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Dranesville Dispatch

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Letter from Supervisor Joan DuBois

Dear Dranesville Resident,

April was a heartbreaking month for our Virginia family which suffered devastating losses as a result of the Virginia Tech shootings. In the aftermath, I was profoundly struck by the strong sense of community throughout the state and particularly here in Fairfax County where I was invited to participate in prayer vigils and memorial services with fellow residents. Thank you to the citizens and neighbors who were understanding about traffic delays relating to the funeral processions of Virginia Tech students who attended Church in our area. I also spoke with many concerned parents searching for information on emergency plans at Fairfax County Public Schools and what measures we take to prevent school violence. To access such FCPS policies, please visit www.fcps.edu/emergencyplan/. If your child requires counseling support services, please visit www.fcps.edu/news/vatech/vatech.htm.

I was again reminded of such tragic loss of life by the anniversary of the May 8, 2006 shootings at the Sully District Police Station that claimed the lives of Detective Vicky Armel and Master Police Officer Michael Garbarino. I was honored to recently attend a ceremony in our Nation's Capital to witness the names of such fallen public safety officers being engraved into a Memorial Wall. We still deeply grieve the loss of these exemplary officers. Both of these events touched us all differently and left people searching for answers about the motivation for such senseless violence.

At various recent meetings, I have spoken to many residents about these incidents. During these times I turn to what is most important in my life - family, friends, and faith. In the next few weeks Dranesville families will celebrate milestones of college and high school graduations. Children will enjoy treasured summer break, and many of you will sneak off early some Friday afternoons. This summer, make it a priority to slow down and spend time with the important people in your life. Take pleasure in volunteering by getting involved with your local community. And of course, enjoy summer with your family at local and county festivals and events. I look forward to seeing you there!

Joan M. DuBois



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FY 2008 Budget Update

On April 30, the Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to adopt the FY2008 budget, which begins on July 1. This balanced budget is based on anticipated revenue growth of 2.34 percent over both the FY 2007 Adopted and Revised Budget Plans.

Excluding adjustments in the current fiscal year, the actual increase over FY07 is \$103.73 million or 3.23%. Approximately \$66.97 million or 64.6% of this growth is associated with increased funding for Fairfax County Public Schools. Despite lower revenue growth, the Board funded a 3.5% increase for FCPS. In addition, the Board provided \$8 million for the second phase of an *Initiatives for Excellence* to increase teacher compensation, for a total increase of 4%. Prioritizing education needs required a 2 percent across-the-board reduction, or \$16 million, in County compensation. It will also trigger restricted spending in all other areas. In order to meet these lower targeted spending levels, county agencies will be required to hold vacant positions empty, further stretching performance requirements for existing staff.

The Board did approve new funding to address domestic violence; added much needed wildlife management staff, especially in light of the recent rise in Lyme disease cases; authorized several environmental initiatives; and refocused revitalization efforts in the County. In addition, the Sewer Service charge will increase from \$3.50 to \$3.74 per 1,000 gallons and sewer availability charges will also increase. The Refuse Collection rate will also increase from \$315 to \$330 per household unit.

The Board maintained the current real estate tax rate at \$0.89 per \$100 of assessed value. Fairfax County is one of only a few localities that did not raise its real estate property tax rate to make up for declining residential assessments. In anticipation of a continued downturn in residential assessments, the Board also gave the following guidance to staff for Fiscal Year 2009:

- Non-recurring funds should be directed toward non-recurring uses.
- Only recurring resources may be targeted toward recurring expenses.

The Board asked that FCPS also follow this policy for next year and stated that any available balances materializing at the Carryover and Third Quarter Reviews that are not required to support County expenditures of a critical nature are to be held in reserve to offset future requirements or to address one-time requirements such as GASB-45 liability, unfunded capital paydown projects, unfunded School Board priorities, and equipment replacement. To view the final budget allocations, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

The McLean Citizens Foundation (MCF) invites Greater McLean residents to share their thoughts and ideas about future MCF projects.

They will post an online survey on the MCF web site this month, please visit www.mcleancitizensfoundation.org. Copies of the survey will be available at the MCF booth on McLean Day, May 19th, 2007.

