same book repeatedly. Fairfax County Public Libraries provide a suggested reading list based on grade level, but participants are not restricted to the options offered on the list.

"When they're done with their list they bring it into library and they get a little coupon book and in that it has all sorts of different coupons for partnering organizations," said Arroyo.

Sponsors providing prizes in the coupon book include DC United, McDonalds, Six Flags and Shake Shack.

"I love summer reading—it's so nice to have unlimited time to read whatever interests me. It's been fun reading books like 'Rush Revere and the American Revolution' and several from the Dolphin Diaries series especially 'Under the Stars and Riding the Storm' which is my favorite," said Ella

Dowley, 9-year-old Potomac School student from Vienna.

According to the Fairfax County website studies have found that library visits, amount of time reading and the number of books read contribute to youth success upon returning to school in the fall.

"I think it's an awesome program and kids get so excited about it. We encourage kids if they want to they can read above and beyond," said Arroyo. "It's a good way to get the family into to reading."

The program in Great Falls will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on Aug. 27 at the Great Falls Library.



Two families whose parents met through the Market Fair: Idunn Taylor (W. Va), Anne Bova (Pa.), Charlotte Bova (Pa.) and Cynthia Taylor (W. Va).



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE WATKINS/THE CONNECTION

"The Millinery" — Sarah Cooper (W. Va) and Becca Goughnour, of Herndon.



Mother and daughter man the "Noah's Ark" booth, Isabella Wright and Lucia Wright of Rockville.

Claude Moore Colonial Farm Hosts 2015 Market Fair

Visitors from all over attended the 18th Century Colonial Fair, immersing themselves in the colonial times through food, merchandise and traditional activities.

The smell of traditional roasted chicken filled the air as the British flag waved in the afternoon sun. Children dressed in bonnets and buckled shoes

skipped through the gravel, giggling as they weaved through the wide assortment of booths the July Market Fair at Claude Moore Colonial Farm had to offer. From long-serving volunteers to first-time visitors, people of all ages enjoyed the two-day affair, despite the blistering heat.

Some highlights from the daily sched-

ule included a swords demo, a militia march, a puppet show and a three-legged race. Mainly children took part in the events throughout the day, while parents could be seen purchasing goods in the market, such as jewelry from "The Millinery" and children's toys from "Noah's Ark." Other popular features of the fair included a potpourri booth, a

blacksmith, lively fiddlers and food booths cheekily named "Mother Clucks Bake Oven" and "The Shady Poult and Piglet." Missed out on all the fun? Be sure to attend the next Market Fair this fall on Oct. 17-18.

— CAROLINE WATKINS

PET CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY COOPER DAVIS/THE CONNECTION



Jill Baker and her dog, Izzy.



Jill Baker holds her corn snake, Cornelia.



Josh Baker pets his dog, Izzy.

Cornelia's 'Inconvenient Diet'

BY COOPER DAVIS
THE CONNECTION

Josh and Jill Baker have one rather unusual pet, a corn snake, with the clever name Cornelia. The Bakers came to have their pet when their older daughter, Danielle, volunteered at a nature center in North Carolina where one of the corn snakes had babies, one of which

Danielle took home to Virginia. Luckily, according to Jill, the snake is not hostile, as it is very calm and lets people hold it. The snake's diet is a little inconvenient, however, as it eats frozen mice. One time, Josh received a FedEx package, and "I thought it was some clothing I ordered," when in fact, "I opened it up and it was frozen mice in dry ice!"

Although the Bakers enjoy their snake,

Cornelia, who they have had for three years, they have an even deeper connection with their rescue dog, Izzy, who they adopted this past year. "We felt strongly about rescuing a dog that might otherwise be euthanized," Jill said, "so we adopted our last two dogs from rescue organizations because so many

dogs need homes." The family picked Izzy because she is goofy-looking, with her ears sticking out flat, like Yoda, according to daughter Danielle. Josh, meanwhile, compares Izzy to Ferdinand, the famous bull from the children's book, since they both like to "smell the flowers just quietly."

Squawky Meets Neighbors

Andrew McCausland just graduated from Langley High School and plans to attend the University of Virginia, and though numerous other Langley students will do the same, McCausland stands out from the crowd thanks in part to his beloved pet, an 11-year-old green-cheeked Conure named Squawky. Squawky is in the middle of his life span right now, as his life expectancy is 25-30 years. The bird has a "quirky" personality, according to McCausland, who called him "energetic [and]... always excited to meet people."

