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Coffee And Verse

inside



NEWS, PAGE 4



Poet Mike Shellington reads his work in front of an audience of poets at the Daily Grind in Lorton.

Virginia GOP Sees Red

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Charity Haircut

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PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON / THE CONNECTION HOME SALES, PAGE 13 ❖ FAITH, PAGE 21 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 23

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EnergyShare
always there

Not without a Fight GOP grassroots groups push for candidates in 'battleground' state.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

This is the second of two stories about the November election and the efforts of grassroots organizations to get the vote out. To read the first story, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

“Fight to keep Virginia red” is a phrase that can be heard often when attending Republican fund raisers and events throughout Fairfax County. It has become a rallying cry for a host of grassroots organizations and a reflection of the party’s loosening grip in the Old Dominion State, which has voted solidly Republican since the 1960s.

In what promises to be another close presidential race, grassroots political organizations form the front lines of the conflict for many state and national campaigns looking to better understand the issues and needs of local residents. In return, grassroots organizations like the City of Fairfax Republican Committee (CFRC) and Republican Women of Clifton (RWC) say their local candidates benefit from the increased political awareness brought on by

“When you talk to them about John McCain, they’ll think ‘OK, what else is going on?’”

— Jim Kaplan, chairman, City of Fairfax Republican Committee

big nationalized races.

“When we’re out and it’s just a state race, or the only race is a delegate race, people aren’t always aware there’s something going on,” said Jim Kaplan, chairman of the City of Fairfax Republican Committee. “When you talk to them about [Republican presidential candidate] John McCain, they’ll think ‘OK, what else is going on?’ It also

helps with recruitment of volunteers.”

Kaplan said his organization, made up entirely of volunteers, have been going door to door educating residents, handing out literature as well as coordinating with candidates’ campaigns.

As Election Day approaches, the FCRC will ramp up its activities, culminating in a “72-hour plan” whereby they will coordinate with

county and state officials on how to best use their resources to maximize Republican turnout starting three days before voters go to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

“Here’s what we’re doing: we are working closely with those candidates to help them understand the Northern Virginia market,” said Terrie Rollins, president of the Republican Women of Clifton. “For example, we have traffic issues that might not be so prevalent south of us. We meet with [the



Bonnie Fite, chair of the Republican Women of Clifton’s public relations committee, left, chats with former club President Elizabeth Schultz, right, and her husband Brian Schultz, middle.

campaigns] and say ‘Here are some of the problems we’re facing, what does John McCain or [U.S. Senate candidate] Jim Gilmore offer to help?’ We understand how the different areas are set up.”

THREE RACES remain firmly on the minds of GOP officials in Fairfax County. In the

11th Congressional District, newcomer Keith Fimian (R) is running against chairman of the Board of Supervisors Gerry Connolly (D). In the Senate race, former governors Jim Gilmore (R) and Mark Warner (D) will battle to replace Sen. John

SEE LOCAL GOP, PAGE 21

Cancer Survivor Donates Braids

Melissa Martinelli, cancer survivor, donates several inches of her hair to Locks of Love

BY CIARA RICHARDS
THE CONNECTION

Cancer survivor Melissa Martinelli told her story as she sat in Sana’s Hair Design on Wednesday, Aug. 20, getting several inches of her thick hair braided and cut in order to be donated to Locks of Love.

Martinelli was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s lymphoma in September 2005. She had not been feeling well for months and had discovered that she had a swollen lymph node while on holiday with her family.

While doctors initially told her not to worry about it, Martinelli continued to pursue the subject. A CT scan revealed irregu-

larities in her neck and chest.

On Sept. 1, 2005, a day Martinelli said she would never forget, she received the results of her biopsy. Her mother, Mary Ann Martinelli, described how it was a long process following the biopsy. “They were trying to determine what stage of Hodgkin’s she was at,” she said.

“Even through all that stuff, we still managed to laugh.”

— Melissa Martinelli

Melissa Martinelli had her first treatment of chemotherapy a little over two weeks after the biopsy results and continued the treatment every other week for six months.

Fortunately, Melissa Martinelli never lost significant amount of hair. She described how it just thinned and then got curly once the treatment was finished. She also underwent about 26 or 28 radiation treatments, which took place five

days a week for about two and a half months.

“Apparently, cancer takes a break on the weekend,” said Melissa Martinelli’s sister, Jennifer Martinelli, as she joked about the fact that the treatment was only five days a week.

Throughout her illness, Melissa Martinelli continued to put all of her effort into education. She graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School and initially went to Virginia Tech for pre-med. She transferred to George Mason University around the time that she was diagnosed so that she could be closer to home. She described how she changed her focus of study to nursing while at GMU. “I didn’t want to spend my life going to med school. I wanted to make a difference now.”

Mary Ann Martinelli came to school with her daughter every day during her treatment. “I was afraid she was going to get sick or dizzy,” she said. However, Melissa Martinelli took 18 credits in her first semes-



Hairdresser Ruth Bobon cuts braids off of Melissa Martinelli of Fairfax Station. The braids of thick hair will be sent to Locks of Love.

SEE HAIRCUT, PAGE 7

Broker Guilty of Fraud

The president of a Vienna real estate firm pleaded guilty Friday to defrauding clients of more than \$1 million.

Rajasekhar Marni, 47, of Reston, pleaded guilty to federal wire fraud and money laundering during a hearing Friday, Aug. 22 in federal court in Alexandria.

Marni faces up to 30 years in federal prison and a fine of \$500,000 and must make full restitution, according to U.S. Attorney Chuck Rosenberg. U.S. District Court Judge T. S. Ellis, III is scheduled to sentence Marni in October.

Marni, the president of Loanworth Corporation, Inc. in Vienna, defrauded three sets of clients of more than \$1 million, according to Rosenberg and Joseph Persichini Jr., assistant director in charge of the FBI's Washington Field Office.

In March 2006, Marni arranged to purchase a Fairfax Station house for \$889,000. Marni had the homeowners, who agreed to finance Marni's purchase, transfer the title to him while he signed a deed of trust detailing terms of the loan. But Marni never recorded the loan with Fairfax County although he submitted documentation transferring the title to him, according to Rosenberg. He eventually sold the property to a third party and used the proceeds to buy a house for himself in Vienna.

Marni also admitted to defrauding a Lorton couple by convincing them to transfer the title of their property to Loanworth, Inc. for six months. During that time, he took out more than \$227,000 loans against the property. After the title was returned, one of Marni's lenders foreclosed on the home, resulting in a loss of the victim's equity in the property, according to Rosenberg.