For questions, please e-mail, Trish Butler tbutler@sagecommunications.net.

Spring Stream Cleanups, A Chance To Give Back

On Saturday, March 24, Fairfax Trails & Streams held its spring cleanup at three principal streams in the McLean Area - Pimmit Run, Scotts Run, and Dead Run. 126 volunteers came out at 19 stream cleanup sites and collected 161 bags of trash, 430 pounds of metals, 10 tires, over 200 feet of plastic pipe, and 2 commercial electronic devices from the 3 streams and stream valleys in the McLean area. For the three weeks prior to the cleanup, two FTAS volunteers spent over 100 hours moving debris and trash onto the shore banks so other volunteers could collect, bag, and move items to the road and trail-head.

A week later on Saturday, March 31, the weather was cool but sunny for the 19th annual Alice Ferguson Foundation Potomac Watershed Cleanup. In Great Falls, 20 volunteers, including families with children, gathered to take on the Difficult Run Stream Valley. The total results were 36 bags of trash, 3 tires, a lawnmower and various pieces of metal. According to the Alice Ferguson Foundation, which sponsored the entire Potomac Cleanup, 103.4 tons of garbage was collected including 915 tires in the Potomac basin. "It was a beautiful day, we had fun, and it was a great chance to give back to Great Falls where I love to hike the trails," says Dranesville staffer Katharine Ryan who participated in the cleanup.



Trash from Ramsey's Meadows Park in Great Falls. The orange bags were trash while the blue bags contained recyclables.

What on Earth??

If you have driven by Marie Butler Leven Preserve on Kirby Road lately, you may be wondering about that strange construction pit (*as seen below*). Thanks to the suggestions of our *Dispatch* readers, we decided to explain this interesting stormwater project, which is brought to you by the Fairfax County Park Authority, in partnership with EarthSangha and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. This construction area has been designated as a *demonstration rain garden*. Rain gardens help to reduce stormwater runoff into



local streams by slowing the rate of runoff, which gives the soil and plants time to filter out harmful debris and pollutants.

Since 2004, this 20-acre Preserve has seen other interesting projects including its transformation into an extensive native plant collection site. Plants are organized at the park to form a living field guide for studying the plant species of Fairfax County. Along with this new rain garden, the Preserve features a native pollinator garden, an oak and hickory forest, and a natural spring. With the dedication and assistance of [EarthSangha](http://www.earthsangha.com), an arboretum is also being grown.

For more information on rain gardens, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/. For information on volunteering at the Marie Butler Leven Preserve Rain Garden or questions about the project, contact EarthSangha, at 703-764-4830. For a helpful guidebook on stormwater runoff and best practices around your own home or business, visit the NVRC [Web site](#).



Naturalist Club Teacher Alison Bauer with (L-R) students Julian Villacorta, Andy Berkin, Kathleen Welch, Ava Shomaker, and John Gorman, working on their habitat project at Spring Hill Elementary.

Spring Hill Elementary Naturalist Club

Spring Hill's Naturalist Club is an after school group of environmentally minded students in grades 2-6. The students gather together each month to work on community service projects that facilitate their interest in nature, and help them learn more about conservation. Together, they identified the need for a new outdoor classroom and habitat that would benefit all Spring Hill students and neighbors.

The ideal location for their classroom is currently an overgrown wooded area that captures stormwater runoff from the school building and neighboring soccer fields. After

the project completion, the space will feature a mulched trail, bridge, benches, and signage will be installed to allow safe access for future study and student enjoyment.

HOA Officer Contact Update

Many home owners associations have recently changed leadership, therefore we request each organization send updated officer contact information for our records.

In the event of a serious disaster emergency, weather event, or crime incident, it is crucial that our office is able to immediately reach your neighborhood with information. In addition, with updated records we can easily notify you in advance of road improvements, traffic calming or utility projects, and other issues relating to your area. We can also offer invite your community to county events such as tax relief workshops, environmental forums, speaker series, and crime prevention seminars.