Squawky's cage is filled with Amazon boxes, as he spends most of his day inside the boxes making nests. If it's not doing that, Squawky is eating. Andrew's family gives Squawky a lot of freedom, letting him play in the sink during baths, which he loves, and feeding him all kinds of food, from Cheez-Its to the family's dinner each night. The bird has a special bond with each family member, McCausland said. "He loves my mom because of her hair. He likes resting on top of [her] hair and playing with [it.]



Andrew McCausland and his green-cheeked conure, Squawky.

He understands my dad is the leader of the family and always giving him snacks. He sees me as a father figure."

A Bearded Dragon Joins Family

The Schnells might seem to be a family of four, but they are actually a family of 10, since, according to mother Dawn Schnell, the family's six pets are "really part of the family. They're family members." The extended family includes three dogs, a hermit crab, a freshwater suckerfish, and most unusual of all, a bearded dragon.

The bearded dragon belongs to Dawn's 12-year-old daughter Katherine. Dawn was originally skeptical about having a reptile for a pet, but was convinced when Katherine did "three or four months of research" on the lizard, and created a chart about how she could pay and care for it. The pet store

where Katherine bought her bearded dragon told her the animal was a boy, who she named Sandy, but upon further research in the lizard encyclopedia, Katherine realized it was actually a girl. "Thankfully," said Katherine, "Sandy's a gender-neutral name, so it worked out!"

As for the family's more conventional pets, Ruby is the eldest dog, a 15-year-old blue tick hound-golden retriever, but she still manages to get along with the youngest dog, a 3-month-old shepherd-boxer mix puppy named River. In between is Mudge, a 3-year-old Swiss shepherd mix, who is 10-year-old Charlie's favorite. Explains Dawn,

Family with Seven Pets

The Irwin family absolutely loves pets. They have seven that they take care of each day: two dogs, two cats, one bunny and two horses. The mother of the family, Suzanne Irwin, said her love for pets stemmed from their warm-hearted personalities. "Pets are very innocent; they're very loving. They give a lot of affection. They need you."

Each member of the Irwin family has a special connection with certain pets. Suzanne feels close with the dogs, Lucy and Stella. Lucy is an adorable toy rat terrier, while Stella is a large, furry Bernese mountain dog. Daughter Shelby has a bond with the cats, Pikachu and Sylvester, and even though Pikachu is not very outgoing and people-friendly, "Shelby can pick her up," according to Suzanne. Shelby's twin sister, Sarah, is close with the bunny, Fuzzy Bug.

With all these animals under one roof, especially the cats, dogs and bunny, one might think that the pets wouldn't mesh.



From left — Shelby, Suzanne, and Sarah Irwin with their dogs, Lucy and Stella.

Luckily, however, the family reports that all the pets get along. Suzanne added, though (smiling), that "We have enough pets!"



Katherine Schnell's bearded dragon, Sandy.

"It's really nice for kids to grow up and see the circle of life and what it takes and that commitment."

SEE PEOPLE AND PET, PAGE 8



Dawn Schnell poses with her youngest dog, River, and her oldest dog, Ruby.

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Great Falls Senior Center Welcomes Back Don Hakenson

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) event for Aug. 4 features Don Hakenson. His topic will be Mosby's Raid into Fairfax Court House. Don Hakenson has spent countless years researching Civil War incidents and sites in Fairfax County, especially regarding the confederate guerilla chieftain Colonel John S. Mosby and his rangers. Hakenson is a past president of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society, founder and member of the Board of Directors for the Franconia Museum and a civil war advisor for the Mosby Foundation. Hakenson is a Washington, D.C. native who has lived most

of his life in Fairfax County.

The Aug. 4 event will be held at The Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The program runs 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and includes lunch. A modest contribution is appreciated. The event sponsor is the Rotary Club of Great Falls. The Rotary meets at the River Bend Country Club on Thursday morning for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Meetings are open to the public. For more information visit www.rotarygreatfalls.org. Reservations are a must. To reserve, email Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz1@verizon.net or call 703-759-4345.

FCPS Launches Collect for Kids School Supply Drive

To ensure that every child in the school district is prepared for school, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has launched Collect for Kids, a coordinated school supply drive to benefit needy FCPS students. The drive will provide school supplies for the 2015-16 school year for students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals; donors may contribute cash that will be used to purchase as many supplies as possible, backpacks, or calculators. Approximately 52,000 FCPS students receive free and reduced-price meals.

Citizens can support FCPS students in one of three ways:

- ❖ Cash donations. By partnering with Office Depot, Kitz for Kids, and Wal-Mart, Collect for Kids purchases school supplies in bulk, translating a \$1 donation into \$3 worth of school supplies. A \$10 donation can fill a backpack with FCPS-

approved supplies. Donations are accepted online.

