



# Great Falls CONNECTION

Tyler Bowman of Great Falls(far right) and the company of Freaky Friday at Signature Theatre. He will be playing his new role in "Watch on the Rhine" through March 5 at the Arena Stage.

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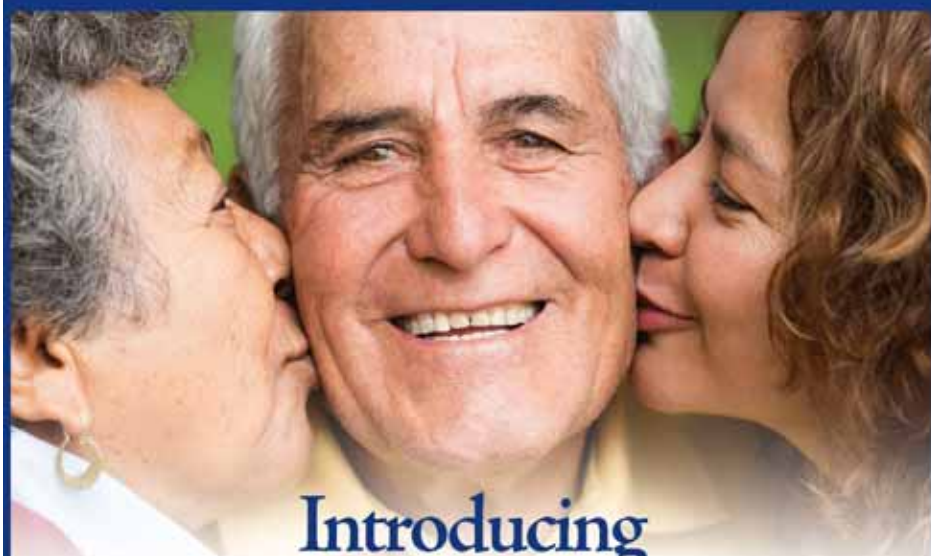
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with experts each month. Guest facilitators will offer information, advice and support in a welcoming, private setting. Topics to be covered include: How to Visit; Accepting Loss; and Enjoying the Remaining Strengths of Your Loved One. Aleksandra (Any) Parpura, MD, PhD, an expert in aging and dementia, will lead our Caregiver Connect program. Dr. Parpura is the president of Aging Perspectives, Inc., the Scientific Review Officer with CSRA International, an adjunct professor at The Catholic University of America, and a faculty member at the Washington School of Psychiatry. Dr. Parpura brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

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## NEWS

# Forestville Elementary Student Makes Arena Stage Debut

**Tyler Bowman, 11,  
in his third major  
theater role.**

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**F**orestville Elementary Student Tyler Bowman, 11, just made his acting debut at the Arena Stage at the Mead Center for American Theater in Washington, D.C.

He will be playing his new role in "Watch on the Rhine" through March 5 at the theater's Fichandler Stage.

This is Bowman's third major theater role, having previously performed at Arlington's Signature Theater in Disney's "Freaky Friday" and at the Kennedy Center in the Washington National Opera's "Lost in the Stars."

When Bowman is not acting, he tries his best to be a normal kid. He loves going to Dave & Buster's to play the arcade games and is a proud member of Boy Scout Troop 1128 in Vienna. At his mother Alison's insistence, he also takes piano lessons, which he says is more of a chore.

But he is not like his classmates.

Bowman has performed in short films and commercials for Discovery, Capital One, the Virginia Department of Health and the former First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" campaign.

His latest role in "Watch on the Rhine" is set in 1940 during the brink of the United States involvement in World War II. German Kurt Müller and his American-born wife Sara and their three children seek asylum in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., after spending 17 years in Europe, where Kurt has engaged in an underground resistance to the rising Nazi regime.

Bowman plays Bodo Müller, the youngest of the children.

The Connection talked with the sixth-grader and his mother on Monday, Jan. 30, just five days before the play's premiere.

What inspired you to be a model and an actor?

Tyler: A friend at our church [Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church in Vienna] named Patti kept asking me to be an actor and we kept saying no. We finally did it and it turned out to be a success.

Alison: She kept bugging us and saying that we needed to get him into modeling. We kept saying no. She found an audition and we said, "You know what, if we do this, will you leave us alone about it?" and she said, "Sure." And then he ended up going to this event in Florida where he won best overall child model out of like 1,000 kids. He was only five years old at the time.

You were sort of pushed into it and you were good at it, but what do you like about acting?

T: A lot of things. I like the opportunity



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAUREN ALEXANDER

**Tyler Bowman started acting at the age of six when he landed a commercial for Capital One. Highlights of his growing career include the role of Fletcher in Disney's Freaky Friday musical last fall at Signature Theatre, a PBS Sprout commercial at the White House with former First Lady Michelle Obama as part of her Let's Move campaign.**

to go in front of people in shows. I also like having the chance to relate to life in a different way as a different person.

Do you think you're going to want to make this a career for yourself?

T: Yes, but I might also want to be a CEO in a company because of my dad.

A: He's looking to be an entrepreneur like his dad ... I think Tyler thinks it's pretty cool, but he may not appreciate all of the work that it takes.

What kind of hobbies do you have and how do you make time for them while you pursue acting?

T: I do Boy Scouts mainly, but I like climbing, camping, archery and traveling. I am rank Tenderfoot [in Troop 1128 in Vienna]. I like all of the cool activities and things we get to do on camping trips.

What do your friends think about your acting?

T: They come to most of my shows. There's a show in our school and I feel like I've motivated them to be an actor in that show. It's Alice in Wonderland and I plan on going to see them.

A: The auditions just happened so they're going to send out an announcement soon.

What made you audition for your latest role and what makes it more challenging than your previous ones?

T: My manager suggested it. Bodo speaks different because his parents are from different countries. He mixes up his English.

SEE TYLER BOWMAN, PAGE 12



## State Agriculture Bill's Defeat Felt In Great Falls

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**S**arah Wehri of Great Falls cannot sell her goat cheese or goat milk directly to commercial consumers and her hopes of doing so died in Richmond last week.

Virginia HB 2030, the food products; sale at farmers market, farm, or home bill, would have allowed producers of food, including milk and products made from milk, to sell at farmers markets or through their home or farms without being regulated by the Virginia Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The producer would only have to inform the consumer that the food is not certified, regulated or inspected.

"It would be a very good stepping stone for small farmers because there is a lot of money that it takes to get up to the regulated dairy stage," says Wehri, owner and founder of Amalthea Ridge in Great Falls, which makes hand-crafted goat milk products.

**AMALTHEA RIDGE** sells its skincare products online at [www.amalthearidge.com](http://www.amalthearidge.com) and at the Old Town Farmers' Market in Alexandria, the Vienna location of Potomac Vegetable Farms on Route 7 and the H Street NE FRESHFARM Market in Washington, D.C. MOM's Organic Market also carries the company's line of soaps.

If you want to get milk and cheese from Wehri's company, you must buy into its herd



**Sarah Wehri feeds some goats from her herd on her 3-acre property in Great Falls last fall.**

PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

share program and lease a portion of her goat herd. This is because HB 2030 failed in the Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee in the Virginia House of Delegates on Wednesday, Feb. 1, by a vote of 6 to 15.

"The concept was to be a way to kind of allow people to take back their food because they could then deal with small farmers," she says.

But Wehri says the bill took a turn.

