

# Great Falls CONNECTION

Infill development often takes the form of tearing down older, smaller homes and removing many of the trees on the lots to make way for much larger homes.

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PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

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# How You Get From Carnegie Hall to Reston

**Simon's vision: There should be lots of woods and lakes and active recreation, ball fields, swimming pools, tennis courts and everything should be within walking distance from where people lived so the car could be put in its place.**

BY TOM GRUBISICH

In the fall of 1961, New York City real estate developer Bob Simon had \$2 million that was burning a hole in his pocket. It was the money he and his family had made in June of that year from the sale of the Simon family heirloom, Carnegie Hall, and Simon needed to reinvest it within 18 months or pay a heavy capital gains tax.

As the clock was ticking that fall and Simon was looking for investment opportunities, he got a call from his real estate broker in New York City, Jim Felt, who had just heard about what sounded like a very interesting property from a broker who'd come up from Washington, D.C. The visiting broker, Jimmy Salkeld, from the big Shannon & Luchs realty firm in the District, had actually come to Manhattan to see one of his regular clients, Broadway producer Roger Stevens, who dabbled in real estate.

As it turned out, Stevens wasn't interested in what Salkeld was offering this time – a big farm in Northern Virginia near Washington – but he thought his friend Simon might be, and sent Salkeld to see him.

Salkeld, a rotund man with a big head crowned with black hair that was slicked down with pomade, was the king of commercial real estate deals in Washington. When he went to see Simon, he had a carefully prepared dog-and-pony show. The property for sale, Sunset Hills Farm, was 6,750 acres, ready for development and only 22 miles from the Washington Monument.

**THE FARM** was called Sunset Hills because of the spectacular view of sunsets over the Blue Ridge Mountains 15 miles to the west. The price had been knocked down to \$12.8 million from \$18 million, and the sellers were willing to take only \$800,000 in down payment and assume a mortgage on the balance with no interest for the first 10 years.

Salkeld was just getting warmed up in his meeting with Simon. He unfurled the map he'd brought with him, and pointed to two lines intersecting in the middle of the property. One, which was solid, was the Dulles Access Highway, which would connect the new Washington Dulles International Airport to the Nation's Capital; the other, which was dotted, was the planned Outer Beltway which would girdle the suburban sprawl that was spreading across fast-growing metro Washington.

Salkeld saves his best morsel for last: If Simon had the vision to create a big suburban development on the farm, a major corporation would buy a site for a regional



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

**A year ago: Bob Simon cuts the cake celebrating his 101st birthday on April 11, 2015 at Lake Anne.**

headquarters at one of the corners of the intersecting highways for a million dollars. In other words, Simon would have to put up less money than he would receive for his first land sale.

For several years, Simon had been trying to move beyond the conservative strategy set down by his late father of buying and selling already developed properties in Manhattan. The strategy was financially prudent, but not exciting, and meant there would be no windfall paydays.

The parcel that Salkeld was dangling in front of him in the fall of 1960 was a chunk of land half as big as Manhattan. Simon went down to Northern Virginia to look for himself. It was November, and Sunset Hills Farm's trees were ablaze in vermillion and gold. The only development that intruded

on the pastoral landscape was the tiny community of Sunset Hills, which included Virginia Gentleman Distillery and a few houses where distillery workers lived.

The houses, along with two distillery warehouses, were the vestiges of a failed attempt to start a new community in the last decade of the 19th century. Past the distillery ran Ridge Road, where, 98 years earlier, Gen. Robert E. Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia had passed on the way to their fateful encounter with Gen. George McClellan and his Union Army at Antietam.

As Simon strolled from the owner's mansion perched on the highest point of Sunset Hills, the crisp fall air was redolent with the smell of corn mash cooking in the distillery's kettles, and squawking, aggressive guinea hens trooped along the road

## About the Author

The author, co-founder of The Connection Newspapers, was a pioneer resident of Reston and is the author of the book "Reston: The First Twenty Years," published in 1985. He is now a resident of Charleston, S.C., where he is co-writing a book on how white and black leaders are confronting the city's nearly 350-year legacy of racism.

looking for stray kernels of corn. But a short distance away, the future was announcing itself more noisily than the guinea hens.

A formation of bulldozers was smoothing four lanes for the Dulles Access Highway that would move traffic from Washington to the newest international airport in the U.S., when it opened in two years. You didn't need a crystal ball to appreciate the implications if there were an interchange connecting Sunset Hills to the new road.

Salkeld, who lunched weekly with J. Edgar Hoover, the founding director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, at the old Harvey's Restaurant on K Street NW to exchange the kind of gossip that only the head of an intelligence agency and a broker at a realty company could collect, produced more interest tidbits for the fact-gathering Simon.

He told Simon about the strategic plan approved by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to disperse key federal offices to the suburbs to protect against the specter of the downtown Federal Triangle being obliterated by nuclear attack from the Soviet Union. With that, he segued to the map the region's planners drew up showing future development extending in spokes through those parts of Maryland and Northern Virginia circling Washington – and how one of those spokes just happened to skirt next to Sunset Hills Farm.

"He was a sensational salesman," retired Shannon & Luchs executive Warren K. Montouri, who trained under Salkeld, told me years later. "He would say anything, do anything, legally, to make a sale."

Already, the suburbs of Northern Virginia were mushrooming. Sometimes soon, they would push out toward Sunset Hills Farm. Balancing the promises and the reality, beholding the unspoiled beauty of Sunset Hills Farm, with its gently swelling hills creased by fast-running streams sheltered by occasional willow trees, Simon was a smitten buyer. By the spring of 1961, all the purchase details were worked out, and Simon was the fee simple owner of Sunset Hills Farm.

Simon had no experience in suburban development, but that didn't stop him from thinking big thoughts about what he would do with his new land acquisition. He was himself a frustrated suburbanite, having moved to Long Island with his first wife, Helen, when he came home in 1946 from military service in the Army in World War II. He loved to putter around his five acres in leafy Syosset, but hated the inconveniences, which included driving the kids to everything. Then there was the drudgery

SEE FOUNDING RESTON, PAGE 8

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# Challenge of Infill Development

**McLean, Great Falls may face new hurdles with passage of law restricting proffers.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**G**reat Falls was called Forestville until 1953, said Bill Canis, vice president of the Great Falls Citizens Association.

"Residents cherished those forests," said Canis. "It's one of the reasons most of us moved here."

"When things come up, whether it be highways or development, that seem to cause a question mark in terms of the future," he said, "residents become very concerned."

Infill development, and by-right development, where applicants don't have to get county permission to build new houses because there is no change in zoning, has caused concern the last few years, both in McLean and Great Falls.

Great Falls Citizens Association held a forum March 8 at the Great Falls Grange focusing on preserving trees, co-sponsored by Supervisor John Foust, Bob Vickers, president of the Tree Commission, and the county's Forest Conservation Branch, Urban Forest Management Division.

McLean Citizens Association and the McLean Trees Foundation is scheduled to hold its own event on preservation of the tree canopy and the issue of infill development in late April. Planners hope to have developers as part of the panel discussion in McLean.