We will be sending a reminder mailing to all current HOA contacts in the coming weeks, however, please feel free to e-mail us now with your 2007 officer contact update at dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov.



On Saturday, April 14, Supervisor DuBois was delighted to again participate in the annual McLean Little League parade and opening ceremony. McLean Little League supports over 1,200 boys and girls. The Little League fields provide a great time for the entire family, and Supervisor DuBois looks forward to catching some games! For more information about this organization, please visit www.mcleanll.com.

Public Awareness Campaign on Teen Alcohol Use

According to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, underage teenage drinking is a critical public health issue. Alcohol is the drug of choice for our youth, and its widespread use can result in serious mental health, academic, and social problems. Each year, nearly 5,000 youth under age 21 die from motor vehicle crashes, unintentional injuries, homicides, and suicides that involve drinking. In statistics revealed from the Fairfax County Youth Survey, 73 percent of our 12th grade students admitted to alcohol usage. Although Fairfax County 12th grade alcohol use is slightly lower than the national average, we have seen an increase in binge drinking. 26.1 percent of 12th graders are engaging in binge drinking. Furthermore, a shocking 17 percent of 12th graders admitted to being drunk and or high at school, and 20 percent reported driving after drinking.

To spread awareness about this issue, our current episode of *Dateline Dranesville* features an informative panel discussion on teen alcohol use. To view this episode and access more information on the subject, please visit our [Web site](#).

In an effort to reduce underage drinking, especially as prom and graduation season begins, the Fairfax County School Board and the Board of Supervisors are joining forces with the Fairfax County Public Schools school-community coalitions to launch a new countywide initiative. The Board of Supervisors passed a resolution supporting this campaign on Monday, April 30. The first phase of this initiative is a nationally recognized program called **Parents Who Host, Lose the Most**. This public awareness campaign alerts parents and other adults about the legal ramifications, health, and safety risks of serving alcohol to teens. The campaign was developed in response to our recent surveys which confirm that it is generally easy for teens to get alcohol, and many times parents host teen parties at which alcohol is available. Parents who knowingly allow a person under age 21 other than their own child to remain on their property while consuming or possessing alcoholic beverages can be prosecuted and face jail sentences, fines, and/or loss of property.

This initiative is supported by nineteen FCPS school-community coalitions, school officials, county government agencies, local law enforcement groups, the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, Northern Virginia Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, leaders from the faith community, and Inova HealthSource. To learn more about **Parents Who Host, Lose the Most**, please visit www.fcps.edu/ss/SDFY/underaged-drinking/index.htm or contact Diane Eckert, FCPS Safe and Drug-Free Youth Section, at 571-423-4278, TTY 711, diane.eckert@fcps.edu. For a list of upcoming all night graduation celebrations, please visit www.fcps.edu/news/grad.htm.



Fairfax County Podcasts

Fairfax County now offers Podcasts as an additional information source to residents! Through Podcasts, citizens access “News to Use” updates, Health and Safety alerts, Board of Supervisor’s Meeting Highlights, and even the Fairfax County Library *BookCast*, which features interviews with local authors. For more information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/podcasts/.

Board Hearings on What Constitutes a Home Addition

On May 7, the Board advertised a proposed amendment to Chapter 61 (Building Provisions) of the Code of the County of Fairfax which would amend Section 61-1-2 to reduce the square footage of a residence that could be added or demolished and still call that change an "addition." Beyond those limits, a project would be subject to all inspection and permitting requirements for construction of a new home. At a public hearing on May 21, the Board will consider limiting changes to an existing principal structure which may neither exceed a percentage (75-150 percent will be considered) of the existing gross floor area of the above-grade finished area; nor results in the demolition of more than a certain percentage (25- 50 percent will be considered) of the existing gross floor area; and requires issuance of a new Residential Use Permit.

On average, the county receives three permit applications a week for additions to a home which are actually an entirely new structure on an existing foundation. Increasingly, inspectors are unable to verify the compatibility between the infrastructure of the new portion of the building and the old, particularly in the case of utility connections such as power, water, and sewer. This amendment will provide a clear distinction between large home improvement projects that more closely resemble new house construction and legitimate additions to existing properties such as sunrooms, garages and pop up second stories. If you would like to testify at the hearing on May 21, please call the Clerk to the BOS at 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903, or register [online](#).

