

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

2016-2017

This kerosene pump still
stands on the porch of the
General Store at Colvin
Run Mill in Great Falls.

Great Falls
CONNECTION

PHOTO BY RENÉE RUGGLES/THE CONNECTION

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Welcome to Fairfax County

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Welcome to Fairfax County, one of the greatest places in the nation to live, work, play and raise a family. Fairfax County is home to a thriving business community, vibrant entertainment and shopping destinations, a world class university, beautiful parks, and a diverse population of engaged residents. Whether you are a long-time resident or are new to the county, I hope you'll take some time to visit some of our most popular spots to enjoy what Fairfax County has to offer.

Tysons Corner and Fair Oaks Malls, Reston Town Center, Fairfax Corner, Springfield Town Center and the Mosaic District are great places to shop, eat and spend time with friends. For cultural destinations, George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts are two of my favorites. And for enjoying the arts along with community gatherings like Springfest and Brewfest, the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton is a must. For fresh air and exercise, I recommend our extensive network of trails, parks and RECenters.

While there are a lot of fun things to do in Fairfax County, our community is notorious for our "work hard, play hard" ethic. Time Magazine has described us as the epicenter of the Washington region's job boom and one of the great economic success stories of our time. Fairfax County is home to eight Fortune 500 company headquarters, more than 8,400 technology firms, and over 116.2 million square feet of office space.

Fairfax County has one of the best public school systems nationwide with a graduation rate topping 90 percent. Our school system is the 10th largest in the country with nearly 187,000 students and 196 schools and centers. After high school graduation, George Mason University and

Northern Virginia Community College are located just down the road for affordable higher education opportunities in many different subject fields. Our business-friendly economy ensures career opportunities for both our older and younger residents.

On the local government level, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is constantly hard at work to ensure quality public services for our residents. Our 10-member Board of Supervisors strives to maintain positive community engagement, while strategically planning for the future with land use and infrastructure decisions.

Some recent accomplishments include updating many of our police policies, establishing a Diversion First program for people with mental illness who become involved with law enforcement, and successfully extending Metrorail to Tysons and Reston, with Phase 2 of the Silver Line currently under construction all the way to Dulles Airport and into Loudoun County.

Fairfax County offers opportunity and quality services for residents of all ages. People from all over the globe have made Fairfax County their home, enriching our community with their diverse cultures and entrepreneurship. Please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fxva.com to learn more about what Fairfax County has to offer you and your family.

As chairman of the Board of Supervisors, I am elected at-large by Fairfax County residents. My office is here to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please email me at chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov or give my office a call at 703-324-2321. I hope you will sign up to receive my monthly Bulova Byline newsletter that will keep you up-to-date on what is happening in your community! Welcome to your new home.

County Schools: Teaching for 21st Century

What's new at Fairfax County Public Schools.

BY DR. KAREN K. GARZA
SUPERINTENDENT, FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

different ways to design instructional practices to support the development of these essential skills.

We are also working to define contemporary teaching and learning practices while better integrating technology. For

example, through a pilot program we are calling FCPSOn — this year we begin evaluating how digital resources can best scaffold that model — and how we provide teachers and students with the tools and policies needed to facilitate the use of that



Welcome to the 2016-17 school year in Fairfax County Public Schools.

With each new school year, we have the wonderful opportunity to build upon our previous successes and continue to improve our work with our students.

We are continuing to look to our Portrait of a Graduate and our strategic plan in shaping our future work. Our most pressing challenge is making this vision a reality for every child in our system. How do we refine what we do to ensure that all of our students graduate well-prepared for this rapidly changing world? We acknowledge that this is a daunting challenge, but there is no school system in the United States more well-prepared and well-equipped to effectively respond to these important issues.

The goals of education can no longer simply be to provide the basic literacy skills for the majority of the students, while reserving the teaching of skills for higher order 21st century thinking for a select few. As we learn more about the skills our students will need for success in this changing world, we recognize the need to innovate — to consider new and

technology.

One change you will see this school year is a new central website and a new FCPS logo. Our new website will better serve everyone — it is mobile responsive, features more modern design — and search will work. As we modernized our website, we also believed it was time to reimagine the FCPS logo. While the previous logo has served us well for 40 years, we heard from many that it was time to transform our logo to one reflective of who we are now and who we aspire to be in the years to come.

Our new logo includes a tie to our legacy, while representing our role as a catalyst — sparking curiosity, learning and excellence for our students, employees and community.

I wish all students, teachers, parents and the entire FCPS community a very successful and fulfilling school year in FCPS where all are engaged, inspired, and thrive.

'Insider's Tip' to New Businesses

Fairfax County Economic Development Authority helps in starting or expanding business in the county.

BY GERALD L. GORDON
PRESIDENT AND CEO, FAIRFAX COUNTY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

If you are new to Fairfax County, welcome to one of the world's most interesting places to live and work. If you are new to the county and are interested in being part of our dynamic business community, here is an "insider's tip" that you will want to know: The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority

(FCEDA), works with everyone who wants to start or expand a business in the county.

For aspiring entrepreneurs, we host "Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County" workshops almost every month. Some 4,000 people have attended one of these workshops since 2003 and you will find a wealth of local, state and federal resources to help you map out starting a business here. If you need office space, the FCEDA helps businesses find the office space they need so they can grow in the county.

We have a complete database of office space options in every part of the county, and we can help you navigate that process so you become an established part of the business community.

Why do we do this? The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors charged the FCEDA with building a business community — help companies create jobs and fill office space — to build the commercial tax base. This generates revenue that the Board of Super-



COURTESY PHOTO
**Gerald L.
Gordon, Ph.D.**

visors uses to fund the full range of high-quality public services for which Fairfax County is well-known. Building the commercial tax base means that residents don't have to pick up all the costs of providing those services.

The FCEDA has been working for more than 50 years with entrepreneurs and owners of businesses of every size to enlarge the commercial tax base and make the Fairfax County economy one of the strongest anywhere. Visit www.fairfaxcountypedata.org to see how the Economic Development Authority can help you.

Historic Night for Great Falls Grange

Eleven Great Falls organizations to present vision for community use of Grange to Supervisor John Foust in September.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Eleven Great Falls organizations reconvened last Wednesday night, Aug. 17, 2016, to solidify their vision that would bring the Great Falls Grange back to life, in line with efforts of local farmers who built the community gathering place in 1929.

Jorge Adeler called the meeting "historic." "We have incredible, incredible plans for the community," said Adeler.

Two days later, Adeler sat at his desk in his jewelry store in Great Falls Village Center, when Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust called.

"It has taken only four years, unbelievable," Adeler said to the Dranesville Supervisor.

"In my world, that's lightning speed," Foust could be overheard, joking on the phone with Adeler.

The group will call itself the Great Falls Grange Project.

THE GREAT FALLS GRANGE was the first grange hall built in Virginia and one of five granges built in Fairfax County, said Kathleen Murphy, president of the Great Falls Historical Society.

In March 2015, the community celebrated renovations to the 1929 Great Falls Grange Hall building that made it accessible to all.

"For far too long, it was not accessible to our residents with disabilities and to our senior citizens," said Supervisor John Foust, who helped secure \$350,000 for the \$503,000 project from County carry-over funds in 2013. The Fairfax County Park Authority funded the balance.

"A really impressive group of community organizations got together and signed a letter to me basically asking for more access to these facilities," Foust said. "The proposal was that I would get the Grange made ADA accessible and they would come forward with a proposal that community groups would take responsibility for these two buildings."

"If the community groups come together the way I think they might and the way it was initially proposed, I see something more grand here."

THE LAST TWO years, representatives from Great Falls organizations, coordinated by Adeler, have met to discuss hope of making the Great Falls Grange a community building once again.

"The potential is extraordinary," Adeler has said in the past. "The possible activities for community use, for youth, senior citizens, adults, artists, musicians, nonprofits and the entire community are endless."

At last Wednesday's meeting, Doug Cobb said the Great Falls Historical Society hopes



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

The Grange was built in 1929 to be the social center of Great Falls. Members of the Great Falls Grange Project are working to make it a hub of community activity once again.

to use the School House "as a museum with meeting rooms for small groups and fully staffed welcome staff both for the Grange and for the town of Great Falls," according to minutes of the meeting.

The historical society hopes to invite schoolchildren to study in the schoolhouse so students can envision their community's history.

The Amadeus Orchestras envisions quartets and music enlivening the halls of the Grange with afternoon teas.

Arts of Great Falls can have exhibitions, festivals and classes.

The Great Falls Optimist Club can conduct tutoring.

And more.

"Each group is fascinated with the potential. I think it will be glorious," said Adeler.

The Great Falls Historical Society is hopeful the Museum could be in place for its 40th anniversary in April 2017.

BUT HOLD YOUR HORSES, Foust said to Adeler on their telephone call on Friday, Aug. 19.

There's a process that needs to take place.

The groups will present their proposal to Foust and the Park Authority, which owns the building and currently rents the building to community groups.

Then, there will be need for a public meeting, with the community having a chance to give input, and let the Park Authority respond, before plans are finalized

"The devil is in the details," said Adeler.

SEE GRANGE, PAGE 10

Coalition of Eleven For the Grange

Eleven Great Falls community groups share a vision for community control of Grange.

GREAT FALLS OPTIMISTS CLUB

See www.optimist.org/ClubDetail.cfm?club=16080

Optimist International is a worldwide volunteer organization made up of more than 2,500 local Clubs whose members work each day to make the future brighter by bringing out the best in children, in their communities, and in themselves. Currently, the Great Falls Optimist Club meets at the Great Falls Library on the first Thursday of each Month at 6:30 - 8:30 pm

GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

See www.gfhs.org/

The Great Falls Historical Society will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2017. The organization was organized in 1977 to promote community spirit by bringing the past into the present through: monthly programs on local history, preservation advocacy to protect historic structures in Great Falls, programs, contests and awards for students, publication of historical essays, collection and preservation of historic artifacts and photographs of Great Falls, oral history interviews of current and earlier residents, genealogical research, tours of historic site, and its newsletter, the *Chronicle*.

GREAT FALLS COMMUNITY

FARMERS MARKET

<http://greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

The Great Falls Community Farmer's Market provides the residents of Great Falls with a community farmers market year round. The market is a "producer-only" market, and only vendors who grow, cultivate, produce or make their products may sell at the market.

During the summer, the market is located at 778 Walker Road Parking Lot, next to Wells Fargo Bank. In the winter, the Farmers Market will take place in the Great Falls Grange.

GREAT FALLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

See www.gfca.org

Since 1968, the Great Falls Citizens Association has worked on behalf of the citizens of Great Falls to protect, defend and improve the quality of life in the Great Falls community.

According to Great Falls Citizens Association: "Since Great Falls is not legally a city, we lack a town government to represent our local interests. GFCA acts in an unofficial capacity to represent the voices of the citizens of Great Falls. On Great Falls issues, no other organization has GFCA's influence with elected leaders at the County and State level, or is as respected by them."

Committees include: land use and zoning; environment, parks and trails; long range planning and development; communication and outreach; transportation; membership; nominations; trails; and groundwater contamination.

AMADEUS CONCERTS

See www.amadeusconcerts.com

The Amadeus Concerts, Inc. began in 1980 as the Great Falls Music Society. The mission of Amadeus Concerts included delivering fine music to local

SEE COALITION, PAGE 10

OUR CONGRESSWOMAN

BARBARA COMSTOCK

GETTING RESULTS FOR US



For 35 years, Barbara Comstock has lived, worked, raised a family, started a business and served as both Delegate and Congresswoman in the 10th District. Whether it was her work as a senior Justice Department official, a small businesswoman, a Mom at home, a senior aide and counsel in Congress, a Member of the House of Delegates or now as our Congresswoman, Barbara knows the challenges facing the 10th District because she has lived them with us and fought for us to get results on our priorities.

- Advance breakthroughs in 21st century cures for chronic disease such as cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes.
- A 5 year Transportation Bill, signed into law, which will help relieve traffic congestion, provide more transportation funds, and make Metro safer and more accountable.
- A \$600 billion tax relief package, signed into law, for families, small businesses and our technology and defense businesses.
- Increased defense and cyber funding to protect us from terrorism.
- Human Trafficking legislation, signed into law, that cracks down on this growing crime and protects women and children.
- Started two Heroin Task Forces to battle the heroin scourge in our communities and advancing legislation to increase education, treatment and prevention.
- Started the "10th Congressional District Young Women Leadership Program" for junior high and high school young women.

"As your Congresswoman, I will continue to work tirelessly to strengthen our national security and protect us from terrorism; advance breakthroughs in 21st century cures for chronic diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's and diabetes; promote a 21st century economy with more opportunity and higher wage jobs; provide transportation funding and solutions; and fight the growing problem of human trafficking and heroin abuse in our community."

Barbara Comstock

703.731.4466 / info@barbaracomstockforcongress.com / www.BarbaraComstockForCongress.com

Paid for by Comstock for Congress

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Arthur Kingdom recommended that the Planning Commission come to the 11 acres of a potential development project to see sunlight coming through hundreds of mature trees. "It is idyllic," he said.



Great Falls Citizens Association now has a stormwater management task force.

Activism at 'New High' in Great Falls

Citizens Association a must see for all Great Falls residents; storm water management a major priority. See www.gfca.org.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

"Citizen involvement has reached a new high in our community," Bill Canis told Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Bulova, Foust and Dranesville Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder have all given public praise to the efforts of the Great Falls Citizens Association and involved citizens during the last month's major land use cases that have come before the two county boards.

"Many have spent countless hours the past two years exercising their responsibility as residents of the community and the entire community. And you deserve a thank you for your efforts, that's for sure," said Foust.

Canis suggested that the Board create a group of interested citizens who would develop citizen recommendations to improve the land use process and the involvement of the community.

"If this county wants to retain citizen involvement in the land use process, there are, no doubt, steps that can be made to make this process more transparent and available to residents who have day jobs and don't have attorneys or specialists to help them," Canis told the Board of Supervisors.

Chairman Sharon Bulova applauded the idea as, "something that I and members of this Board have been discussing."

She asked Canis if he would be interested in volunteering. "I'm sure we can find residents of Great Falls who would be interested," he said.



The Gulick Group proposes 10 single-family detached dwellings on 11 acres around the Lexington Estates east of Springvale Road and at the terminus of Challedon Road.

"Since 1968, Great Falls Citizens Association has worked on behalf of the citizens of Great Falls to protect, defend, and improve the quality of life in our community," according to the GFCA website. "Since Great Falls is not legally a city, we lack a town government to represent our local interests. GFCA acts in an unofficial capacity to represent the voices of the citizens of Great Falls."

Committees include: land use and zoning; environment, parks and trails; long range planning and development; commu-

nication and outreach; transportation; membership; nominations; trails; and groundwater contamination.

More than 1,400 GFCA members became involved in a land-use case regarding Brooks Farm that will be developed. Storm water management has become a major concern and area of attention for GFCA, because of Great Falls' responsibility to the Potomac watershed, Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. See www.gfca.org

Whether you are just arriving in Great Falls, or just catching up with the news, here are some issues to watch.

Seneca Pharmacy

On Sept. 12, the citizens association will hold a Town Hall meeting at the Great Falls Library at 7:30 p.m. to focus on a special exception application proposing a CVS Pharmacy with drive-through at Seneca Corner commercial development.

"Representatives for the developer will discuss the latest updates to the plan following FCDOT's review of the Traffic Operational Analysis, and other feedback they have received," according to GFCA officials.

"I urge everybody to come to the [GFCA] Traffic Committee meeting in September," said Eric Knudsen, past president of the GFCA.

A public hearing at the Fairfax County Planning Commission has currently been scheduled for Oct. 29; the Planning Commission makes a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, which ultimately approves or denies land use cases.

The pharmacy is planned for the confluence of Route 7, Great Seneca, and Georgetown Pike.

Brooks Farm

The Board of Supervisors gave final approval for 19 homes to be developed on Brooks Farm, along Springvale Road and Forest Lake Drive on July 26.

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust acknowledged how hard Great Falls residents advocated for stormwater management, tree preservation, well water, stream valley protection, and other environmental features of the property around Walker Lake.

"Tonight's testimony doesn't scratch the surface in terms of suggesting how difficult it's been," said Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust.

SEE ISSUES, PAGE 11



Welcome Neighbor!

Dear Great Falls neighbor,
We warmly invite you
To join in appreciating local history,
Allowing the local journey of yesterday –
Its successes, its struggles, its wisdom, its foibles –
To enlighten our path to tomorrow.

To feel the pulse of earth where man has trod, and for the future, keep the past.

National Historic Treasures

"National Register of Historic Places" treasures located in Great Falls, Virginia

- 1737 Four Stairs
- 1750 The William Gunnell House
- 1786 Potomac Canal Historic District
- 1811 Colvin Run Mill
- 1813 The Georgetown Pike
- 1831 Cornwell Farm
- 1852 The John Gunnell House
- 1889 The Forestville Schoolhouse
- 1929 The Great Falls Grange

(A Colvin Run Historic District has been deemed eligible to be on the National Register.)