— KEN MOORE

Teens May Ride with Police

Fairfax County Law Enforcement Explorer Post 1742 is looking for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20 to participate in a program designed to introduce members to the basics of law enforcement.

"These young men and women are afforded the opportunity to do ride alongs [with officers]. Usually there's an age limit to do ride alongs but with this program it's an exception to the rule," said Officer Eddy Azcarate, spokesman for the Fairfax County Police Department.

Explorers will take part in activities like fingerprinting, handcuffing, processing mock crime scenes and staffing police events. Older members will have the chance to practice shooting.

"I like to compare this group to a Boy Scout [or Girl Scout] group. It's the same kind of atmosphere," said Azcarate. "It's a great opportunity for a teenager to see what [law enforcement] is all about and what it entails."

Members will meet Sept. 22, from 7-9 p.m., at the Fairfax County Police Department Headquarters located at 4100 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax. An additional meeting takes place Sept. 29, from 7-9 p.m. in room 221C of the South County Government Center located at 8350 Richmond Highway in Alexandria. According to Azcarate, attendance is helpful but not required for participation.

For more information on the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Explorer Post 1742, call 703-246-4311.

— DEREK B. JOHNSON

8 Arrested at Checkpoint

Fairfax County Police Department conducted sobriety checkpoints over the weekend in the Franconia Police District, making a total of eight combined DWI arrests, 12 summonses for traffic offenses and charging one person with public drunkenness.

According to a Fairfax County Police release, on Friday, Aug. 22, from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m., officers cooperated with Division VII Virginia State Troopers to stop all motorists at the checkpoints to determine whether the driver had been impaired by alcohol or drugs. The initiative, working in conjunction with the 200 Checkpoint Strikeforce Campaign, is designed to combine enforcement with education with the purpose of raising awareness to the dangers of drunk-driving.

Poetry as Inspiration

Poets hope to attract local talent to Lorton coffee shop.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

When Karen Caldwell went to Busboys and Poets in Washington, D.C., a restaurant, bookstore and gathering place started by Iraqi-American artist and activist Anas "Andy" Shallal, she found the lyricism and polished performance of the outspoken poets moving.

After some time, Caldwell developed the idea of starting her own reading sessions in Lorton along with Springfield resident Maryam Noorie, a fellow poet she had met and befriended at the same D.C. venue.

"I think it's because, like I was saying, in the Lorton area we don't really have something like this," said Noorie at a table inside The Daily Grind on Lorton Station Boulevard. The coffee shop now hosts Noorie and Caldwell's Inspiration Poetry Open Mic event once a month. "A lot of people I know are looking for something like this, but they don't want to drive out to D.C."

Caldwell said she wanted all the passion and intellect that she saw at Busboys and Poets, but with one difference — some of the material performed there could be a little raw.

"I admired the poets, but I wanted to have something a little more family oriented, a little more PG," she said.

That was the idea behind the name that Caldwell and Noorie devised for the event.

"I use the word 'inspirational' kind of as a code word," said Caldwell. "I'm not too familiar in the poetic community whether that is actually letting people know what I'm talking about in terms of PG, but that's the only way I disguise it to the public."

"This is called 'H2O.' Has anyone heard it?" asked Noorie, at the Saturday, Aug. 23 poetry reading.

"I've drank it," said one of the poets in attendance to laughter.

Noorie laughed as well. "Well, hopefully you'll drink this too," she said.

THE TWO ASPIRING wordsmiths, along with Caldwell's husband Vincent and Travis Warnke manager of The Daily Grind, spread the word, distributed flyers and made phone calls. They also recruited poets at clubs and restaurants within the poetry-reading scene. Though attendance at Saturday's gathering numbered in the teens, Caldwell and Noorie managed to bring in accomplished poets, like Keanna



PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

Maryam Noorie said local poets are looking for a place to read their work closer to home. Here, she reads her work at The Daily Grind in Lorton.

Houston and Baltimore natives Mike Shellington and Gary Logan, to the Lorton coffee shop. Warnke made his coffee shop available to host the event.

Some poets, like Shellington, have outspoken and demonstrative styles, using their own variation on the melodic cadence and rhythm mixed with intricate wordplay. Others, like Logan and Caldwell, give more low-key performances, opting to let their words speak for themselves. Some, like Houston and Shellington, are there to read as well as promote

books or events.

One of Shellington's poems addresses humanity's reluctance to throw its possessions away.

It featured playful lines like "We got so much junk it's in a brass plated trunk" and "After 10 years, here's my old golf putter, we got clutter." Houston's work was more internally focused, with lines like "Some say that we live in a free world now but I can only wonder now, how we are free?" and "Buried in my mind are thoughts of mass confusion and deep inside my heart is pain ... pain, so unforgiving."

"Once I get the piece performed and timed, I just add little things as I go along," said Shellington.

Logan said his poetry is a way to connect with the rest of humanity.

"What you search to say with your poetry is commonality," he said "Hey, I'm one of you'. Express your thoughts through my thoughts."

Caldwell, a regular customer at The Daily Grind, thought it would make an appropriate venue for their monthly gatherings. She spoke of the link between poetry and coffee houses.

"It's a form of medication. Some people express their feelings through anger or whatever else. I write."

— Maryam Noorie

NEWS

Coffee and Poetry

FROM PAGE 4

"For me, the coffee house atmosphere is wholesome, it's intimate and it's conducive to chatting."

That's not to say they don't use it for their own purposes as well. Both Noorie and Caldwell, who doubles as emcee of the events, also read their own work multiple times throughout the night. Noorie said for her, poetry is a form of therapy.

"It's a form of medication. Some people express their feelings through anger or whatever else. I write."

The goal, Caldwell said, is to get as diverse and different a pool of poets as they can, as well as attract hidden talent from the area.

"I'm trying to discover some people," said Caldwell. "I really would like to just throw out the net and find people who write who don't want us to know they write."

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Sully District of the Fairfax County police department through Aug. 22.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY

4400 block of Brookfield Corporate Drive. Police were called to the 4400 block of Brookfield Corporate Drive at on Friday, Aug. 15, at 9:33 p.m., for an alarm activation. Officers checking the warehouse located a door slightly ajar and learned that a man had been seen running from the business moments earlier. The suspect was described as black, in his 20s. He was 5-feet 9-inches to 5-

feet 11-inches tall and 155 pounds. Nothing was taken from the business

LARCENIES

14600 block of Crenshaw Drive.