Great Falls becomes Certified Wildlife Habitat Community

On April 6, the National Wildlife Federation certified Great Falls as the 23rd Community Wildlife Habitat in the United States! This was announced at the April 10th GFCA meeting, which focused on environmental issues and included a power point by William Garrett, former editor of National Geographic. He exhibited wildlife photographs taken exclusively at his Seneca Road property. Elaine Tholen then provided a butterfly presentation.

Great Falls has achieved 474 points which was 100 over the NWF requirement. Many organizations, parks, and schools joined in the certification efforts including: Great Falls Elementary, Forestville Elementary, Village Green Day School, Colvin Run Elementary, St. Francis Church, Great Falls Methodist Church, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Turner Farm, Riverbend, and

180 private properties. Each of these locations are committed to providing food, (*nuts, berries, seeds, nectar and host plants*) water, (*stream, pond, birdbaths*) shelter, (*evergreens, brush piles, burrows, rock piles*) and safe places to raise young wildlife (*dense shrubs or thickets, dead trees with nest cavities, bird houses*).



Special congratulations to Robin Rentsch (pictured left, receiving flowers from GFCA President Jackie Taylor) for her particular outstanding dedication to this multi year-long project. **Great work Robin!**

New Transportation Service for Residents With Disabilities

Beginning in May, a new transportation service called TaxiAccess, will be available to residents with disabilities. TaxiAccess will provide subsidized taxicab service to county residents who are currently registered users of MetroAccess, a transportation service provided by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).

TaxiAccess will resemble Seniors On-The-Go!, another popular taxicab program that has been providing discounted rides for Fairfax County's older residents since 2001. TaxiAccess initially will be implemented as a pilot program under the Fairfax County Department of Transportation and has been funded by the Board of Supervisors for one year.

Participation in TaxiAccess will be reserved only for county residents who have completed the registration with MetroAccess and are active county MetroAccess users. MetroAccess is the federally mandated curb-to-curb shared-ride public transportation service sponsored by WMATA and its member jurisdictions in the Metropolitan Area (including Fairfax County). This service, created under the Americans With Disabilities Act, requires that public transportation services provide accessible transportation, or what is more commonly known as "paratransit" service, for people with disabilities who are unable to access bus and rail service such as Metrorail, Metrobus, or the Fairfax Connector. For an application or additional information about TaxiAccess, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/taxiaccess.htm or call the Fairfax County Department of Transportation at 703-324-1172, TTY 703-324-1102.

A Celebration of McLean

McLean Day 2007 will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., on Saturday, May 19, at Lewinsville Park. The park is located at 1659 Chain Bridge Road. McLean Day is sponsored by the McLean Community Center (MCC). Last year, this popular event attracted more than 10,000 people! The Old Firehouse Teen Center's Annual 8K Fun Run will begin 8 a.m. at the Lewinsville Senior Center, 1609 Great Falls Street. Returning again this year are the famous rides, The Tornado, The Inverter, The Ring of Fire, Pharaoh's Fury and The Starship, along with bumper car rides. Other attractions include a rock climbing wall, carnival games, free hayrides, pony rides, balloon sculptures and face painting. Along with performing dance, music, and theatre groups will be exhibiting crafters and artisans. Amongst the 150 booths in the expo you will find the Dranesville District staff providing information about Fairfax County services and ready to answer your questions about local issues.

Residents of Dranesville Small Tax District 1A can cast votes to elect new members to the MCC 2007-2008 Governing Board from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Center encourages residents who do not wish to attend the event to vote by absentee ballot. No parking will be allowed at Lewinsville Park on the day of the festival. Beginning at 9:30 a.m., free shuttle buses will run from Redeemer Lutheran Church, McLean Baptist Church, and MCC. Admission to the festival is free. The festival will be held rain or shine. For more information about the event, call 703-790-0123, TTY 703-827-8255, or visit www.mcleancenter.org or visit our [Web site](#).