"Instead of being about someone getting their milk to a consumer, it turned into a debate about raw milk and whether we could sell raw milk," she says.

Due to health and public safety concerns, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services does not support the sale and consumption of unpasteurized milk, according to Elaine Lidholm, spokes-

person for the agency.

"Proper pasteurization, handling and storage are important to ensure the destruction and exclusion of harmful bacteria in milk," she said in an email.

In March 2016, 14 people, including 12 children, became ill and were diagnosed with E. coli after exposure to unpasteurized milk distributed as part of a cow-share program in Virginia, according to Lidholm.

"Seven of these persons were hospitalized; three of whom were diagnosed with hemolytic uremic syndrome, which can lead to life-threatening kidney failure," Lidholm said. "One of those diagnosed patients required dialysis."

**WEHRI** doesn't debate the risks of raw milk and says the issue is very polarized. But her company does not offer raw milk—technically.

"We pasteurize our milk, but to the state of Virginia, it is still considered raw milk, which is crazy," she says. "Unless it's pasteurized in a pasteurizer that has all of these certifications, you can't call it pasteurized, even if it's scientifically pasteurized."

This is because the milk at Amalthea Ridge is not pasteurized with regulated machinery.

Wehri estimates she needs \$60,000 of new equipment and many more goats and land to make her small farm and business profitable at a regulated level.

"We can't have enough animals to make it profitable at that scale right now," she says.

## Bulova Calls for Land Use Engagement

**Board of Supervisors chairman to host Community Council on Land Use Engagement.**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t the Jan. 24 meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS), Chairman Sharon Bulova handed the gavel to Vice Chairman Penelope Gross (D-Mason District), and proceeded to utilize a "Chairman's Initiative" to introduce a "Board Matter" of her own. Beginning this month, Bulova will host a "Community Council on Land Use Engagement."

At the meeting, Bulova said county residents receive, or have at their disposal, "an amount of information so voluminous as to be overwhelming." She said that the supervisors and county staff sometimes hear from citizens that they were unaware of a pending decision, or complained that a decision was already made before they knew about it or had the opportunity to make their opinions known. This reaction from Fairfax County residents seems to come up most often in the area of land use, where de-

cisions made by the board could have the most "direct impact on their community and their neighborhoods."

Bulova hopes that bringing together an ad hoc group consisting of county officials and members of the public to discuss the methods, means and types of communications on the subject will result in a "better informed public who feel well-served."

**THE PLAN** is for approximately five meetings, with a goal of producing a set of recommendations to present to the board on ways in which the county can improve its outreach on the development and land use process. "Although," said Bulova, "communication is communication and I am sure we can learn things that can be applied to other subject matters across the system and applicable to all of our districts."

The chairman added that she, and the council, would remain respectful of the systems already in place for such communication by each individual supervisor. "There are approximately 110,000 residents in each district. Their supervisor is their duly

elected official and we will be respectful of that position and that relationship."

Bulova said the council is an additional means of ensuring that communication to the stakeholders is conducted in the most efficient way by "going directly to the source." The Community Council would also be designed to coordinate with, and complement the implementation of recommendations from the land use process review of 2015 which resulted in the Fairfax First project and are currently in progress.

**"My goal is to convene a group with a diversity of thought and experience."**

**— Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors**

The initiative was questioned by a few of the supervisors. At the meeting, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) responded that he hoped the board would not be getting

"another set of 50-100 ideas that we push on our staff. Our process [on land use and development] is already too slow."

Herrity also expressed his concern that the council could "lead to further delays and additional burdens on business planning. In the Springfield District we engage our citizens early in the land use process so they have the opportunity to provide input which allows applications to be processed in a timely manner."

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins suggested that since the issue was communication, that perhaps it should be referred to the Office of Public Affairs, but Bulova answered that the Council was a Chairman's Initiative, not a Staff Initiative. "This is an opportunity for direct interaction with our stakeholders."

Supervisor Gross indicated her approval of the initiative, but called for a glossary or "some sort of dictionary of land use and zoning terms and acro

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 7



# Rocky Road Ahead

Governor, business leaders and analysts offer insights on regional economy.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The road signs along the highway to the region's economic future are a bit difficult to read, sometimes pointing positively one way, and at other times seeming to indicate slow downs and hazards ahead, according to speakers and panelists at last week's regional economic conference.

"Mapping New Economic Opportunities" was the title of the 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference, hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce (NVCC) in partnership with Cardinal Bank, George Mason University, and the Washington Business Journal, that played to a standing room only crowd on Feb. 1 at the Marriott Fairview Park in Falls Church.

Stephen S. Fuller, Ph.D. has been studying, analyzing and reporting on the region's economy for decades. A member of the faculty at George Mason University since 1994, from 2002 until May of 2015 he was the director of GMU's Center for Regional Analysis. After a brief retirement, Fuller is back as the Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and as the director of the university's Stephen S. Fuller Institute.

**FULLER'S SESSION** was billed as a "Progress Report" on the area's recent economic performance. He started with the "Downsides of Being a Company Town," noting the adverse effects that sequestration has had on the region. From the end of 2011 through 2014, sequestration and the reduction in Federal procurement and contracts has meant a loss of about \$2 billion in government wages and more than \$6



**Gov. Terry McAuliffe addresses the attendees at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Northern Virginia Economic Conference, noting the Commonwealth's advancements in job growth and in certain segments of the state's economy. "We're number 5 in wine production. When I'm done, they'll think Napa is an auto parts store," he told the crowd. The governor also expressed his concerns about the new administration's immigration policies and the negative effects on business in Virginia and elsewhere.**

billion less in contract revenues.

Fuller and speaker Terry Clower, Ph.D. Northern Virginia chair and professor of Public Policy at GMU — and Fuller's successor at the Center for Regional Analysis — agree that business in the region has done surprisingly well over the last two years, slowly pulling away from its dependency on the Federal Government. "2015

and 2016 were our third best two years in history," said Fuller, "and that without booming Federal spending."

"Despite all of the campaign rhetoric," the overall trend in job growth has been positive since 2010, with 14 million jobs added since then, and 2.2 million just in the last year," said Clower. It's been a steady, but not "spectacular" climb, according to Clower, but both experts detect potential threats ahead unless addressed promptly.

Clower provided a list of "look out" items. Related to the new administration, the fac-

tors that will impact the region — and the nation's — economic growth ("positively or negatively remains to be seen") included changes to the corporate tax rate, spending on infrastructure, changes in interest rates, the ratio of spending vs. revenues vs. debt and the potential for the rise of inflation and changes in immigration policy.

Among the speakers, Clower was not in the minority on the subject of immigration. "There is no doubt we need immigrants" particularly in the science, health and technology fields. Clower, Fuller and others among the speakers insist that educated immigrants are vital to the companies that currently employ them, and key to the future viability of the economy. In many industry sectors, "they don't take jobs away," said Clower. "They help create jobs with their work and innovations. And if we can't attract them, someone else will."

In his remarks, Gov. Terry McAuliffe expressed his concerns that poorly crafted immigration policies can have disastrous effects, noting the recent cancellation of two foreign investor site visits to Virginia that had been in the works for months. "Businesses are afraid to take a chance that the people they need might not be able to get into the country."