- ❖ Backpack donations. Donations of new backpacks can be brought to any Apple FCU or Northwest FCU branch, or to any affiliated organization. Visit Apple FCU or Northwest FCU for branch locations. There is always a need for additional large backpacks for high school students.

- ❖ Calculator donations. Calculators, which will help support students in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) subjects, can be donated to Apple FCU or any partnered not-for-profit organization. The Collect for Kids website lists partners: <http://collectforkids.org/partners/>. Preferred models are the TI 30Xa Solar School Edition or TI-84 Series calculators, but other models may be donated.

The Collect for Kids program runs through Sept. 4.



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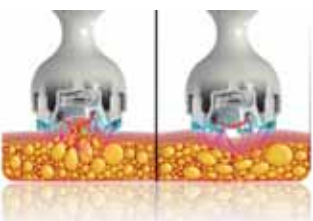
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OPINION

What's Special about Your Community?

Share tips in upcoming Newcomers and Community Guides.

The Connection's annual Newcomers and Community Guides will publish Aug. 26.

A bevy of interns, plus staff writers and editors, are preparing this year's editions, but we need help from our readers.

What tips do you have for someone getting to know the community?

EDITORIAL

We're hoping to share special places, activities, events, organizations and volunteer opportunities. What should someone new to your neighborhood know about? Events that should not be missed? Organizations that do a great job? Places to volunteer? Tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? A great place to see the sunset? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations, clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about the organization and how to get involved.

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or send as a letter to the editor via the website at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>. Send in your Insider's Tips by Friday, Aug. 14.

For information on advertising, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431.

After One Year, Silver Line is Changing the Face of Northern Virginia

BY U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



If you were among the thousands descending upon Tysons Corner Center this summer for the grand opening of the new Hyatt Hotel, which included a concert and fireworks, you experienced firsthand the transformation taking place there and throughout the Dulles Corridor thanks to the arrival of Metro's Silver Line.

It was just one of many milestones we've celebrated as we reach the one-year anniversary of completion of Phase 1 of Silver Line service from East Falls Church through Tysons to Wiehle-Reston East.

Previously, the mall was accessible mainly by car and one often had to contend with fierce traffic to get there. Today, the Tysons Station is one of Metro's busiest on Saturdays.

With the opening of the mall's plaza connecting with the Metro station and new offices, apartments, and the hotel, the outdoor space is bustling with families din-

ing alfresco, dancing to one of the Friday night concerts, or trying their hand at the free games and activities set up throughout the plaza.

And that's just the beginning of the transformation! The changes around the malls are emblematic of what we're seeing take place across Tysons and Reston. Thanks to the Silver Line, people are doing something that up to now was unthinkable: They are walking to work, to eat, to shop, or to their homes.

The collection of office parks and shopping centers, once surrounded by vast expanses of parking, are now being connected to the Silver Line by raised walkways interspersed with pocket parks. Today, you can even walk off the train at Tysons or Reston to shop at a local farmers market!

Take a ride on the Silver Line through Tysons and out to Reston and you can see the transformation we envisioned taking shape. At least five new buildings including new high-rise apartments opened in the past year, and the construction cranes dotting the

skyline and projects in the pipeline give us a glimpse of what's to come.

The growing ridership on the year-old Silver Line demonstrates the pent-up demand for transit in the corridor. Wiehle-Reston East continues to be the busiest Silver Line station with nearly 9,000 riders a day, and during the morning rush it is the third highest revenue-generating station across the entire Metro system. Overall, Silver Line ridership is exceeding expectations with an average of 16,000 rider trips per day.

Northern Virginia's economy is also feeling a boost. The 23-mile Dulles Corridor, with five Fortune 500 companies and numerous other firms headquartered there, already accounts for 25 percent of the region's gross domestic product.

By connecting downtown Washington and suburban Maryland to the region's second largest employment corridor, the Silver Line has created new opportunities for our workforce. And the growing commercial tax base along the corridor, already a primary driver of the regional economy, will relieve some of the burden on local property taxpayers and help sustain our

investments in schools, public safety, and parks.

Within a few years, Phase 2 will extend the Silver Line to Dulles and Loudoun County, providing a new link to our premier international airport and opening a new commuting option for the outer suburbs.

Over my two decades of service as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and now as Congressman for Virginia's 11th District, construction of the Silver Line topped my list of priorities. I was proud to work with other local, state, and federal leaders to keep this important project on track and I am excited about the future benefits of this transit line to our region.

I hope you share this excitement and will join us in celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Silver Line and the positive transformation to come.