The Great Falls forum prompted hope, even suggestion, for citizens to become involved in protecting the tree canopy in Great Falls and the county.

"In a rezoning case, it's our best opportunity to negotiate tree preservation," said Craig Herwig, branch chief from the Forest Conservation Branch of the Urban Forest Management Division. "We can often get more than 30 percent in the rezoning process through proffers, which are obligations or negotiated agreements between the developer and the county. Often times, tree preservation is part of those proffers."

For example, GFCA, citizens and the developer have been in negotiations and discussions over Brooks Farm in Great Falls for more than a year. The Planning Commission is currently scheduled to make a recommendation on April 14, although two previously scheduled hearings were deferred.

"Brooks, it's a beautiful piece of property," said Herwig.

"Tree loss from infill development in our older McLean neighborhoods, especially



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

**Infill development on Franklin Lane in McLean. Both McLean Citizens Association and Great Falls Citizens Association are raising concerns about loss of mature trees during the in-fill development process.**

Chesterbrook Woods, Langley Broyhill Estates, Turkey Run Road, and Franklin Park will continue as an issue as long as developers tear down older homes, clear cut lots, and build larger homes," asserts the McLean Citizens Association in minutes from its February board meeting.

**COUNTY STAFF COUNT** on residents to alert them to areas of particular concern, they said.

"We don't have the staff to look at the over 800 plans that come in front of the county every year," said Keith Cline, Urban Forest Management Division director. "But we work at a number of them, especially if the application is asking for some type of a variance asking to have less trees targeted or required by the ordinance."

Citizens can get involved.

Herwig and Cline passed numbers to call at the Urban Forest Management Division (703-324-1770), the site development and inspections division which plans review and site inspections (703-324-1770).

"If a citizen says, 'I'm really concerned about this house coming in next to me, would you please take a look at this plan,' then we'll look very closely," said Cline.

The Tree Ordinance is enforced even on the smallest lot by a site engineer, he said.

Other resources include the Department of Planning and Zoning website to learn

ers and zoning records: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet>.

"I have to remind myself that development is not bad. If done properly, in fact, it can be very beneficial,"

**"If a citizen says, 'I'm really concerned about this house coming in next to me, would you please take a look at this plan,' then we'll look very closely."**

**—Keith Cline, director, Urban Forest Management Division**

said Vickers, Dranesville's Tree Commissioner. "Certainly, the purpose of the Tree Ordinance is to preserve the trees."

**VICKERS REMINDED** the audience at the Great Falls Grange that Virginia is a Dillon Rule State.

"This comes up in McLean," he said.

"People in McLean say, 'Why doesn't the county pass a stricter tree ordinance and have tougher penalties, et cetera, et cetera?'" he said. "The fact of the matter is, we are what is called a Dillon Rule State. It gives property owners a lot of authority to do what they want with their property," said Vickers. "The county cannot pass an ordinance that exceeds what the state allows. Just to get that ordinance passed, we basically had to go down to the state legislature and virtually beg them to give us some authority to be able to protect the tree canopy."

While there was talk of getting stronger tools for the county to use in regulating infill development, in fact this year's session of the General Assembly resulted in rolling back the county's power to use proffers. A new law

greatly restricting local governments in asking developers for proffers in the rezoning process goes into effect this summer.



**Bill Canis, Great Falls Citizens Association vice president, with Bob Vickers, Fairfax County Tree Commissioner, at the Great Falls Tree Forum: Protecting Neighborhood Tree Cover on March 8 at the Great Falls Grange.**

"what's going on in my neighborhood": <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/myneighborhood.htm> and the LDSnet which shows site plans, grading plans, waiv-





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**A clean up crew at work: The annual clean up of Difficult Run stream valley will be held on the morning of April 9.**

## Volunteers Needed for Annual Stream Clean Up

The annual clean up of Difficult Run stream valley will be held on April 9 from 9 a.m. until noon. Sponsored by the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA), this annual clean up is part of an annual, region-wide cleanup of the Potomac River watershed. Adults and middle and high school students are encouraged to participate. Work gloves and plas-

tic bags will be provided. In addition, participants will have a scenic spring hike along the relatively flat Difficult Run stream valley between Georgetown Pike and Route 7. Get some fresh air and exercise while improving your community. To register and obtain directions, contact Bill Canis with GFCA, bcanis@yahoo.com.

## CAREGIVING

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, April 12, 7-8 p.m.** Learn techniques for effective communication and holding family meetings that will help keep communication open and more productive. Register beforehand at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices) and click on Caregiver Support. Call **703-324-5484**, TTY 711.

Fairfax County and partners are sponsoring the **Living Well, Aging Well Summit** on **Saturday, April 16, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.** at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. This free event explores multiple ways to age well and features a transportation/mobility expo, technology fair, volunteer opportunities, a CarFit program, health screenings, presentations and more. Register at [www.livingwellfairfax.org](http://www.livingwellfairfax.org) or call **703-324-7647**, TTY **711**. Call 703-324-5219, TTY 711 for ADA requests.

Meet dozens of job recruiters at the **50+ Employment Expo** on **Monday, April 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.** Attend seminars on changing careers, online job searching, continuing education, starting your own business, job training, and job interviewing. Chief Meteorologist Doug Hill from ABC 7/WJLA-TV News is the keynote speaker. This free event is sponsored by Fairfax County, Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, D.C. and partners. It takes place at Sheraton Tysons Ho-

tel at Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Find out more at [www.accessjca.org/50plusjobexpos](http://www.accessjca.org/50plusjobexpos) or call Micki Gordon at **301-255-4209**, TTY 711.

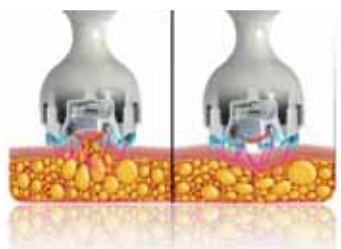
The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, April 20 at noon** at the Burke Regional Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A public comment period begins each session. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm). Call **703-324-5403**, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

Fairfax County is offering the following **Free Seminars for Family Caregivers of Older Adults**:

**Making Life Easier: Gadgets, Gizmos and Home Modifications, Tuesday, April 5, 7-8:30 p.m.** Learn about technology, home modifications, and inexpensive devices that can help you or your loved one maintain independence at home. George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

**Caregiving 101 - WEBINAR, Wednesday, April 6, Noon-1 p.m.** Learn helpful information and strategies to help you manage your important caregiver role. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Register Now: Spring 2016 Caregiver Seminars.

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## WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

### Brightview Great Falls Receives Two Awards

Brightview Great Falls was honored with Resident Satisfaction and Associate Engagement Awards at Brightview Senior Living's recent annual awards gala held in Baltimore, Md.

"These honors are a direct result of what our residents and our associates say about the community," said executive director Tina Aulakh. "Residents and associates have created an outstanding community. I am so proud to be part of this special group."

Resident Satisfaction and Associate Engagement Awards are selected from the communities with the highest Overall Satisfaction Score in each category based on confidential, online surveys conducted annually by a third party. Brightview operates more than thirty communities in eight states and Brightview Great Falls was the first community to win in both categories in the same year.