Enjoy Local History

Sept 14	MYTH vs. REALITY: 50 Years of the National Historic Preservation Act in Great Falls & Beyond
Nov 09	Plantation Life: The Gunnell's of Great Falls
January	Neighborhoods of Great Falls, Part 1
March	Neighborhoods of Great Falls, Part 2
May	Annual Meeting & Election
Jul-Aug	Summer Internship

Celebrate Local Events

Oct 12	Oktoberfest Potluck Dinner
Dec 14	"Messages of Neighborliness" Holiday Gathering & Potluck
February	Tibbetts Award Banquet
April	GFHS 40 th Anniversary Gala
May	Great Falls Day
June	George Washington Bus Tour
July	Independence Day Parade

Join the **"Neighborhood Challenge"** – Research your neighborhood for prizes & a chance to present
"Geocache" local Great Falls history by following the clues to find hidden treasures.

Neighbors enjoying community spirit rooted in the history of our shared place, Great Falls, Virginia

Honoring a historian...



Enjoying a lecture...



Filling historic footsteps...



Reading the local story...



Re-enacting...



Re-experiencing "how"...



Listening to the legacy...



Capturing an oral history...



Touring George Washington's Great Falls



Celebrating "local"...



Marking annual traditions...



Playing historic trivia...



Great Falls Historical Society P.O. Box 56 Great Falls, VA 22066

WEBSITE www.gfhs.org

FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/GreatFallsHistoricalSociety

EMAIL gfhsva22066@outlook.com

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Great Falls Nonprofits: Making Community Work

Celebrate Great Falls

Celebrate Great Falls hosts annual events such as the Celebration of Lights Christmas tree lighting and a Fourth of July Parade, and raises funds for the three local elementary schools with a charity golf tournament. Celebrate Great Falls is currently looking for volunteers to help with general tasks, event planning and marketing. 571-293-0474, www.celebrategreatfalls.org

Great Falls Rotary Club and Foundation

Now in its fifth year, the Great Falls Rotary Club has volunteered at community parks, planned shoe drives and supported the USO. Members come from a variety of different professions, and it is not necessary to live in Great Falls to join. gfi.interact@gmail.com or www.rotarygreatfalls.org/.

Friends of Colvin Run Mill

Friends of Colvin Run Mill is dedicated to assisting the Fairfax County Park Authority enhance the Colvin Run Mill Historic Site and its educational programs. The restored Colvin Run Mill, a working example of 19th century water powered grist milling technology, serves as an educational focal point for visitors, children and families. 703-759-2771 or <http://friendsofcolvinrunmill.org/>

Friends of the Great Falls Library

Friends of the Great Falls Library is a group that raises money to expand community events and programs for

Great Falls Women's Group Seeks Members

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors is seeking members. Women living the Langley High School district or the The Estates of Lowes Island are invited to check out the group's website.

The purpose of GFFN is to establish and foster an atmosphere in which new and current residents can develop new friendships and community contacts through social, educational and cultural activities. In addition, the club provides service, support and donations to philanthropic and civic organizations in and around the Great Falls community.

Monthly meetings take place at the Great Falls Library meeting room. For more details about the club, meeting dates and activities, email info@gffnva.org or visit www.gffnva.org.

children and at the Great Falls Library, located at 9830 Georgetown Pike. 703-757-8560 or <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/gf/>

Great Falls Area Ministries, formerly Great Falls Ecumenical Council

The Great Falls Area Ministries has members from eight churches in Great Falls. The members share a commitment to worship, fellowship and service. The GFAM support various social and outreach programs and sponsor joint worship on Good Friday and Easter. They meet on the first Thursday of each month September through June in alternating member church buildings. Email Carol Wesley Wright at: c.wright@longandfoster.com

Great Falls Optimist Club

A group of individuals committed to programs that educate youth and help them expand their horizons and avoid pitfalls as they mature. The Optimists run a "Just Say No" program and an oratorical contest and have sponsored the Adeler Jewelers Children's Festival. They sponsor boys and girls softball and baseball teams and Operation Smile. <http://www.optimist.org/ClubDetail.cfm?club=16080>

Great Falls Trailblazers

The Trailblazers support development and maintenance of multi-purpose trails in Great Falls. They have secured close to \$2 million in grants to construct the Georgetown and Walker Road trails, sponsor annual stream clean-ups, and are looking for volunteers to help with trail maintenance. They monitor development to ensure compliance with the trails designated in Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan trails map and ac-

tively work to complete trails on Georgetown Pike and Walker Road. <http://greatfallstrailblazers.org/> or greatfallstrailblazers@gmail.com

Great Falls Friends and Neighbors

The result of a 2011 merger of the Great Falls Woman's Club and Newcomers of Great Falls, Great Falls Friends and Neighbors engages in social, civic and philanthropic activities throughout the area. GFFN has donated money to sponsor field trips to Riverbend Park, holds an annual Christmas ornament sale whose proceeds have been donated to a local domestic violence shelter and provides scholarships to local women pursuing higher education.

The purpose of GFFN is to establish and foster an atmosphere in which women residing in the Langley High School District and the Estates of Lowes Island can develop new friendships and community contacts through social, educational, and cultural activities. In addition, the club provides support to philanthropies focused on women and children in need in the Northern Virginia area.

<http://www.gffnva.org/> or info@gffnva.org

Turner Farm Stakeholders

Formed in 2014, Turner Farm Stakeholders is a group of volunteers that developed from Save the Farm, a volunteer organization founded in 1996 to raise money and community awareness to preserve the Turner Farm in Great Falls as a public park. Stakeholders support The Turner Farm's equestrian jumping and dressage arena, cross country course, Observatory Park, July 4

fireworks, barn and farmhouse, resident curator program and itinerant individual pursuits like walking, jogging, observing nature and experiencing open space. <https://www.facebook.com/TurnerStakeholders>, turnerstakeholders@gmail.com, Betty Nalls Swartz: 703-759-2378 or Beverly Bradford Crawford: 703-406-2487

Traveling Players Ensemble

Traveling Players Ensemble is a not-for-profit professional theatre company based in Great Falls-dedicated to bringing great theatre into the great outdoors through a thriving summer camp and year-round acting classes and workshops. Volunteer opportunities include working in the office, assisting with costume and set construction and helping with special events. 703-987-1712 or www.travelingplayers.org/.

Great Falls Senior Center

The Great Falls Senior Center hosts monthly events for local seniors at churches and public buildings. See their website for more details on events and membership. 703-324-4386 or www.gfseniors.org/.

MORE AREA NONPROFITS

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area [LWVFA] is a volunteer organization composed of passionate men and women who are dedicated to making democracy work. It encourages active participation by citizens, but it

SEE NONPROFITS, PAGE 9

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OAKCREST SCHOOL

An independent school for girls in grades 6-12 inspired by the teachings of the Catholic Church

JOIN US AT AN UPCOMING OPEN HOUSE

DATE	TIME	OPEN HOUSE	LOCATION
Friday, October 14	7:50 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Be an Oakie for the Day A day of fun making new friends, being a part of engaging classroom conversations and learning about Oakcrest traditions.	850 Balls Hill Road McLean, VA
Saturday, October 22	2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.	Fall Open House Come speak with our faculty, students, parents and administration. Experience a student-led tour. Learn more about our rich liberal arts curriculum, our vibrant mentoring, arts, sports and service programs, and the difference our graduates are making in the world.	850 Balls Hill Road McLean, VA
Sunday, November 13	2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.	Permanent Campus Open House Visit our permanent campus and speak with students, faculty, parents and administration. You'll get a sneak peek of our new space, opening in fall 2017.	1619 Crowell Road Vienna, VA

Register Today at Oakcrest.org

O'Donovan Humanities Lecture

Saturday, October 1, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Arthur C. Brooks, President, American Enterprise Institute

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MIDDLE SCHOOL PRODUCTION

November 4, 2016 - 7:30 pm

November 5, 2016 - 11:00 am* & 7:30 pm

* Group reservations available

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Music by Albert T. Viola, Lyrics by William S. Kilborne, Jr.

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Nonprofits

FROM PAGE 8

does not support or endorse candidates. It conducts studies of important community issues, has monthly meetings during which members discuss these issues, and uses education and advocacy to influence public policy, at the local level, in the interest of the public. It conducts candidate forums so that citizens can ask the candidates questions, candidates can answer those questions and also interact directly with the public. LWVFA also registers voters and provides them with unbiased information about the voting process, issues of interest, and elections. To learn more about this organization or to join please go to its website, www.lwv-fairfax.org.

Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC)

AHC Inc., a nonprofit developer of affordable housing, operates throughout northern Virginia and the Baltimore area to provide quality homes for families and individuals making between 30 and 60 percent of the middle income for their area. AHC also offers services for residents and homeownership opportunities. 703-486-0626 or www.ahcinc.org/index.html.

Committee for Helping Others (CHO)

CHO is an organization committed to providing "simple, loving charity" to those in need in Vienna, Dunn Loring, and Merrifield. CHO is currently seeking volunteer drivers for their furniture and transportation programs. 703-281-7614 or www.cho-va.com.

Family PASS

Family PASS strives to step in before families lose their housing and to help homeless families regain housing and become self-sufficient by providing rental subsidies assistance, extensive case management and other aid including access to education, job training, child care, food, transportation, health care, help with children's issues and counseling. Volunteer opportunities include positions as drivers, food drive organizers and tutors. 703-242-6474 or <http://familypassfairfax.org/>.

So Others Might Eat

SOME is a 46-year-old organization based in the Washington D.C. area with church partnerships throughout Northern Virginia. SOME works to meet the immediate daily needs of needy adults and children with food, clothing and health care, with the goal of breaking the cycle of homelessness by offering services such as affordable housing, job training, addiction treatment and counseling to the poor, the elderly and individuals with mental illness. 202.797.8806 or www.some.org/

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

The Grange can become the centerpiece of the Great Falls community once again, as farmers envisioned when they built the Grange for the community in 1929.



FILE PHOTO

Grange

FROM PAGE 4

“I believe you’re 90 percent there,” said Foust.

Adeler and the Great Falls Citizens Association first became involved back in 2012, according to historic notes, kept on the grand Grange vision.

Glen Sjoblom, then co-chair of GFCA’s Long Range Planning Committee summarized a history of the Grange and Old School House on Feb. 28, 2012.

“They have been and should remain as key to our heritage, and central to community life, as they have been all these years,” he said at the meeting.

In a letter to the Fairfax County Park Authority, Sjoblom and Doug Cobb wrote, “We believe Mr. Adeler will pursue further the idea of developing a community organization to consider a long-term

lease for the two facilities, that can be accomplished in cooperation with your office, and result in community management oversight of these facilities.”

Adeler’s patience and persistence has the project on its way.

The Great Falls Grange Project is scheduled to hold its first Board of Directors meeting on Sept. 15.

“This is going to be incredible,” said Adeler. He said that ever since he came to Great Falls it has been his dream that Great Falls Village would “find its heart in not only the fact of having a place to meet face to face, but also in the process of achieving that feat.”

Board members of the Grange Falls Grange Project plan to call Foust on Sept. 16, 2016 to arrange the exact time they will present their proposal.

“I can’t wait to see it,” said Foust.

Coalition of Eleven for the Grange

FROM PAGE 4

communities and music education and outreach for all ages. The board continues to be dedicated to maintaining affordable admission and encourages attendance by families and seniors.

ARTS OF GREAT FALLS

See www.greatfallsart.org
756 Walker Road

The Arts of Great Falls has a mission is to expand opportunities for art education, expression and professional development in the Great Falls community, and to network with other individuals and organizations that share these goals. Founded in 2007, GFFFTA changed its name to The Arts of Great Falls in 2014 and expanded the mission to include all arts including visual, performing arts and literary arts. In May 2015, the foundation moved to new space in the Village Centre of Great Falls on the Green.

GREAT FALLS STUDIOS

<http://www.greatfallsstudios.com/>
P.O. Box 566, 10001 Georgetown Pike

Great Falls Studios was founded in May 2003 and promotes the artistic endeavors of Great Falls artists through its network of continuous communication among the members, its contact with other community organizations, its several annual exhibitions, and other events in the community. Great Falls Studios seeks to increase the opportunities for experiencing art in the Great Falls community and to support other community organizations.

GREAT FALLS FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

See www.gffnva.org/

The foundation for Great Falls Friends and Neighbors [GFFN] is a result of a 2011 merger of two local women’s clubs, the Great Falls Woman’s Club and Newcomers of Great Falls. The Great Falls Woman’s Club was founded in 1980 and Newcomers of Great Falls was founded in 1982. The purpose of GFFN is to establish and foster an atmosphere in which new and current members can develop new friendships and community contacts through social, cultural, civic, and philanthropic activities.

TURNER FARM EVENTS

See www.turnerfarmevents.org/

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Issues Facing Great Falls

FROM PAGE 6

The Board also gave voice of approval to the thousands of hours 1,400 Great Falls residents spent on the application the last two years.

"I believe the applicant got it right, but I have to say I feel it should not have taken so long and the community should not have had to work so hard to get to this point," he said.

Twelve revisions of the original proposal to develop Brooks Farm resulted in reducing the number of houses proposed on the 52 acres from 23 to 19, among other things.

"You get a sense of the importance of the environmental issues that have collectively dominated the discussion on this application," said Greg Riegle, attorney for the applicant. "It's a perspective that frankly the applicant shares."

"In all the years I've been around this process, I'm not sure I've seen a deeper collective dive into the issues with all the stakeholders involved," he said.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of Basheer/Edgemoore-Brooks' application in June.

"Collectively, the various measures planned for this development go well beyond the minimum currently required by the Commonwealth and Fairfax County," said Dranesville Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder. "They also have committed to a phased approach to the development to avoid any erosion and sediment problems that can occur during the development stage. And they have agreed to post-construction monitoring of the downstream channels for two years after completion of the project and to be responsible for any corrective restoration, if it is determined it is required," said Ulfelder.

Canis said there are risks to the community, the watershed community, and to the entire Potomac watershed.

He called Brooks Farm "one of the last tracts of farm era land in our community."

A horse stable operated on the site until 2012.

"It's not a surprise that residents would take an interest in this property," said Canis.

Because of GFCA efforts on this case, the civic association pledges to stay actively involved on storm water management in all land use cases and development.

11 Acres

GFCA member Sam Cappiello told members of the GFCA that he has hired his own private arborist to conduct a study of the trees he believes will be removed by the Gulick Group application.

Oaks and hickory trees are part of the property, said Dranesville Tree Commissioner Bob Vickers.

"They will be clear cutting about seven acres," said Vickers.

Cappiello told GFCA's membership that he asked Dranesville Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder, a Great Falls resident, if the Planning Commission would delay a vote on the land use case to give time to report his findings.

Dranesville Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder announced in August that a decision on The Gulick's Group application to develop 11 acres of undeveloped, forested land would be deferred until September.

Cappiello, his wife Sandy Cappiello, and GFCA members Arthur Kingdom and Eric Knudsen testified before the commission to describe sunlight shining through hundreds of trees on Challedon Drive, and the birds singing at sunrise.

"I hope members of this commission have



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

TD Bank plans construction for their new bank in the fall. The opening is currently planned for February 2017.

had a chance to visit the forest in question," said Kingdom. "It is idyllic," he told the Fairfax County Planning Board Commission.

The Gulick Group applied to rezone the 11-acre property from R-A to R-1 in order to permit development of a 10-lot cluster single family subdivision at a density of 0.91 dwelling units per acre. The area is currently undeveloped, forested, 11-acre parcel that includes moderate slopes that steepen towards the Piney Run floodplain.

The property is located in an area east of Springvale Road and at the terminus of Challedon Road. The property is surrounded by the Lexington Estates and contains a significant environmentally sensitive area.

Fairfax County Planning staff have already recommended approval of the redevelopment.

Kingdom said Lexington Estates was built in 1978 and that there has been talk about development for a number of years.

At a GFCA Town meeting this summer, president Bill Canis announced to the membership that GFCA has formed a stormwater task force. "The county has not always been astute enough on governing stormwater. That's why we are forming a stormwater task force," within GFCA's environment

SEE ISSUES, PAGE 14

Celebrate Great Falls

Upcoming Events

Halloween Spooktacular

Monday, October 31, 2016

Children up to age 12 are encouraged to wear their favorite Halloween costume and enjoy trick or treating with local merchants.

Celebration of Lights

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Celebrate the beginning of the season with the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep your kids busy until Mr. & Mrs. Claus arrive by fire truck.

WINTER WINE TASTING

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Get out of the cold and enjoy great wines, hors d'oeuvres, cheese & good company.