Congressman Gerald E. Connolly represents Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Fairfax in the U.S. House of Representatives. At the ceremony marking the opening of the Silver Line one year ago, then Metro General Manager and CEO Richard Sarles said about Connolly: "Without him, we wouldn't be here today."

schools during the year.

Fairfax County is a comfortable community to live. People all over the nation come here for jobs and for its outstanding schools, supported by dedicated and hardworking teachers. Life is good for many living here, but lest we forget, at times those deserving citizens need some help in our

community. Those organizations identified in this article are excellent places to go and donate the basics items so needed by our kids. We can help to insure our kids will have a good start this coming new school year.

Ronald L. Baker
Springfield

Great Falls CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Ken Moore
Community Reporter
240-393-2448
kmoore@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
[@jonroetman](https://twitter.com/jonroetman)

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
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Salome Howard-Gaibler
Display Advertising
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Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising
703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



LETTERS

Redistricting Matters

To the Editor:

Thank you for your insightful editorial headlining support for nonpartisan redistricting ("Yes to Nonpartisan Redistricting," July 9). The League of Women Voters of Virginia has been advocating for a nonpartisan redistricting commission for at least ten years, ever since the last round in 2011 of slicing and dicing up the voting districts so that legislators can choose their voters.

It is difficult to get voters energized enough about this to urge their legislators to give up any power. It is also a fairly complicated concept that comes up only every 10 years.

However, we feel the current process is a serious challenge to our democracy. As you pointed out, a huge number of Virginians are not being fairly represented, especially in northern urban areas. Communities have been cut into multiple pieces with little in common with Virginians miles away. Voters have become disengaged and don't bother to vote.

Yes, gerrymandering has gone on for centuries and apparently

was even invented in Virginia, in spite of its name. But the latest line-drawing technology has taken the process to new "lows." Look at a map of the congressional and legislative districts to see what has been done to your voting rights.

The League has many resources for becoming informed and for advocating with your legislators, plus copies of the maps mentioned above, on our website. Go to <http://lwv-vva.org/redistricting.html>.

Another good source of information is a coalition called One Virginia 2021 (onevirginia2021.org) that is gathering support across the state.

It may take a constitutional amendment to effect change. Action must begin now or we will be stuck with the same lopsided, polarized representation through 2030. We urge concerned citizens to join us in this effort.

Lois Page and Dianne Blais
Co-presidents
League of Women Voters of
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president@lwv-vva.org

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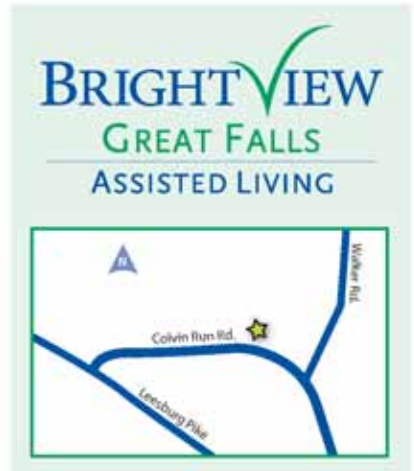
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Animal lover Samantha Grayer with her dog, Bradley.



Animal lover Samantha Grayer with her cat, Leo.

Samantha Grayer: Animal Lover

Samantha Grayer, 8, and her parents have three pets: a shiba inu dog named Bradley, a Siberian cat named Leo, and an aquarium filled with tropical fish and other sea life. Despite the stereotype of feuding cats and dogs, Bradley and Leo are best friends. “Leo is very attached to Bradley,” said mom Jackie Grayer. “When we bring [Bradley] in from a walk, Leo will jump on him and put his arms around him, like he’s hugging him.”

The dog, Bradley, is closest to Samantha and Jackie. As Jackie says, he is “more of ladies’ dog.” However, dad Larry is in charge of the fish tank. As he explains, “Everything you see in there is alive,” from colorful clownfish and blue damsels, to waving coral, to multiple kinds of crabs and shrimp, to nearly 100 starfish. The Grayers got lucky with their aquarium, as most of the bunch has been together, surviving, for the past seven years.

In addition to the family’s three permanent pets,



Samantha Grayer smiles in front of her home aquarium.

they often have “visiting pets,” according to Larry. At the moment, their visiting pet is an American toad from their backyard creek named Tommy. Tommy is just one of many examples of Samantha taking in or taking care of animals in her neighborhood, from baby birds and turtles to snakes.

A shrimp cleans the Grayer family aquarium.