Located in Great Falls, Brightview Great Falls features 90 apartment homes with Assisted Living and Wellspring Village, a secure neighborhood for Alzheimer's and dementia care. The community opened in September 2014.

Brightview Senior Living and its parent company, The Shelter Group, successfully create and manage innovative, award-winning senior living communities in the mid-Atlantic to New England region. For more information on Brightview Senior Living, please visit [www.brightviewseniorliving.com](http://www.brightviewseniorliving.com)

### Great Falls Elementary to Hold Kindergarten Orientation

Great Falls Elementary will hold a kindergarten orientation on Tuesday, April 12 from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the school's cafeteria.

Parents and children eligible for 2016-17 kindergarten are invited to an overview of the school's kindergarten program.

A child may enter kindergarten if he/she has reached age 5 on or before Sept. 30, 2016.

Rising Kindergarten students will meet kindergarten teachers in the classroom for a special welcome and activities. Parents will meet in the cafeteria for a presentation from the school principal and staff. Classroom teachers will present an overview of the kindergarten curriculum and the daily schedule.

Parents who bring completed registration materials may register their child directly after the orientation. If necessary, the Physical/Immunization Form may be turned in at a later date, but must be received before school begins. The completed physical and all required immunizations must be received before your child may start school.

Registration packets are available online, [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) Click on the 'Forms' link, then select the 'New Students Enrolling' option under Bundled Forms for Parents. Registration materials are also available in the school's main office.

Great Falls Elementary is located at 701 Walker Road. For information, call 703-757-2100.

### SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com) by Friday.

**Sarah Boyle from Marshall High School, Razan Elbaba from Oakton High School, and Rosy Molina from Fairfax High School** were recognized at the annual Scholastic Art Awards ceremony with a 2016 Uphoff Scholarship from the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Each student received a \$1,000 prize and their work is on public display at the Ernst Community Cultural Center from Feb. 21 through March 3. To find out more about the Arts Council's Uphoff Scholarships program, visit <http://artsfairfax.org/grants/programs/uphoffscholarship>.

**Sarah Brooks** of McLean has been named to the Dean's List for the 2015 fall semester at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

**John Poyner** of Great Falls, a Management Information Systems/Finance major, has been named to the Dean's List for the 2015 fall semester at The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa.

**Lindsay B. Benedict**, a teacher at McLean High School, has achieved Certified Journalism Educator status from the Journalism Education Association (JEA). JEA is a nonprofit that encourages professional standards for journalism programs and student publications.

**Vitale Alexander Christy**, of Great Falls, graduated from the University of Tampa in Florida on Jan. 19 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre and a minor in Writing.

**Maria Kehrli**, of Great Falls, qualified for the Dean's List at High Point University in North Carolina for the Fall 2015 semester.

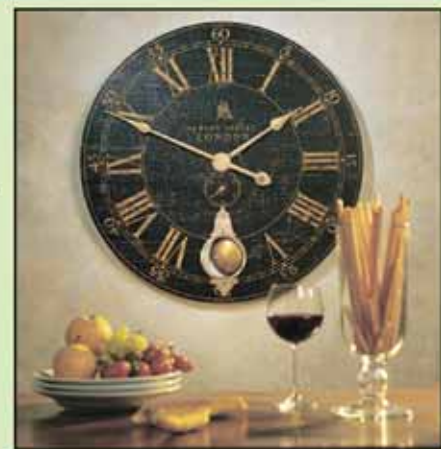
**Victor Zheng, 21, of McLean**, is among five University of Virginia scholars who have received Critical Language Scholarships to assist them in pursuing their love of language. They will spend seven to 10 weeks in intensive language institutes this summer in one of 13 countries to study languages the U.S. government has deemed "critical." Zheng will study Chinese in Dalian, China. He is a third-year history and Chinese major who is learning Mandarin Chinese.

**Graham P. Lobel**, the son of Doug and Betsy Lobel of McLean, received a Bachelor of Science degree cum laude, from Haverford College, in Haverford, Pa. Lobel graduated with High Honors in Chemistry. At Commencement, Lobel also received The George Peirce Prize in Chemistry, for excellence in undergraduate research. Lobel graduated from the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in 2011.

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# OPINION

## Money to Treat Addiction, Mental Health Issues

**Affordable Care Act could pay for help, better health for 100,000 uninsured people in Virginia with mental illness or addiction issues.**

**P**oor people without health insurance in Virginia are being unnecessarily tortured, in some cases to death, by a General Assembly that refuses to expand Medicaid. They deny healthcare to as many as 400,00 Virginians despite the fact that for the first three years, there would be no additional cost to the Commonwealth, and after that Feds would pay at least 90 percent of the cost.

A new report released on Monday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services points to an area beyond preventative medicine and primary care. According to the report, in Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act. The report estimates that more than a third of low income people in Virginia without health insurance have "behavioral health" needs.

As Virginia and the rest of the nation wrestles with huge growth in heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big

### EDITORIAL

obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed. People die as a result. In Northern Virginia, heroin-related deaths increased 164 percent between 2011 and 2013. In Fairfax County, in just one year – from 2013 to 2014 – the number of deaths from heroin overdose doubled. Virginia is one of 14 states identified in a recent Centers for Disease Control reports with significant increases in overdose deaths in the last few years. Nationally, heroin overdose death rates increased by 26 percent from 2013 to 2014 and have more than tripled since 2010, according to the CDC. A mind boggling statistic: In 2014, there were approximately one-and-a-half times more drug overdose deaths in the United States than deaths from motor vehicle crashes.

Turning away resources to treat this eviscerating epidemic ensures that some people who need treatment but cannot access it will die. Turning away this money makes no more sense than sending back federal funding for building rail to Dulles.

Depression and other mental health disor-

ders result in significant economic cost as well. This week's HHS report estimates that if Virginia expanded Medicaid, 16,000 fewer individuals would experience symptoms of depression, which would make them far more likely to be able to work.

Under the Affordable Care Act, states have the opportunity to expand Medicaid coverage to individuals with family incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

### Get involved, Budget

Next week, Fairfax County residents will have three opportunities to weigh in on what has so far been a fairly contentious budget season.

Sign up to attend a public hearing at the Fairfax County Government Center on the proposed FY 2017 Budget:

- ❖ April 5, beginning at 4 p.m.
- ❖ April 6, beginning at 1 p.m.
- ❖ April 7, beginning at 1 p.m.

Email your feedback and comments to [dmbinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dmbinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov) through mid-April, be sure to copy the Connection to have your comments be considered as a letter to the editor, [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com),

More information on the budget, and a link to sign up to speak can be found at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/many-ways-to-provide-your-input-on-the-fy-2017-budget/>.

## Congress Must Act on the Growing Opioid Epidemic

BY U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)

**O**ur nation is in the midst of an exploding opioid epidemic. This crisis does not discriminate on the basis of a particular community or demographic. Often hiding in the shadows, the death toll is rising across the country.

Our own experience in Virginia mirrors this growing national threat. In Northern Virginia, for example, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board reported a 22 percent increase in reported use of any opiate between 2011 and 2014. Even more troubling, heroin-related deaths increased 164 percent between 2011 and 2013.