Annual Events

Cars & Coffee

Saturday Mornings from 7am to 9am

Come grab a coffee and enjoy the many cars on show. Antique, classic and new... they can all be found here outside of Katie's Coffee House.

Concerts on the Green

Sunday Evenings during the Summer

Sunday Evenings from 6pm to 8pm, on the Village Centre Green at the Gazebo.

Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of live, free music.

Annual Golf Tournament

First Monday in June

Join us in support of our local, community Elementary Schools! Morning and afternoon shotguns.

July 4th Hometown Celebration & Parade

July 4th ~ 8am to Dark

Activities include a 5K Run/Walk, The Little Patriot Parade and The Main Parade through Village Centre with games immediately following the parade.

Fireworks complete the day at Turner Farm Park.

Celebrate Great Falls is a nonprofit foundation that has become the umbrella organization for many of our town's major annual events.

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GREAT FALLS CONNECTION ♦ NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE 2016-17 ♦ 11

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Places to See, Things to Do in Dranesville District

Supervisor recommends parks, historical features and community events in the Dranesville District.

BY JOHN W. FOUST,
SUPERVISOR
(D-Dranesville District)

Some of the Supervisor John Foust's favorite parks, historical places and community events in Dranesville District:

Clemyjontri Park: Since opening in 2006, more than 200,000 visitors have enjoyed this unique playground where children of all abilities can play side-by-side. Equipment allows children who have physical, sensory or developmental disabilities to have a parallel playground experience of fun and exploration. The park also includes a carousel and picnic pavilion. (6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean)

Riverbend Park: This park offers over 400 acres of forests, meadows and ponds. Trails in-

clude a 2.5 mile portion of the Potomac Heritage Trail that links national and regional parkland. Kayaking, canoeing and fishing are all available on the Potomac River. The nature center and picnic shelter are available for rent. (8700 Potomac Hills, Great Falls)

Colvin Run Park: Colvin Run Mill offers visitors a chance to step back in time. There are tours of the restored mill, which was built around 1811. A general store offers stone ground cornmeal, wheat flour, grits, "penny candy," snacks and drinks. Trails are available for quiet walks. Live music, craft demonstrations, ice cream making and seasonal activities are available from February through December. (10017 Colvin Run, Great Falls)

Turner Farm: Originally the site of a dairy farm, the 52-acre park offers a unique mix of educational and recreational facilities. The Analemma Society offers as-



PHOTO BY MELANIE PINCUS/THE CONNECTION

Great Falls Freedom Memorial, located on the Great Falls Library grounds, honors all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, including the six Great Falls residents who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

tronomy programs in partnership with the Park Authority at the park's observatory. Equestrians can enjoy a cross country course and

a large multi-purpose arena with stadium jumps and dressage makers. Small children can enjoy a tot lot. (925 Springvale Road, Great

Falls)

Runnymede Park: The Town of Herndon is located in the Dranesville District. The town owns and maintains this 58-acre park. It is the site for many community nature-related events such as the annual Nature Fest. Situated near the Sugarland Run Stream, the park attracts over 100 species of birds, deer, fox and other wildlife. Two park shelters are available for rental. (196 Herndon Parkway, Herndon)

Scotts Run Nature Preserve: One of the few nature preserves in the County. The 336-acre preserve, formerly known as the Burling Tract, had at one time been slated for development. Scotts Run offers wonderful hiking trails of varying difficulty, some of them leading to the bluffs of the Potomac River. (7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean)

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts: Known

SEE PLACE, PAGE 13



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Appreciating artisan creations...
Greeting each other...
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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Places to See

FROM PAGE 12

simply as Wolf Trap, the 117-acre park is home to the beautiful Filene Center, The Barnes and the Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods. Each summer there are more than 100 performance across all genres at Wolf Trap. There are also year-round recreational opportunities, including hiking trails, picnic areas and sledding. (1635 Trap Road, Vienna)

Spring Hill Recreation Center: Recently renovated and expanded. Users can use the indoor swimming pool, a two-story fitness center and a gymnasium with an elevated running track. The gym features a single high school-sized basketball court with two overlay basketball courts and a volleyball overlay court. (1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean)

MPAartfest: Every October, the McLean Project for the Arts converts McLean Central Park into



PHOTO BY BEN KISHORE/THE CONNECTION

In Great Falls Park, there are three main lookout points with unbeatable views of the falls and fifteen miles of hiking trails alongside the Potomac river.

a free, one-day festival of the arts. Thousands of area residents attend. Vendor tents display the works of numerous juried artists, which are complemented by exhibitions of children's and seniors' artwork, an Open Studio demonstration and performances by local musicians. (McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean)

Great Falls Freedom Memo-

rial: Dedicated in 2004, the memorial plaza on the library grounds honors local military personnel, firefighters, police officers, the six Great Falls residents who died in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and others who have made the ultimate sacrifice to defend our liberty and freedom. The service on 9/11 is very moving. (9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls — behind the library)



PHOTO BY MELANIE PINCUS/THE CONNECTION

Clemyjontri Park is a unique playground where children of all abilities can play side-by-side.

McLean Day: Sponsored by the McLean Community Center, McLean Day is held on the third Saturday in May. The festival features live entertainment, carnival rides, exhibitions and delicious foods for visitors of all ages. There are booths where artisans, local businesses, civic organizations, nonprofit groups and local officials showcase their wares. (Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road,

McLean)

Great Falls Park: This National Park consists of 800 acres along the banks of the Potomac River. The park is a wonderful place to hike, picnic and simply view the majestic falls and rapids, often navigated by kayakers. (Entrance is at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive, Great Falls)

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Issues Facing Great Falls

FROM PAGE 6

committee.

He encouraged membership to get involved.

"We've got to figure this out. We need dedicated people to join this organization and our storm water management task force," said Eric Knudsen, past president of GFCA.

Marmota Farm

GFCA will keep the public aware of 22.78 acres of land around the Great Falls Grange, Old School House and Lift Me Up therapeutic riding program called Marmota Farm, at approximately 9800 Georgetown Pike.

Member Betty Nalls Swartz says she rolls the windows down when she drives along Old Georgetown Pike by the Grange. Marmota Farm, once a dairy farm, "still smells like a farm," she said.

Great Falls Citizens Association held a Town meeting in February to address attempts by Save Marmota Farm. SMF is a group that formed to investigate a proposal that the farm be purchased with funds from a 2016 Park Bond referendum that will be voted on this November election.

The Souhail El-Farouki Trust purchased the

land in 1991; Stephen Moriarty of Chadwick Washington is the trustee for the family.

"Somebody sooner or later is going to pick this up. If anybody wants to keep it open space, that's fine with [the owners]. If any of you have a check for \$16 million, the property is yours," said Moriarty.

"I'm a little short right now," said Robb Watters, president of the HOA for the adjacent homes, in February.

Although Watters believes developing the land will be difficult due to economics and storm water regulations, he and his neighbors are not opposed to new homes on the property.

They are concerned about possible high-volume, active park uses, and are concerned about not having control on what ends up by their properties.

Moriarty said negotiations with a specific developer have been ongoing for a possible 11-house subdivision with entrance from Georgetown Pike that would be allowed by right, has preliminary approval from the county, according to Save Marmota Farm documents.

"A lot of us in Great Falls have interest in this property," said Jack Nutter, Great Falls historian and member of Save Marmota Farm. "There is no substitute for its natural beauty."

Bruce Winston of Fraser Forbes of McLean lists the property for sale at \$16.5 million. Fairfax County's assessment is \$3.48 million based on its present use, according to Save Marmota Farm documents.

TD Bank: Exxon Cleanup

Initial site preparation for TD Bank construction will begin this fall with paving at 9901 Georgetown Pike.

TD Bank is planned to open at 9901 Georgetown Pike in February 2017. The 2,616 square-foot bank with two drive-thru lanes will replace the 1,781 square-foot service station.

"The old Exxon station site has been the focus of groundwater contamination cleanup efforts for the past few years. Those efforts will continue at this site, as well as across Walker Road underneath the shopping center parking lot to which the contamination has spread," according to GFCA documents.

"We will keep being vigilant until the problem goes away," said Glen Sjoblom, chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association's special committee on groundwater contamination.

By the end of August, the groundwater processing system operating on the old Exxon Station property at the corner of Walker Rd and Georgetown Pike is scheduled to be removed.

The groundwater processing system was installed 2 years ago to remediate groundwater contamination on the site. Groundwater contamination MTBE levels in groundwater on site are nearing cleanup goals.

MTBE was the gasoline additive used under direction of the EPA prior to 2006, and a leak released the chemical from the former Exxon Service station into groundwater.

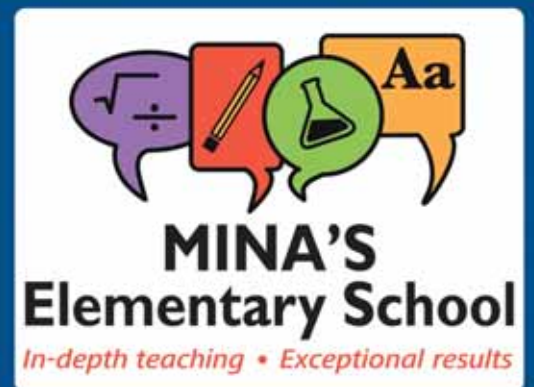
Leaks were detected from the vapor recovery units at former gas station in 2009.

"After the end points are reached, monitoring will continue for another two years to verify no contamination will ever reach private groundwater wells in the vicinity of the commercial center of Great Falls," according to the Great Falls Citizens Association.

Low levels of MTBE can make groundwater undrinkable due to its offensive taste and odor, according to U.S. EPA documents.

"It doesn't take a very big leak to cause a very big problem if you have an area that has private wells," said Sjoblom.

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Great Falls Studios was founded in 2003 by four artists sipping coffee around a kitchen table. It has grown into a formal consortium of more than 100 members – neighbors and friends – engaged in a wide variety of media. Art “Made in Great Falls” is being created in custom designed spaces, spare rooms, barns, beside wooded paths and along winding lanes within our artful village. There are now 4 working group ateliers in town! We welcome artists who live and work in 22066 to join us.

GFS invites the community to events throughout the year. Not all visitors to these will make a purchase but all will leave with a story.

Coming soon...

Friday, October 14/Saturday, October 15 & Sunday, October 16. 10 AM - 5 PM each day. Great Falls Studios 2016 ART TOUR. A driving tour to art studios (50 participating member artists) in Great Falls and a local home remodeled by Sun Design Remodeling Specialists, a tour sponsor. Also sponsored by Broadway Galleries.

October 2016. GFS members participating in the 2016 ART TOUR will be included in a group exhibit at the Great Falls Library.

December 3 & 4 Great Falls Studios Holiday ART FEST at the Great Falls Grange.

Find GFS...

The Virtual Gallery. A monthly themed exhibit of GFS member art on our website.
www.GreatFallsStudios.com

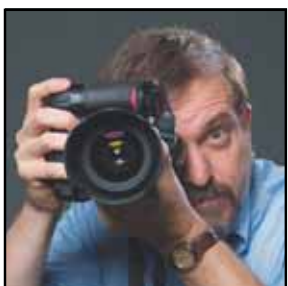
Solo exhibits of GFS member artists at Katie's @ The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760 Walker Rd., GF and Triny's Tex- Mex Grill, Great Falls Center, 9835 Georgetown Pike, GF

Student Art @ Great Falls Starbucks, Great Falls Center, 9863 Georgetown Pike, GF. A collaboration between Starbucks, Great Falls Studios and the art teachers and classes at Forestville, Great Falls, and Colvin Run elementary schools.

GFFS members are often on display in Great Falls Community Library, Large meeting room and small conference room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, GF. This venue is managed by the Friends of the Great Falls Library.

Learn more about Great Falls Studios at www.GreatFallsStudios.com and on Facebook. (*Like our page, share our story*)

GREAT FALLS STUDIOS
A CONSORTIUM OF ARTISTS



NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

In Love with Books in Great Falls

The little girl in front of the Info desk had curling dark hair and even darker eyes and said to me shyly, "I love this library. It has stuffed animals, bean bags, chairs and books – lots of books. And the people are nice. I think books are my favorite thing in all the world." Her assessment echoes through our world at the Great Falls Library daily. We have a love affair with books! Though I think the old-fashioned printed hold-in-your-hand books are still our meat and potatoes, we offer a wide assortment of e-books for your device of choice, as well as CD recorded books, and DVD's. And there are expert staff members to help guide you or your child to the perfect choices. To hook a child on the delights of reading is to fill one of our most satisfying objectives.

But beyond the bookreader enjoyment, the library serves as a de facto community center with a wide range of offerings. Our meeting room, which is monthly graced with a new art show featuring members of the Great Falls Studio, provides a regular gathering place for the Senior Center, Great Falls Citizens Association, Great Falls Historical Society, Book Clubs for adults and children, and many other community-sponsored programs. Many of our most highly attended meetings have evolved from local authors or simply citizens who happened upon some expert in the field of exercise, health, economics, politics, etc., to share with the community at large. For the children there are regular Pokémon and Legos Clubs, as well as storytimes for babies to preschoolers.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Great Falls Library: Children's area.

The Summer Reading Challenge hosts amazing programs and awards prizes to both children and adults for their reading endeavors.

In short, if you haven't discovered us already, we welcome you to a place where like Cheers of old, "everybody knows your name" – and as a bonus can meet your literary and social needs as well.

— LOIS GLICK

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE AREA

Great Falls

Zip code: 22066

Population: 18,099

Race: White-14,428 (79.7%), Black/African American-370 (2%), American Indian and Alaska Native-29 (0.2%), Asian-2,548 (14.1%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-778 (4.3%)

Total housing units: 6,153

Owner-occupied housing units: 5,497 (94.3%)

Households with individuals under 18 years: 2,678

Households with individuals 65 years and over: 1,526

Median household income: \$207,949

Mean family income: \$305,426

Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 24.8%

Source: U.S. Census 2010; American Community Survey 2012

McLean

McLean Zip code: 22102

Population: 21,985

Race: White-14,668 (66.7%), Black/African American-890 (4.0%), American Indian and Alaska Native-43 (0.2%), Asian-5,175 (23.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-1,481 (6.7%)

Total housing units: 10,471

Owner-occupied housing units: 5,476 (56.2%)

Households with individuals under 18 years: 2,626

Households with individuals 65 years and over: 2,075

Median household income: \$117,885

Mean family income: \$261,962

Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 41.3%

McLean Zip code: 22101

Population: 29,887

Race: White-24,098 (80.6%), Black/African American-498 (1.7%), American Indian and Alaska Native-42 (0.1%), Asian-4,130 (13.8%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-1,549 (5.2%)

Total housing units: 11,345

Owner-occupied housing units: 9,034 (83.1%)

Households with individuals under 18 years: 4,190 (38.5%)

Households with individuals 65 years and over: 3,813 (35.1%)

Median household income: \$175,926

Mean family income: \$273,397

Population 5 years and over who speaks a language other than English at home: 28.7%

Vienna

Zip code: 22182

Population: 24,863

Race: White-18,425 (74.1%), Black/African American-695 (2.8%), American Indian and Alaska Native-22 (0.1%), Asian-

4,594 (18.5%), Hispanic or Latino (of any race)-1,304 (5.2%)

Total housing units: 9,020

Owner-occupied housing units: 7,099 (82.5%)

Households with individuals under 18 years: 3,530

Households with individuals 65 years and over: 2,233

Median household income: \$164,388

Mean family income: \$217,756



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Photos by Walt Lawrence

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

How to Vote

Every year is election year in Virginia; mechanics and details of voting require attention to detail.

FAIRFAX COUNTY:

While the Presidential election will take top billing, every seat in the U.S. Congress is on the ballot, with one hotly contested race in Northern Virginia. In Fairfax County, voters will decide whether to enact a four percent meals tax, a topic voters will hear a lot more about in coming weeks.

The Town of Herndon will have its first November election, moving from May in past elections, with the office of Mayor and six Town Council seats on the ballot.

Fairfax County voters will decide on three bond questions, including \$120 million in transportation bonds for Metro; \$107 million in bonds for parks; and \$85 million for building and renovating senior and community centers, and homeless shelters. More at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/>

Absentee Voting in Person in Fairfax County

Voting begins Sept. 23, and with record turnout possible, voting early if you qualify is a good choice.

There are 19 valid reasons to vote absentee in Virginia, including working and commuting to and from home for 11 or more hours between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check the Virginia Department of Elections list to see if you are eligible. <http://elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/absentee-voting/index.html>

There are two ways to vote absentee, in-person and by mail. To do either, you should first [check your voter registration status](#) to make sure it is up-to-date. Then you will need to apply for an absentee ballot. Note: If you vote absentee in-person you will fill out the application when you arrive at the in-person absentee location (see locations below). Voting absentee by mail? Read below for the process of applying for your mail-in ballot.