Memorial Day Observation



Fairfax County will observe Memorial Day on **Monday, May 28**. All non-emergency personnel offices as well as public schools will be closed.

Additionally all Fairfax County Libraries will be closed both Sunday May 27, and Monday, May 28.

Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial will host a Memorial Day Ceremony on May 28 at 11 a.m., at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial site located behind the Great Falls Library. For details about the event, contact Bob Pattavina at 703-759-7727.

The McLean American Legion invites citizens to share in a Memorial Day observation at McLean High School front at 12:30 p.m. near the Davidson road entrance. For questions, call the McLean Post 270 at 703-356-3590.

Roadside Litter Control

A special thank you to the Fairfax County Sheriff's Department for assisting with several litter cleanup projects on roadways in the Dranesville District, including areas along Georgetown Pike, Utterback Store Road, and in McLean.

Individual citizens, homeowners associations, businesses, and faith groups are encouraged to participate in litter control through the Adopt-A-Spot Program.

Volunteers are given materials to help with cleanups, and a sign recognizing their sponsorship posted in the area. Adoptable locations might include parks, medians, trails, bus stops, or roadways.

For more information please call Rosemary Byrne at 703-324-5471 or visit, www.cleanfairfaxcouncil.org.

ChildSafeNet®

ChildSafeNet has been partnering with the Fairfax County Police Department to make the community safer for our children through its signature program, P'CASO (Protecting Children Against Sex Offenders). P'CASO provides comprehensive protection for our children by increasing police presence both on the Internet and in the community at large. Through the collaboration of these agencies, police detect and apprehend predators who initiate inappropriate relationships with children online. Officers in the P'CASO Program are tasked with monitoring convicted released sex offenders.

ChildSafeNet also raises public awareness on safety issues and delivers community education programs. If you are interested in hosting a Child Safety Program for your organization, community or business (in either an adult or kid-friendly format) please call 703-768-9477, or e-mail info@ChildSafeNet.org. For more information and to read the *2006 Report to the Community*, please visit www.childsafenet.org.



On May 3, Chief Dave Rohrer, (Left) and ChildSafeNet President Diane Beatty, (Center), were hosted by Supervisor DuBois at the McLean Government Center for Diane's *ChildSafeNet's Report to the Community*. Guests included Supervisor Linda Smyth, crime safety advocates, parents, and detectives.

Friends of Trees Awards

On April 28, County residents gathered at Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale campus to enjoy a festival with the traditional tasty vendors, a petting zoo, balloon clowns, and face painting. What seemed odd about the event was the basketball, mini-golf, and bean-bag toss games were being played with aluminum cans. However, on this unique day the community had gathered for the annual Fairfax County Earth/Arbor Day celebration to raise awareness about recycling, litter prevention, and environmental best practices. Among other youth activities, children created bug houses, recycled art, and participated in water pollution demonstrations with food coloring to understand the extensive effects of stormwater runoff. Staff from the Wildlife Center of Virginia and Reptiles & Amphibians brought animals to educate how our behavior impacts wildlife habitats. Other services included a recycling center, free document shredding, scrap exchange, exhibits by the Department of Urban Forestry and Forest Pest Management, and free saplings giveaways.

Also at the event, the Fairfax County Tree Commission presented the 2006 Friends of Trees award to eleven organizations and individuals including four to Dranesville. Those honored were singled out for their outstanding dedication to the environment. Katie Timblin, owner of 5 wooded acres overlooking the Potomac, was honored for placing her property under a conservation easement to the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and the Potomac Conservancy. The Eagle family, owners of a property in the Potomac River Gorge area, was honored for donating 70 acres into a conservation easement to the NVCT. To recognize and celebrate the 400th anniversary of the settlement at Jamestown, McLean and Great Falls –Celebrate Virginia, was honored an historic tree designation and plaque program.

Supervisor DuBois was proud to nominate the Great Falls Citizens Association Heritage Tree Census, which was honored for creating awareness and concern for the preservation and health of large trees in Great Falls. As previously reported in the *Dispatch*, the group developed a Web site for residents to learn how to measure trees, published an educational brochure, and engaged youth organizations to promote understanding of heritage and large trees in their communities.