PET CONNECTION



Courtney Cuppernull and her sister, Caylee, of Great Falls are both very attached to 11-year-old Amstel. “He’s the glue of our family,” says Caylee. Courtney is quick to chime in, “Everyone says their dog is the best, but Amstel really is. He always knows what you need and gives it to you.”

The Best Dogs in the World

There are a few universal truths about dogs, at least among the pet owners interviewed. Most feel that if their dog could talk, he or she would ask for more food or treats. Many dogs enjoy chewing up shoes and other belongings. Quite a few eat or roll in poop. But even with all of the naughty behaviors, most feel that their dog is absolutely the best dog in the world.

PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY



Jim and I have two beagles. He really wanted dogs. I really didn’t. But now, after 13 years, I’m one of those crazy dog people.



Aubrey and Abigail Augustine, of McLean, love Sundance. And they can prove he has the power of speech. “It’s not time for dinner,” they tell Sundance. And darned if Sundance doesn’t reply with a long, slow, sad whine, “Noooooooooooo.”

Claire and Madelyn Bonadio, of Great Falls, probably have one of the smartest dogs around. Apparently, Wrigley finally got caught after spending days stealing boxes of Girl Scout cookies from the garage and stashing the empty boxes in a hole he dug behind a tree.



Avery Carter, of Vienna, loves to love on Boo. When no one is around, Avery admits he talks to Boo in a baby voice, even though he's not a puppy anymore. Outside of home, Boo's favorite place to be is the dog park.

Will and Laura Koeppen, of McLean, say that Matti's biggest accomplishment is that she won a cutest dog photo contest in the Outer Banks. And, she isn't just good-looking, she watches out for her people. If Matti could talk, she would tell her family, "I am your protector."



Tessa Keyser of Vienna's labradoodle, Bella, is a great friend. "When you feel down, she is there for you. When you feel happy, she's there to celebrate with you. You can tell her all about your day and your secrets and she always listens."



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

"The Healing Wall." Tuesdays – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., through Aug. 1. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. "The Healing Wall" is assembled from two dozen puzzle pieces created by soldiers recovering at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. Each piece makes a powerful statement by itself as well as part of the larger puzzle.

Restful Pause. Wednesday-Saturday, through Aug. 1. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Robert Gilbert brings his nine, framed still-life paintings to exhibit. The subjects are wine bottles, wine glasses, ceramic pots, fruits and vegetables.

The paintings are realistic in some areas and impressionistic in others.

What's in Your Garden? Tuesdays - Saturdays, through Aug. 1. Vienna Arts Society "Gallery in the Village Green," 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna. Featured artist Loy McGaughy of Reston exhibits a collection of watercolors inspired by her personal photographs. The exhibition includes more than a dozen other artists.

Tyson's Concerts on the Plaza. Fridays, through Aug. 7. 6-8 p.m. at Tyson's Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tyson's Corner. Sit back and enjoy live music with a special line up each week. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning at 10 a.m. each

Friday morning in the mall concourse on level 2 next to ZARA.

Summer Reading Program. Friday-Sunday, through Sept. 5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. Attend summer events and check out books. All ages. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

Great Falls Concerts on the Green. Sundays, through Sept. 6. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out on Sundays and listen to some live music. Visit <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/>.

Vienna's Summer on the Green Concert Series. Fridays-Sundays,

through Sept. 27. 6:30 p.m. at Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Come out on the weekend and listen to some good music. Visit <http://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2640>

WEDNESDAY/JULY 22

Woof, And Paws- Read to a Dog. 2:30, 2:45, 3, 3:15 and 4 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Need a little reading help? Sign up to read with a reading therapy dog. Age 6-12. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

Pokemon League. 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends. Information at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

THURSDAY/JULY 23

Reading Buddies. 4:30 - 6 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Teen Volunteers available to read to or with beginning readers. Ages 3-9. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

Kids Book Club. 5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Ages 8-12. Call branch for title. 703-757-8560.

"Not Just for Teens" Adult Book Club. 7 - 8 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Are you an adult who loves YA lit? If so, join for discussion, fun and dessert. June's title will be Tokyo Heist by Diana Renn. Adults. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

Starlight Storytime. 7- 7:45 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Wear your favorite pajamas and join us for stories and songs. All ages. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/dm/>.

All-American Boys Chorus. 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Boys choir playing songs from the Beach Boys to contemporary favorites. Ages 8-14. Tickets \$8. Visit www.wolftrap.org

Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me! 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Watch comedians, journalists, celebrity guests, and more compete in NPR's award-winning current events quiz show. Tickets \$25-\$60. Visit www.wolftrap.org

FRIDAY/JULY 24

Playdate Cafe. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and play space for children. Coffee and conversation for grownups. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

Pokemon League. 3- 6 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

Family Game Time. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play assorted board games. All skill levels and ages welcome. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

Fangirl Friday. 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L. Tyson's Corner Center, McLean. Fangirls unite and celebrate fandom. Get introduced to the Women of Marvel, enjoy cosplay, giveaways and much more.