You can now apply for an absentee ballot online with the state's new Citizen Portal. You will need your Social Security Number and information on your Virginia Driver's License to complete the application. Information is also provided on how to apply if you do not have a driver's license.

Absentee Voting Begins Sept. 23
Fairfax County Government Center, Conference Room 2/3,
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, 22035
Weekday Schedule:

♦ Sept. 23 to Oct. 14, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Thursday: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Closed, Monday, Oct. 10, Columbus Day.

♦ Oct. 17 to Nov. 4, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday Schedule: Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and November 5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 5 is the last day to absentee vote in-person.

Absentee Voting at Satellite Locations
Saturday Schedule: Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and Nov.

Upcoming Deadlines

On Election Day Polls are open from 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. To determine whether you are eligible and registered to vote in this election, visit the Virginia Department of Elections website at <http://elections.virginia.gov/> or call Fairfax Elections office at 703-222-0776.

♦ Sept. 23: In-Person Absentee Voting Begins <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm>

♦ Oct. 17: Voter Registration Deadline - In-Person: 5 p.m., Online www.vote.virginia.gov 11:59 p.m.

♦ Nov. 1: Last Day to Apply for an Absentee Ballot by Mail, Fax, Email or Online: 5 p.m.

♦ Nov. 5: Final Day for In-Person Absentee Voting

♦ Nov. 8: Absentee Ballot Return Deadline: 7 p.m.

For more information on voting in Fairfax County:

Voter Registration: 703-222-0776, TTY 711

Absentee Fax: 703-324-3725

Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Election Officer Info: 703-324-4735, TTY 711

ON THE BALLOT

in Fairfax County:

♦ President and Vice President

♦ U.S. House of Representatives, 8th, 10th, or 11th District

♦ Meal Tax Referendum

♦ Three Proposed County Bond Questions

♦ Two Proposed Constitutional Amendments

5, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Weekday Schedule: Oct. 17 to Nov. 4, Monday - Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Local Satellite Voting Locations:

♦ McLean Governmental Center - 1437 Balls Hill Rd., Community Room, McLean, 22101

♦ North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Dr., Community Rooms, Reston, 20190

Ballot Question, Meals Tax

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax/>

Fairfax County voters will vote yes or no on establishing a 4 percent meals tax. The Connection will publish stories and letters in coming weeks on both sides of this issue.

QUESTION:

State law authorizes counties, cities, and towns to levy a tax on prepared food and beverages, commonly called a "meals tax," subject to certain restrictions. Most counties, including Fairfax County, may levy a meals tax only if the voters approve the tax by referendum. The question presented in this referendum asks Fairfax County voters whether the Board of Supervisors should be authorized to levy a meals tax, at a rate not to exceed four percent of the amount charged for the taxable food and beverages.

70 percent of the net revenues would be dedicated to Fairfax County Public Schools; 30 percent of the net revenues would be dedicated to County services, capital improvements and property tax relief.

Currently, nearly 65 percent of Fairfax County's General Fund budget relies upon real estate taxes. State law limits what the county can tax and how it may otherwise raise revenue. A meals tax would give the County a new source of revenue, which would help diversify the County's revenue base. At the maximum four percent tax rate, a meals tax would generate an estimated \$99 million per year, with a significant percentage paid by non-county residents.

A number of area jurisdictions already impose a meals tax, including Arlington County, the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, and Fairfax, and the towns of Herndon and Vienna.

Comstock Faces Challenge from Bennett in Congressional Race

Voter turnout, presidential politics and 'Trump Effect' considered key factors in once solidly red district.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In Virginia's 10th Congressional District, freshman lawmaker Barbara Comstock remains confident that she will win her first re-election bid.

Her Democratic challenger, LuAnn Bennett, a real estate executive seeking her first elective office, is hoping the sprawling district's changing demographics, together with a strong voter turnout driven by a presidential contest, will give her the chance to turn the seat blue.



U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R)



COURTESY PHOTOS
LuAnn Bennett (D)



SOURCE: GOOGLE MAPS 2016

Map of the 10th District.

THE 10TH DISTRICT has leaned Republican, but by a narrow margin, according to the Virginia Public Access Project. In 2012, Barack Obama (D) and Mitt Romney (R) split the vote 50-50. In the 2014 race for U.S. Senate, this district voted 52 percent for Ed Gillespie (R) and 46 percent for incumbent Mark Warner (D), contributing to Warner's surprisingly tight bid for reelection. Ken Cuccinelli (R) edged Terry McAuliffe (D) by one percentage point in the 10th District, 48 to 47 percent, in the 2013 race for Governor.

During a business meet-and-greet Friday at Breaux Vineyards in Purcellville, Comstock announced that she earned the endorsement of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and touted her record of supporting tax cuts for businesses.

Earlier in the week, Comstock

moderated an all-woman panel of area "first responders" at the McLean Community Center as part of her Young Women in Leadership Program.

After the nearly two-hour event last Wednesday, Comstock stayed behind to personally greet any young woman who wanted to meet and get a photo taken with the congresswoman.

"The race is going great," Comstock said. "But I'm feeling energized. ... This is the fun part."

Bennett said she's ready to unseat the incumbent.

Bennett launched her campaign last December with a web video in which she recalled moving to Fairfax County 35 years ago with her husband Rick and buying a home in Great Falls, where they started a small real estate business and raised a family "and built a

life, just like hundreds of young Northern Virginia families are doing here today."

When her husband died of leukemia in 1994, she said that she was faced with being a single mother, raising three boys and managing a company. Despite those challenges, Bennett said she never missed a payroll.

"I've learned that in challenges, there are always opportunities," Bennett said in a statement. "Working together, we can break through the gridlock in Washington and build a better future for Northern Virginians."

Bennett said Comstock is "out of touch" with the 10th District's values. She has called Comstock's voting record "anti-woman, anti-environment, anti-immigration and anti-gun-safety."

In this increasingly divisive elec-

tion season, both parties are speculating how Republican Donald Trump's presidential candidacy will impact down-ticket congressional races.

TAKING A PAGE from the national Democratic playbook, Bennett's campaign has been relentless in demanding that Comstock either disavow Trump and his positions, or acknowledge that she stands with him.

When Trump criticized the Gold Star Muslim parents Khizr and Ghazala Kahn, parents of a soldier killed in Afghanistan, who spoke against Trump at the Democratic National Convention, Bennett immediately praised the family, said Trump is "hostile to our Muslim community" and called for her GOP opponent, Barbara Comstock, to "withdraw" her support from Trump.

Comstock also praised the Khans. She has said publicly that "Donald Trump needs to earn the votes of me and many others."

While Comstock has not endorsed Trump, she also has not joined the Republicans who have declared they will not vote for Trump. At times, Comstock has issued pointed news releases that counter Trump's rant-of-the-day without naming Trump. But Bennett has said that "avoiding mentioning Trump's name" is not enough for constituents.

Democrats might not have to worry about Virginia, at least at the presidential level. Larry Sabato, the director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics, declared Virginia is no longer a battleground state.

"Virginia is off the table," Sabato said in the release. Virginia, once a near-certainty win for Republican candidates, is now trending more towards Democrats, he predicted.

"These normally swing states are not swinging at all in 2016. They are solidly Democratic," said Sabato.

What remains unknown is what influence that trend at the presidential level may have on the 10th district Congressional race.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

How to Vote

FROM PAGE 18

Four Bond Questions

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/>
TRANSPORTATION BONDS, Yes or No
Shall the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds, in addition to bonds previously authorized for transportation improvements and facilities, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$120 million to finance Fairfax County's share, under the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Compact, of the cost of constructing, reconstructing, improving and acquiring transportation improvements and facilities, including capital costs of land, transit facilities, rolling stock and equipment in the Washington metropolitan area, and to finance improvements to primary and secondary State highways and ancillary related improvements and facilities?

PARKS AND PARK FACILITIES BONDS, Yes or No

Shall the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds, in addition to bonds previously authorized for parks and park facilities, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$107,000,000: (i) \$94,700,000 principal amount to finance the Fairfax County Park Authority's cost to acquire, construct, develop and equip additional parks and park facilities, to preserve open-space land, and to develop and improve existing parks and park facilities; and (ii) \$12,300,000 principal amount for Fairfax County's contribution to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to acquire, construct, develop and equip parks and park facilities?

HUMAN SERVICES/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BONDS, Yes or No

Shall the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$85,000,000 to provide funds to finance the cost of human services facilities and community development facilities, including the construction and reconstruction of community centers and shelters and the acquisition of land and equipment or interests therein?

❖ Replace the Sully Senior Center and a build new Lorton Community Center (\$37 million)

❖ Renovate, expand or replace four emergency shelters for people who are homeless: Patrick Henry, Embury Rucker, Eleanor Kennedy, and Bailey's (\$48 million)

Virginia Voter ID

Virginia has a stringent voter identification requirement, plan to bring photo identification with you to vote, whether that is absentee or on Election Day.

Among accepted ID: valid Virginia Driver's License or Identification Card; valid Virginia DMV issued Veteran's ID card; valid

U.S. Passport; valid college or university student photo identification card from an institution of higher education located in Virginia; valid student ID issued by a public school or private school in Virginia displaying a photo; employee identification card containing a photograph of the voter and issued by an employer of the voter in the ordinary course of the employer's business.

Any registered voter who does not have one of the required forms of identification can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad. Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter.

If you arrive at your polling place on Election Day without an acceptable form of photo identification, don't panic or give up. You will be given the opportunity to vote a provisional ballot. After completing the provisional ballot, the individual voting will be given written instructions from the election officials on how to submit a copy of his/her identification so that his/her vote can be counted.

A voter will have until noon on the Friday following the election to deliver a copy of the identification to the local electoral board or to appear in person to apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card.

Also by noon on Friday following the election, the voter may appear in-person in the office of the general registrar, in the locality in which the provisional ballot was cast, and apply for a Virginia Voter Photo ID Card. At the completion of the application process, the voter may request a Temporary Identification Document. This document may be provided to the electoral board to suffice the identification requirement.

Constitutional Amendments

Two proposed Virginia Constitutional Amendments will also be on the ballot:

Ballot Question 1: Should Article I of the Constitution of Virginia be amended to prohibit any agreement or combination between an employer and a labor union or labor organization whereby (i) nonmembers of the union or organization are denied the right to work for the employer, (ii) membership to the union or organization is made a condition of employment or continuation of employment by such employer, or (iii) the union or organization acquires an employment monopoly in any such enterprise?

Ballot Question 2: Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to provide an option to the localities to exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any law-enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency medical services personnel who was killed in the line of duty, where the surviving spouse occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence and has not remarried?

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Art Group Nurtures Creativity, Gives Town 'A Heart and Soul'

A former engineer on nuclear submarines is now working in Great Falls as a silversmith. A former editor of an international conservation magazine is building sculptures here. And a former CIA analyst is photographing national monuments against the night skies.

Those are among 116 artists, working in a variety of mediums, who call Great Falls home and are members of a local arts organization called Great Falls Studios GFS. This group has worked for 13 years to transform Great Falls into a cultural center for the visual arts and to help local artists succeed. It is open to any artist who lives or works in Great Falls, and it welcomes new members of the community to join its ranks.

SEE STUDIO TOUR, PAGE 23



PHOTO BY AL REITAN

Sculptor Jonathan Fisher paints wood constructions in his studio. Fisher is one of 116 artist members of Great Falls Studios, a group that promotes the arts in Great Falls, helping to make the community a creative place. It was started 13 years ago.

About the Connection

As your local, weekly newspaper, the Great Falls Connection's mission is to deliver the local news you need, to try to make sense of what is happening in your community, to gather information about the best things in and around your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record achievements, milestones and events in the community and people's lives.

The Great Falls Connection is delivered to every home in Great Falls via the U.S. Postal Service.

Here in our Newcomers and Community Guide, we've included an updated version of our award-winning Insider's Guide to the Parks, plus details of how to vote in the upcoming elections, information on local government, nonprofits and business organizations, plus tips and tidbits from the community.

We invite newcomers and longtime residents alike to let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, send us an email or call us, contact us on Facebook or send us a tweet. We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email with feedback.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, started a business, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon, supporting a

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cause or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes about personal milestones, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. Email us a note about the event, being sure to include when and where the photo was taken and the names of all the people who are in a photo.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees and anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calen-

dar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos.

Your community Connection newspaper is one of 15 papers published by the independent, locally owned Local Media Connection LLC, serving the suburbs of Metropolitan Washington in Northern Virginia and Potomac, Md. Our flagship paper, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, is one of the oldest continuously publishing papers in the country, beginning publication in 1784.

— MARY KIMM,
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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

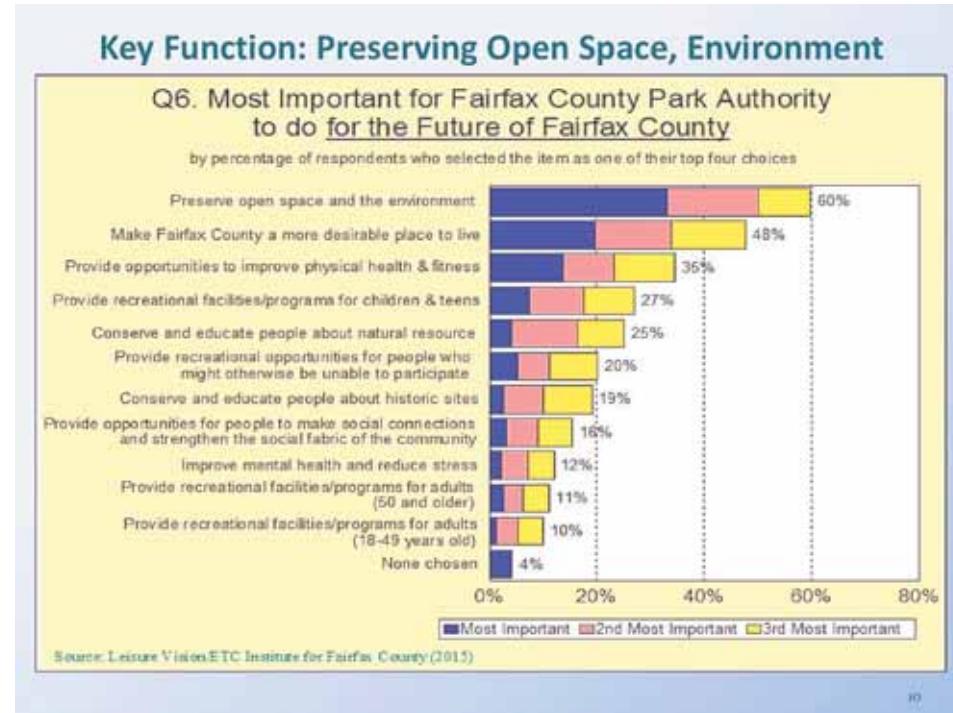
Citizens Call for Open Space Preservation

BY ANDREW ROSELL

The Fairfax County Park Authority [FCPA] has done great good for the citizens of our county. Since the late 1990s, it has acquired the 53-acre Turner Farm in Great Falls and the 2,300-acre Sully Woodlands assemblage past Centreville. In 2014, FCPA assumed \$30 million in debt to acquire the Workhouse at the former Lorton Prison, now known as Laurel Hill.

A look at a Fairfax County map shows thousands of acres of parkland along its northern, eastern, and southern borders, some of it owned by the U.S. National Park Service and Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Parkland along the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers protects our drinking water. We should be glad these oases exist thanks to these agencies' efforts, and those of the private Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, nvct.org, which obtains conservation easements from landowners.

But for most of us, parkland remains a weekend destination that is "out of sight" on our daily commutes, if not altogether "out of mind." Much of this parkland is sited to protect the hills and shorelines of rivers. Some is flood plain or defines numerous smaller streams that snake through the County, with names like Difficult, Pohick, Accotink, Pimmit, and Cub "runs." Even a



Area residents see preservation of open space, environment as a key function of the Fairfax County Park Authority.

very large park like Huntley Meadows, south of the City of Alexandria in Hybla Valley, is barely seen from Telegraph Road in Lee District.

THE SAD FACT is that much of nature in

Fairfax has been obliterated to make way for suburban and urban development since 1945 and the end of World War II. Most, but not all, large parcels of land in the county have been subdivided and developed. What will become of those? Do we

know?

The County and its Park Authority won't say. Their established institutional view is that public knowledge might compromise their bargaining position with landowners. Discussions about real estate deals are excepted from Virginia's Freedom of Information Act. Even FCPA's philosophy of targeting land for acquisition is completely secret. Only after a property is acquired is it revealed.