While acknowledging the challenges and the uncertainties in navigating economic growth, McAuliffe, Clower, and panelists like Jennifer Aument, general manager, North America, Transurban Inc. and chair of the NVCC, Teresa Carlson, VP, Amazon Web Services Worldwide, S. Tien Wong, CEO, Tech 2000 & Appnetic, and chairman, Lore Systems, and Keynote Speaker Christopher Nassetta, president and CEO of McLean-based Hilton, offered positive comments on doing business in Northern Virginia.

Nassetta spoke about Hilton's decision to move its headquarters from Beverly Hills to McLean in 2009. "It was a major disruption and enormously expensive," but the benefits offered by the region, including a robust hospitality talent pool, lower cost of living, and the Eastern Time Zone that enhance global operations made sense to Hilton executives, and allowed the company to "accelerate cultural change."

**THE GOVERNOR** gave a high-speed update on achievements in job growth and business recruitment that have taken place during his administration, including the Commonwealth's surge to become the nation's leader in cybersecurity centers and the fact that the Port of Virginia now handles more cargo than any other in the country. He also informed the attendees that he was about to announce another major corporate relocation. After leaving the conference, the governor announced the upcoming relocation of Nestle, S.A. from Glendale, Calif. to Arlington.

While they agreed that Northern Virginia does have an enviable talent pool in some



**Stephen Fuller, former director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, current head of the school's Stephen S. Fuller Institute, and an acknowledged expert on the region's economic history and prospects, delivered a cautionary session to the Northern Virginia Economic Conference attendees.**

PHOTOS BY  
ANDREA WORKER/  
THE CONNECTION



**Joe O'Brien with CB Richard Ellis, and Mark Palmer of FVC Bank did some networking during the break.**

SEE OUTLOOK, PAGE 5



## NEWS

# Economy Outlook

FROM PAGE 4

disciplines, and in general a well-educated population, the speakers and the governor all provided examples of difficulties in finding enough personnel with technology-specific knowledge and expertise.

McAuliffe said Virginia has about 36,000 openings for cyber-related jobs with starting salaries of \$80,000, and 149,000 vacancies in other tech fields. "This is our biggest roadblock. We need internships, externships, on the job training, and curriculums that are realistic."

"A Bachelor's Degree has been called the modern high school diploma," said Clower. To compete as a region, and for individuals to compete in the job market, Clower says there needs to be "continuous personal educational upgrades."

Using a series of statistical charts, Fuller showed the audience just where the growth in the region's economy has been coming from and explained why this pattern is ultimately not sustainable. Dividing types of jobs into 11 main "clusters," he illustrated that professional and business services, retail, and leisure and hospitality were three of the top four clusters in growth from February 2010 through December 2016. Biomedical and health services was third on the list, but it's the smallest cluster in the region and the numbers don't compare with the other three.

Those three clusters are the most vulnerable to economic pressures in Fuller's estimation, and generally don't pay as well as jobs in clusters like "information services" — an area that has lost ground, in spite of the fact that Northern Virginia has earned a reputation as a cybersecurity hub. "We are basically selling services to ourselves, and that is still the wrong focus." Fuller's research indicates that a failure to refocus job creation direction will lead to compounding money lost to the region totaling an estimated \$177.9 billion by 2025.

"And the longer it takes to get off this slow track, the harder it is to do. Remember, many of our competitors are on that fast track right now," said Fuller. "It's going to take a true regional approach, real regional cooperation and a redoubling of our efforts to get us there."



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# First Amendment Is Alive and Well

BY RONALD GOLDFARB

*"Congress shall make no law ... abridging ... the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

Having worked in D.C. and lived in Alexandria since 1961 when I came to work for Robert Kennedy in the Justice Department, I've experienced the First Amendment in real time action, by assembling and petitioning my government for redress of grievances.

In 1963 my wife and I stood near the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King, Jr. pleaded to the world for civil rights for all people, and delivered his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. About 250,000 people — black and white — peacefully gathered in the nation's capital to plead for President Kennedy to provide 19 million Afro-American descendants the right to vote, travel, and work.

Fears abounded. The D.C. police and FBI were present on the streets. There were altogether over 8,000 guardians of the peace. The federal government and many businesses were closed. Hospitals canceled elective surgery so all beds would be available for riot-related emergencies. Jails were emptied to provide room for predicted arrests. Judges were on around-the-clock standby.

These precautions were not necessary. The assembly was non-violent. People arrived from all over the world and marched with dignity. Many swarmed around the Reflecting Pool in

a field of humanity that ran all the way to the Washington Monument.

On that day we listened to the greatest orator of his time pleading for racial justice, claiming that the time had come "to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood," calling for "the fierce urgency of now," then urged on by Mahalia Jackson, departed from his prepared text and segued into his immortal plea, "I have a dream," that reverberates still in the hearts and minds of all decent people.

The New York Times called the event "the most impressive assembly for a redress of grievances in America's history." The Washington Post reported that the assembly was a happy combination of prayer meeting, picnic, and political rally, a crowd "united in a sense of brotherhood and common humanity." The next year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed.

Unfortunately, many of the social injustices deplored on that summer day in Washington, D.C., have not yet been overcome. But Aug. 28, 1963, was a seminal moment in American history. It demonstrated the power and dignity of democracy in action.

In 1971, the scene was more fractious when my wife and I joined Vietnam War protests on the streets of Washington D.C., a gathering which was rougher and more proactive than the 1963 event. We were gassed, with many others, near Dupont Circle by police overreacting to the noisy protests. Eventually the public demonstrations worked. The war was ended, too late, but it might not have ended when it did without these public pro-

tests. Critics of the war hastened the end of it, and resulted in a president leaving politics.

In 1986, my wife, daughter and two human rights activist friends, the late Pat Derian and Rose Styron and their daughters marched on a sunny day near Congress in a sea of women who came from across the country to support the ERA. But this time their pleas were not successful in terms of reaching the goal that gave rise to that march. But peace prevailed and eventually the goals they asserted then have been advanced in major ways.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017, an estimated half million Americans filled the streets of Washington, as did huge crowds in other cities in America and around the world to claim rights they felt were disparaged by the Trump campaign and election. The Saturday crowds far surpassed Friday's relatively insignificant inaugural crowds. President Trump now argues about the relative size of his crowds — those applauding his election, and those crying out against it.

My children who attended here in D.C. and other locations reported a cheering good spirit, upbeat communal behavior, welcoming friendly law enforcement officials, filled bleachers, and an upbeat camaraderie.

Now what remains after people returned to their homes away from Washington, D.C. is the question: how does this experience change the future? Will the energy become harnessed into a movement that changes politics? We all ponder that question, bravo to the people who are trying.

COMMENTARY

# Crossing Guard Appreciation Day Feb. 8

BY JOHN C. COOK  
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK DISTRICT)

If you have lived in Fairfax County for any amount of time, you are surely familiar with the traffic situation here. Congested roads and long travel times lead to frustrated and fatigued motorists, who may not always yield to pedestrians at a crosswalk. In the morning and afternoon, the situation is compounded by school children going to and from school. To help keep us all safe, and keep traffic moving in an orderly fashion, the County hires crossing guards to assist students and pedestrians in crossing the street at appropriate intersections. The service these workers provide plays an instrumental role in promoting student safety, and we should be thankful for their service to our children and the community. Crossing Guard Appreciation Day is Feb. 8, and I hope everyone will go out of their way to thank a crossing guard. (In fact, you can thank them every day!) Our students and pedestrians depend on them, and the County would not be as safe without them.