License plate stolen from vehicle.

4900 block of Stonecroft Blvd.

Wallet stolen from business.

6100 block of Stonepath Circle.

GPS stolen from vehicle.

14500 block of Sully Lake Court.

Sliding glass door stolen from residence.

5800 block of Trinity Parkway.

Cellular phone stolen from business.

4100 block of Winter Harbor Court.

Radio stolen from vehicle.

Sept. 13-14, 10 am - 4pm at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts

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www.internationalchildrensfestival.org

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Give-aways and handouts will be provided. A continental breakfast will be served.

Series Speaker: Barbara A. Watts, RN and CHPN of Evercare Hospice & Palliative Care

Making Major Medical Decisions	Making Your Wishes Known	Maintaining Memory
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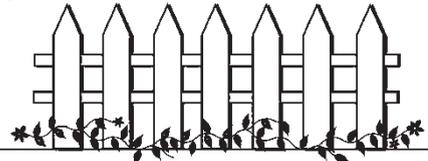
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Lorton	Sunrise at Lorton Station	703-550-2400	7665 Lorton Rd. AL, MC
Alexandria	Sunrise at Mount Vernon	703-780-9800	8033 Holland Rd. AL, MC
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PEOPLE

Getting To Know ...

Brenna Dolan, who took part in Baltimore's Fashion Week.

BY ESTHER PAK
THE CONNECTION

Brenna Dolan is a rising ninth grade student who has walked the hallways every day at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax. However, On Aug. 12-15, Dolan walked the runway at the inaugural Baltimore's Fashion Week. The event took place at the War Memorial Building in Baltimore, Md., and featured the newest designs of nine Baltimore's designers.

Brenna is a graduate of Barbizon Modeling School and is represented by L&M Modeling, but she is also experienced in the pageant arena. She first became involved in pageants at age 9, when she received some mail about the National American Miss pageant.

"At first, my mom and I laughed about it, but we realized that it wasn't a beauty pageant. It was a scholarship pageant based on poise, confidence and most of all, the interview," wrote Brenna in an e-mail to The Connection. She has been a resident of the Kings Park neighborhood in Fairfax for 12 years.

What is your most memorable pageant-memory to date?

My most memorable memory was when I was crowned Miss Virginia Jr. Pre-Teen 2003. I remember standing on the stage with bubbles floating from the ceiling and tears steaming down my face while I was being crowned. I love watching the video of me walking forward completely stunned that I had won.

How were you able to participate in Baltimore's Fashion Week?

My agent sent me an e-mail about an audition for fashion week back in November, and I was immediately interested.

What was your favorite aspect about being a part of Fashion Week?

There is no comparison for the feeling I get when I'm walking the runway in front of hundreds of people. You don't even see the audience because you're so focused on not tripping and just showing



Brenna Dolan models an outfit during Baltimore's Fashion Week.

off the garment you're modeling. It's so thrilling, and I can't wait to get back up there.

Did the event present any challenges?

PROFILE The only challenge was driving to Baltimore almost every weekend for fittings and rehearsals. I had to miss many swim meets and the first week of volleyball practice.

Favorite outfit you modeled for Fashion Week?

My favorite outfit was a dress made by LT Dickens. It was a gorgeous gold strapless dress with a low-waisted bubble skirt.

Do you see yourself pursuing modeling as a career?

Yes. I hope to sign with Elite model management or Ford models and possibly go international. "America's Next Top Model" is also an option.

Hobbies and extracurricular activities?

I play volleyball for my school on the freshman team. I take ballet, tap and pointe classes and swim during the summer. I also enjoy doing community service, being a Girl Scout and swing dancing for fun.



Katie Schmehl, 14, swims for the Sleepy Hollow Swim Team.

Katie Goes for Gold

With support of teammates, girl realizes dream of competition.

BY CIARA RICHARDS
THE CONNECTION

On Monday, July 21, Katie Schmehl of Falls Church realized her long-time dream of swimming with the Sleepy Hollow Swim Team. She swam in a B meet at the Forrest Hollow pool.

Katie, 14, has physical disabilities, is non-verbal and has balance and mobility issues. She also has moderate to severe intellectual disabilities.

Katie's 12-year-old sister Tori swims for Sleepy Hollow Recreation Association every summer. For years, Katie has watched Tori go to practice twice a week and participate in the meets and has always hoped to join her sister on the team.

"Katie wants to do everything her sister does," said Tricia Schmehl, the girls' mother. "She has been really pushing this for the past three to four years."

Katie first competed on the Friday before the meet at Forrest Hollow. The team was having a reverse meet, where the parents swam while the children played the role of the parents and coaches. Katie was asked if she wanted to swim as well. As a result, Katie's first competition was against adults.

Katie was then asked if she wanted to swim at the meet on the following Monday, and she indicated that she did.

ON MONDAY, Katie's dream became a reality as the swim coaches, parent representatives and other members of the teams all helped to allow her to participate in the meet.

"Not only did they help us put her in, but they also rallied and really encouraged her," said Tricia Schmehl. She described how the cheers erupted as Katie was lifted out of the pool.

"This really improved and expanded her relationship with the kids at the pool," said Tricia Schmehl. She described how the experience allowed the children to see that Katie was not so different and that she could do the same things that they could.

Following the meet, Katie was presented with an award at the award ceremony for the team. "The parents and kids went nuts clapping. It was really overwhelming to see the support," said Tricia Schmehl. "Katie was so shocked, she had a big smile on her face."

"It was the highlight of the summer for us," Tricia Schmehl said. "My husband and I are still talking about it."

"It was the highlight of the summer for us."

— Tricia Schmehl

VIEWPOINTS

What's been the most memorable moment for you from the Beijing Olympics?



"Watching gymnastics, during the team events, when the gymnast missed sticking her landing."
Robey Manno, Burke



"Usain Bolt winning the 100 meters and 200 meters."
Everett Eberhardt, Fairfax



"Probably like everybody else, Michael Phelps."
Al Galberth, Burke

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

Haircut Benefits Locks of Love

FROM PAGE 3

ter at GMU and managed a 4.0 GPA. "She did not allow cancer or anything to get her down," said Mary Ann Martinelli.

"That is one of the things that kept me focused because there was an end in sight," said Melissa Martinelli.