It's that time of year again... for HERNDON to ... ROCK!



Herndon Rocks every Friday Night this summer through August 24! Come celebrate and join in the fun with the most popular outdoor concert series in the D.C. area during its 13th season.

Friday Night Live!, draws close to 2,500 people a night. This is a free outdoor concert series on the Town Green in Herndon, at 777 Lynn Street Herndon, VA 20170. Hear a diverse group of great bands that appeals to every listener. Kids are welcome, but sorry no pets. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., and include a variety of vendors.

Call the event hotline for details and updates on the weather, band schedule, and more at 703-481-6133, or visit www.herndonrocks.com.

A portion of proceeds from sales goes to benefit the Herndon High School After-Prom and All-Night alcohol-free Grad Parties. * *Instead of Friday Night Live, June 1st will be the Herndon Festival.*



Tis' the Season for Farmers Markets



May to November, 11 open-air market sites throughout Fairfax County spring to life with activity! These bustling marketplaces offer a wide variety of freshly picked fruits, vegetables and cut flowers. There are also fresh eggs, baked goods, honey, and cider along with milk, cheese products, and an array of meat. If gardening is an interest, many vendors have small plants at the beginning of the season, while other vendors have larger landscape plants. All products sold at the Farmers Markets are produced by vendors from within 125 miles of Fairfax County.

Many of the Farmers Markets host Fairfax County Cooperative Extension Master Gardener Plant Clinics. Visitors can bring plant or insect samples for pest identification or disease diagnosis. Master gardeners also have informational displays on topics such as container gardening or *EcoSavvy* gardening. There are two sites in the Dranesville District, Thursdays at the Red Caboose in Herndon and Fridays at Lewinsville Park in McLean. For additional information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm or call 703-324-8702.

Understanding the Fairfax County Noise Ordinance

Residents are reminded to comply with the county's Noise Ordinance and are encouraged to report violations to Zoning Enforcement, 703-324-1300. This ordinance promotes an environment for residents that is free from noise that degrades their health, welfare, or quality of life. TV, radios, musical instruments, and pets that cause frequent disturbance any time across property lines may be in violation. According to the Ordinances, the following acts are example of violations during the hours noted:

- **Operating loud speakers or amplifiers (exteriors of buildings)** 11 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- **Operating construction equipment (outdoors)** 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- **Operating construction equipment (outdoors)** 9 p.m. to 9 a.m.
- On Sundays and federal holidays
- **Truck loading or unloading (outdoors)** 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- **Refuse collection in residential neighborhoods** 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.



New right turn lane/ ramp at the intersection of Old Dominion and Balls Hill Road.

Intersection Improvements

Residents may have recently noticed two intersection improvements in the McLean area. A right turn lane/ramp was added at the intersection of Old Dominion Drive and Balls Hill Road. The turn lane is wide enough to accommodate the safe turn of a school bus or a truck and long enough to hold 3-4 vehicles from southbound Balls Hill Road to northwest bound Old Dominion.

An additional lane has also been added on the west-bound side of Great Falls Street at the intersection with Chain Bridge Road. The area now includes a left turn lane, a thru lane, and a thru/right lane. The addition of another lane at this location should alleviate traffic back-ups on Great Falls Street.

Congratulations

Herndon High School Teacher Gary Gepford was named a Community Champion on April 24th at the Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards at the McLean Hilton. Gary has been a volunteer for more than 30 years. His efforts through Students Against Global Abuse (SAGA) have generated more than \$200,000 in college scholarship money for the school. He also spends his Saturday mornings helping to administer and organize the EXCEL, Saturday morning tutoring program at Herndon Elementary School.

Several student journalists have been named winners of the 2007 American Society of Newspaper Editors' Quill and Scroll International Writing and Photo Contest. Rachel Bensinger of McLean High School received an award in the general columns category for her work appearing in the "Highlander", the McLean student newspaper.