Kayak Tour-Sunset Over Riverbend. 5:30- 7:30 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. A kayak tour of the upper Potomac River. Tickets: \$38. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/JULY 25

West Coast Swing Dance. 7 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. A mix of Hustle and West Coast Swing music DJ'd by Ed Cottrell. Dress varies from casual to party. \$15. www.colvinrun.org.

Kids Gardening Workshop. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come and learn how garden. Ages 5-12. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/>

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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Concerts on the Green

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THE DUSTY 45s

September

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For weather cancellations or more information, call (571) 293-0474 or
go to www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org and sign up for our email list!!

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

branches/gf/.

Kayak Mini Float Trip. 11 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. A scenic wagon ride from the Visitor Center to the launch site at Riverbend Park, followed by a 1.5-mile instructor-led float trip down through riffles and flat water. No previous experience necessary. Cost is \$38. For information, call 703-759-9018.

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Year round. Great Falls Village Centre, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. www.celebrategreatfalls.org/FarmersMarket.html.

SUNDAY/JULY 26

Wagon Ride-Journey to the Potomac River. 7-9 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Take a wagon ride alongside the Potomac River and learn about the park. Tickets: \$5. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov.

Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop. 9-11 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Participants will be trained in the Leave No Trace outdoor skills and ethics program. Tickets: \$8. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/JULY 28

Pre-school Storytime. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Join us for stories, songs and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

THURSDAY/JULY 30

Reading Buddies. 4:30-6 p.m. Great



View Robert Gilbert's exhibition "Restful Pause" showcasing wine bottles, wine glasses, ceramic pots, fruits and vegetables from July 1-Aug. 1 at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls.

Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Grab a buddy! Teen Volunteers available to read to or with beginning readers. Ages 3-9. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

FRIDAY/JULY 31

Playdate Cafe. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and playspace for children. Coffee and conversation for grownups. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

Family Game Time. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown

Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play assorted board games. All skill levels and ages welcome.

Kayak Tour-Sunset Over Riverbend. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. A kayak tour of the upper Potomac River. Tickets: \$38. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov.

Parent & Child Fishing by Boat. 5-7 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Enjoy fishing with your kids. Tickets: \$16. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov.

Pushcart Players. 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Pushcart Players brings "Alice in Wonderland" to life. Tickets \$10.

Don't leave your child on the sidelines – register for fall soccer programs TODAY!

Great Falls Soccer Club offers programs for children aged 3 through 18 including Little Kickers (U3-U4), Big Kickers (U5), House League (U6-U10), Suburban Friendship League (U11+) and competitive travel teams (U9+).



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Langley Boys' Lacrosse Coach Brewer Retires After 21 Seasons

Brewer totaled 288 wins, 4 state titles with Saxons.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Weston Simonides was off to a rough start in the spring of 2014 and the Langley junior was nervous prior to taking the field. Earl Brewer, Langley's long-time boys' lacrosse coach, could sense Simonides' anxiousness and moved in to calm the Saxon attackman.

"This is not pressure, this is fun," Brewer told Simonides. "Pressure is having bullets fly past you every day for a living. This is just lacrosse. Go out and have fun."

In 2012, three-time defending state champion Langley was facing Chantilly in the VHSL AAA state final. The Saxons were without standout defenseman Chandler Suk, who was injured the previous game, and the Chargers had just increased their lead with another goal when Brewer said: "We've got them right where we want them."

Langley went on to win, 12-8, and capture its fourth consecutive state title.

Brewer, 59, retired on July 9 after 21 seasons as head coach of the Langley boys' lacrosse program, citing the desire to spend more time with his family. He compiled a 288-87 record with the Saxons, winning 10 district/conference titles, two region championships and four consecutive state titles from 2009 to 2012.

Brewer also coached six seasons at Fairfax High School, bringing his 27-year VHSL coaching record to 326-108. Brewer led the Rebels to the Western Division championship in 1990.

But Brewer was more than just a coach compiling championships. He was a calming influence who showed you didn't have to shout at your players to gain their respect.

"[H]e did a great job of setting an example of how to conduct yourself as a leader," former Langley defensive standout Brad Dotson wrote in an email. "It would've been easy for him to lose his cool and scream at us pretty frequently; he was almost babysitting at times when I look back at how much we screwed around. We didn't make it easy for him but he always got us moving toward our goal with a positive attitude. It's much more encouraging to play for someone who inspires you to follow him as opposed to someone that screams and makes threats for when you screw up."