She not only managed to stay positive at school, but also at the hospital. Her mother and sister described how the family would go to the hospital with Melissa Martinelli for her appointments and just have

fun. They were friendly with the doctors and nurses and had a reputation among them for being a fun-loving family. "Even through all that stuff we still managed to laugh," said Melissa Martinelli.

Melissa Martinelli has been in remission for about two years and every three months, she undergoes a PET scan to measure her body function. She graduated from GMU last May, and now works as a RN at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington.

She has donated hair to Locks of Love four times and Jennifer Martinelli has donated three times.

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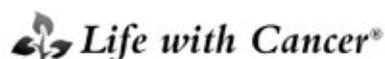
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THE COUNTY LINE

Does Fairfax Give Fair Grades?

Panel discusses whether tougher grading scale put students at a disadvantage.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

If a high school student earns a 92 percent average in the fall semester of their honors calculus course, what grade do they receive?

Well, it depends on where they live.

If the student attends a Fairfax County Public School, she earns a B plus. If she goes to a school across the Potomac River in Montgomery County, Md., the student receives an A.

The discrepancy in grade point averages (GPA) for the same grade in an honors class is even wider.

In Fairfax County, a 92 percent in an honors calculus class translates into a 3.5 GPA. In Montgomery County, the same score would earn a 5.0 GPA for that course.

FAIRFAX COUNTY employs a tougher six-point grading scale than the traditional 10-point scale used by Montgomery County and several other school systems.

In Fairfax, students must earn a 94 percent to receive an A, an 84 percent to earn a B and a 74 percent to earn a C. The 10-point scale awards an A for a score of 90 percent, a B for a score of 80 percent, and a C for a score of 70 percent.

Fairfax also adds a lighter "weight" to the GPAs of students who do advanced coursework.

Fairfax County will bump students up a .5 point on the GPA scale for a course an Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) class. But students who take an honors course receive no GPA benefit. In Montgomery County, students enrolled in both honors and AP/IB classes automatically earn a 1.0 GPA bonus.

Some parents and students said these differences in grading add up and ultimately hurt Fairfax students. Last January, a handful of county residents formed FAIRGRADE, a coalition that advocates for changes to Fairfax County Public Schools grading policies.

One McLean High School graduate speculates that his GPA would have been a 4.1 in Montgomery County, even though it was only a 3.4 in Fairfax. Had he received above a 4.0 GPA, the student would have been considered one of McLean's valedictorians and said he might have been looked at more favorably by colleges.

In addition to college admission, a student's GPA impacts whether they qualify for merit-based scholarships, college hon-

ors programs, collegiate sports programs and "good student" car insurance discounts.

According to FAIRGRADE, there is proof that Fairfax County students receive GPAs that are, on average, lower than their peers.

The organization's analysis shows that about 10 percent of Fairfax students have a GPA of 3.75 or higher. In other comparable school districts across the country, the share of students with a GPA of that caliber is closer to 20 or 30 percent, they said.

"Our kids will be reviewed against kids from Montgomery County. ... And our kids are competing with fewer A's," said Megan McLaughlin, a co-founder of FAIRGRADE, parent and Braddock community member. McLaughlin has also worked for admissions offices at Georgetown and Duke universities.

FAIRFAX COUNTY Public Schools agreed to review the impact of its grading policy in response to the agitation of FAIRGRADE and other county residents.

Pat Murphy, an assistant superintendent with the school system, said he expects to issue a report on Fairfax County's grading

policies to Superintendent Jack Dale by late fall. The school system also held a "Grading Policy Round Table" — which more than 200 residents attended in the middle of a work-day — Aug. 25. The round table featured college admission officers from the University of Maryland at College Park, George Mason University, University of Virginia and Johns Hopkins University.

Of those admissions officers who attended the forum, the reactions to FAIRGRADE's proposed changes to Fairfax's grading policies were mixed.

None of the admission officers thought the change from a six-point to a 10-point scale would hurt Fairfax County Public Schools reputation. But most had doubts that it would have much of a positive impact on how Fairfax County students would be viewed by college admissions officers.

"I couldn't care less if [an A means] 94 to 100 or 90 to 100," said Greg Roberts, the



School Board member Janie Strauss (Dranesville) chats with FAIRGRADE co-founder Sara Pacque'-Margolis after a Grading Policy Round Table Aug. 25.

University of Virginia's senior associate dean of admission. Roberts has also worked in admissions at Emory or Georgetown universities.

Virginia reviews its undergraduate applications holistically and the admissions officer has a profile of the school district and individual school the student attends. They try to put the students' grades in context and not just judge by how high their GPA may be or how many A's they might have, said Roberts.

"We try and get an understanding of what the grade means in that school and in that class," he added.

IF FAIRFAX changed its grading policy and started awarding more A's, Roberts and the other three admissions officers said it would not result in more Fairfax students being accepted to their institutions.

"This is not going to be a silver bullet. Don't get too far out ahead as to how much this would change things," said Andrew Flagel, the dean of admissions at Mason.

Flagel added that, even if the grading policies changed, it is not clear that student grades would alter that drastically. Teachers have a lot of discretion when it comes to grades and could continue to give the same marks regardless of the policy change, he said.

Hopkins undergraduate admissions dean, John Latting, said moving toward awarding more A's could actually hurt higher achieving students. When more students receive A's, it is harder for colleges and universities to discern whom the very high achieving students are, he said.

"If the number of A's given out increases by three times, then the value of the A goes down," said Latting, who has also worked at the California Institute of Technology and

Stanford University.

Latting added that certain regions of the country, such as California, are famous for grade inflation. Other areas, like New England, are known for having "depressed" grades.

He suggested the school system first look at increasing the GPA "weights" awarded for honors and AP/IB classes, so that those students injecting more "rigor" into their coursework are rewarded.

But all admissions officers acknowledged that Fairfax's grading policy probably drives down the amount of scholarship money students receive. Few national scholarship programs — such as those offered by large business organizations — "reconfigure" student GPAs to account for a tougher grading scale or "weighting" system the way a college admissions office would. Many simply have a GPA cut off that Fairfax students might be less likely to meet.

"There is more substantial argument on the scholarship side," said Flagel.

A few FAIRGRADE members also point out that Fairfax County's grading policies could put students at a disadvantage with colleges and universities outside of the region.

One panelist, Woodson PTA president Catherine Potter, said many schools farther away from Fairfax County are not familiar with the school district's reputation and do not account for its tougher grading policies. "FCPS is not well known once you leave the mid-Atlantic area," she said.