Last week, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, on which I sit, held an important hearing on the opioid and heroin epidemic. At that hearing was Don Flattery, a Fairfax County parent whose 26-year-old son, Kevin, died from an opiate overdose after a 13-month struggle with addiction. Mr. Flattery has turned that personal loss into his life's mission. He is a fierce advocate for those who suffer from addiction, serves on Virginia's Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse, and is bringing light to this issue.

While the heroin and opioid abuse crisis is alarming, sadly the path that has led us to this tragic state is very clear. The prescription of



opiates has grown drastically over the past two decades resulting in dependency, addiction, and abuse.

For example, according to the 2016 CDC Opioid Prescribing Guidelines, 20 percent of patient visits to physician offices with non-cancer pain symptoms or pain-related diagnoses receive an opioid prescription. An astounding 259 million prescriptions were written for opioid pain medication

in 2012. That's enough for every adult in the United States to have a bottle of pills.

In 2013, two-thirds of opiate-related deaths were from prescription opioids and one-third were tied to heroin usage. With less than 5 percent of the world's population, the U.S. consumes 80 percent of the world's opioid prescriptions. Other nations use a wide variety of less risky methods to treat pain, especially for chronic pain conditions. As a country, we must be willing to reexamine the way we treat pain.

There are a number of interventions we can take to diminish opioid drug abuse such as the creation of state-run Prescription Drug Monitoring Program databases to better track prescriptions of controlled substances and the development of abuse-deterrents.

We need to better inform doctors as well as patients about the dangers of the medicines they prescribe and improve labeling. Notably the FDA just announced that immediate-release opioid painkillers such as oxycodone and

fentanyl will now have to carry a "black box" warning about the risk of abuse, addiction, overdose and death. The Obama Administration has put forth a proposal, which I support, that includes \$1.1 billion in new federal money to strengthen treatment and prevention strategies.

The American people are looking for Congress to engage in this fight and help stem the crisis. I joined many of my colleagues to urge the House Majority to cancel its two-week recess and immediately take action on the President's proposal. This plan is an investment in our local communities that will save lives and keep families intact. Continued congressional inaction is not an option. Our communities, our families, can no longer wait.

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com)

## Great Falls CONNECTION

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## LETTERS

### Barbara Comstock is With Us

To the Editor:

As I stood at the back of a packed community hall watching the Congresswoman launch her re-election bid, I realized just why she pulls support from so many diverse northern Virginians. It's because she is really with us – she is in and among us. Barbara commutes with us on our roads and on the Metro. She grieves with us, as the diagnoses roll in and chemo begins. She vows with us, to not let one more of our young people succumb to heroin addiction. She resolves with us to purge human trafficking from our neighborhoods. She demands that taxes propel us, not crush us. I am glad to support this incredibly hard-working leader and her practical solutions to our shared priorities.

Barbara Comstock was a key player in passing a landmark five-year transportation package that devotes funding to relieve those notorious traffic chokepoints and to repair our poor roads. Barbara has levied a healthy dose of accountability on Metro, which, as last week's closure showed, needs it. She helped pass the "21st Century Cures Act," which encourages cutting-edge medical research aimed directly at cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and Alzheimer's – diseases which rob us of too many, too soon.

Partnering with federal, state and local officials, Barbara kicked-off two heroin Task Forces in Northern Virginia. These joint operations fight the epidemic on two fronts: 1) educating our neighborhoods about

the heroin crisis and 2) preventing overdose by arming our area's First Responders with opioid-reversing drugs.

Barbara helped usher in a \$600 billion tax relief package, which made the Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the American Opportunity Tax Credit permanent. As a mother of four, I can attest to the immediate impact these have on my family. Her work also solidified the Research and Development Tax Credit, so businesses, like those along the Dulles Corridor, can create high-skill jobs that will employ the next generation. Demonstrating really good judgment, Barbara voted to increase defense and cybersecurity funding, to protect us from terrorism, and she smartly tapped our region's many cybersecurity experts to craft congressional responses to recent cyberthreats.

She talked about all of this at her kickoff, without fanfare and with the press largely ignoring this event and her accomplishments. But she has demonstrated commitment to northern Virginia's most pressing issues, so it's no wonder that she brings all kinds of Virginians together. While some slogans in today's politics bark, "I'm With Her," Comstock's actions show that "She's With Us." And in the immortal words of Robert Frost, "that has made all the difference." Please join me in supporting Congressman Comstock for re-election to Virginia's 10th.

Gerarda Culipher  
Oakton

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# Sex Trafficking Young Victims in Northern Virginia

## Federal funds for gang task force expire April 1.

The first article in an occasional series on human sexual trafficking in Northern Virginia.

By Shirley Ruhe  
The Connection

Detective William Woolf remembers the day he first realized there might be sex trafficking of young girls going on right in front of him.

He was a gang detective in Northern Virginia where he was responsible for investigating gang crime, compiling intelligence on gang activity and spreading information throughout the D.C. area. Despite all of his past training he didn't know about sex trafficking. "I thought it was something that happened in third world countries," he said.

It was back in 2009 and he was working a gang case for M-13 and they had inserted

an informant into the gang. The informant came back and reported he thought the gang was making money from prostitution. "It didn't register. I thought they would be consensually engaging in sex and sharing the money," Woolf said. Then one night the informant reported he was uncomfortable with the girl they had that night — she looked young. "That's how we recovered a 16-year-old girl."

Woolf said there was no one working this area of human trafficking in Northern Virginia, so he started to do research by combing through police reports, conducting interviews. He thought the girls were consenting prostitutes and that the vice unit could deal with it. But he kept looking. He went to some informants and asked if sex trafficking was widespread and got a resounding yes. It was in 2010 and he had an a-ha moment and realized human trafficking was going on right here. "I needed to better understand it. And I needed to do something about it."

Since then Woolf says he has become passionate about the issue. He has conducted more than 300 interviews with recovered

victims: "These are real people. People have no idea sex trafficking takes a physical and psychological toll, and the victims are never the same afterwards. We should be standing up to fight for them."

As he started working the cases he began collaborating with state representatives Tim Hugo and (now U.S. Rep.) Barbara Comstock to increase penalties for sex trafficking in Virginia. "Detective Bill Woolf has been a guardian angel for our children and young adults for many years here in Fairfax County," Comstock said. "His tireless work of exposing the dark, inhumane crime of human trafficking in our community has made our children safer. Detective Woolf has also been relentless in hunting down those who prey on the young and vulnerable in our community."

In addition, Woolf helped create educational materials for schools and the community to increase awareness and provided training for law enforcement. Woolf says after every one of these sessions an officer says to him he thinks he has seen sex trafficking and just didn't recognize it at the time.

The National Human Trafficking Resource Center 2015 statistics report for Virginia show human trafficking reports up from 126 in 2013 (70 of those sex trafficking) to 145 in 2015 (103 of those sex trafficking).