"Brewer always set the example of how to motivate the people toward the goal of the team."

Dotson, a four-year varsity player who graduated from Langley High School in 2013, was part of three state championship teams and is now a rising junior defenseman for the Bucknell University men's lacrosse



Earl Brewer retired after 21 seasons as head coach of the Langley boys' lacrosse program.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Marshall Hires Girls' Lax Coach

George C. Marshall High School recently hired Valerie Gibbons as its new head girls' lacrosse coach.

Gibbons has been an assistant at Marshall for the past four seasons, help-

ing the Statesmen win two conference titles.

Gibbons played high school lacrosse at Falls Church and went on to play at George Mason University.

team. Brewer's "We've got them right where we want them" line from the 2012 state final is Dotson's favorite memory of playing lacrosse at Langley.

"Coach Brewer stayed calm and had the same demeanor when we were down three as when we were up five," Dotson wrote. "That was a great team. We were all really close that year."

Simonides is a 2015 Langley graduate who will play club lacrosse at James Madi-

son University next year.

"Nothing ever shook Coach Brewer; the man has ice in his veins," Simonides wrote. "He always made it seem that no matter what situation the game was in, the other team was right where he wanted them. He is also the most caring coach there is. He genuinely cares for each player on his team like they are family, which is really something that always helped us grow so much as a team. As an athlete, Coach Brewer not

only made me into a much smarter and better lacrosse player, but also was able to instill confidence in me and help me grow into a more reliable player and a better leader.

"In the few years I played for him, he never built our teams around superstars, but instead he took time to develop each player into a specific role to help us win games."

Brewer is attentive to his players, but his desire to spend more time watching his son, Drew Brewer, play lacrosse is one of the main reasons he decided to retire. Drew is a rising senior defenseman at Chantilly High School and Brewer missed many of his games while coaching the Saxons.

"Missing so many of his games this past year started to get to me a little bit," said Brewer. "... Days are short. You don't get these memories back. I thought it was the right thing to do. ... I added up how many [of Drew's] games I watched and I think it was seven, and that bugs me a little bit."

"[H]e did a great job of setting an example of how to conduct yourself as a leader."

**— 2013 Langley graduate
Brad Dotson, via email,
about lacrosse coach Earl Brewer**

Brewer said his fondest memories of coaching at Langley were during the Saxons' four consecutive state championships. Langley defeated Chantilly in the 2009, 2011 and 2012 state finals, and beat Loudoun Valley in 2010.

"They refused to lose," Brewer said. "... I'm very good friends with all those guys from those teams. When you reach the highest level you can obtain, those people are always going to have special place in your heart."

Brewer will continue coaching fall and summer lacrosse for Virginia Elite. As for Langley, Brewer said he's leaving the Saxons on a "high note," referencing a strong 2017 class. Langley started 4-7 in 2015, but responded with eight consecutive victories and eventually reached the state semifinals.

"I've made so many friends along the way," Brewer said. "I'm so proud of my players."

Brewer's players are fond of him, too.

"Recruiting, skill development, learning the game, you name it," Dotson wrote. "Coach Brewer got me to where I am as a player. I have him to thank for the countless memories and close friends I made through the Langley lacrosse family."

SPORTS



PHOTO BY COOPER DAVIS/THE CONNECTION

District Champion Great Falls poses in front of the scoreboard of their championship game. From left: Steven Trautwein, Nick Faili, Will Leger, Garret Appleton, Will Long, Bradley Carvajal, Ben O'Donnell, Donovan DiLenge, Max Nathan, Robert Hage, Holden Smith, Quinn Fish, Sam Zmuda. Not pictured: Manager Randy Long, Coaches Mike O'Donnell and Larry Zmuda.

Great Falls All-Star Majors Win District Title

Great Falls All-Star Majors continued on their roll on Saturday, July 18, when they beat McLean National, 19-8, to win the District 4 Little League Championship. The score is misleading, however, as it was a tight game until Great Falls exploded with 10 runs in the sixth inning. Great Falls, which had struggled to find power in their previous semi-final, game,

brought their bats on Saturday, hitting nine home runs, including three off the bat of Nick Faili. This represents an unprecedented fourth consecutive district Majors championship for Great Falls, which will now vie for the state championship in Richmond starting July 23.

— COOPER DAVIS

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Dylan Phillips of Great Falls graduated with honors from James Madison University with a Bachelor of Arts in Computer Information Systems.