Safety at intersections, and roadway safety as a whole, is one of my priorities both as your supervisor and as Chair of the Board's Public Safety Committee. In that regard, I have

launched and participated in several safety initiatives. First, to improve safety for both motorists and pedestrians, I developed the "Slow Down" safe driving campaign. This campaign aimed to reduce neighborhood speeding through extensive community outreach efforts, and part of that outreach involved assistance from residents. If you are interested in spreading the word, my office still has available for free the yellow "slow down" signs, which you can place on your lawn to get the message out.

Second, to combat the issue of distracted driving, I joined Kirk Cousins (Washington Redskins Quarterback) in support of the "Phones Down Touchdown" campaign sponsored by Transurban. This campaign raises awareness of distracted driving, primarily by discouraging texting on the road. A significant number of accidents are attributable to texting while driving, and other forms of distracted driving. By keeping people focused on the road, and not their phone, we can improve everyone's roadway safety.

Recently, the Board joined my call to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to increase from three to six times per year its mowing of roadway median strips. This high grass is not only unsightly, but creates visibil-

ity problems for motorists.

These initiatives are great ways to promote community engagement and safe driving awareness, but, are not enough on their own. You can join with us by focusing on your own driving, speed, and attentiveness behind the wheel. Encourage your neighbors to do the same. And thank your local crossing guards. They are out there every day- rain, snow, or shine- working to keep our neighborhoods safe. Thank you!

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

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

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## Improving Storm Water Management in Great Falls

On Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Falls Library, the senior conservation specialist of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, Willie Wood, will meet with the Storm Water Management Subcommittee of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) to begin an effort to develop and implement voluntary best practice guidelines for homeowners, HOAs and turf management companies to better manage stormwater runoff. This will include environmentally friendly turf management practices and attractive and innovative landscaping measures such as rain gardens. The GFCA sees this as an educational initiative.

The meeting is open to the public, and all are welcome.

## Council on Land Use Engagement to Meet

FROM PAGE 3

nymys” before any meeting. She admitted that the terms were hard enough for the Board and County staff to keep straight. “That would be a good start in improving communications.”

Before taking back the gavel and resuming her role as Chairman, Bulova asked that each Board member provide a list of persons who might be interested in serving on the Council, encouraging them to look beyond just those who have experience in the land use process. “My goal is to convene a group with a diversity of thought and experience,” she said.

**THE FIRST MEETING** will be held on Monday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fairfax County Government Center. Bulova has already prepared a Draft Syllabus for the meetings, and plans that the first two sessions include tutorials on the history of planning and zoning and community outreach in the County, as well as a Land-Use 101 session that explains the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance that governs development in the area.

The meetings are open to the public, although there will be no opportunity for public commentary by spectators to the meeting. Residents interested in being on the Council or learning more about the meetings and the process should contact their District Supervisor’s office.

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## NEWS



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Assistant Miller, Steve Golobic, leads a tour on the process of how sap from maple trees is boiled down into sweet syrup.

# Maple Syrup Boil Down at Colvin Run Mill

## Demonstration on how sap from maple trees is boiled down into sweet syrup.

Colvin Run Mill in Great Falls hosted a Maple Syrup Boil Down on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017. Assistant Miller, Steve Golobic gave a talk on how sap from maple trees, which is 98 percent water and 2 percent sugar, is boiled down into sweet syrup. Visitors were able to tour the grounds and barn and sample hot cocoa and cornbread topped with maple syrup. Colvin Run Mill has 12 maple trees that are used for sapping but only four are being presently tapped.

In his talk, Golobic said Native American Indians

introduced maple syrup and sugaring to the early settlers. He said there are different varieties of maple trees — from Red and Norway Maple Trees — as well as different types of maple syrup — ranging from Vermont Fancy, which is a lighter flavor, to Grade B, which is a darker brand. He said maple syrup is produced from January to April when the temperature is between the 20s and 40s. It takes 30 gallons of sap to produce one gallon of maple syrup. While cooking the sap, the water should be boiled at 260 degrees; the temperature to boil sap to syrup should be 219 degrees; and 260 degrees for sap to make maple sugar.

The next Maple Syrup Boil Down will be held on Sundays, Feb. 12 and March 5 from 12 to 2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Ila Larrazabal of Fairfax serves cornbread with syrup prepared at Colvin Run Mill. Ila is with the National Charity League.

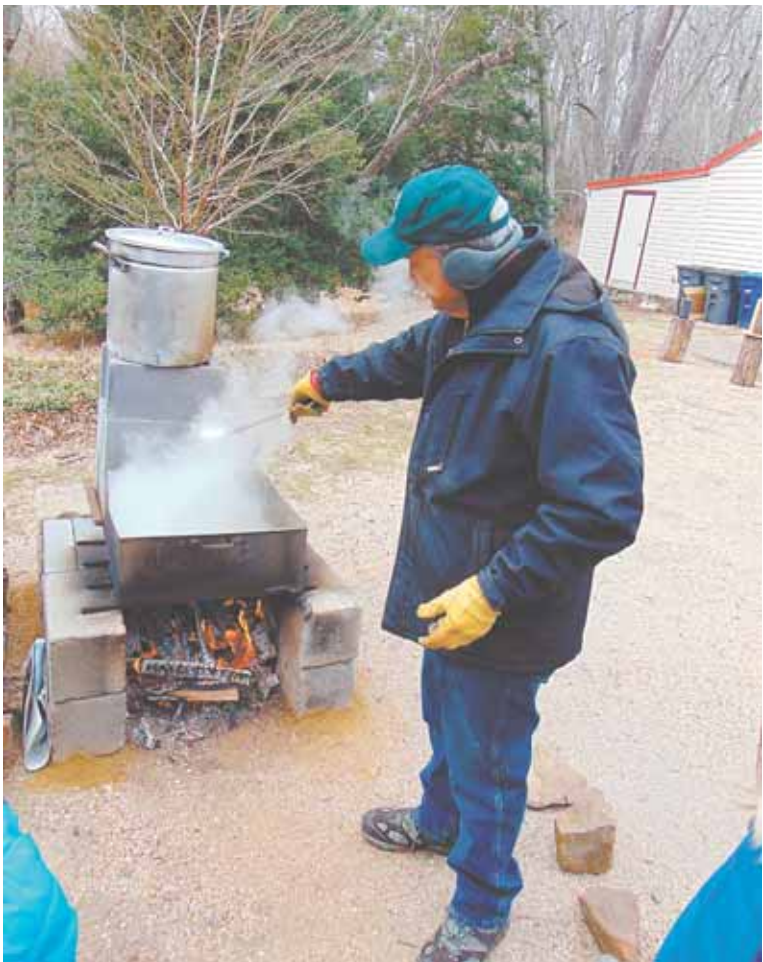


Grif Pound of Reston is pictured with Amaya Garcia-Gettmann, 4, and Calder Kancianic, 4, of Vienna, at one of four maple trees on the grounds of Colvin Run Mill that are now tapping maple syrup.



Tom Milton, a volunteer at Colvin Run Mill, shows a pale of boiled-down maple syrup.





STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION  
**Tom Milton, a volunteer at Colvin Run Mill, is boiling down sap to make maple syrup, which took about an hour and 15 minutes.**

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9408 BRIAN JAC CT .....	6 ... 5 ... 1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$1,060,000 .....	Detached .....	1.13 .....	22066 .....	SADDLEBROOK ESTATES
710 SENECA RD .....	4 ... 3 ... 1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$998,000 .....	Detached .....	1.91 .....	22066 .....	SENECA RIDGE
901 RIVA RIDGE DR .....	4 ... 3 ... 1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$975,000 .....	Detached .....	0.49 .....	22066 .....	LOCKMEADE
9618 BEACH MILL RD E .....	3 ... 2 ... 1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$800,000 .....	Detached .....	2.42 .....	22066 .....	RALPH J APTON PROP LT 13-B1
11927 HOLLY SPRING DR .....	5 ... 3 ... 1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$757,500 .....	Detached .....	0.54 .....	22066 .....	HOLLY KNOLL
1161 KETTLE POND LN .....	4 ... 2 ... 1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$665,000 .....	Detached .....	0.47 .....	22066 .....	LOCKMEADE
1118 SPRINGVALE RD .....	3 ... 2 ... 0 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$645,000 .....	Detached .....	0.46 .....	22066 .....	MONEY IVAN J
20061 GREAT FALLS FOREST DR .....	4 ... 3 ... 1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$525,000 .....	Detached .....	0.23 .....	22066 .....	GREAT FALLS FOREST
1124 UTTERBACK STORE RD .....	3 ... 2 ... 1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$520,000 .....	Detached .....	0.58 .....	22066 .....	TIMBER LAKE ESTATES
228 WALKER RD .....	5 ... 3 ... 1 .....	GREAT FALLS .....	\$449,000 .....	Detached .....	0.67 .....	22066 .....	NONE

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VOLUNTEER EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**Fairfax County's free Family Caregiver Telephone Support** Group meets by phone on Tuesday, March 14, 7-8 p.m. Share your experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. Register beforehand at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults) and click on Telephone Caregiver Support Group. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

**The Fairfax Commission on Aging meets on Wednesday,** March 15 from Noon-3 p.m. at the Lincolnia Senior Center - Craft Room, 4710 North Chamberliss St. Alexandria. (Please note new meeting location.) The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/)

OlderAdults and click on Commission on Aging. Call **703-324-5632**, TTY 703-449-1186 for meeting access needs – advance notice requested.

**The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at **703-324-5861**, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Meals on Wheels Drivers are urgently needed in Fairfax, Centreville and the Reston-Herndon area.** Co-coordinators are needed for routes throughout the county. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or Register Now.

**The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program needs**

**volunteer leaders** to facilitate 2-hour workshops during this 6-week program that meets in Fairfax County. For more information, contact [Colleen.Turner@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:Colleen.Turner@FairfaxCounty.gov), call **703-324-5489**, TTY 711, or go to [www.FairfaxCounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices/chronic-disease.htm](http://www.FairfaxCounty.gov/DFS/OlderAdultServices/chronic-disease.htm).

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

**Meals on Wheels needs Drivers, Coordinators, and Co-coordinators** for routes throughout the county. Call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults)



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# Doris Carpenter Wins the 2017 Jean Tibbetts History Award

BY GREG HAYMANS  
TIBBETTS AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE  
CHAIR

**T**he Great Falls Historical Society is pleased to award the 2017 Jean Tibbetts History Award to longtime GFHS officer, member, and local resident, Doris Carpenter. This award honors an individual for their research, articulation, dissemination and preservation of history for the Great Falls community. Doris profoundly meets these requirements and was unanimously chosen by the Award Selection Committee.

Doris moved to Great Falls with her husband and young family in 1963 and raised her eight children here in Great Falls. She has contributed in a wide variety of ways to the furtherance of local community spirit including being a leader in the 4-H Club, volunteering at the Great Falls Library, and serving as the Treasurer of the Women's Group at the United Methodist Church, among many other volunteer efforts.

With this award, the Great Falls Historical Society wishes to acknowledge Doris for her contributions to local history. Last June, Doris Carpenter authored a book on Thelma Feighery and her country store entitled, "Thelma's Country Store: A Colvin Run Road Legacy."

The book contains photos of historical artifacts and of people, the store, and events, that bring to life the successes and challenges of being a country store over a 70-year period. Doris meticulously collected the various artifacts, realizing that she was close to the unfolding of an icon of great importance to the story of our community. She kept the past to share Thelma's story in the future.

Most people remember Doris assisting her friend, Thelma Feighery, at Thelma's Country Store. Doris recounts her experiences at Thelma's store in the book, sharing everyday interactions at the store over 70 years: 20 years when the Roberts owned the store, and the 50 years that the Feigherys' owned the store.

Originally on Leesburg Pike, the store location became Colvin Run Road in the 1940s, when the Leesburg Pike was relocated to its current position and the old Leesburg Pike was renamed Colvin Run Road. As one of 7 local stores that served Great Falls prior to the opening of Safeway and 7/11, Thelma's was a local institution most fondly remem-

## Award Banquet

The Tibbetts Award Annual Banquet will be held on Sunday, Feb. 26 at 4:30 p.m. at the Colvin Run Community Hall. If you would like to join in celebrating Doris's Award, you may reserve a seat at [www.gfhs.org](http://www.gfhs.org) or mail in your reservation to GFHS, P.O. Box 56, Great Falls, VA 22066. Each ticket is \$50 per person and, unfortunately, we are unable to accept payment at the door. The event will be catered and the meal will be a Banquet Buffet.

bered for serving 23 flavors of hand-made ice cream to many of us.

While helping customers in the store, Thelma and Doris maintained a personal warmth and sincerity that helped make Thelma's a uniquely memorable and pleasant atmosphere, which is difficult to find today. Through all the devoted interactions with customers, Doris has the presence of mind to keep artifacts for history's sake.



Doris Carpenter

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

It is thanks to her long-term commitment to gathering history that we have a story that gives a very real sense of what it was like to run a country store over a long period of time in the midst of profound cultural changes.

Doris contributed in other ways to local history: She has dedicated much time to the Great Falls Historical Society,

serving on the Board of Directors as Recording Secretary over many years, Publications Committee Chairperson.

In this role, Doris saw to the republication of several local books many of which were sold by her at the local farmers' market.

Doris has contributed to the oral history collection and has organized programs such as *Ghost Stories of Great Falls* and *Local Country Stores*.

Other work includes serving as Chair of entertainment for Great Falls Day, and leading the digitizing of local photos to create the GFHS Naomi Whetzel Photo Collection. Through these activities Doris has met or exceeded all requirements for the Tibbetts Award that we are so pleased to award her.

The Great Falls Historical Society was formed in 1977 to build community spirit by bringing the past into the present. GFHS would like to thank Karen Washburn and Kathy Pherson for serving on the Tibbetts Award Selection Committee, assisting me in this important work.