In Northern Virginia there is one detective assigned to human trafficking. "It takes so much time to work one of these cases and it hasn't been a priority," he said. They can be hard to prove "and law enforcement can't arrest and interdict everyone. We're doing a good job with what we have but so much goes undetected."

Sex traffickers pick up teenagers as young as 12 years old at malls, by infiltrating local high schools or recruiting online, Woolf said. The process of scouting and manipulation is gradual and often the victims don't know what is happening until they are trapped.

For his efforts Woolf was named 2012 Gang Investigator of the Year by the Virginia Gang Investigations Association and received the Virginia Attorney General's Award for Excellence.

Former U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf worked with Woolf on gang issues when Wolf was chair-

man of the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce-State Justice. "Detective Woolf took on very tough issues head on and really made a difference," Wolf said. "His passion, drive and courage have been on display every day."

Woolf's human trafficking work had been funded by a two-year Department of Justice Federal grant to establish a task force on human trafficking. The grant had been extended from Sept. 30 but expires April 1 and the Federal funds run out. The police department has agreed to absorb and fund the position.

Woolf will be transferred to child exploitation and the county will approve a full-time position to replace the task force that will be filled with a different detective.

Taking over Human Trafficking investigative duties will be Detective John Spata, said Ed O'Carroll, director of FCPD Public Affairs Bureau. "Detectives Woolf and Spata are working together on the upcoming transition to ensure that the change is seamless," O'Carroll said.

If community members have something to report suspected concerning human trafficking, they should call 703-691-2131. The responding police officers can forward a case to Spata, who can be reached at 703-246-7800.

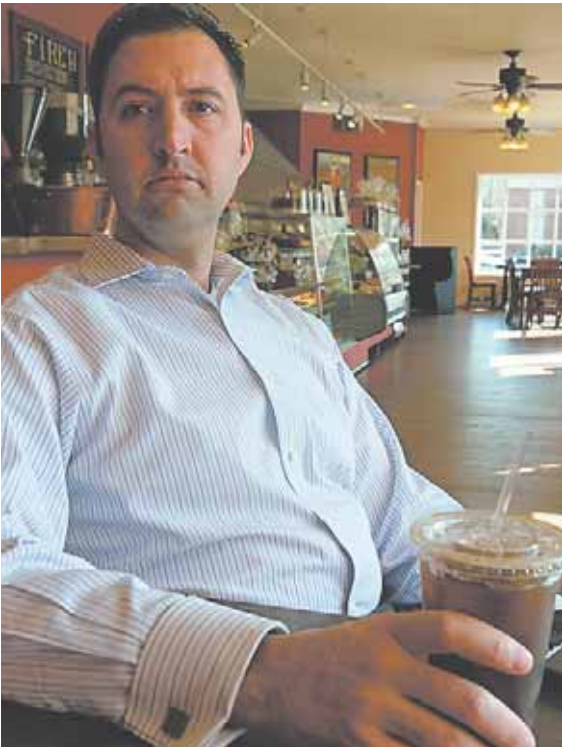


PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

**Detective William Woolf is currently with the Fairfax County Police Community Resources Division investigating human trafficking in Fairfax County but will soon be transferred to the Child Exploitation Unit. He said, "I never realized it is happening right in front of us in Northern Virginia— trafficking young victims in malls, all of our Fairfax County high schools and on the Internet."**

## Inspired by Cooking Shows, Grandma's Baking

### Profile: Adam Stein, executive chef at Reston's Red's Table.

By Alexandra Greeley

Husky, tattooed, and obviously driven, Adam Stein, executive chef at Reston's newish Red's Table, is all about food and cooking. Even his numerous tattoos are mostly food-centered, with images ranging from Julia Child to caviar to Maryland crabs.

How did all this start? A native of Fairfax Station, Stein said that cooking always fascinated him, even as a child. "I always watched cooking shows," he said, "Including Julia Child, Jacques Pepin and Martin Yan of Yan Can Cook." His grandmother and her baking also played an inspiring role, so that the youngster often made breads and cookies. He was also tasked with making holiday meals and even pea soup.

Although his grandmother's cooking did not include any particular ethnic identities, he and his family ate out constantly, so young Stein got a good sampling of numerous ethnic and American cooking styles. "That helped spur my interest," he added.

After attending Antioch College, Stein moved to Providence, R.I. to attend the culinary school Johnson

& Wales. But he knew from the start that was going nowhere. "There were all kids in the class," he said, "and I already knew all the answers." He then tried to attend the Rhode Island School of Design, but instead wound up working in various local kitchens, getting his first executive chef's position at The Nat Porter in Warren, R.I.

When Stein moved back to the metro area several years ago, he worked for D.C.'s The Queen Vic restaurant, then for Alexandria's Light Horse Tavern restaurant before the owners of Red's Table hired him. And for sure it has been a beneficial match for both parties. For the owners, Stein is a talented chef who turns out top notch fare with creative spins.

For the chef, he has landed where he can count on farm-fresh ingredients to shape into his favorite American regional dishes "Here we use all local farm goods," he said, "We feature local proteins on the menu and take our cues from the farmers' market, utilizing as much local produce as we can in peak seasons." He finds his inspiration from local, regional and seasonal sources and he lets all of that play a big role in his cooking. But he wants his food to be as ap-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Adam Stein, executive chef at Reston's Red's Table**

proachable as possible, so his cooking also has a homemade vibe to it.

Take his fried chicken, for ex-

ample, one of the homiest dishes people always crave. As it turns out, says Stein, it is also the restaurant's most popular dish.

### Red's Table's Roasted Mushroom Ragout

Serves 4 to 6 people

"In the restaurant we toss this ragout with Strozzapreti pasta and finish with grated fontina and grana padano cheeses, extra virgin olive oil and breadcrumbs," said Stein. This ragout can be added to any pasta or even risotto or farro/grain dishes. This would be a great topping for creamy polenta as well."

1 pound cremini mushrooms, cut into ¾-inch slices  
1 pound shiitake mushrooms, stemmed and julienned  
1 pound oyster mushrooms, roots trimmed and hand-torn into strips  
3 tablespoons olive oil  
Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste  
3 shallots, peeled and minced  
2 garlic cloves, minced  
1 tablespoon tomato paste

1 cup red wine  
1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Toss all the mushrooms in bowl with the olive oil, and season with salt and pepper. Laying them on a sheet tray, roast at 375 degrees F for about 30 minutes, turning the mushrooms once until most of the liquid from the mushrooms has evaporated and some nice caramelization develops; set aside.

In a heavy-bottomed pot or roasting pan, sweat the shallot and garlic over medium-low heat until translucent. Add the tomato paste and stir in well, cooking for about 10 minutes. Add mushrooms to the mixture, and increase heat to medium-high. Add red wine and continue to cook until the liquid reduces to half. Add fresh thyme and taste for additional salt and pepper.

### FAITH NOTES

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

**Great Falls United Methodist Church**,10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, will host annual yard sale/flea market on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. You can now reserve a 10x10' space (\$25) to sell your own treasures or donate items to the church (they would pick up). Come shop, donate and/or sell your own things. 703-582-1640.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

**The Antioch Christian Church** offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org)

**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org).

**McLean Bible Church** Fitness Class at Body and Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. [bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org](http://bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org).