What if you identify property that you and your friends and neighbors passionately believe to be worthy of preservation? Well, you can politely suggest that it be acquired by FCPA, but once you have done so, any word about it goes into a "black hole" of sorts. FCPA provides no transparency about land negotiations, not even whether such negotiations take place. Unless and until it is acquired, the people whose taxes back the FCPA bonds that can pay for parkland never know what happened. By then, it is usually too late to preserve the land in question.

Why do citizens have so little say about what open land is deemed worthy of preservation? What if county officials think one thing, but a great many citizens think otherwise? What about funding for acquiring land? Who decides how much?

SEE OPINION, PAGE 31



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Studio Tour Set for Oct. 14-16

FROM PAGE 21

"We have been striving to give our town a heart and a soul by nurturing the creativity of its talented residents," says Linda Jones, president of GFS. "We do this through a variety of art sales, exhibitions partnering with local businesses, and other events. And we provide services to our members and area residents through a website with an ever-changing virtual exhibition, and through our signature event, an annual Studio Tour."

The Studio Tour, now in its thirteenth season, has grown to become one of Northern Virginia's most significant arts events. It is a driving tour through Great Falls to visit artists, many in their home studios. This year's tour is for three days, Oct. 14 to 16, and 57 artists in the group will be taking part. It celebrates local creativity and, in particular the diversity of Great Falls residents.

"Our artists' community is like a mini-United Nations," says Jones, a naturalized American citizen who was born in England. "Artist members or former members have hailed from Mexico to Argentina, Scotland to Spain, India to Sri Lanka, Iran to Israel, China to Korea—and beyond. We all learn from each other and get better at our art as a result."

Painters in the group may specialize in portraiture or landscape, abstract works or art that tells a story. They may use watercolors, acrylics or oils, or a mixture of mediums. They are joined by quilters, woodworkers, photographers, jewelry designers, potters, sculptors, pastel artists, a weaver, and a printmaker, among others. Many are accomplished professionals, trained in top art schools, who have exhibited in major art shows around the country. And several have retired from other careers to embrace pastimes that they love. Others are beginners who have an art gene hidden in their beings.

The group bills itself as a "consortium of artists," but it is also involved in community service, social activities, programs to build artists' professionalism, support of art in the schools, and other programs to promote the arts. It is proud of producing a large and diverse body of artwork "Made in Great Falls," Jones says.

To find out how to join the group, you can visit its website: www.GreatFallsStudios.com. While there, you can look up sample artwork by many of its members or visit the virtual gallery, which changes monthly. Additional information about the upcoming Studio Tour will also be posted on the site.

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Who Runs Great Falls?

Great Falls Citizens Association

See www.gfca.org

Since 1968, the Great Falls Citizens Association has worked on behalf of the citizens of Great Falls to protect, defend and improve the quality of life in the Great Falls community.

According to Great Falls Citizens Association:

"Since Great Falls is not legally a city, we lack a town government to represent our local interests. GFCA acts in an unofficial capacity to represent the voices of the citizens of Great Falls. On Great Falls issues, no other organization has GFCA's influence with elected leaders at the County and State level, or is as respected by them.

"Our goal is to preserve the semi-rural character of our community while addressing practical concerns such as traffic, zoning, retail, schools, parks and the environment — where problems arise and solutions must be found."

Committees include: land use and zoning; environment, parks



Bill Canis, President, GFCA

and trails; long range planning and development; communication and outreach; transportation; membership; nominations; trails; and groundwater contamination.

Contact: info@gfca.org

President: Bill Canis, Bill.Canis@gfca.org

Vice President: Philip Pifer, philip.pifer@gfca.org

Celebrate Great Falls

See www.celebrategreatfalls.org
Celebrate Great Falls Foundation

started nearly 20 years ago and sustains long-time community traditions such as the July 4th parade, Summer Concerts on the Green and the annual tree lighting in December.

Celebrate Great Falls has donated more than \$500,000 to local schools and community projects such as the Freedom Memorial and Turner Farm Park. The traditions continue to grow with the annual Winter Wine Tasting in February and the addition of the 4th of July Fireworks.

"Celebrate Great Falls is commit-

Great Falls Citizens Association is one-stop shopping for citizen activism; many groups contribute to quality of life in Great Falls.



John Foust (D-Dranesville), Board of Supervisors



Janie Strauss (Dranesville), School Board

ted to keeping the spirit and traditions alive that make Great Falls such a special place to live," according to the website.

Celebrate Great Falls Foundation
P.O. Box 295
Great Falls, VA 22066
571-293-0474

Board of Supervisors

Great Falls is governed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors controls the county budget, establishes county government policy, passes resolutions and ordinances, within the limits of its authority established by the Virginia General Assembly, sets local tax rates, approves land use plans and makes appointments to various positions. Fairfax County has an elected Board of Supervisors consisting of nine members elected by district, plus a chairman elected at-large.

See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/about-the-board-of-supervisors.htm

Great Falls is in the Dranesville District. Great Falls residents are represented on the Board of Supervisors by Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust (D) and Chairman, At-large member Sharon Bulova (D).

Dranesville Supervisor, John W. Foust

McLean Governmental Center
1437 Balls Hill Road
McLean, VA 22101
703-356-0551, TTY 711
Dranesville@FairfaxCounty.gov
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/>

Chairman, Sharon Bulova Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, VA 22035
Phone: 703-324-2321, TTY 711
chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/>

Fairfax County School Board

The Fairfax County School Board has 12 members, elected for four-year terms; one member represents each of the County's nine magisterial districts, and three members serve at large. A student representative, selected for a one-year term by the Student Advisory Council, sits with the Board at all public meetings and participates in discussions, but does not vote.

Great Falls is represented by Dranesville School Board member Janie Strauss plus the three at-large members, Ryan L. McElveen (571-423-1089, Ryan.McElveen@fcps.edu), Ilryong Moon (571-423-1090, ilryong.moon@fcps.edu) and Jeanette M. Hough (571-423-1091, jhough1@fcps.edu).

Jane K. "Janie" Strauss

571-423-1087

Email: Jane.Strauss@fcps.edu
<http://www.fcps.edu/schlbld/members/dranesville.shtml>

Virginia House of Delegates

Great Falls is in House of Delegates District 34, represented by Va. Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34).
804-698-1334
DelKMurphy@house.virginia.gov

Virginia Senate

Great Falls is in Virginia State Senate District 31, represented by Va. Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31)

Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31)
General Assembly Building
P.O. Box 396
Richmond, Va. 23219
804-698-7531
district31@senate.virginia.gov

U.S. House of Representatives

Great Falls is located in the 10th Congressional District.

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10)
Washington, DC Office
226 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-5136
<https://comstock.house.gov>



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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Helping to End and Prevent Homelessness

Nonprofits around Northern Virginia help with chronic homelessness, homeless families, victims of domestic violence, homeless youth and more.

Northern Virginia Family Service

Location: Multiple all over Northern Virginia; Headquarters – Oakton .

Executive Director: Stephanie Berkowitz (CEO/President)

Contact info: 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124, 571-748-2500, info@nvfs.org

Annual Budget: \$33.35 million

How to get involved:

Volunteer: NVFS is committed to engaging volunteers in meaningful opportunities that encourage innovative ideas, unique perspectives and specialized expertise. Visit nvfs.org/volunteernow to search for current opportunities and greatest needs.

Shop bargains that benefit NVFS: When you shop at our Centreville, Falls Church or Manassas Thrift Shops, all proceeds benefit NVFS. Donations of gently used clothing and household items are welcome at any of these locations. For hours and directions to its Thrift Shops, visit nvfs.org/thriftshops.

Become a foster parent: Many children in the community need a loving, safe home. NVFS's experienced caseworkers carefully match each child to a trained foster family to ensure each child reaches his/her full potential. Learn more at nvfs.org/fostercare.

Through its comprehensive, holistic approach to services, Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) helps more than 34,000 individuals and their families each year find housing and emergency services; health and mental health services; early childhood education and child placement services; intervention and prevention programs; job training; and legal services. More than half of NVFS clients live below the national poverty level (\$24,260 annual salary for a family of four). NVFS's needs vary greatly, depending on programs and locations. Visit nvfs.org to learn more about the organization, as well as nvfs.org/wishlist for a full list of donation requests.

Shelter House

Serves all of Fairfax County
Executive Director & CEO - Joe Meyer

Contact info - (703) 935-1542 / Joe.Meyer@shelterhouse.org

Annual Budget - \$5.6 million

How to get involved - Individuals or groups can donate time, items and/or money. visit shelterhouse.org for more information

Shelter House is a private nonprofit organization serving homeless families and victims of domestic violence. Currently, Shelter House operates two family shelters and the only 24/7 crisis shelter for victims of domestic violence. Most of Shelter House's work is done "outside" of the shelter where it provides financial support and services to families leaving the shelter and sometimes preventing families who are at-risk of becoming homeless. Its current needs that support the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness — willing landlords to rent to homeless families. Also, household items that will furnish homes for families ending their homelessness after leaving our shelters.

Cornerstones

Location: Fairfax County (Reston/Herndon)

Executive Director:

Kerrie Wilson

volunteer@cornerstonesva.org

Annual Budget: \$9.5 million

How to get involved: www.cornerstonesva.org/volunteer

Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) exists so that individuals and families in the Dulles corridor who are homeless, living in poverty or facing other needs can access resources that offer stability, empowerment and hope for healthy and connected lives. Founded in 1970, Cornerstones serves approximately 15,000 individuals and families each year who are unable to meet basic expenses in our high cost-of-living area. Through advocacy and support services, Cornerstones connects clients to vital resources that help them build more stable and self-sufficient lives. Cornerstones provides a comprehensive array of programs to help area residents solve urgent or ongoing needs for emergency shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, food and financial assistance, job readiness and other needs. Its affiliate organization, Cornerstones Housing Corporation, owns and manages 100-plus homes that offer affordable housing with supportive services for individuals and

families from Cornerstones' programs.

Alternative House - Abused and Homeless Children's

Refuge

Location: Northern Virginia

Executive Director: Judith Dittman

Contact info: 703-506-9191

Hotline on runaway/homeless youth: Call 1-800-SAY-TEEN or text TEENHELP to 855-11.

www.thealternativehouse.org

Annual Budget: \$3.3 million

How to get involved: Alternative House relies heavily on donations and volunteer support to meet the

critical needs of at-risk children, youth and families. You can make a monetary contribution, volunteer, or donate goods or services. You are strongly encouraged to attend an Open Door Information Session held the second Tuesday of each month at our Emergency Teen Shelter in Vienna. Learn more on its website,

SEE HOMELESS, PAGE 29

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NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



Morning Fog on the River

This image was taken from a boat off of Riverbend Park just as the sun was beginning to burn through the fog. The symmetry of the large trees on the edges of the islands with the two small trees in the center coupled with a complete reflection in the still morning water drew me in with my camera.



Falls at High Water

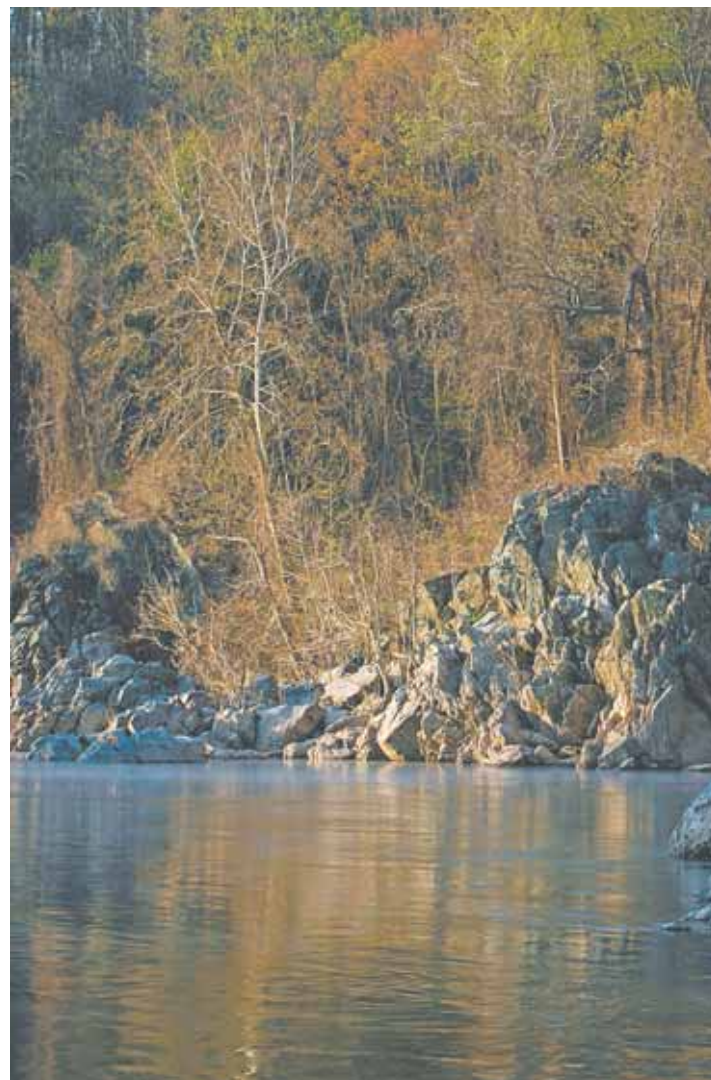
This image was taken in the month of January and illustrates what the falls can look like after a heavy rainstorm. I realize the water can go much higher especially after a hurricane when the overlooks can be flooded. This image has practically covered the falls and gives some sense of the power of the water as it has deposited an entire tree trunk on top of the rocks. I believe that tree remained in this position for a few years until a larger storm came through and floated the trunk away.

PHOTOS BY WALT LAWRENCE

Just go Down to the River...

BY WALT LAWRENCE

Since I have been photographing the Great Falls area for several years I feel the most significant feature of our area is the incredible Potomac River that flows by us each and every moment of the day. I would urge everyone to go down to the river to get acquainted with its ever changing beauty and its deceptive power. Don't just go to the overlooks at Riverbend and Great Falls Parks and then return to your car and leave. Spend some time hiking along the many trails that follow the river and get acquainted with the plants, the trees and wildlife that are found along the shoreline and in the parks. If the water is raging, then you can certainly appreciate the powerful force it exerts; however, if the water has a smooth surface, don't think that the current is gone. It is always present. Just watch a leaf on the water as it floats by or put a paddle in the water and feel the current begin to take it from your hands. The river demands respect. While you're at it, notice how the river also needs our help. Man-made debris can be found everywhere along the shorelines and on the islands. The scourge of plastic barrels, bags and bottles, rubber tires and other debris is all too visible. We all need to work at keeping the river clean. Recently I was preparing to print an image of rock formations near the falls and discovered graffiti had been scrawled across the rock face. I could



Sunrise at Cow Hoof Rock

One of my favorite locations to shoot, as the sun rises the rocks, the river and the trees come alive.

not believe that someone would risk their life to climb down into this area just to tag a national landmark.

Go out Seneca Road to where the road ends and hike down to the river and follow

the trails along the river. One evening in late winter, I was on the shoreline in this area and observed a full moon coming up as it was reflected in a section of the river called the Seneca Breaks. It was a magical



Bald Eagle at Riverbend

This shot is one of my favorites as I was in a boat and was not sure when the bird would ever leave its perch. I got lucky as I started shooting just as he decided to take flight. I am amazed that we have such incredible bird life here in Great Falls.

moment as I had the whole place to myself. With this bright orange moon rising against a deep blue sky, I thought, I'll bet George

SEE RIVER, PAGE 27

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Going Down to the River: Enjoy Its Beauty, Respect Its Power

FROM PAGE 26

Washington passed by here and might have observed the same scene when he was surveying and working on the Patowmack Canal.

Go to Riverbend Park and hike along the trail that takes you west towards the Seneca Breaks or east into Great Falls Park. Better yet, rent a kayak, a canoe or a jon boat or launch your own and go out on the river and float around the many islands just west of the park. It is so peaceful on the water I almost feel like I could be floating on any river in America while in fact I'm just 15 miles from Washington, D.C. There are all kinds of wildlife and birds in this area. I've seen deer and raccoon drinking from the river, even a muskrat swimming along with a bunch of bluebells in its mouth. Perhaps the greatest thrill for me is to photograph birds such as eagles, osprey, egrets and herons as they perch, search for food and especially as they take flight. I have gone out in winter where the combination of cold temperatures and biting winds can make for a less than comfortable trip on the water but the opportunity to see migrating ducks, geese and swans seems to lessen the sting and warm the soul.

Go to Great Falls Park and after you have seen the falls from the overlooks. Start hiking eastwards along the trail that follows the Mather Gorge and observe the rocky cliffs that channel the river down to a place called Cow Hoof Rock. I like to set up my camera in this area and wait for the scene to unfold as the sun comes up and birds begin to fly up and down the gorge.