**The Daraja Ensemble will perform at Saint Francis Episcopal Church located at 9220 Georgetown Pike Great Falls on Sunday Feb. 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. This fellowship woodwind quintet from the University of Maryland takes its name from the Swahili word for "bridge." Coming together from around the country and abroad, their wide-ranging performances include ongoing outreach to Tanzania. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit: <http://amadeusconcerts.com/>**

## CALENDAR

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

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

**Great Falls Elementary School Annual Scripps Spelling Bee Contest** 9:15 a.m. in the Gym 701 Walker Rd, Great Falls. Our snow date is the following Wednesday - February 15th. 703-626-1149 or [6schulmans@gmail.com](mailto:6schulmans@gmail.com)

**Penny University Event** 7 - 8 p.m. Caffe Amouri 107 Church St. NE, Vienna. "Why Are We Here?" "Heart-Opening Meditation" with Mental Health Counselor and Professor Cathy Trenary. Space is limited. To RSVP email [nicki@caffeamouri.com](mailto:nicki@caffeamouri.com). Cost: Free. [www.caffeamouri.com](http://www.caffeamouri.com)

### THURSDAY/FEB. 9

**"Adjust the Heat"** 10:30 a.m. Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna. Nationally acclaimed watercolorist Catherine Hillis will explain the importance of observation in art and, particularly, the need to develop the warm and cool colors in a painting. Hillis will demonstrate how artists can bring their paintings to a new level by creating color temperature in their work. Cost: Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971 [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org)

### FRIDAY/FEB. 10

**Valentine's Day Arts & Crafts Hour** 11 - noon Once Upon A Dream, 527 Maple Ave E #200, Vienna. There will be arts & crafts to celebrate Valentine's Day. Additional \$5 per child.

**Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips Washington Wizards vs Indiana Pacers** 4:30-11:30 p.m. Join the staff of the Old Firehouse as they watch the Washington Wizards face off against Paul George and the Indiana Pacers. With exclusive pregame access, free giveaways, a food voucher and quality seats, this trip will be a slam dunk. \$50/\$40 MCC district residents.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 16

**Fred Eaglesmith** will be performing in Vienna 7 p.m. JAMMIN JAVA 227 Maple Ave. East Vienna.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 19

**Concert: The Daraja Ensemble** 4 - 6 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church 9220 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. This fellowship woodwind quintet from the University of Maryland takes its name from the Swahili word for "bridge." Coming together from around the country and abroad, their wide-ranging performances include ongoing outreach to Tanzania. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit: <http://amadeusconcerts.com/>

### ONGOING

#### 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/>.

#### The U.S. Small Business Administration

is reminding businesses in Virginia that working capital loans are still available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations affected by the severe storms and tornadoes on Feb. 24, 2016. Deadline to file is March 7, 2017. <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela>. [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster). [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

**Fishing Rod Rentals** 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2hr max). Valid driver's license required. Our rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for persons 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/)

**Colvin Run Mill** open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Winter Hours: January & February, 11am-4pm, last tour 3pm. Admission to park is FREE except for some special events.

**"Thrifty Thursdays" Basic Budgeting Classes** in Annandale, Chantilly and Alexandria 7-9 p.m. Heritage Building 7611 Little River Turnpike, East Wing 1st Floor Conference Room D Annandale. Thursday, January 19, 2017 & Thursday, April 20, 2017.

South County Government Center 7-9 p.m. 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Thursday, February 16, 2017 (Room 220) & Thursday, May 18, 2017 (Room 220) Chantilly High School 7-9 p.m. 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Thursday, March 16, 2017 (Room 253) & Thursday, June 15, 2017 (Room 253) For All Sessions, RSVP to: Carole Rogers at [crogers@britepaths.org](mailto:crogers@britepaths.org) or 703-273-8829.

## Plan Ahead Great Falls

### TUESDAY/FEB. 21

**Discussing C&O Canal Companion.** Guest speaker at the The Great Falls Senior Center event, author Mike High, has cycled in many places around the world but the trail along the C&O Canal is his favorite. His C&O Canal Companion takes readers on a mile-by-mile tour of the 184-mile Potomac River and towpath that stretches from Washington, DC, to Cumberland, Maryland, and the Alleghany Mountains. The event will be held at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren 11500 Leesburg Pike from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and includes lunch. Reservations are a must.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11



# CALENDAR



**A Wine Tasting at River Bend Country Club** will take place on **Saturday March 4 from 7 - 10 p.m.** There will be a **delicious selection of Hors d'oeuvres, cheeses and fine wines, as well as mingling with long-time and new Great Falls neighbors.**

FROM PAGE 10

Contact Polly Fitzgerald at [pollyfitz1@verizon.net](mailto:pollyfitz1@verizon.net) or call 703-759-4345. Visit [gfseniors.org](http://gfseniors.org).

Sundays. 26469 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. Join the Easter Bunny and search for candy and toy-filled eggs. Visit [www.ticonderoga.com/about](http://www.ticonderoga.com/about).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 4

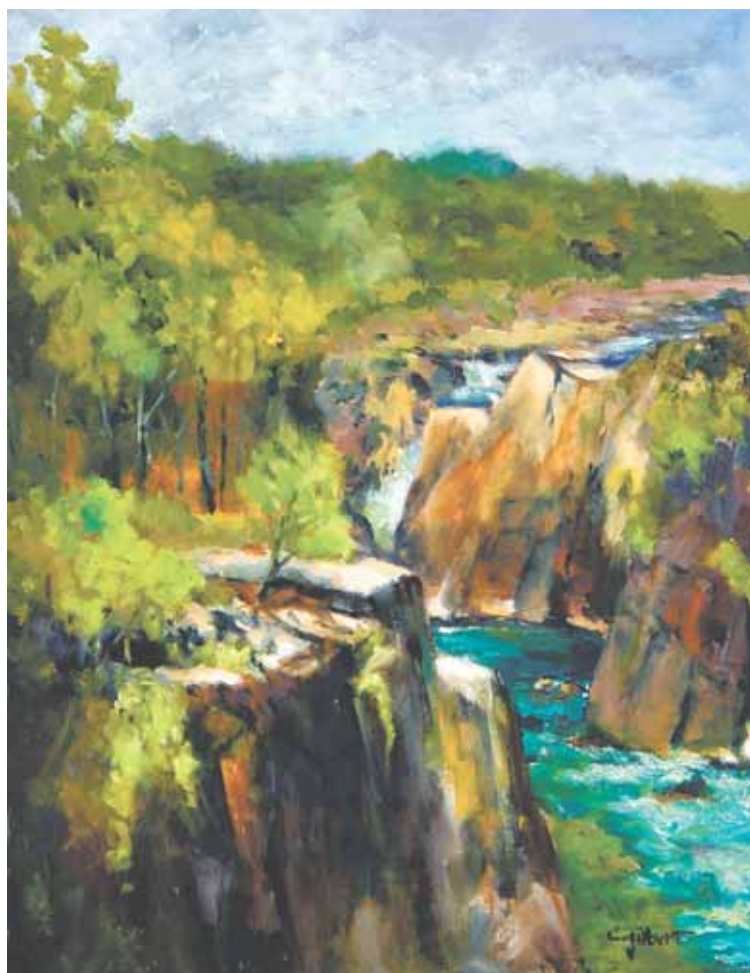
**Wine Tasting River Bend Country Club** 7 - 10 p.m. There will be a delicious selection of Hors d'oeuvres, cheeses and fine wines and mingling with long-time and new Great Falls neighbors.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt & Roll** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Freeman House, 131 Church Street NE, Vienna. Children 12 and under and their parents are welcome to participate in an egg roll and visit with Easter Bunny, hosted by Historic Vienna, Inc. Visit <https://www.viennava.gov>.

## SUNDAY/MARCH 12

**Chantilly Egg Hunt.** Saturdays and



**Cliffs at the Falls, by Robert Gilbert**

## Robert Gilbert's Oil Painting Exhibit at Katie's March 1-31

A mix of woodsy landscapes and impactful still lifes await the visitor to Katie's Coffee House in the Great Falls Village Center. Robert Gilbert's paintings are impressionist and easily recognizable as being in and around Great Falls. The still lifes have an Old Master's feel to them with warm colors, copper pots and stuffed dolls. The landscapes of the Colvin Run Mill and Great Falls cliffs are reminders of the beauty that surrounds us every day. Gilbert's Oil Painting Exhibit at Katie's, March 1-31, Village Centre, 760 Walker Rd, Great Falls.