During her son's college search last year, Potter said she discovered that some schools, including the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), do not account for "pluses" or "minuses" on grades, meaning that a B plus — or 93 percent in Fairfax County — would be looked at as a B.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

OPINION

Prepare To Vote in November

Make plans now for Tuesday, Nov. 4.

You will want to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 4. You'll want to be part of choosing the next president. In Virginia, you'll also choose a new U.S. senator to replace retiring John Warner (R), and you'll also vote in a contest for the U.S. House of Representatives.

To vote, you'll need to be registered.

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 4 election is Monday, Oct. 6.

Your vote has never counted as much as it could this fall. While Virginia has voted reliably for the Republican candidate for president for more than a generation, with hundreds of thousands of new voters, many in Northern Virginia, and Democrats winning recent statewide elections, both political parties are actively working in Virginia right now.

You'll also need to plan to spend some time at your polling place, because there is likely to be record turnout for this hotly contested election. When you go to vote, allow enough time to wait in line. Come prepared with identification, and know your rights.

Virginia voters are asked to show some form of identification when they go to the polls to vote— voter registration card; Virginia driver's license; social security card; any identification card issued by a federal, state or local government agency; or any employer identification card with a photograph.

But if you arrive at the polls without identification, you can still vote by signing a statement affirming your identity. Exception: If this is the first time you vote since registering to vote by mail, and if you did not include a copy of your ID with your application, and do not bring ID with you to vote, you cannot sign the affirmation statement; you can still vote, ask for and fill out a provisional ballot.

EXCERPTS from the State Board of Elections: As a Virginia Voter, you have the following rights:

- ❖ To be treated with courtesy and respect by the election officials
- ❖ To vote if you have registered at your current address at least 29 days before Election

Fimian Backer

To the Editor:

Keith Fimian, 11th District congressional candidate, has repeatedly stated that issues like energy, economy and national security are more important than cultural issues, and I think he's right. While social issues like abortion rally the activists, rising gas prices and falling home values affect everyone, and we need a congressman that will be responsive to those needs.

I have been disappointed that Gerry Connolly (D) hasn't taken a position for or against offshore drilling, despite the fact that 75 percent of the country and Demo-

crats like Mark Warner and Jim Webb support it. I was even more disappointed that Gerry Connolly supported raising the gas tax, despite the record highs we're already paying.

LETTERS

Keith Fimian believes in commonsense principles he learned when he built his successful business from the ground up. Unlike Gerry Connolly, he's not beholden to anyone, and he put forward many ideas on how to solve our country's problems. Connolly believes he can hide out until Election Day because he already has it wrapped up. I hope

Day.

- ❖ To seek help from the election officials if you are unsure about anything relating to the voting process.

- ❖ To be given a demonstration of how the voting equipment works.

- ❖ To enter the full name of a write-in candidate if the candidate of your choice is not on the ballot (except in party primaries).

- ❖ To have a ballot brought to your vehicle instead of entering the polling place if you are 65 years of age or older, or if you are disabled.

- ❖ To have an officer of election or other person help you vote if you are physically disabled or unable to read or write.

Blind voters may have any person assist them. Other voters may have anyone who is not their employer or union representative assist them.

- ❖ To vote even if you have no identification with you at the polling place. You must sign the "Affirmation of Identity" statement before voting if you have no ID.

- ❖ To vote a Provisional Ballot if your status as a qualified voter is in question, and to be present when the Electoral Board meets to determine if your ballot will be counted. See "Provisional Ballots" below.

- ❖ To bring your minor child (age 15 or younger) into the voting booth with you to observe you vote.

- ❖ To vote if you are in line by 7 p.m. when the polls close.

- ❖ To cast an absentee ballot if you are qualified to vote absentee.

- ❖ To register to vote absentee in Virginia if you are a U.S. Citizen overseas and your last residence in the U. S. was in Virginia, or you are a Virginia resident away in the military.

IF YOU FEEL your voting rights have been violated or that you may have witnessed an election law being broken, it is important to report the incident before the polls have closed, preferably while you are still there. Contact the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745, or via e-mail at info@sbe.virginia.gov. The Voter Registrar will investigate your case

and may be able to resolve the problem immediately.

If you still believe your voting rights may have been violated or may be violated, you have 10 days to file a formal complaint with the State Board of Elections.

Don't forget that you also have responsibilities as a voter, including:

- ❖ To treat the election officials with courtesy and respect.

- ❖ To keep your voter registration information up-to-date with your current address.

- ❖ To ask for help if you do not know how to use the voting equipment or have other questions about the voting process.

- ❖ To check your ballot for correctness before casting it. Once your ballot is cast, you cannot be given another ballot even if you think you voted incorrectly.

- ❖ To ask the election official to call the General Registrar's office before you leave the polling place if you have problems regarding your eligibility to vote or the casting of your ballot.

Register, Vote

The deadline to register to vote or update your address for the Nov. 4 election is Monday, Oct. 6. To register to vote, download a form from:

http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Forms_Publications/Index.html

Fill it out and mail it to your local elections office. You can also register in person during business hours, or pick up a form in a library or other public places.

After you register, you will receive confirmation and a voting card in the mail. You can call the elections office to verify that you are registered.

Fairfax County Office of Elections
12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323

Fairfax, Virginia 22035-0081
703-222-0776 phone
703-324-2205 fax
703-324-4700 for 24-hour recorded information

To find your polling place, go to www.sbe.virginia.gov and click on "voter information."

Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.

THE CONNECTION

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LEISURE

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



Ciao Roma, oil on canvas by Lisa Neher



Kitty Hawk, oil on canvas by Lisa Neher

Fairfax Art League's September show is "Two of Four," with Lisa Neher as the artist of the month. A versatile artist who expresses exuberance through numerous media, Neher displays in oil for this show. The artist's reception will be Monday, Sept. 8, from 7-9 p.m. Refreshments will be served; admission and is free. The show runs from Sept. 8 through Oct. 2, at Fairfax Old Town Hall, second floor, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free parking in nearby city lots. The building is wheelchair accessible with a ramped entrance on Main Street and elevators to second floor. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 703-273-2377 or City Park's Art Line at 703-352-ARTS ext. 5 or visit www.fairfaxartleague.com.