Congratulations to four volunteers at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library for achieving outstanding volunteering milestones at the library. Mae McCarty logged in 10,000 volunteer service hours. Other recognized included Ruth Pietrowicz and Andrew Fauver who both reached 5,000 hours, and Melda Sauers, 1,000 hours.

The Herndon High School Robotics Team traveled to Atlanta to compete in the *FIRST* (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Championship. More than 10,000 students, comprising over 300 teams, from 23 countries competed in the Georgia Dome to determine the *FIRST* Champion. The Board of Supervisors recognized Herndon High School student's achievement in the competition and their interest in science and technology.

Fairfax County Park Authority was recently honored by the American Society of Landscape Architects for the development and construction of Clemyjontri Park in McLean. ASLA hosted a ceremony on April 20, congratulating the Park Authority and Park Foundation staff, and the Park Authority Board for their efforts in Clemyjontri's design and development.

Several students won first place at the Virginia State Science and Engineering Fair. Yang Yang of McLean High School won first place in Chemistry for "Electrochemically Tested Nanoparticle Paints" and also the Materials Science Award from the ASM Materials Education Foundation. Raumi Sidki of Langley High School received an honorable mention for Applied Science and Engineering from SAIC.

Congratulations again to Great Falls for its certification as the Nation's 23rd Community Wildlife Habitat. Particular appreciation to Robin Rentsch and Elaine Tholen, who is this year's National Wildlife Volunteer of the Year.

The Herndon High School Students Against Global Abuse (SAGA), founded by Herndon teacher and volunteer Gary Gepford, has won federal recognition from the Department of the Interior to add to their many other awards. They received an Environmental Appreciation Award for their recycling efforts over the last 18 years. SAGA collects approximately 10 tons of white paper from churches, schools and businesses in the area every year for recycling.

Community Events

All Fairfax Reads

All Fairfax Reads is our “one book, one community” project that encourages residents to read and discuss the same book through September. To celebrate Virginia’s history during this 400th Anniversary year of Jamestown founding, the chosen All Fairfax Reads book is Joseph Ellis’ His Excellency: George Washington. Ellis won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award, and he will discuss his work at the Fall for Book festival in September. A reader's guide will be available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Youth Depression and Suicide Prevention Seminar

Thursday, May 24, 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Mary Livingston Azoy, Director of Community Education & Crisis Response for CrisisLink, will discuss the myths, facts, and warning signs of youth depression and suicide. Parents will learn effective ways to listen and communicate. The workshop includes a brief presentation, video, and question period. For more information and to register, please visit www.safecommunitycoalition.net/upevents.html.

Summer Concerts on the Greens

Relax and enjoy the *Concerts on the Green* this summer Sunday evenings in Great Falls. Pack your picnic basket and bring the family for an entertaining night of live music and children’s activities from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Center. Concerts are sponsored by local merchants and feature a variety of musical performances for the whole family. Free to the public. The concerts will begin Sunday, May 27. For more information, please call Christine Dziak at 703-759-2485 or e-mail gfvcc@aol.com.

McLean Community Connections 6th Community Dialogue

Thursday, May 31. 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. *We Are Many....Can We Be One?* Participants will gather for an evening of discussion on establishing dialogue that promotes an open, respectful exchange of ideas, opinions and allows people to explore differences and find commonalities. Please RSVP to 703-324-3453, TTY 703-803-7914 or e-mail the Community Interfaith Liaison, Sandy Chisolm at schish@fairfaxcounty.gov. For more information, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dsm/cil/.

Celebrate Fairfax

Northern Virginia’s largest community-wide celebration, Celebrate Fairfax!, arrives June 8-10, at the Fairfax County Government Center. This annual festival is filled with fascinating sights and sounds with more than 400 exhibitors, vendors, crafters, and interactive activities. Celebrate Fairfax! includes live concerts on six stages, a SciTech Center, a children’s avenue, great food, the award winning County Expo program, and a nightly fireworks display. For more information, updates, and to buy advance tickets, please contact Celebrate Fairfax, Inc., 703-324-3247, TTY 711 or www.celebratefairfax.org.

Local events are updated regularly on our [Web site](#).