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# Tyler Bowman Debuts at Arena Stage

FROM PAGE 12

It's kind of hard to remember that and he's a little bit more serious [than my previous roles]. In the play, my first language is German. My dad was born in Germany and my mom was born in America. It's during hard times in World War II.

A: At 11, it's a little hard for him to relate to what we see happening around us like right now, which makes the play so relevant. I didn't think I would have been talking to my son about fascism and dictatorships and authoritarianism. They haven't gotten to WWII in their history yet.

What kind of struggles does your character go through?

T: Most of the time he doesn't go through any of the bad things because we're upstairs when the fight scenes happen and all of the bad stuff happens. He does notice it at the end of the play. Also, my brother and sister bug me a lot and tease me. I come right back at them.

What was it like to shoot a commercial with Michelle Obama?

T: Amazing. It was the best experience I've had doing a commercial. Meeting the First Lady in the White House is pretty much a big deal. Just being in the White House is a great opportunity.

Is there any actor that you look up to or do you have a favorite show?

T: Star Wars. That's what I would love to do because my mom is a big Star Wars fan.

A: It would be pretty cool if he got a Star Wars thing.

Have you seen the latest Star Wars movie?

T: Yeah, we saw it in 4-D. It was really awesome. The seat moves while you're watching the screen.

A: You get 3-D glasses and you get a seat that moves. During the battle scenes in space, you can feel it in your chair. For a Star Wars geek like me, it was pretty cool.

Are you getting paid for your work and how do you and your family plan to spend it?

T: A third of it goes to long-term savings, a third goes to charity that I choose and I get to spend a third. What I would spend for something special is for college and an arcade machine. I like arcades and I like playing on them and I thought playing on my own arcade machine would make me want to go less. My mom always says, 'No we got to do it another day.'

A: He always wants to go to Dave & Buster's and doesn't like it when I say that it's expensive.

Have you saved up enough for a machine yet?

T: No, but I'm hoping in the future I will soon.

A: I'm hoping not.

T: Either the claw machine or the Quick Drop game. It's where these tubes go around in a circle and you have to get the balls into the tube in a certain amount of time. And if you get all of them in without any falling out, you get the jackpot.

Which charities do you like support?

T: Mainly, I support the church. That's where most of mine goes. And also Signature. Another one would be Arena.

A: He normally gives his donation to the church ... this year he chose to give his donation to Signature Theater because that's where he did "Freaky Friday" and I think probably when he's done with the show at Arena he will make his donation there



PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN ALEXANDER

**Tyler Bowman is a proud Boy Scout of Troop 1128 in Vienna. Here he shakes hands with his scoutmaster, Robert Leggett, during his Cub Scout-Boy Scout crossover ceremony.**

to give back. I've tried to instill in him to be philanthropic, especially for organizations that support your career. You need to give back.

Is it tough pursuing your acting in Great Falls?

T: There were some managers who wanted me to move to New York, but my family and I like it here, so I didn't want to leave all of our friends just for my career.

A: Sometimes he'll get a call from his manager saying, 'We need you in New York tomorrow for an audition.' Then you have to drop everything and get up to New York. It's fun, but for the parents, it's a little stressful.

How do you keep up with school, Boy Scouts and acting? Does it get tough sometimes?

T: Yeah, but my teachers are good about it. I just want to thank my teachers Ms. Conner, Ms. Donlon and Ms. Croog for supporting me through all of this. And I want to acknowledge Stuart because he helps deliver all of my homework. He's my neighbor and we're both in Ms. Conner's class.

A: Stuart's his best friend. They've known each other since kindergarten and have been best friends ever since then.

How has being bilingual and knowing Spanish helped you in your acting career?

T: I haven't used it yet, but I'm sure it will help later throughout the years. I've been doing the Spanish program at Forestville called ChiCeLaCu since I was in second grade.

A: His sister [Carly, 5] is adopted from Columbia, so we want to make sure that he and his sister know her native language very well. I grew up in Mexico, so I speak Spanish and my whole family speaks Spanish. Then when we ended up adopting from Columbia, that's when we decided that Tyler really needed to learn the language. I think he was six, so only in first grade when we brought her home.

Are you auditioning for any other shows or have any other plans in mind?

T: No, but I just auditioned for a movie for Disney. We don't know the name or know anything about it, but it's a movie.

A: He got a call from his manager and the only information that she had was it's a movie being done by Disney. We only know the name of the casting director. It was a phantom audition.

# Fireplace as Focal Point

## A hearth is in demand for cold weather.

BY JOHN BYRD

Fireplaces have never fallen out of favor," said David Foster, president of Foster Remodeling Solutions. "We may be seeing a preference for gas over a traditional wood-burner, but the hearth itself is hugely popular — with homeowners continually seeking distinctions in style, building materials and, even, where it will be located."

Foster says he's currently working on several home remodeling projects that feature a fireplace as an interior focal point.

"A fireplace offers aesthetic and functional benefits at one price," he said, "so it's an attractive option."

Fireplace-desire can also be a spur to creative thinking that stimulates a more engaging and original remodeling project.

Case in point, the new formal dining room created for Burke homeowners Dennis Perzanowski and Jack Ellison. The goal: convert a three season-room into a year-around dining room complete with a gas-fueled hearth on one elevation.

"We were looking for a mix of old and new styles," said Perzanowski. "We wanted to feature a traditional dining room set with sideboards, but there are modern touches such an industrial-style chandelier."

In this context, a gas fireplace with an brushed steel frame was a perfect offset. Mounted on the east wall elevation and with an oil painting just above, the stacked geometrical shapes lend balance and symmetry to an otherwise blank wall between two floor-to-ceiling windows.

Chris Arnold, a Foster partner who managed the project, knew there would be challenges in adding a hearth in a somewhat restricted available space, but with a little research found a 42" x 38" gas insert that perfectly suits the spot allocated for an eye-catching focal point.

"This is something of a formal dining room," Arnold notes, "yet the fireplace design is so understated it's visually compatible the rest of the décor."

## RAISE THE ROOF

Meanwhile, not far away, the

interior design solution to a Vienna great room also depended on profiling an new hearth.

Ted and Wanda Rogers had asked had Foster to renovate the circa-1960's ranch they had occupied for 30 years.

The remodeler added more than 1,000 square feet of additional living space. But the question that generated really serious discussion was how best to introduce a new hearth.

Wanda Rogers wanted to eliminate the original builder-grade brick-facing fireplace, which was situated in the middle of the house and too drafty and cold.

Ted Rogers agreed in principal, but was attracted to a gas-fueled fireplace alternative, which offers considerable heating efficiencies.

As all soon learned, the existing 8-ft ceiling to the Rogers home was too low to yield much design benefit. That's when Foster proposed re-working the entire mid-house interior by opening sightlines out and up.

To implement changes that now called for connecting the new kitchen to a front-facing family room, the remodeler replaced an obstructive bearing wall with concealed structural supports.

Giving sightlines free-reign, likewise, meant removing the living room ceiling and shelling-in previously concealed roofing rafters.