**Chesterbrook United Methodist Church** is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. 703-356-7100 or [www.ChesterbrookUMC.org](http://www.ChesterbrookUMC.org).

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, is holding Sunday evening worship service in a less formal atmosphere and more intimate setting to help you get ready for the week ahead. Sundays, 6 p.m. Communion offered. No childcare. 703-938-2119 or [www.elcvienna.org](http://www.elcvienna.org).

FROM PAGE 2

of the often-delayed, hour-long train trips to work in Manhattan.

Why, Simon wondered, couldn't a suburb combine the beauty of the country with the convenience of the city, so people could live, work and play in one place, without being a slave to the automobile? He remembered, as a young boy, sitting at the family dinner table in the Simon family home on Riverside Drive on the West Side of Manhattan, hearing spirited discussions between his father and Alexander Bing, who was developing the "garden city" of Radburn, N.J., which proposed to answer that very question. Young Bob even helped name some of the streets of Radburn, in which his father was a minor investor.

So, Sunset Hills would not be transformed into another Levittown, which was being replicated across the American landscape as young and fertile American families joined the biggest and most significant migration in the country's history – from the old, rusting cities to the new and shiny suburbs. But neither would Radburn be Simon's model.

The Depression had stopped Radburn's development before it was even close to being half-finished. Beyond a much-publicized, picturesque underpass that separated a pedestrian pathway from a busy road, Radburn had not achieved much

of its promise. Simon knew he would have to start virtually from scratch.

**HIS FIRST BLUEPRINT** for his city in the suburbs was a simple, and very personal, wish list. Soaking in his tub – his think tank – Simon wrote down what he thought his new, still-unnamed development should have. There should be lots of woods and lakes and active recreation, ball fields, swimming pools, tennis courts, and everything should be within walking distance from where people lived so the car could be put in its place.

The list went on and on. People should be able to choose from all kinds of housing, including high-rise apartments and townhouses, neither of which existed anywhere in the suburbs of metro Washington in the new 1960s. The housing should vary in size and cost so people could move to different dwellings at different stages of their lives.

High on Simon's wish list for services was childcare, run by professionals who were schooled in early child development; furthermore, he wrote down, care should be offered around the clock seven days a week.

Most radical of all, Simon wanted his community to be open to people of all races – this at a time when the biggest suburban developer in the country, William Levitt, required his buyers to sign agreements they wouldn't sell to non-whites. Astonishingly, where Levitt was imposing his covenant in otherwise progressive New York State,

Simon was proposing to bring integrated housing to a state – Virginia – which, only three years before, had enacted "Massive Resistance" to desegregation of its separate white and black public schools.

Simon took his wish list to his company's new executive vice president, who promptly told him it was crazy. So did the first 50 banks he went to for financing. The calculus of suburban development in 1961 demanded that developers get their projects approved by Washington so they could offer low-interest, government-subsidized FHA loans. This is how the wheels of the great postwar suburban migration had been greased.

**GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS** had a thick book of rules specifying exactly how suburban houses should be build and look to keep costs down. Simon's wish list, with its open housing and all its amenities, violated many of the rules. But Simon was unfazed; he, a New York Democrat with connections to powerful people in the party, would convince the new Kennedy administration in Washington to change the rules – simple as that. Besides, didn't Kennedy's own housing experts say that sprawl, which FHA loans had helped to create, was a huge waste of national resources?

While he was figuring out how to change Washington's mind, Simon achieved a breakthrough in his search for money to start development of his community, which he decided, on the advice of his mother and

in-laws, after a weekend-long brainstorming session on Martha's Vineyard, to call "Reston" (the prefix coming from his initials). Morgan Guaranty in New York City loaned him \$15 million. With that money, plus \$2 million of his own (and his family's) money from the sale of Carnegie Hall, Simon was able to begin.

He commissioned the firm that designed Radburn, gathered a brain trust to advise him on social issues and hired local attorneys and managers in Fairfax County, where Sunset Hills Farm was located, who knew how to get things done. A lake was dug and dammed (and named after his new and second wife, Anne), townhouses in a palette of pastels were clustered at the water's edge, within the shadow of a stunning, 15-story apartment tower, and pathways were cleared through meandering stream valleys.

When Simon's first village, Lake Anne, was officially opened in December 1965, it received a torrent of publicity in the news media. By the count of the record keepers at Simon's Reston Inc., there were articles in 64 magazines, 24 newspapers and 22 other media. Even Esquire magazine, the guidebook for how American men should dress, furnish their apartment and imbibe spirits and dine, was intrigued enough to comment on the New Town.

Bob Simon's wish list had progressed well beyond his bathtub.



# Marshall Baseball Starts 4-1

**T**he Marshall baseball team returned from spring break with a 4-1 record.

After starting the season with wins over Wakefield, Manassas Park and Centreville, the Statesmen suffered their first loss — a 9-1 defeat against Mountain View on March 23. Marshall, however, bounced back the next day, beating Fauquier 9-7.

The Statesmen, who finished 5A state runner-up last season, faced Falls Church on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Marshall is scheduled to host Stuart at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1, Edison at 6:30 p.m. on April 5, and defending state champion Stone Bridge at 6:30 p.m. on April 8.

## Madison Baseball to Host Oakton

The defending state champion Madison baseball team will host Vienna foe Oakton at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2.

Madison went 3-2 during a spring break trip to Sarasota, Florida, suffering losses to Florida schools Canterbury (Fort Meyers) and Venice.

After opening the season with 10-0 wins over Hayfield (March 16) and Yorktown (March 17), the Warhawks started their spring break trip with a 7-1 win over Manatee (Bradenton, Florida) on March 21. The following day, Madison lost 4-2 to Canterbury.

On March 23, Madison defeated Huntsville (Alabama) 2-1 and Palmetto 7-1, before closing its tournament appearance with a 2-1 loss to Venice the following day.

The Warhawks, who returned from spring break with a 5-2 record, faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Madison will travel to face Washington-Lee at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 1, and will host Oakton at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION  
**Robert Guenther and the Marshall baseball team started the season with a 4-1 record.**

## Madison Softball Wins Six Straight

The Madison softball team started the season with a six-game win streak before losing to South County 2-0 on March 24 in the Warhawks' final game of the Grand Strand Tournament in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Warhawks opened the season with a 12-0 win over Hayfield on March 16 and a 12-1 victory over Yorktown on March 18. Madison then won its first four tournament games before falling to Fairfax County foe South County.

The Warhawks outscored opponents 76-8 during their first seven games.

Madison faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Warhawks will travel to face Washington-Lee at 6 p.m.

on Friday, April 1, and will host Oakton at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2.

## McLean Baseball Splits 4 Spring Break Games

The McLean baseball team went 2-2 during a spring break tournament in Prince William County.

The Highlanders competed in the Let's Play 2 Tournament during spring break, with games against Fauquier, Edison, Stafford and Woodbridge. McLean split a doubleheader on March 19, losing to Fauquier 14-4 and beating Edison 8-6 at Potomac High School. The Highlanders defeated Stafford 6-5 on March 22 at Hylton High School, and lost to Woodbridge 6-4



**McLean head coach John Dowling**

on March 23 at Woodbridge High School, moving McLean's record to 3-3.