Tulips in Light, tempura by Yasuko Riggs

The Springfield Art Guild will feature artists Yasuko Riggs and Ginny Oetjen-Gerdes through Sept. 17, at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 703-339-4610 or contact Deena Sanks at 703-825-1334 or deenalynn@msn.com.

LEISURE

"The more I looked at it the better I liked it."

— Jim Chesley



A variety of antique cars and trucks were on display for the 2007 Clifton Car Show. The annual event returns on Monday, Sept. 1, raising money for Life With Cancer.

Hot Rods for a Hot Day

Ninth Annual Clifton Car Show benefits charity.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Hot rods and cool cars will be rolling into the Town of Clifton on Monday, Sept. 1., from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., for the ninth annual Labor Day Car Show.

About 400 cars will be on display on Main Street — everything from antiques, street rods, customs, classics to motorcycles. Some Smart Cars and hybrids will be on display, but the main attraction will be the antiques. Last year's event drew about 2,500 people.

The Clifton Lions Club will be selling hotdogs and hamburgers. The Clifton Presbyterian Church will offer meatball subs and the Pink Pantry will serve coffees and pastries. Mayor Tom Peterson will be selling ice cream in his shop as well.

In addition, a deejay will be playing oldies and visitors may win door prizes and dash plaques will be presented to the first 250 show vehicles.

Fifty trophies will be awarded this year, with about 40 of them being "Participant Pick" awards, the remaining being specialty trophies like Ladies Choice, Best Motorcycle, Best Antique, said organizer Jim Chesley. Specialty trophies will be in the shape of 10-inch painted plates.

This year's show benefits Life with Cancer, which provides classes through the Inova Healthcare System, support, information and education to people facing cancer. Life With Cancer offers program and services free of charge to people with cancer and their relatives regardless of where the treatment is received. Life With Cancer will have its own booth at the show.



At last year's show, Paul and Pam Balash share information about their 1942 Willys Coupe Gasser with onlookers.

"The more I looked at it the better I liked it," said Chesley. "When my dad died in 1994. It would have been nice to have a support group back then," said Chesley.

In addition, a 50-50 raffle will give away a DeWalt leather Cycle jacket personally autographed by Matt Kenseth for \$5/ticket or 5/\$20. Donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

Registration is \$15 at the gate. For show and vendor information, contact Jim Chesley, 703-830-2129 or by e-mail jchesley@aol.com. To learn more about the event visit www.customcrusiersnova.com. For more about Life With Cancer, call 703-776-2841 or visit www.lifewithcancer.org.

CALENDAR

LAUREL HILL/FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON CONNECTION
ASSISTANT EDITOR PAULA FRIEDRICH
703-917-6459 OR FAIRFAX@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/AUG. 28

Russian Cultural Heritage Night. Traditional Russian music played on traditional instruments such as the balalaika. 7:30 p.m. Ossian Hall Park, 7900 Heritage Drive, Annandale. Free. Call 703-324-7469 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Time for School. Stories and activities about starting school. Age 3-5 with adult. 1 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call to register 703-339-4610.

The Wild Creatures of Fairfax County. Learn about the wildlife found at Hidden Pond Nature Center and other parts of Fairfax County, and meet some live critters. Presented by Hidden Pond Nature Center. 10:30 a.m. All ages. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Call to register 703-451-8055.

Sonata Arctica with Blood Corps. 7 p.m. All ages; \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-5940 or visit www.jaxxroxx.com.

FRIDAY/AUG. 29

City of Fairfax Alte Kameraden German Band. Featuring the Blaskapelle Alte Kameraden Bavarian band. You are invited to AUG-toberfest with authentic fest musik and "gemultichkeit". 7:30 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Free. Call 703-324-7469 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Ponderings - Local Geology. Try panning for gold and use a microscope to spy on micro minerals at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 3:30 to 5 p.m. This program is suitable for children ages 6 to 10 years. Reservations are required. The cost is \$6 per child. To reserve, Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. call 703-451-9588.

After Dark in the Park - Eels. Explore creek life at Hidden Pond Nature Center from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The program ends with a campfire and s'mores. Wear shoes that can get wet. For children ages six years and older. Reservations required. \$8 per child. Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Call 703-451-9588.

SATURDAY/AUG. 30

Back to School Local Band Bash. 1:15 p.m. All ages; \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-5940 or visit www.jaxxroxx.com.

SUNDAY/AUG. 31

Potomac Hosta Club. 12 p.m. Picnic, Hostas auction and plant exchange. Heather Hills Nurseries at 8111 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. New members always welcome. For more information, call 703-866-2211 or visit hostaclub@gmail.com.

Krass Judgement Fest. All ages; \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-5940 or visit www.jaxxroxx.com.

MONDAY/SEPT. 1

Labor Day Car Show. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Street rods, customs, antiques, muscle cars, classics and more. Food and music, prizes and trophies. All



The Potomac Hosta Club will host a picnic, hosta auction and plant exchange on Sunday, Aug. 31, at Heather Hills Nurseries in Fairfax Station. Bring a dish to share and a plant to swap. New members are always welcome.

proceeds benefit Life with Cancer. On the streets of Historic Clifton. Call Jim Chesley, 703-830-2129.

Labor Day Picnic. St. Mary of Sorrows Church is hosting its annual Labor Day Picnic on the church grounds. Open to all. 10:20 a.m.-5 p.m. This will begin a year long celebration commemorating St Mary's founding 150 years ago. Live bands, historic reenactors, 1850s games, rides, raffle and bingo. Food, crafts and baked goods for sale. Located at the intersection of Fairfax Station Road and Route 123 in Fairfax. 703-978-4141.



TUESDAY/SEPT. 2

A is for Apple. 10:30 a.m. Stories, activities and a craft. Age 2-3 with adult. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 3

Practice your English. 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Conversation group for people learning English. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 4

Daytime Book Discussion Group. 12:15 p.m. "Mohawk" by Richard Russo. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Call 703-339-4610.

Back-to-School Beauty. Hair care and hairstyle tips for teens. 4 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. 703-339-7385.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 5

Leukemia Cup Regatta. The National Capital Area Chapter of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society invites area sailors and power boaters to the Leukemia Cup Regatta. 12 p.m. The National Capital Area Chapter Honorary Skipper, Tyler McDille, will be participating in the Regatta in his first experience outside his home since he was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia when he was 8 months old. One-Design and PHRF style boats welcome. Races will take place throughout the day. Spectator boats will be available to take people out, \$10 per person. Registration fees vary per boat. Old Dominion Boat Club, 1 King St., Alexandria. Call Loree Lipstein at 703-960-1100, or visit www.leukemicup.org/nca.