An ascending vertical accent was now introduced: a floor-to-ceiling hearth constructed of dry stacked Ledgesones.

The new hearth is designed for a gas-fueled insert equipped with blowers and remote control. Vents draw air in from the outside. The couple can adjust a thermostat for the desired temperature. This is a useful since, at full speed, the unit can generate 55,000 BTUs of heat — enough to keep the entire great room toasty and warm even during the dead of winter.

Foster's architect proposed a wood-trimmed ledge above the fireplace, a simple motif that draws the eye upwards to the accent-lighted vaulted ceiling.

As a housewarming gesture, Foster fashioned a rustic mantle from the rough-sawn oak previously deployed in the rafters of the original structure. It's a little keepsake of the old place.

Though higher interior ceilings, theoretically, make a room harder to heat, the remodeler re-insulated the ceiling and installed an eco-slate roofing, dramatically improving the thermal efficiency of the entire residence.

SEE HOMELIFESTYLE, PAGE 13

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# Fireplace as Focal Point

FROM PAGE 12

The new fireplace is flanked by arches: a recess for shelving and cabinetry on the left; a sympathetically curvilinear entry to the new master suite on the right.

"The effect in all directions is exciting," Wanda Rogers said. "Looking in from the kitchen, the room opens out and up; it feels really warm."

The new vaulted wall expanse also doubles as display space for her private art collection, which is now illuminated by track lights.

## FAMILY-GATHERING PLACE

In nearby McLean, a Foster client was looking for a floorplan re-configuration that would include a front-facing family-gathering niche — with a window wall and a fireplace.

"We all saw the aesthetic opportunity," Foster said. "There would be larger windows on all sides. But also a new front-facing family room — with an 11' cathedral ceiling dominated by an extensive window wall, and an appropriately post-modern hearth as the central interior focal point."

The window wall would help to contextualize a more symmetrical front elevation — one defined by a processional entrance way with double French glass doors and sidelights.

Taken as a whole, however, the floor plan is functionally a "great room" formed by clever variances in room width and ceiling height differentiated as clearly identified "use" spaces.

"The slightly narrower width confers a degree of intimacy on the family room that suits its purpose," Foster observes. "The hearth, in particular, really defines this."

The stainless steel hearth features gas burner elements embedded in river rock and functions as both a heat source and an ornamental focal point.

Flanked by open "cubbies" with glass display shelves, cherry wood cabinetry, and a wine rack abutting a wine refrigerator, the "built-ins" define a functionally separate family entertainment zone that includes a wide-screen plasma TV mounted above the fireplace.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The Grems decide on a formal and traditional look for the fireplace in the family room. The half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and an Edwardian-style mantle.**

A more congenial spot for holiday entertaining is hard to imagine.

## FROM BRICK TO ELEVATED HEARTH

Ed and Kelly Grems of Vienna have worked with Foster on a number of projects over a decade, but held off on upgrading the family room because the family's design process was gestating slowly.

"We're particular; we let the look come to us piece by piece," Kelly Grems said.

One notable piece, was deciding on a formal and traditional look for the fireplace in the family room. In the end, FRS designers created interior elevations that bear no resemblance to the excess of brick that came with the original circa-1990s house.

The earlier half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and an Edwardian-style mantle.

"It's an entirely different mood from the sun room," Grems said, "and perfectly satisfies another dimension of our lifestyle."

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. For information call: 703-550-1371, or [www.fosterremodeling.com](http://www.fosterremodeling.com)

*John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.*

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Mediterranean Deli, Inc trading as Simply Fresh, 6811 Elm St, McLean, VA 22101. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages, Rana Sersy, Director  
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

Nothing is too small to know, and nothing too big to attempt.

-William Van Horne

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

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## LIVE AUCTION COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Thursday February 23, 2017 @ 12:30pm  
365 Denbigh Blvd, Newport News, VA

### SUMMARY

Primary Property Type: Commercial  
Building Size: 2,640 SF  
Year Built: 1964  
2016 Assessed Value: \$299,000  
New HVAC System  
No. Stories: 1

Parking Spaces: 9  
Lot Size: 0.36 Acres  
Total Sq. Ft.: 15,505  
Front Footage: 100 FT  
Depth Footage: 125 FT  
Zoning: C1



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## Completely Off Topic



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That topic not being cancer. The topic being candy, or rather the disappearance of candy, from my hiding place at home. The reason I'm even discussing/dulging this publicly is that I've been forced by circumstances beyond my control to already involve my wife, Dina, in the disappearance of said topic: my post-holiday purchase of 75-percent-off-the-regular-price of snack-size type candy, typically available the day after a holiday.

Before I proceed, let me provide a bit of context for some of you irregular readers: I love chocolate. I don't just have a sweet tooth, I have sweet teeth. However, given certain realities/habits in my life, I almost always (unless times/circumstances are desperate) only buy these delicacies when the items are on sale and even more so when the items are both on sale and I have coupons. Now add into that mix an extra \$5 off a \$15 purchase — or a percentage off \$20 or \$30 store-specific coupon, and I'm spending pennies (almost literally) on the dollar. On these occasions — and Rebecca, you should probably stop reading — I load up. ('Load up' for a typical person might mean months. For yours truly, honestly, it means weeks, sometimes even days.)

Now when I bring this much volume into the house, my wife, Dina, need not know anything about it. Generally, I will stash the non-cash in places where I'll doubt she'll look (and I'm not saying the oven; that's an old Henny Youngman joke), and when I do indulge, it won't be in her presence, nor will there be any sign that I've unwrapped anything.

One of my hiding places, which will now be changed, was downstairs in our cellar in a top drawer of an old bureau I use for collecting miscellaneous bank statements, credit card bills, insurance forms, etc., and for years, my candy and previously unmentioned consumables. On the particular day in question — a day now seared into my memory — as I am habitually wont to do, I went to my downstairs drawer to replenish my upstairs drawer (in yet another hiding place) and was shocked and awed to find my two remaining bags of Kisses and Rolos empty, both gutted like a fish, ripped along their sides with nary a wrapper to be seen, 40-50 bite-size pieces gone.

My first reaction was of course to accuse my wife. Doing so however, would have exposed my secret: I buy candy and hide it (although, she probably knows it, and since I'm not exactly losing any weight ...). But what other cause/culprit could be behind such a dastardly deed? A break-in? No. A ghost who loves chocolate? (We do live in a 250-year-old house.) Mice? Squirrels? It's possible. There are some animal-friendly access points under our foundation. And even though the bureau is flush up against a retaining wall/crawl space for critters, I did notice that the bureau drawer was open an inch or two. Barely enough access. Otherwise, there is no entry. But if critters were responsible, where are all the wrappers and/or feces or any other evidence of their transgression? There weren't any. If the candy was indeed pilfered, it was "The Great Escape" of candy heists. Forced with this dilemma and daring-do, I was forced to confront my wife with these facts and ask if she in fact was responsible. She denied everything and blamed either a ghost or an animal. She was surprised, or so she claimed, at where I had hid the candy, not that I hid candy, so we weren't breaking any new ground, but apparently, my secret had been safe.

It's been a few weeks since this non-insurance loss, and there's been no sign or evidence to indicate what happened to my chocolate. My wife seems to have forgotten the incident. As for me, I bought a 3.4-pound container of Kirkland-brand chocolate-covered raisins from Costco so my inventory is back where I want it to be. I just wish my Kisses and Rolos were back as well.

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





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