There is a lot to see and experience both along and on the river in this area called Great Falls. I would urge everyone to try to see it in all seasons of the year and at different times of the day. After an extreme storm it can be pretty spectacular. Sometimes the water is so high the falls are completely under water. After each storm, piles of uprooted trees, logs and other debris pile up against the western edges of the many islands. In one instance, the power of the river was very evident as it had wrapped a derelict aluminum canoe around a tree, as one would bend a piece of wire around a fence post. In the middle of a winter cold period, the snow and ice formations around the falls



PHOTOS BY WALT LAWRENCE



Great Egret at Riverbend

I never knew these birds were found in this area until one morning I discovered that they nest in the same trees as the Great Blue Herons. With their stark white plumage they are easy to spot but difficult to photograph because they seem to be much more skittish than the Blue Herons.

Great Blue Heron


This is the only time I have been able to shoot a Great Blue Heron nest, so if you look closely there are three birds in this image including the little one in the nest.

can take on strange and weirdly wonderful shapes. In the spring when the water is high and flowing hard, it takes on a beautiful bluish green color which means that the fishing for herons and humans will soon be good. In the summer after an extremely dry period when there is very little water going over the face of the falls, you might have to look a little harder around the edges to find the beauty which can still be found as water trickles around the cre-

vasses to continue its journey to the Chesapeake.


But you don't have to take just my word about the beauty of the river, even George Washington had a great appreciation for the Potomac. On a recent visit to his home at Mount Vernon, I saw several paintings of the Potomac that he had purchased and I counted at least two of Great Falls. So I invite you to just go down to river and enjoy its beauty, but be sure to respect its power.

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Preserving Historic Great Falls: Making a Good Place to Grow Good People

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY, PRESIDENT
GREAT FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As we reflect on the many journeys we have taken around the country and the world - whether by photos, film or airplane - memories of historic structures stand out, marking places as unique, special, and even remarkable. Historic structures speak to us and inform us about those who have come before us, creating a sense of place.

Honoring Significant Historic Structures

On Oct. 15, 1966, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 was passed, encouraging our nation to keep those historic structures deemed national treasures in tact and to stop demolishing our most important historic and archeological sites.

Over the last 50 years since that Act, residents of Great Falls have labored to gather the history and survey the standing structures, identifying those with structural integrity of national-treasure importance. They have added Four Stairs, 1737, The William Gunnell House, 1750, The Potomac Canal Historic District, 1786, The Colvin Run Mill circa 1811, The Georgetown Pike 1813, The Cornwell Farm 1831, The John Gunnell House 1852, The Forestville Schoolhouse 1889, and The Great Falls Grange 1929 to the National Register of Historic Places. Further, a Colvin Run Historic District 1880-1943, comprising intact buildings of historic significance along Colvin Run Road - the former location of the historic Leesburg Pike 1732-1943 - as well as the Colvin Run Road itself, has been deemed eligible to be added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Further, Fairfax County has a List of Historic Sites of local significance that includes an additional 30 sites located in Great Falls. Knowing that those here before us built beauty and established economy makes us proud to live in a place imbued with meaning.

Repurposing Historic Structures for Our Day

Woodridge Brown Morton III became one of the initial architects involved in setting up the National Park Service's Office of Historic Preservation in 1966 and participated in defining the rules of nomination and the process of evaluation and protection. After 50 years as a historic preservation architect, Brown Morton defines historic preservation differently. To paraphrase,

"Historic Preservation is the dynamic and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The newly established Board of the Great Falls Grange Project. Board members, from left: Linda Thompson (Optimist Club), Kathleen Murphy (Great Falls Historical Society and Great Falls Farmers Market), Steve Dulaney (Great Falls Business & Professional Association), Linda Jones and Laura Nichols, representing Great Falls Studies, however Begonia Morton was elected Board member, Jorge Adeler, Board Chair (BPA & Optimist Club), Judith St. Ledger-Roty (on the Budget Committee, representing the Arts of Great Falls), Doug Cobb (Great Falls Historical Society), Karen Washburn (Turner Farm Events), and Eric Knudsen (Great Falls Citizens Association). (Dean Souleles, photographer, Great Falls Studios, not shown, not on the Board)

deliberate process through which we decide what to keep from the present for the future and then work to keep it... It is a process because it is a beginning but should have no end...It is a process in which we decide what to keep from the present for the future...It is always a value judgment... It is an autobiographical undertaking. We paint a picture of ourselves when we decide what we choose to preserve and why... "The past, when it was present, was a multi-dimensional reality. Today, we have only the bones that yesterday left behind on our plate.

"The past is the past and can never be recaptured. A higher and nobler goal must be to recognize the importance of place in successful human development. Place matters. Successful human development requires robust individuals and a safe and healthy environment as well as dignity, celebration, shared remembering, and a sense of belonging for those who live there now. By making a place a good place to grow good people, we must commit to exploring how a place matters in impacting people."

Woolridge Brown Morton III, Beyond History - Success and Failure in Preservation, Part 1, Feb 20, 2014, NCPTT, www.Vimeo.com

Let's take the Great Falls Grange as an example. Between the time the Grange was formed in 1920 and the building was opened in 1929, the structure already had an impact on the imagination of the Great

Falls community. During the years leading up to the Great Depression, local residents held fairs, bingo games and raffles to raise money for the building. Finally, the Grange members took out a loan for \$7,500 to get the building built. They could not wait any longer to have a place to gather.

Walking through the Great Falls Grange today, you can almost feel the Friday night chicken dinners, the Saturday evening dances, the Grange Hall meetings where progress along levels of virtue tied to the seasons guided member discussions and interactions.

Over the years, the Grange became a place where the community gathered. There was theatre and music and community meetings, Great Falls Day and more. Since the Park Authority purchased the Grange in 1978, use of the Grange has slowly deteriorated as the Park Authority sought to charge fees to cover costs. They are now empty buildings that are rarely used.

A new community group has just been formed this past Wednesday evening, Aug. 17, 2016 - The Great Falls Grange Project. Its purpose is to search for ways that the community might revive the historic Great Falls Grange Park, a historic district listed on the National Register, which includes the Great Falls Grange as well as the Forestville Schoolhouse.

Looking at historic preservation from Brown Morton's perspective, the question of this new entity needs to be, "How can these historic buildings be repurposed so that they contribute to successful human de-

velopment in Great Falls, making the Great Falls Grange "a good place to grow good people?" How can we offer a "safe and healthy environment" where those who visit and engage part of their lives in activities within its boundaries can experience "dignity, celebration, shared remembering, and a sense of belonging"? The correct call for today is to take the historic structure and repurpose it in a way that honors and inspires our shared humanity - that calls us to a higher way of being.

The commitment put in place this past Wednesday evening calls us to consider how to form a union that makes each individual entity meaningful and relevant within a larger caring for all of us together, with shared responsibility, shared concerns, and shared delights.

Neighborhood Storytelling for Tomorrow

The Great Falls Historical Society was founded in 1977 to "promote community spirit by bringing the past into the present." This April 2017, GFHS will celebrate its 40th anniversary in service to the mission of bringing people together to gather and celebrate the history of this place where we all live together in community, Great Falls, Virginia.

After 40 years of dedication to local history, GFHS has a birthday present request, indeed a challenge. Wouldn't you like to give us a big birthday present? We challenge residents of individual neighborhoods within Great Falls to become historians, crafting the story of their neighborhood: searching the past, describing the realities of the present, and imagining its future.

Go back as far as you can, but also come fully forward. Include the structures of yesterday, but also include the structures of today. What are the smaller and older structures in your neighborhood? What are the mega-mansions? What works, in terms of growing happy people, and what needs improvement? What is the story that you and your neighbors wish to convey about where you have come from and where you are headed that future generations might enjoy knowing about?

On Jan. 11 and March 8, 2017, our monthly programs will focus on Neighborhood Stories - a portion of the program is open to any group within Great Falls who has prepared the history of their neighborhood. Participating teams will also be welcome to display their research on Great Falls Day on Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, 2017 at the Great Falls Grange Park. Prizes will be awarded to the best research and

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 29

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

Homeless

FROM PAGE 25

www.thealternativehouse.org.

Alternative House's vision is of a community in which all young people are safe, live in a nurturing environment and have the opportunity to reach their full potential. Founded in 1972, Alternative House transforms the lives of children and youth, helping them stay safe, make positive decisions, achieve educational success, and overcome personal crises. It offers children, youth and families hope for brighter futures by providing counseling, shelter and neighborhood-based support. Its hotline served 2,000 callers last year, and its emergency shelter housed nearly 200 youth in crisis. Alternative House always welcome the support of our community.

Good Shepherd Housing & Family Services, Inc.

Location: Alexandria
Executive Director: David Levine
Contact info:
info@goodhousing.org

Annual Budget: \$2.2 million
How to get involved: Visit www.goodhousing.org/volunteer and sign up.

For more than 40 years, GSH has helped end homelessness and enable self-sufficiency by providing affordable housing and emergency financial services to working-class families and individuals in Fairfax County. Last year alone GSH helped more than 1,000 households who were unstably housed or were, in fact, experiencing an episode of homelessness. Learn more by visiting GSH's website www.goodhousing.org

New Hope Housing

Location: Alexandria and Fairfax County

Executive Director: Pamela L. Michell

Contact info: 703-799-2293 – admin@newhopehousing.org
Annual Budget: \$5,900,000

How to get involved: Contact Nicole Dillon to learn about volunteering opportunities at shelters & housing programs: ndillon@newhopehousing.org

New Hope Housing provides homeless families and individuals shelter, housing, and the tools to build a better life. It operates shelters and housing programs that serve more than 350 people each day in Alexandria, Fairfax County, Falls Church, and Arlington. Last year, more than 400 people moved from homelessness to housing through one or more of its programs.

Preserving Great Falls History

FROM PAGE 28

storytelling presentations.

We never know how our story might shape up or where our story might travel. Marge Gersic died this past July. She was an actress, and then a local advocate. Four years ago,

she agreed to provide an oral history of her life, including her volunteer activities in Great Falls. Upon her death, we are presenting her oral history on our web site. This is a chance for residents of Great Falls to hear firsthand how things used to be and listen to her willingness to play a part

in making our community special through her committed actions, working together with others for the good of the whole.

We did not know, when GFHS was founded in 1977, exactly what "promoting community spirit" was all about. With the call that Brown Morton has issued to go higher in

our aspirations, repurposing historic sites to edify humanity today, we need to take a look at our neighborhood history so as to ensure that, in every way possible, we continue to make our neighborhoods throughout Great Falls, today, a good place to grow good people.



The Kensington keeps couples together, even when care needs differ

What happens when one half of a couple needs care but the other does not? Or when one half of a couple needs assisted living support and the other needs memory care?

Our solution is simple: We welcome both of them to make our home their home—TOGETHER.

Maybe our couples have raised families, or served their country, or built skyscrapers. Maybe they've taught music, or traded stocks, or ministered to their congregations. From our perspective—whether they're homemakers or bankers, chefs or veterans—our couples are our heroes! They've made a life together, side by side. And we'll do everything in our power to keep it that way.

At The Kensington, we've developed a care model built *around families and for families*. We offer support that meets the needs unique to each individual, even when they're half of a couple.

We introduce new social, wellness and enrichment opportunities regularly, but we also go out of our way to preserve the familiarity of comfortable routines and favorite pastimes they shared together as one.

Please call us at 703-992-9868 to learn more about our lifestyle options for couples. Or, visit our Information Center at 1212 West Broad Street, on weekdays and Saturday from 9am-6pm and Sunday by appointment.

Opening Early 2017

THE KENSINGTON
An Assisted Living Community
FALLS CHURCH

703.992.9868 | 700 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046 | www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com



NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

The 'Wholesome' Great Falls Farmers Market

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY
MARKET MANAGER

In our 10th year, the Great Falls Farmers Market continues its journey of bringing wholesome food and fine artisan creations to our Great Falls community. A carefully curated market, here are the voices of a few of the remarkable vendors you will find at the market on every Saturday morning throughout the year, in their own words...

Michael Sideris, Vordonia Athenolia Extra Virgin Olive Oil (EVOO):

"As a child I would accompany my mom as she walked the mountainside in search of wild greens and mountain tea. I would sit on my father's plow to give it extra weight. I helped harvest and press our Rare Athenolia Olives. We would spend spring and summer by the River Evrotas, working on our garden side by side with all other villagers. We ate seasonal food, and everything was freshly grown. We thrashed wheat for flour and bartered for sugar and salt. The wine was homemade as was the moonshine. I drank water from natural springs and the river. Living in the USA has not changed us much. We brought over all our herbs, vegetables and even grapes and planted them in our backyards. We sell our family extra virgin olive oil, EVOO, grown in Greece. Not only do we eat well, but almost everything we need is within our arms' length. Cooking is an expression of love of family and friends..."

At the Great Falls Farmers Market, I share my love, respect and life-long passion with anyone who wants to listen to a bit of history. I am so fortunate that my father was smart enough to understand and appreciate what our ancient ancestors founded and left for us, orchards of Athenolia olive trees. My father took the time to show and teach me how lucky we are and all I have to do is maintain the majestic ancient Athenolia olive trees and I will be able to reproduce the finest, purest, most honest EVOO each year. I am so pleased that the Great Falls community recognizes the exceptional flavor and texture of my family's olive oil and have enthusiastically embraced our EVOO as part of their daily diet."

Gwen Whittiker, GreenFare Restaurant:

"GreenFare is a certified organic whole-plant restaurant that offers 'good eating': Food that you en-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Michael Sideris, Vordonia Athenolia Extra Virgin Olive Oil, explains the unique features of the olive trees his family has been tending in Greece for centuries.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Jerry Fields, Jerry's Organic Berries, has written a book on the healing benefits of berries and offers fresh berries, aronia juice, and muffins packed with berries and flax seed. He is also bringing heirloom tomatoes, and a wide variety of pickles.

joy while you are eating it, that gives you energy and makes you feel good afterwards, and that has a low impact on the environment. GreenFare offers delicious, fresh-prepared food for people to eat at the market or take home each week. The Great Falls Farmers Market provides an important opportunity for us to showcase organic, whole plant food as a solution to customers who are seeking to maintain or improve their health.

GreenFare's mission is to bring nutritious food without the animal products, salt, oil, and sugar that most restaurants use: Our fresh ingredients are minimally processed and our menu is aligned with those doctors who recommend "Food As Medicine" to prevent and reverse chronic illness and provide optimal nutrition for athletic performance. Local-area

doctors regularly prescribe our "21-Day Kick-start Program" as a remedy for diabetic and cancer patients, among others. Great Falls customers are sophisticated food shoppers, and appreciate our high-quality ingredients, fine taste, and the transformative benefits of a whole-plant diet."

Stefanie Stierhoff, Power & Balance Fitness & Nutrition

"Power & Balance Fitness and Nutrition's CRAZY delicious products, Nut-Nola and Seed-Nola, came from a need to access information other than what big companies provide from their high-paid marketing firms. Fitness and food have always been a part of my life. I was a chef in New York for several years, always in some activity, and in the gym. I was diagnosed with Lupus over 30 years ago. Over the past 30+ years I



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pericles Silva with Jean Pope in front of the GreenFare Restaurant stand at the Great Falls Farmers Market. GreenFare offers whole plant dishes to eat at the market or heat up at home. Their 21 Day Kickstart Program is having healing results for many.



PHOTO BY CA VAN TRAN

Ellen James, Celtic Harpist, with avid fans at the Great Falls Farmers Market.

have researched food as it relates to providing what the body needs for health and performance. At the age 56, I am compelled to share the knowledge I have gained with others so they may improve their health — whatever that means to customers and curious folks...losing weight, sleeping better, eating for health, cooking for health, etc.

Feeding your body the nutrients it requires to perform its best — for both brain and body performance — means eating foods that are delicious, chemical-free, low-sugar, fresh foods direct from farm-to-table, while avoiding foods that cause negative health effects (processed, high sugar, chemical-laden).

Young families and seniors alike visit our booth at the Great Falls market, either curious about the product or are attracted by the fit-

Great Falls Community Farmers Market

The Great Falls Community Farmers Market is a producer-only market that was established as a result of the Great Falls community's 2020 Vision Survey conducted in March 2007 in which residents expressed the need for a farmers market as part of a vibrant semi-rural village center in which friends and family could gather. Established in May, 2007, the farmers market operates every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. year-round — From April through November at the Walker Road entrance to the Great Falls Village Centre, 778 Walker Road, and in the winter from December through March indoors at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike.

ness and health aspect of the signage. They appreciate the taste and healthy-living aspects, low-carb, organic, vegan, gluten-free, soaked/sprouted nuts and seeds, of Nut-Nola and Seed-Nola at first. Then they come to appreciate the high-integrity of what we put into our uncompromising process and ingredients as well as the specialty items we offer each week. There are no other foods like the foods we offer anywhere.