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. Bring Lunch

and come for stories. Birth-5 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call 703-971-0010.

On the Go. 10:30 a.m. Stories and activities about things on the move. Age 15-35 months with adult. Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. Call 703-451-8055.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 6

Impaled with Phobia, Malignancy, Illogistic, Maruta, Freehand Arson, Emesis. 6:15 p.m. All ages. \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-5940 or visit www.jaxxroxx.com.

Propagation Series: Seed Saving. 9:30-11 a.m. Learn the basics of seed saving, including seed harvest, drying, cleaning and storage. Venture into the gardens with Mary Frogale, propagation horticulturist, and collect seed to take home from unique annuals and perennials. \$22. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.greenspring.org.

Family Fun: Monarch Magic. 2-3:30 p.m. Children 5 and up with accompanying adult explore the life cycle of monarch butterflies. Make a caterpillar cage, add a milkweed snack, and adopt a tiny larva to take home to release in your own garden. \$10/project. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.greenspring.org.

Canoeing. Learn the basic mechanics of canoeing with an emphasis on safety and enjoyment. 1-3 p.m. Then take to the water and experience the 55-acre lake, the wetland, streams and views of waterfowl and marsh life while paddling a canoe. Children

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Canoes and life jackets are provided. Bring a water bottle and snack if desired. The cost is \$12 per person. For reservations, call 703-569-0285. Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road in Springfield. Visit <http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink>.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Dog Days. 12-4 p.m. Participating parks include Bull Run Water Park in Centreville, Downpour Water Park at Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling, Great Waves at Cameron Run Regional Park in Alexandria, Pirate's Cove at Pohick Bay Regional Park in Lorton and Upton Hill Regional Park in Arlington. Admission is \$5 per dog. Dog owners must fill out a liability waiver and dog must have a current license and rabies vaccination. For more information, including directions to any of the facilities, visit www.nvrpa.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 8

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony following morning session of the Board of Supervisors' regular meeting, approximately 12 p.m., at the 9/11 Memorial Grove behind the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The rain site for the ceremony will be the Government Center Forum. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2008/161.htm.

The Ashley Fister Cole Foundation sixth annual Driving for Surviving Melanoma Charity



Sonata Arctica performs on Thursday, Aug. 28 with Blood Corps, at Jaxx Night Club in Springfield.

Golf Classic. 1 p.m. at Stonewall Golf Club on Lake Manassas, 15601 Turtle Point Drive, Gainesville. All net proceeds from this year's tournament will help fund the trial study programs of researcher Dr. Wen-Jen Hwu at the University of Texas' MD Anderson Cancer Center. Play golf with free range balls, a cart, greens fee, lunch, unlimited

beverages on the course and dinner, \$175. Hole sponsors with signs and a special message on one of the tee boxes, \$200. Visit www.ashleyfistercolefoundation.org. **Fall Crafts. 3:30 p.m.** After-school activities and crafts. Age 6-12. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call 703-971-0010.



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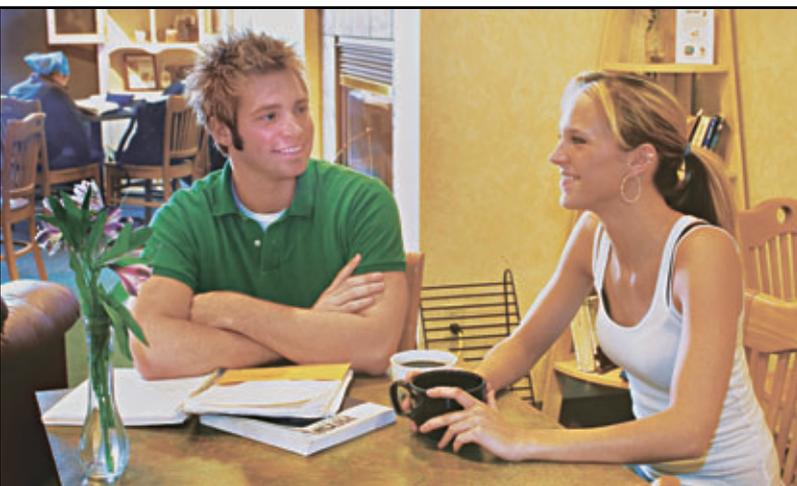
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8806 COPPERLEAF WAY	5	3	1		FAIRFAX STATION	\$515,000	Detached	0.243825	07/29/08
14002 MARLEIGH LN	4	2	1		CLIFTON	\$475,000	Detached	0.219307	07/25/08
8351 MILLOM CT	3	3	1		LORTON	\$455,000	Townhouse	0.058287	07/11/08
9669 HAWKSHEAD DR	4	3	1		LORTON	\$452,000	Detached	0.082645	07/30/08
9277 LAUREL RIDGE CROSSING RD	3	3	1		LORTON	\$441,500	Townhouse	0.042975	07/25/08
9064 TANYARD LN	3	2	2		LORTON	\$417,000	Townhouse	0.058953	07/15/08
9607 THOMAS BAXTER PL	3	2	2		LORTON	\$413,220	Townhouse	0.05	07/29/08
8933 PERIWINKLE BLUE CT#LOT 31	2	2	0		LORTON	\$396,000	Detached	0.011478	07/28/08
9000 DOLSIE GROVE DR	5	2	1		LORTON	\$330,000	Detached	0.258035	07/17/08
6712 RED BIRD WOODS CT	4	3	1		LORTON	\$330,000	Townhouse	0.034435	07/31/08
9078 MARIE CT	3	3	1		LORTON	\$327,000	Townhouse	0.036869	07/25/08
8604 ROCKY GAP CT	3	2	2		LORTON	\$291,000	Townhouse	0.034894	07/18/08
7832 BELLWETHER CT	3	3	1		LORTON	\$270,000	Townhouse	0.034894	07/15/08
5718 OSPREY CT	2	3	0		CLIFTON	\$258,000	Townhouse	0.053375	07/25/08
6920 HAMILTON CT	3	1	1		LORTON	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.049242	07/21/08
13573 RUDDY DUCK RD	2	2	0		CLIFTON	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.027548	07/11/08
7403 RHONDDA DR	3	2	1		LORTON	\$247,000	Townhouse	0.033058	07/24/08
6005 LITTLE BROOK CT	3	2	1		CLIFTON	\$246,500	Townhouse	0.03214	07/25/08
9519 SALUDA CT	4	3	1		LORTON	\$245,000	Townhouse	0.063108	07/30/08
13679 WILDFLOWER LN	3	2	1		CLIFTON	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.029362	07/25/08
7706 WOLFORD WAY	3	3	0		LORTON	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.036731	07/28/08
9193 SHEFFIELD HUNT CT	3	2	2		LORTON	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.03214	07/31/08
9506 UNITY LN	3	2	2		LORTON	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.037879	07/18/08
9238 CARDINAL FOREST LN#302	2	2	1		LORTON	\$232,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		07/18/08
7313 RHONDDA DR	4	2	1		LORTON	\$231,000	Townhouse	0.030762	07/14/08
9300D CARDINAL FOREST LN #302	2	2	1		LORTON	\$230,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		07/11/08
9556 INVERARY CT	3	2	0		LORTON	\$180,000	Townhouse	0.059091	07/25/08
9624 HAGEL CIR #25/A	2	1	0		LORTON	\$163,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		07/23/08
9541 HAGEL CIR #09/A	2	1	0		LORTON	\$120,000	Townhouse		07/03/08