Kristen Wolaver, daughter of John and Barbara Wolaver of Great Falls, and a 2013 graduate of Langley High School, has been named to the Dean's List for academic achievement for the spring semester at the University of Pittsburgh. Kristen is a neuroscience major with a minor in chemistry at the Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences at Pitt, where she will begin her junior year in August 2015.

Brendan Mullen, Langley HS grad class of 2011, son of Mike and Debbie Mullen of Great Falls, graduated Magna Cum Laude, with Distinction from the Pennoni Honors College, Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pa. Brendan earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences and will be attending Drexel College of Medicine in the fall. While at Langley, Brendan played goalie for the Langley Saxons Ice Hockey team and at Drexel, played on two inline teams, one of which won the Philadelphia College Roller Hockey League championship this spring.

George Mahaney-Walter, son of Mary Claire Mahaney and Herbert Walter of McLean, was awarded the degree of Master of Business Administration in recent commencement exercises at the Simon School of Business of the University of Rochester.

Northern Virginia Community College is preparing to welcome 17 incoming Honors Program Scholars for the start of the 2015-2016 academic year, which begins Aug. 24. The scholarship provides \$10,000 to be divided into



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Brendan Mullen

fall and spring semesters for two years, at \$2,500 per semester. It will assist students with the cost of tuition toward a NOVA degree. **Natalia Chavez Choque and Benjamin Atherton, of McLean High School**, received this scholarship.

Gabrielle Greco, of Vienna, daughter of Drs. Stephen and Judith Greco, was named to the Dean's List at the College of William and Mary for the Spring Semester.

Dylan Maxwell Phillips, of Great Falls, has been named to the president's list at James Madison University for the spring 2015 semester. Students who earn president's list honors must carry at least 12 graded credit hours and earn a GPA of 3.90 or above. Phillips is a senior whose major is Computer Info Systems - BBA.

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"Abyssful" Ignorance

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Hopefully not. But you never know – per last week's column, until you know. And the preferred pattern seems to be that waiting to be spoken to in person, a week or so post-scan, is the best the process can be; or at least, that's the process that suits the doctor/HMO. Certainly I can appreciate how telling a patient bad news in person is a more prudent and professional, fail-safe type of approach than a phone conversation or e-mail which is fraught with potential misinterpretation and possibly even unexpected and adverse consequences – especially for the patient/recipient of the distressing news. However, waiting a week for results is hardly ideal and certainly not the stuff of which dreams are made. In fact, it's exactly the stuff of which nightmares are caused.

Don't get me wrong; I can take it. Waiting is not for everybody, however; unless you like suffering – then it's perfect for you. But why suffer in silence – or suffer at all? You already have, to quote Radar from a M*A*S*H episode: "One foot in the grave and another on a banana peel," so why double-down or even quadruple your odds and make us learn the meaning of the word excruciating? Why fiddle with Rome when our emotions are already burning? We ("terminal" cancer patients) deserve better. Heck, we deserve your best; and a week of talking ourselves in and out of a million scenarios, most of them bad, unnecessarily, is yet another example of cruel and unusual punishment. (Shouldn't we have some Constitutional protections, too?) And punishment for crimes not committed is particularly difficult. Still, I guess I should be thankful I'm not incarcerated (although occasionally, I do feel confined to my home) while waiting. In effect though, I am, emotionally. To set these emotions apart from the everyday or compartmentalize them somehow is much easier theorized than actually accomplished. Nevertheless, I don't suppose nine days (between scan and results) are likely – ultimately – given the progressive nature of my disease, to change the course of history too much. However, it will change the course of the next nine days, and that's all I'm focused on right now. When you're in the same boat as I am, time is all that matters, and wasting any of it (to me that means time lived not knowing results immediately or sooner) is a terrible option/reality. And again, given my original diagnosis/prognosis, options are not necessarily what you feel you have in abundance.

Whether delusional or based on any facts whatsoever, options are still your emotional lifeline. Not having them or receiving them later than you'd prefer adds fuel to the fire that a cancer survivor feels (figuratively speaking). Besides, who knows what soothes the savage beast that lives in all of us "terminal" cancer patients? At least for me, not knowing or knowing after the facts are likely in evidence is somewhere between counter-productive and counter-intuitive. As soon as you know: tell me! What are you waiting for? Godot? Let me get on with what's left of my life. I want to live forward, not worry backward. I'm not looking for control. I'm looking for consideration. If the patient matters so much, then don't be so matter-of-fact about results. Our lives may be shorter than we expected, so why make us wait longer than we want? Time is on your side, not ours.

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

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