The Great Falls Farmers Market is unique in how it is carefully curated with the wellbeing of the community as its central motivation. The vendors feel supported with the flexibility of the market manager, and the weekly newsletter. The community reads the newsletter and comes prepared to do their weekly shopping. The manager appreciates the hard work it takes for each vendor to come with their products and put the time into being there under all weather conditions — this means a lot to the success of the market for both vendor and customer."

Jerry Fields, Jerry's Organic Berries

"Why berries? Berries offer health benefits found in few other foods due to the power and diversity of the phytochemicals they contain. Numerous laboratory peer-reviewed studies have documented significant benefits in cancer, heart health, diabetes, dementia/Alzheimer's and arthritis. A University of Florida study even demonstrated a correlation between phytochemical diversity and weight management. Berries offer the widest range of phytochemical diversity of nearly any food group. Why organic? Unfortunately, berries are usually top of

SEE FARMERS MARKET.
PAGE 31

NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Craig Hagaman, High View Farm, grows top quality beef, pork and chicken at his farm in Berryville.



PHOTO BY CA VAN TRAN

Ken Matich, Liberty Hill Farm, grows top quality beef, pork, lamb, turkey and chicken and offers pot pies, soups, and quiches, ready for the oven.

Farmers Market Offers Healthy Choices

FROM PAGE 30

the list for pesticides and numerous studies have shown statistical ties to pesticide over-use and several diseases- especially among the at-risk groups of the very young and the elderly.”

Jo So, Plain & Simple

“For me, good eating means enjoying foods that benefit your health, your mind and makes you happy. Vending at the market is a way to express my passion for baking, and a way to connect with others through food.

I do what I do because I enjoy being creative in the kitchen. I enjoy carrying out new ideas I have. My Great Falls customers are loyal, friendly and appreciate the sense of community that our market provides.

In several of my recipes, I use natural sugars and fruit purées and most of my cakes are made with olive oil rather than butter. This has been one of my most rewarding alterations. I strive to incorporate either a fruit or vegetable in each recipe, whether sweet or savory, and my rule of thumb has always been, if I wouldn't give it to my family, I wouldn't give it to my customers. I'm still a work in progress. There is always room for improvement.”

Craig Hagaman, High View Farm

“We raise grass-fed Scottish Highland cattle, which we chose to raise because they produce a full-flavored, low fat, low cholesterol meat - being lower in cholesterol than any other red meat, including buffalo. We also raise Heritage Berkshire pork, known for a flavorful well-marbled meat, which we pasture-raise. All of our



PHOTO BY CA VAN TRAN

Local family visits the Great Falls Farmers Market.

animals are raised without GMOs, hormones or antibiotics and are treated with kindness and respect, giving them a life worth living.”

Ken Matich, Liberty Hill Farm

“Liberty Hill Farm is committed to bringing only good food that is

chemical-free, nutritious and tasty to market. Real food is real medicine. It's not enough to eat food that is chemical free, it also has to be nutritious. The only way for the food to be nutritious is for the soil that feeds the produce and animals to be rich in nutrients. Nutritious feed results in tasty food. We free range our pork and poultry and provide them organically grown, GMO-free, mineral-rich feed. Our steers are 100% grass fed, grass/chemical-free hay finished. What we offer our animals to nourish them is what is passed on to those who eat the food we bring to market.

Liberty Hill Farm enjoys the Great Falls community. We appreciate meeting and talking with customers and providing products that they appreciate for what goes into the production. Liberty Hill Farm is a family endeavor. My wife and I and our two children work hard to produce pure food for our family and our customers.

We offer the Great Falls community a wide variety of products from meats to prepared foods. Some customers like to prepare their own food, so they buy the meats. Some customers like the quality and variety of the prepared pot pies, quiches and soups we offer. We look forward to Saturdays at the Great Falls Farmers Market, full of quality vendors, customers and a spirit of community that we thoroughly enjoy.”

Richard Sarhanis, Real Country Sausage

“When you purchase Real Country Sausage you purchase 100% natural sausage that contains No Gluten, No Nitrates, No Preservatives. Real Country Sausage uses NO ADDITIVES, just spices!”

Opinion

FROM PAGE 22

An FCPA report drawn from public participation and reflecting a valid sample of Fairfax County's 1.1 million residents shows 60 percent of them consider open space the highest need in the county. But after a 7-month process, 12 members of the FCPA board approved a spending plan that earmarks just 7 percent of a \$94 million bond referendum for the acquisition of open space, with \$7 million earmarked for Lorton. Voters will be asked to approve it on Nov. 8.

Now, there are many sound reasons for spending most of the bond money on other things like restoring the aged Mount Vernon Recreation Center (\$20 million) or building a baseball field complex in Springfield (\$10 million).

But the stark poverty of open space in Fairfax County is the result of neglect by public officials and a park bureaucracy that does not seem to experience life the way many residents do. For us, parks and open space are mostly invisible, except on weekends. Why do quadrennial park bonds get so little input from the citizens of Fairfax County? Apparently, even a majority of FCPA board members question the process that devotes 7 percent of 2016 park bond funds to 60 percent of the need most strongly identified by county residents. On May 25, 7 of 12 board members approved a statement that the list of projects to be funded “was notational and did not indicate approval for any project on the list staff approved.”

IS THERE A BETTER WAY? We have plenty of suburbanized and urbanized land, reflecting the imbalance between the frenetic life of commuting and the more peaceful life restored on weekends by nature and historic landscape. What if Fairfax County identified a public list of strategic parcels that can be preserved in a natural state requiring very low recurring expenses for operation?

In the age of Zillow and Trulia, land values are not secrets. Fairfax County's limited funding mechanisms are known quantities that we hear about plaintively at budget time. Locals well know what parcels of open space can still be preserved. Assessed land values are listed on Fairfax County's web site, accessible to all. Identifying these precious parcels on a wish list might help citizens raise money to preserve some of them.

We need full transparency from the Park Authority. We want to see which land they want to buy on our behalf, and what they do not. We want the missing “why?”

PARKS

AN INSIDER'S GUIDE TO MAJOR PARKS IN THE AREA

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES.
FEATURING MEADOWLARK BOTANICAL GARDENS
MAP BY LAURENCE FOONG AND DESIGN BY JEAN CARD

National Parks

GF Great Falls National Park

9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean
www.nps.gov/grfa

Great Falls Park is open daily from 7 a.m. until dark. The Visitor Center and bookstore are open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily, spring through fall seasons. Picnic, hike along the Potomac River. Swimming and wading in the Potomac are prohibited.

GW George Washington Memorial Parkway

www.nps.gov/gwmp
703-289-2500

The GW Parkway includes more than 25 sites, ranging from historic homes to wildlife preserves. Join a ranger for a free program or explore sites independently. Some park sites, including Turkey Run Park, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Great Falls Park, etc., close at dark. The Parkway itself remains open 24 hours a day to vehicle traffic.

WT Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

1551 Trap Road, Vienna
www.nps.gov/wotr/

The only national park dedicated to presenting the performing arts. From May through September, multiple amphitheaters in the park present musicals, dance, opera, jazz, and popular and country music. Explore the park without the crowds from October - April. The Barns at Wolf Trap offer indoor entertainment through the winter months.

State Park

MN Mason Neck State Park

7301 High Point Rd. Lorton
www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/mas.shtml#

703-339-2385 or 703-339-2380 (visitor center)
masonneck@dcr.virginia.gov

The park's visitor center was expanded in 2010 to include a new exhibit room, gift shop and meeting room. There are several exhibits in the center, and with a view of Belmont Bay. Visitor center staff can answer questions and provide information on park trails, facilities and local points of interest. Pond study, bird watching, canoe trips, nature walks and talks, and GPS adventures are just a few of the exciting programs offered by park rangers.

Regional Parks

BR Bull Run Marina Regional Park & Atlantis Waterpark

7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville
www.nvrpa.org/park/bull_run/
www.atlantisbullrun.com/
703-631-0552

Main park open all year for picnicking, hiking and family camping. Bull Run Public Shooting Center open all year. Group Camping open daily Jan. 7 through Nov. 11. Mini and disc golf open April through October. Hours vary. Atlantis Waterpark features pools, a giant dumping bucket, waterslides, and fun-filled activities for all ages. Atlantis is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, and is a member of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority family of Waterparks. Neptune Reef snack bar sells food, beverages and sweets.

CR Cameron Run Regional Park/Great Waves Waterpark

4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria
www.nvrpa.org/park/cameron_run/
www.greatwaveswaterpark.com/
703-960-0767

Cameron Run Regional Park offers a variety of recreation facilities in an urban area, including Great Waves Water Park. Catch a wave in the wave pool, twist and turn down four-story water slides, take a plunge down speed slides, play with friends in the shallow waters of the play



pool. The park also features a deluxe miniature golf course, a nine-station batting cage, picnic shelters, and a special events pavilion.

CH Carlyle House Historic Park

121 N. Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314
www.nvrpa.org/park/carlyle_house_historic_park/
703-549-2997

The historic Carlyle House was completed in 1753 by British merchant John Carlyle for his bride, Sarah Fairfax of Belvoir, member of one of the most prestigious families in colonial Virginia. Their home quickly became a center of social and political life in Alexandria and gained a foothold in history when British General Braddock made the mansion his headquarters in 1755. On the National Register of Historic Places, Carlyle House is architecturally unique in Alexandria as the only stone, 18th-century Palladian-style house. Daily tours of the house, programs for schoolchildren, special events, exhibits and lectures explore the life and times of John Carlyle in pre-Revolutionary Alexandria. The site may be rented in the evenings for private functions and weddings.

FH Fountainhead Regional Park

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
www.nvrpa.org/park/fountainhead/
703-250-9124

The observation deck of the Marina Building at Fountainhead commands a spectacular view of the widest point of the Occoquan Reservoir. Summer activities include catfish tournaments, children's fishing tournament, paddleboat tours and more.

HO Hemlock Overlook Regional Park

13220 Yates Ford Road, Clifton
www.nvrpa.org/park/hemlock_overlook/
800-877-0954; 571-281-3556;

Hemlock Overlook Regional Park offers a variety of outdoor and environmental education. Programs at Hemlock Overlook are open to the public and groups by reservation. Only the hiking and horse

trails may be used without prior arrangement.

MBG Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna
www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens/
703-255-3631

This 95-acre complex of large ornamental display gardens and unique native plant collections is open year round and include walking trails, lakes, more than 20 varieties of cherry trees, irises, peonies, an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and foliage. The Atrium's indoor tropical garden setting is a popular meeting, reception, wedding and workshop location. Interpretive displays accompany a restored 18th-century cabin.

OR Occoquan Regional Park

9751 Ox Road, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/occoquan/
703-690-2121

This park offers 400 acres of recreational space and a touch of the past with its historic brick kilns and the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Park lands, trails and associated waters are part of the Fairfax Cross-County Trail. Kayak rentals. One hour Tour Boat Rides on the Occoquan River to Belmont Bay and back. Offered Saturdays noon-5 p.m., Sunday 1-8 p.m., April 2 through Nov. 27. \$10 adults, \$5 children 12 and under, under age 4 are free.

PB Pohick Bay Regional Park & Pirates Cove Waterpark

6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick_bay/
www.piratescovepohick.com
703-339-6102

Pohick Bay is located on the Potomac River, 25 miles south of the nation's capital. The boat launch facility is one of only three public access points to the Potomac River in northern Virginia. Pohick Bay offers canoes, kayaks, paddle boats and jon boats for rent on the weekends, as well as family and group camping, hiking, picnic areas and a large play area for children. The park offers one of the largest, outdoor freeform pools on the east coast. Pohick Bay Regional Park, located on Mason Neck Peninsula is an ecologically fragile land that shelters an abundance of wildlife, including the bald eagle. Pirates Cove Waterpark is located at Pohick Bay Regional Park. Visitors can cool off under the 300-gallon dumping bucket, fire the water cannons and splash down the waterslide or search for buried treasure at Buccaneer Beach sand play area. Pirates Cove

Sources: National Park Service, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, Virginia State Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority. Map courtesy of Fairfax County Park Authority. Designed & compiled by Jean Card and Laurence Foong. Photos by Renée Ruggles.



also features picnic pavilions, a deck for sunning and playing, as well as plenty of shade. Captain's Galley snack bar features food, beverages and sweets. Pirates Cove is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

PB Pohick Bay Golf Course
10301 Gunston Road, Lorton
www.nvrpa.org/park/pohick_bay_golf_course
703-339-8585

This scenic golf course is located on the Mason Neck Peninsula in Lorton. Pohick Bay's practice facility features a driving range with practice putting and chipping greens, and lessons from PGA pros. A full-service pro shop features an array of name-brand golf clubs, equipment and apparel. Other services include club making, custom club fitting, regripping, reshafing and tournament coordinating.

PO Potomac Overlook Regional Park & Nature Center
2845 Marcey Road, Arlington, VA 22207
www.nvrpa.org/park/potomac_overlook/
703-528-5406

On the Potomac Palisades in north Arlington, Potomac Overlook offers 70 acres of peaceful woodland, trails, educational gardens, a small picnic area and a Nature Center. The Nature Center features brand new exhibits called the "Energerium," offering visitors a fun and accessible way to learn energy basics and ways they can help create sustainable energy solutions. The Nature Center also houses live animals and natural history exhibits.

SR Sandy Run Regional Park
10450 Van Thompson Road, Fairfax Station
www.nvrpa.org/park/sandy_run/
703-690-4392

The park is open to the public for the purpose of education, training, practice, and racing for competitive and recreational sculling and rowing. Only shells and other boats authorized by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority may be launched from the docks or shoreline of Sandy Run. Sandy Run offers a facility for team training and competition for Olympic, college, high school and club canoe, kayak and crew athletes.

UH Upton Hill Regional Park & Ocean Dunes Waterpark
6060 Wilson Blvd., Arlington
www.nvrpa.org/park/upton_hill/
www.oceanduneswaterpark.com/
703-534-3437 or UptonHill@nvrpa.org
Upton Hill Regional Park offers visitors a wooded oasis in the heart of the most densely populated area of Northern Virginia. A large outdoor water-park complex is a sparkling attraction in this wooded, urban park, which straddles the boundary line between Arlington and Fairfax counties. The deluxe miniature golf course boasts one of the longest mini golf holes in the world; the batting cages include nine baseball and softball cages. The park is open every day for hiking, picnicking, playing on the playground and enjoying the outdoors. Located within Upton Hill Regional Park, Ocean Dunes is loaded with fun features for adults and children.

Arts Center

LAC Workhouse Arts Center

9601 Ox Road, Lorton
www.lortonarts.org
703-584-2900

The Workhouse Arts Center consists of seven studio buildings, the main galleries and the recently opened Youth Arts Center. Visitors are encouraged to interact with artists. In addition to visual arts, the Workhouse Arts Center is home to performing arts, including theater, film institute, musical and dance performances. The education department supports both the visual and performing arts, offering classes and workshops in a variety of disciplines. Future plans for the Workhouse include an event center, amphitheater, Workhouse Theatre, restaurants, apartments, music barn and garden/horticultural area. Other buildings on site, yet to be renovated, may provide for other activities such as a visitors center, a blacksmith shop, theatre scene shops and rehearsal space.