"We learned some things," McLean head coach John Dowling wrote in an email, "and I think in the long run will benefit from those games."

Dowling said senior pitcher/infielder Jon Clines and senior infielder/pitcher Conor Grammes have played well for McLean.

Through six games, Clines (VMI) was 2-0 with an ERA of 2.25 in two starts. He allowed 11 hits in 9 1/3 innings while walking five and striking out 13. At the plate, the senior was batting .318 with a team-leading seven RBIs in 22 at-bats.

Grammes (Xavier) led the team with a .400 batting average in 20 at-bats, with two doubles and five RBIs.

Senior Matt Collins, who will play at Harford Community College, hit .308 with a home run and five RBIs in 14 at-bats.

McLean's home opener against South Lakes on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline, started a stretch where the Highlanders are scheduled to play seven of nine games at home.

"Our schedule has been this way for a couple years now, where we have these long stretches of mostly away/home games," Dowling wrote. "Not sure it's made much of a difference for us, though. We know that on any given day we simply need to execute the things we can control — and when we do that the outcome takes care of itself."

McLean will host St. Albans at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 31 before hosting rival Langley at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1.

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

## South Lakes Softball Starts 5-2

The South Lakes softball team opened the season with victories over Langley (4-2, March 15) and Fairfax (3-0, March 17) before winning three of five games during a spring break trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Seahawks faced McLean on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. South Lakes will host Yorktown at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1, and will travel to take on Madison at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5.

## South Lakes Baseball to Host Herndon

The South Lakes and Herndon baseball teams are off to strong starts in 2016, which figures to add excitement to their upcoming matchup.

South Lakes will host rival Herndon at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 2. The Seahawks started the season 6-1,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The sixth grade Reston Seahawks Boys won the Division 2 Fairfax County Youth Basketball league championship with a 61-40 victory over Gainesville on March 6. Reston defeated Vienna and Fort Belvoir to get to the finals. The Seahawks are led by Coach Herb Landsowne and Chris Kennedy.**

according to allmetsports.com, winning six straight after a season-opening loss to Langley on March 16. The Hornets started 4-1, including a 3-2 victory over Peters Township on March 24.

South Lakes faced McLean on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline, and is scheduled to host Yorktown at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1.

## Herndon Boys' Soccer Beats South Lakes

The Herndon boys' soccer team opened the 2016 season with a 2-1 win over South Lakes on March 16.

The Hornets faced Briar Woods on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Herndon will travel to face Madison at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 31.

The loss dropped South Lakes' record to 0-2, including a 3-1 loss to Briar Woods on March 14.

The Seahawks faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. South Lakes will host Marshall at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, April 4.



## OBITUARY

# Alexander Ross, 96, Dies

Alexander Ross, age 96, died peaceful and suddenly on Sunday, March 13, 2016, at his home in Falls Church, with Dorothy, his beloved wife of nearly 69 years, by his side.

A Michigan native, Al demonstrated a talent for science at an early age, attending a specialty high school in Detroit, where one of his favorite chemistry instructors was the mother of trans-Atlantic pilot, Charles Lindbergh. A World War II veteran and a lieutenant in the Air Force, Al was a pilot of DC 3's and was tasked with dropping paratroopers and supplies behind enemy lines in the European theatre. He never lost his love of flight and of adventure. After the war, Al spent time traveling in the Middle East, living for a time on a collective farm in northern Israel.

In 1947 Al returned to the United States to marry the love of his life and to enroll in graduate school at the University of Michigan, where he earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry. With a specialty in inorganic chemistry, Al spent his professional life in the research branch of the chemical industry. But the opportunity to move abroad beckoned, and he moved his family to Switzerland in 1960 to establish the European branch of his firm, M&T chemicals, and travelled widely in both Eastern and Western Europe. Upon his return to the U.S., Al worked for many years as Vice President and Director of Research first for Textron and, later, for Spencer-Kellogg.

In addition to his professional life, Al also was devoted to a wide range of social, political, philanthropic and athletic interests. A long-time member of the Union of Concerned Scientists, upon retirement, Al became a consultant for the Environmental Protection Agency and for Rad Tech, offering his expertise in the utilization of non-polluting means of curing paints and coatings. A dedicated liberal throughout his life, Al was an active supporter and grassroots participant in successive presidential campaigns, spanning a period from Adlai Stevenson to Al Gore. An avid jogger, Al logged many miles on a daily basis up until the age of 89, when he decelerated to a walking pace. He loved his dogs, sailing and hopping the rocks on the beaches of the Maine seacoast, where he enjoyed spending time each summer.

First and foremost, however, Al was a family man, who loved to laugh and to make others laugh with him. Son of Morris and Dora Ross, Al was predeceased by his older sister, Mitzi and his younger brother, Perry. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy, his daughter Sara of Great Falls and son-in-law, Douglas, and six beloved nieces and nephews. His humor, his humanity and his gentle nature will be greatly missed. Funeral services will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association or the Humane Society.

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## ONGOING

**Driven to Abstraction.** April 1-30. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Features over 20 works. 703-757-8560.

**April Artist Showcase.** April 1-27. Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Great Falls Gallery will feature the paintings of Australian artist Ken Strong. [broadwaygalleries.net](http://broadwaygalleries.net). 703-450-8005.

**"Proof."** March 31-May 8. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Pulitzer Prize-winning play. \$30/\$26/\$15. [1ststagetysons.org](http://1ststagetysons.org). 703-854-1856.

**Time Traveler Tuesdays.** 4:30 p.m. March 29-June 7. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. This weekly series will take participants on an interactive journey through time, focusing on a different period in Virginia history each week. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvinrunmill/events.htm>.

**Scholarship.** Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centerville is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend college or community college in fall 2016. Information and application instructions can be found at <http://bullruncwrt.org>.

**Pigments of My Imagination.** Jan. 4-March 31. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Long time Great Falls resident Donna Barnako, has created over a dozen colorful and whimsical small works. Her subjects are varied, from pigs to puppies and cowboy boots.

**"Witness: Close Encounters of the Painting Kind."** March 1-31. Katie's Coffee at the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks' solo exhibit of backyards, bars, beaches and other scenes keenly captured. [JillBanks.com](http://JillBanks.com).

**Tai Chi Beginners' Practice.** Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. [FreeTaiChi.org](http://FreeTaiChi.org). 703-759-9141.

**"Wishes and Dreams" Exhibit.** March 1-April 2. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Free. [viennaartssociety.org](http://viennaartssociety.org). 703-319-3971.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 1

**Family Movie Night.** 7-9:30 p.m. The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Gather the whole family and bring your blankets, pillows, and camp chairs for The Old Firehouse's indoor picnic style movie night. Participants will enjoy unlimited free popcorn while watching the movie "Inside Out" on a huge projection screen. \$3. [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1, 2, 8, 9

**"In Living Sound."** 8 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., S, Vienna. An evening of food, fun and theatre. Entertaining radio shows from the 1940s: "Adventures of the Thin Man: The Case of the Goofy Groom" and "The Big Story: Manhunt in

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



From left — Abby Comer as stepsister Gabriella, Diana Suk as evil Stepmother, George Stifel as Sebastian and director Phil Reid (seated).