Major Fairfax County Parks

BLP Burke Lake Park & Golf Course

7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
volleyball, driving range, 18 hole, par 3, minigolf, trails, playground, campgrounds, fishing
883.4 acres, multiple resource park



CJP Clemyjontri Park

6317 Georgetown Pike, McLean
fitness, picnic areas and playgrounds
18.6 acres, special purpose park

ELP Ellanor C. Lawrence Park

5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
baseball, soccer/football (unlit), basketball (unlit), community center, nature center, amphitheater, trails
650 acres, multiple resource park

FPF Frying Pan Farm Park

2717 West Ox Road, Herndon
historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, open areas, playground
135.3 acres, multiple resource park

BSG Green Spring Gardens

4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria
Community Center, historic structure, biking/hiking trails, open areas, gardens
30.9 acres, special purpose park

HPP Hidden Pond Park

8511 Greeley Boulevard, Springfield
tennis (lit), nature center, amphitheater, hiking/nature trails, playground, fishing
25.6 acres, community park



HMP Huntley Meadows Park

3701 Lockheed Boulevard, Alexandria
nature center, historic structure, biking/hiking/nature trails, observation tower, boardwalk
1444.8 acres, natural resource park

LAP Lake Accotink Park

7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield
basketball, volleyball, minigolf, trails, picnic
448.1 acres, multiple resource park

LFP Lake Fairfax Park

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit), amphitheater, carousel, campground, tour boat, picnic shelters
479 acres, multiple resource park

FRA Lee District Park

6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia
softball, soccer/football, tennis, basketball, volleyball, trails, treehouse, sprayground, accessible playground
138 acres, district park

MDP Mason District Park

6621 Columbia Pike, Annandale
softball (lit), soccer/football (unlit/lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), shuffleboard, dog park, amphitheater, biking/hiking/fitness
121.2 acres, district park

NWP Nottoway Park

9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna
baseball (lit), soccer/football (lit), basketball (lit), tennis (lit), trails, picnic
90.9 acres, district park

RBP Riverbend Park

8700 Potomac Hill Street, Great Falls
nature center, historic structure, biking/equestrian/hiking trails, picnic areas, craft room
411.2 acres, multiple resource park

SRN Scotts Run Nature Preserve

7400 Georgetown Pike, McLean
historic structure, historic/hiking/nature trails, fishing
384.3 acres, natural resource park

SRD South Run District

7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield
baseball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, equestrian, playground, swimming
196 acres, district park

WFP Wakefield Park & RECenter

8100 Braddock Road, Annandale
softball, soccer/football, basketball, tennis, recenter, biking, fitness trail, skate park
292.6 acres, multiple resource park



PARKS

A GUIDE TO FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS IN THE GREAT FALLS, RESTON & HERNDON AREAS

PHOTOS BY RENÉE RUGGLES
FEATURING RIVERBEND PARK
MAP BY LAWRENCE FOONG; DESIGN BY JEAN CARD

Map Number **Park Name**
Address, City
Property Class

1 Hutchison ES
13209 Parcher Ave., Herndon
Community Park

2 Coppermine Crossing SS
2744 Cooper Creek Rd, Herndon
School Site

3 Arrowbrooke
2351 Field Point Road, Herndon
Community Park

4 Dulles Corner
2446 Dulles View Drive, Herndon
Community Park

5 Franklin Farm
13590 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon
Community Park

6 Reston Town Green
Cameron Glen Dr, Reston
Neighborhood Park

7 Shaker Woods
1225 Stuart Road, Reston
Community Park

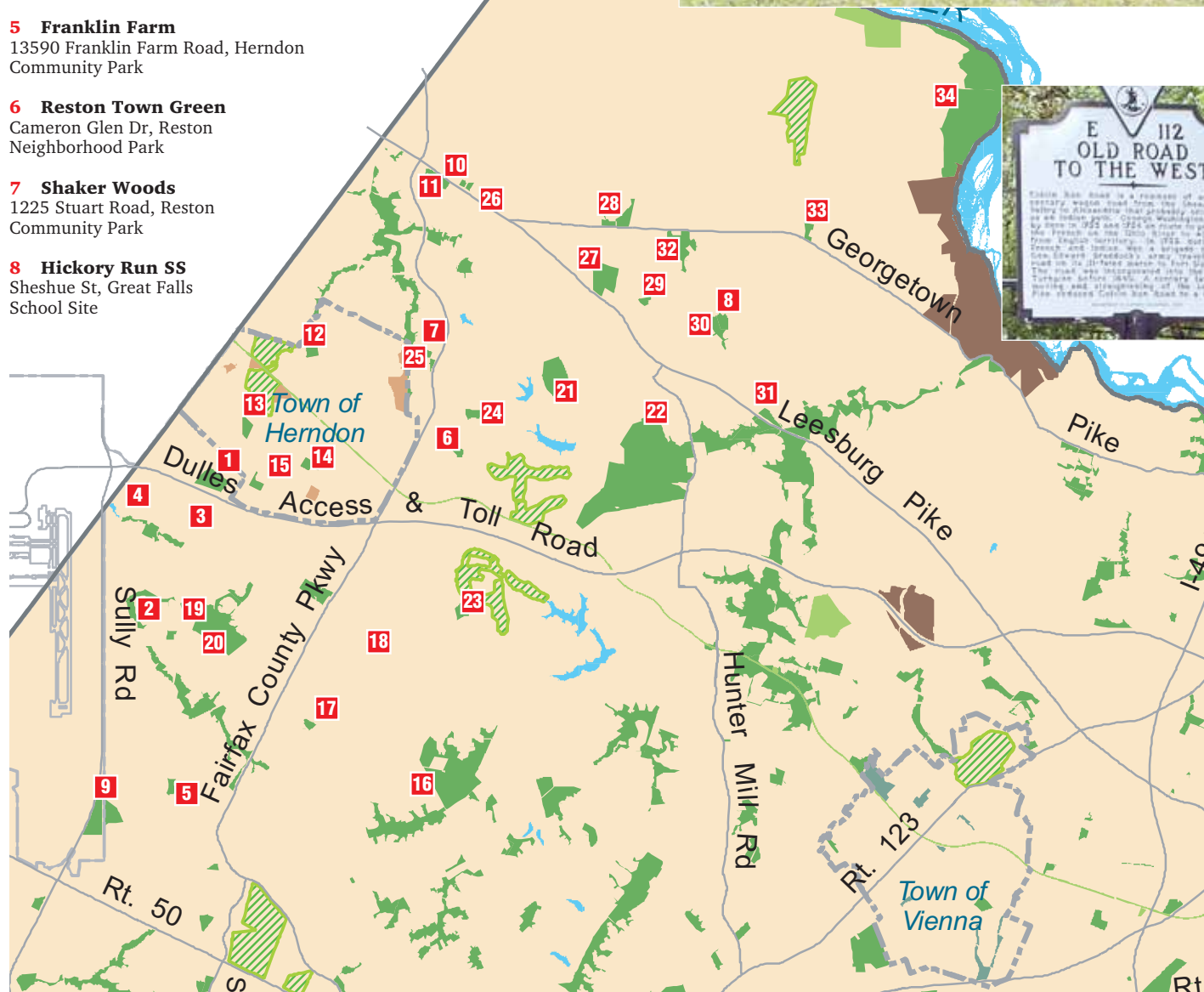
8 Hickory Run SS
Sheshue St, Great Falls
School Site

15 Chandon
900 Palmer Drive, Herndon
Community Park

16 Fred Crabtree
2801 Fox Mill Road, Herndon
District Park

17 Franklin Oaks
2961 Franklin Oaks Drive, Herndon
Neighborhood Park

18 Stratton Woods
2431 Fox Mill Road, Reston
Community Park



9 Sully Historic
3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly
Cultural Resource Park

10 Dranesville Tavern
11919 Leesburg Pike, Herndon
Cultural Resource Park

11 Grand Hamptons
1081 Saffa Street, Herndon
Neighborhood Park

12 Stanton
910 Third Street, Herndon
Community Park

13 Alabama Drive
1100 Alabama Drive, Herndon
Community Park

14 Bruin
415 Van Buren Street, Herndon
Community Park

19 Floris School Site
2621 Centreville Road, Herndon
Community Park

20 Frying Pan Farm
2717 West Ox Road, Herndon
Multiple Resource Park

21 Baron Cameron
11300 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston
District Park

22 Lake Fairfax
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Multiple Resource Park

23 South Lakes Drive
11851 South Lakes Drive, Reston
Community Park

24 Reston North
1635 Reston Parkway, Reston
Community Park

25 Stuart Road
12001 Lake Newport Road, Reston
Community Park

26 Holly Knolls
1010 Redberry Court, Great Falls
Neighborhood Park

27 Great Falls Nike
1089 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls
District Park

28 Windermere
11000 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
Community Park

29 Lockmeade
1104 Riva Ridge Drive, Great Falls
Community Park

30 Lexington Estates
10401 Sheshue Street, Great Falls
Neighborhood Park

31 Colvin Run Mill Site
10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls
Cultural Resource Park

32 The Turner Farm
925 Springvale Road, Great Falls
Community Park

33 Great Falls Grange
9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
Community Park

34 Riverbend
8700 Potomac Hill Street, Great Falls
Multiple Resource Park



NEWCOMERS & COMMUNITY GUIDE

SATURDAY/AUG. 27

Centennial Celebration. 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. at Great Falls Park, 9200 Old Dominion Dr, McLean, VA 22102. Free. The National Park Service will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the the National Park Service and the 50th anniversary of Great Falls Park on the evening of August 27 at Great Falls Park. Visit <https://www.nps.gov/grfa>.

September 2016

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 3-4

Middle Eastern Food Festival on Labor Day weekend. 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., Saturday, noon – 6 p.m., Sunday, Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church will host its 23rd annual Middle Eastern Food Festival on the church grounds at 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. The Festival will feature authentic Middle Eastern food, music and dancing, as well as vendors. Debke dance will be led by instructors, or participate in the backgammon tournament. Children, meanwhile, can enjoy the moonbounce, face painting, pony rides and the petting zoo. The Festival will be held rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. Call 703-734-9566 or visit www.MiddleEasternFoodFestival.com.

SATURDAY/ SEPT. 10

McLean Fall Community Garage Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1420 Beverly Road, McLean, VA 22101 behind Staybridge Suites Hotel. The McLean Community Center will hold its annual Fall Garage Sale. Admission to the sale and parking are free. A limited number of selling spaces remain and can be purchased for \$45. Individuals selling personal items and some commercial vendors may participate. The deadline to apply is Wednesday, Sept. 7, or until sold out. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit: www.mcleancenter.org/special-events

Food for Others Tysons 5K. 8 a.m. Tysons Corner Mall, by Bloomingdales, 8100 Tysons Corner Center, Tysons, VA 22102. Even though Northern Virginia is considered one of the wealthiest jurisdictions in the country, we still face a poverty rate of about 5 percent - more than 90,000 people are living in poverty and 30 percent are children. Come run or walk to help feed our neighbors. Visit: foodforothers.org or <https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/McLean/>

Native American Lifestyles Festival 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Riverbend Park. at 8700 Potomac Hills Street in Great Falls, Va. This exploration of the history and lives of Virginia's First Families includes many hands-on activities. Park visitors will shoot a bow and arrow, throw a spear, help build a dugout canoe, and learn to use ancient tools. There will be stories told, demonstrations of primitive technology, and a chance to enjoy traditional dancing featuring the Rappahannocks. Admission is \$6 per person in advance or \$7 at the door. Call: 703-759-9018 or visit the Riverbend Park website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/>

SATURDAY/SEPT. 17, 2016

Beer, Bourbon & BBQ Festival. 12-6 p.m. 8025 Galleria Drive, McLean. Attend for a day of beer sippin', bourbon tastin', music listenin', cigar smokin' and barbeque eatin'. Your admission buys a sampling glass so you can enjoy all you care to taste while attending seminars in the tasting theater and enjoying live music all day. Visit <http://www.beerandbourbon.com/tysons/show-info>.

SATURDAY/ SEPT. 24

Martha Graham Dance Company at The Alden 8 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Cost: \$50/\$35 MCC tax district residents. Described by The Washington Post as "one of the seven wonders of the artistic universe." A talkback with the artists will follow the performance. Built in 1975, the 383-seat Robert Ames Alden Theatre, "The Alden," is a cultural resource for the citizens of McLean and the Washington Metropolitan area that presents a full season of performances, lectures and educational programs for audiences of all ages. The Alden is ADA-compliant and will make arrangements for accommodations. Call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: www.aldentheatre.org.

October 2016



CAROLINE WATKINS/THE CONNECTION

Santa makes an appearance in McLean's seventh annual WinterFest parade on Dec. 6, 2015. This year's parade will be held on Sunday, Dec. 6 along the Chain Bridge Road.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

Oktoberfest Vienna 11 - 7 p.m. Historic Church Street Vienna, VA. Enjoy beer, wine, food, music, vendors, kids activities. Admission: Free

SUNDAY/OCT. 2, 2016

McLean Project for the Arts ArtFest. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. McLean Central Park, 468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The park is transformed into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of a diverse group of juried artists. Visit www.mpaart.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/ OCT. 15-16

Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. In the fall, warm yourself by the fires and enjoy the splendor of autumn with crisp local apples, warm savory meat pies and hearty breads. Let Market Fair entertainers, tradesmen, and the militia amuse and educate you. Visit <http://1771.org/marketfair/> for more

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 26, 2016

70th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade. 7 p.m. Maple Avenue, Vienna. With the theme of "Celebrating 125 Years of the Town of Vienna" come in costume to celebrate Halloween. Visit <https://www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=951>

SATURDAY/ OCT. 29

Concert: The David Trio 4 - 6 p.m. Saint Francis Episcopal Church 9220 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. This eminent Italian ensemble lauded for its "daring yet refined interpretations" brings the warm sound of violin, cello, and piano to the intimate St. Francis chancel during their first American tour. The sardonic Shostakovich Op. 67 Trio is balanced by a gentle Schubert Notturmo and the spirited energy of Haydn's A-flat major Trio. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit: <http://amadeusconcerts.com/>

MONDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Spooktacular 5 - 7 p.m. The Spooktacular provides younger children with a central, convenient place in Great Falls to have fun "trick or treating." Great Falls vendors offer candy around the Village Green. Pets, on leashes, are welcome to join in the Pet Parade — dressed up in a favorite costume. Visit: www.celebrategreatfalls.org/spooktacular

November 2016

SUNDAY/NOV. 6

The Okee Dokee Brothers at The Alden 1 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Grammy Award-winning Folk & Roots Music for Families. Justin Lansing and Joe Mailander have been exploring the outdoors together since they were kids, and have translated these adventures into song. Cost: \$15/\$10 MCC tax district residents. Visit: www.mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre/performance/icalrepeat.detail/2016/11/06/1521/-/the-okee-dokee-brothers



STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The lighting of the Christmas Tree during the 25th Annual Celebration of Lights and Great Falls Holiday Fest on Dec. 6, 2015 at the Great Falls Village Center in Great Falls.

TUESDAY/NOV. 8, 2016

Election Day. General election. Visit www.sbe.virginia.gov/ and www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm

SUNDAY/ NOV. 20

Concert: The Washington Symphonic Brass 4 - 6 p.m. at Saint Luke Catholic Church 7001 Georgetown Pike McLean VA 22101. As a Thanksgiving appetizer, the area's premier brass ensemble offers a cornucopia of music from the cultures that created America. You'll hear original works and familiar favorites from around the world performed by this all-star group. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit <http://amadeusconcerts.com/>

MONDAY/NOV. 28, 2016

Church Street Holiday Stroll. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Freeman House and Store, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Enjoy fun family-friendly activities including a visit from Santa, petting zoo, free hot chocolate and roasting marshmallows at supervised bonfires. Visit www.viennava.gov.

December 2016

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ DEC. 2-4

McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. This highly regarded, juried show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics, pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, fashion, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, sculpture, paintings and more. Cost: Adults \$5, children free. Visit <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

McLean WinterFest parade & celebration 2016 Begins at 2:45 p.m. on Old Chain Bridge Road The star of the parade, Santa, will be riding on top of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department's antique fire engine. Visit: <http://www.mcleanvfd.org/2015-winterfest-parade/>

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

McLean Symphony Family Holiday Concert. 3 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Features Antonio Vivaldi's Winter from "The Seasons" and highlights from Gian-Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors." Admission: \$25/ adults, \$20/seniors, \$15/students.

January 2017

SATURDAY/JAN. 7



STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Burgermaid Friderike Butler and Burgermesiter Greg Bernhard in traditional German costumes at the last year's Vienna Oktoberfest held in the historic Church Street corridor and Vienna Town Green on Oct. 3, 2015. This year's festival is set for Saturday, Oct. 1.

The Capitol Steps at The Alden 8 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. To recover from this off-the-wall election cycle, remain calm and walk, do not run, to The Alden and shelter-in-place with these master political satirists. \$50/\$35 MCC tax district residents. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/JAN. 8

Concert: Opera Celebration 4 - 6 p.m. Saint Francis Episcopal Church 9220 Georgetown Pike Great Falls VA 22066. The new year is the traditional time to revel in the beauty of the voice. Beloved Amadeus pianist-in-residence Frank Conlon brings together spectacular talent in solos and ensembles, as well as his incomparable storytelling. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit: <http://amadeusconcerts.com/>

SUNDAY/ JAN. 15

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at The Alden Center: Chuck D 2 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Speaker subject to change. Cost: \$20/\$10 MCC tax district residents. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org.

February 2017

FRIDAYS-SUNDAYS/FEB. 3-19

McLean Community Players "Company." 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. A 1970 musical comedy based on a book by George Furth with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The original production was nominated for a record-setting fourteen Tony Awards and won seven. \$25/\$23 MCC tax district residents. Visit <http://www.mcleanplayers.org/>.

Spring 2017

SUNDAY/APRIL 9

Annual Children's Spring Festival Tickets on sale at 12:30 pm. Games & Rides 1:30 - 4 pm. Egg Hunt 4 - 4:30 p.m. Join Us for this long-running annual favorite at Great Falls Village Centre. This event is sponsored by Adeler Jewelers and the Great Falls Optimist Club. <http://www.greatfallsvillagecentre.com/events/>

SATURDAY/APRIL 22-29 2017

Historic Garden Week. This eight-day statewide event provides visitors a unique opportunity to see gardens, as well as houses with over 2,000 flower arrangements created by Garden Club of Virginia members. Visit www.vagardenweek.org/



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