The crowd watches as Prince Topher (Christophe Jelinski) meets Cinderella (Syd Kirk), as she defends Crazy Marie (Heidi Deger).

# TheatreMcLean to Present 'Cinderella'

Rodgers and Hammerstein musical will be McLean High's entry in Cappies competition.

McLean High School's award-winning theatre company, "TheatreMcLean," continues the 2015-16 season with its production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Cinderella" — featuring the Prince, his fancy ball, and that lovely maiden with a midnight deadline! The director is Phil Reid, the producer is Chip Rome and music director Mitch Bassman. This family-friendly show runs April 8, 14-16 at 7 p.m. and April 9 at 2 p.m. at the Burke Theater in McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. For advance ticket purchase or more information, visit [theatremclean.org](http://theatremclean.org).

TheatreMcLean's rendition of this Broadway fairy tale offers a new twist: as Prince Topher searches for the one woman who can wear the glass slipper, he also finds his purpose in life. As for Ella, her magical journey proves that with a little magic, anything is possible. Can a servant girl attend the ball? How does a pumpkin transform into a carriage? Will Ella find love with the Prince of her dreams?

The musical features beloved songs such as "Ten Minutes Ago," "Stepsisters Lament," and "Impossible/It's Possible." This production will be TheatreMcLean's entry to the "Cappies" competition, the national student critic organization.

"This is a show that everyone will want to see," says producer Rome. "It's not only a well-known favorite fairy tale with



From left — George Stifel as Sebastian, Christophe Jelinski as Prince Topher and Tori Garcia as Lady Pinkleton.

terrific music and a wonderfully talented cast, but this Broadway version adds some new twists and turns to the story. At its heart, it's about making your dreams come true. We all have dreams, and this musical reminds us that even if you think yours are impossible, 'Impossible things are happening every day!'"

Lead characters include: Syd Kirk (Ella), Christophe Jelinski (Price), Diana Suk (mother), Heidi Deger (Fairy Godmother), Alana Milstein (Charlotte), Abby Corney (Gabrielle), Tori Garcia (Lord Pinkelton), and George Stifle (Sebastien).

TheatreMcLean is made up of

Ella (Syd Kirk) meets her fairy godmother (Heidi Deger).

students, teachers and parents at McLean High School working together to produce challenging and award winning theatrical productions. The theater company partners with Girl Scout troops, Best Buddies Program at McLean High School and senior citizen groups. Members of the cast will conduct meet and greet photo ops follow-

ing performances. Girl scouts will be given a backstage tour to learn firsthand how a musical production is done.

Based on characters created by Rodgers & Hammerstein, by permission of R&H Theatricals, with music and lyrics by Rodgers and Hammerstein, and book by Douglas Carter Beane.



James Clardy and Lauren Grobman create set decoration for the show.





# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Manhattan.” \$25/\$30 includes dinner, drinks, dessert.  
www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1-3

**Lea Colie Wight Workshop: Painting the Head in Color.** 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Arts of Great Falls School, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Guides participants through exercises designed to extract specific information from the live model. \$400. greatfallsart.org.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 2

**Build Your Own Bat House.** 9 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Bats help eat mosquitoes, and pollinate plants, but they are having a hard time. Help these important animals thrive by building a bat house to hang in your yard. \$8. \$15 per bat house. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

**Wagon Ride to Poohsticks Bridge.** 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Meet at the Nature Center. Journey through the woods to Poohsticks bridge. Listen to Winnie the Pooh's story and play Poohsticks on the bridge. \$6/\$8. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

**Trunk Sale.** 9 a.m.-noon. Colvin Run Elementary School Parking Lot, 1400 Trap Road, Vienna. Come and spend a fun morning shopping for treasures. Spring bargains can be found on gently used household and children's items. Free parking and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**In the Garden of Beauty and Burden by Jennifer Duncan will featured at the Great Falls Library from April 1-30.**

admission. Rain date April 9th. Free. cresevents@gmail.com.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 3

**Salamanders Undercover.** 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Learn about the secret lives of these important amphibians through hands-on discoveries. \$8/\$10. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

## TUESDAY/APRIL 5

**Creativity and Aging.** 7-9 p.m. Great

Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Discussion focusing on the exciting connection between creativity and aging by Caroline Edasis, Manager of Art Therapy for Mather LifeWays. Free. GreatFallsStudios.com.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 8

**Fairfax Volunteer Awards.** 8 a.m. The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Join Volunteer Fairfax, Chairman Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and other community leaders to celebrate the work of volunteers. Purchase tickets by April 4. \$50. For information and tickets go to [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 8-9

**Used Book Sale.** Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. More than 40,000 books for browsing and buying. Huge selection. Most books priced at \$3 or less. Profits benefit scholarships and grants for women and girls. Buy a book, send a girl to college. Sponsored by the Falls Church AAUW. 703-941-5643.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 9

**Paint In.** 12:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Artists will paint for 15 minutes, in their own style, on a common large square canvas. The finished work will be auctioned, the proceeds going to the Arts of Great Falls School and the Friends of the Library. [frank@barnako.com](mailto:frank@barnako.com).

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23

**Public Hearing on Programs.** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Residents of the Center's tax district who attend the meeting can voice their opinions on current Center offerings and make suggestions for improving current programs and/or adding new initiatives. [mcleancenter.org](http://mcleancenter.org). 703-790-0124.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 2

**Town Hall Meeting on Climate.** 1 p.m. Unity Church of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. By Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions and Interfaith Power and Light. Titled "Working Faithfully with Our Leader on Climate Solutions." For registration information go to [gwipl.org](http://gwipl.org) or [faithforclimate.org](http://faithforclimate.org).

## SUNDAY/APRIL 3

**Richmond Wrap-Up.** 2-4 p.m. Virginia International Conference Room, 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Learn what your area legislator did during the Virginia General Assembly. Hear from state legislators. Bring your questions. Join the discussion. For more information go to [s-a-l-t.org/](http://s-a-l-t.org/) or call 703-591-7042 ext. 352.

## TUESDAY AND THURSDAY/APRIL 5, 7

**ESL Registration.** 7-8 p.m. St. Mark Catholic Church, Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road Vienna. \$25 for classes, \$10 for conversation. Cash only. Classes from April 12-June 9, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-9:30 p.m. 703-502-9433.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 9

**Bereavement Volunteer Training.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. St. Mark Catholic Church, 9770 Vale Road, Vienna. Education regarding childhood grief, and prepares volunteers to take part in our camp programs. Comfort Zone Camp is a nonprofit organization that provides free therapeutic grief programs for young people ages 5-25 who have experienced the death of a parent, guardian, or sibling. [www.comfortzonecamp.org](http://www.comfortzonecamp.org). [jtensley@comfortzonecamp.org](mailto:jtensley@comfortzonecamp.org).

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For job descriptions & locations go to:

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