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The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce will host a black-tie Membership Gala on Friday, Oct. 3 at the Waterford at Springfield. The gala will provide an opportunity for businesses to learn about the Chamber and give current members another

venue to make and develop business connections and relations with area business owners and executives. Gala tickets are \$125 per guest. Call to reserve, 703-923-7611. For more about the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce visit www.springfieldchamber.org.

Fairfax Corner 14 theaters will run Attack of the B Movies, a double feature program with the best of the worst horror movies ever made, every Thursday at 7 p.m. through Halloween. Admission is \$5 each week. Fairfax Corner 14, 11900 Palace Way, Fairfax. 703-502-4060.

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7324 SPRING VIEW CT	\$349,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
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7688 GREEN GARLAND DR	\$529,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
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11335 ARISTOTLE DR #5-215	\$329,900	Sun 1-23	Century 21	Danielle Dojczak	540-955-2500
10618 GOLDENEYE LN	\$589,750	9/7 14	RE/MAX	Sandra Mason	703-522-1940
11326 ARISTOTLE DR #4-103	\$230,000	Sun 1-4	ERA	Lana Hartmann	703-359-7800
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The Financial Education Center for Women Entrepreneurs conducts several classes at the Community Business Partnership, 7001 Loisdale Road, Suite C, Springfield. Limited scholarships available for all classes. Call 703-768-1440 or visit www.cbponline.org.

Financial Planning for Separation and Divorce. Thursday, Sept. 11 from 7-10 p.m. \$55 non-members, \$45 members. This seminar covers all financial components of the property settlement agreement from preparing documents for an attorney to the signing of the agreement. Investment & Resource Planning Associates, 10600 Arrowhead Drive, Suite 310, Fairfax. To register go to www.thewomenscenter.org or call 703-281-2657.

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or teens/adults in drawing and watercolor painting. All classes meet at the Ponds Community Centre, Burke Centre. Drawing Plus Color for 5-8-year olds and art lessons for 8 and up are on Tuesdays or Saturdays. Art Workshop & Chinese Brush Painting for teens/adults are Saturday mornings from 10:30 a.m.-12:30. Class sessions vary from 7-10 weeks. Call Carol Zeitlin at 703-250-6930 or www.geocities.com/zeitlinschneier or e-mail.

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LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Northern Virginia offers golf clinics for girls throughout the Northern Virginia area. All girls rising grades 1 through 12 are invited. Parents and girls may register online at www.GirlsLoveGolf.com. For more, contact Elena Melchert at Elena@GirlsLoveGolf.com or 703-475-4163.

PARENTING

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Welcome to the 2008 Connection Pigskin Preview. In this special section, you will find team breakdowns, as well as a glance around the region, a recap of last year's standings and predictions for some week one match-ups. For a complete look at the football landscape, visit our Web site at www.connectionnewspapers.com. Special thanks to Robbie Hammer, Craig Sterbutzel, Louise Krafft, Stuart Moll and John Smith.

—ERIC J. GILMORE, MARK GIANNOTTO AND RICH SANDERS



South County Stallions



Head Coach: Pete Bendorf, fourth year.

Career Record: 77-70

2007 Record: 6-5 overall, 5-2 Patriot District (lost in first round of Div. 6 playoffs)

Returning Starters: six offense, eight defense

Key Losses: RB Titus Pennington; TE/DE Richard During; QB Chris Mitchell; DB Tim Pennington; WR Ryan Kelley

Top Returners: RB/DB/KR Eric Dorsey, Sr., 5-8, 175; WR/DB Karlos Morgan, Sr., 5-7, 150; WR/DB Kyle Michaels, Sr., 5-10, 175

Must Win: Week Four, Sept. 19, vs. Lake Braddock

Fun Fact: South County was one of three teams to down West Springfield last season, with its thrilling 35-31 victory. The other two teams to beat the Spartans, Westfield and Stone Bridge, both won state championships.

Aspect to Watch: With Lake Braddock and West Potomac decimated by graduation, the Stallions could be poised to challenge West Springfield for in the upper echelon of the district race. And how much of a momentum builder did inching into the playoffs in 2007 make for the off-season?



Robinson Rams



Head Coach: Mark Bendorff, 12th year.

Career Record: 106-25

2007 Record: 6-6 overall, 2-4 Concord District (lost in Div. 6 semifinals)

Returning Starters: 5 offense/4 defense.

Key Losses: RB/ATH Peter Ferrara; DL Logan Perryman; DL Derek Qadir; Rafiq Quadir

Top Returners: QB Timmy Meier, Sr., 5-11, 185; FB Alex Murray, Sr., 5-10, 195; LB Brian Laiti, Jr., 6-4, 200; RB/DB Wynton Fox, Sr., 5-7, 170; DE Ryan Holder, Sr., 6-2, 215

Must win: Week Six, Oct. 3 vs. Centreville

Fun Fact: With Westfield, Robinson was recently named one of the top-20 programs of the decade within Virginia. It won the state championship in 2001 and went again in 2004. Over the past decade, coach Mark Bendorff is 79-17.

Aspect to Watch: The schedule. Without a doubt, Robinson has the toughest slate in the Northern Region, taking on Lake Braddock, West Springfield and Stone Bridge in non-district games. With Oakton much improved, it's going to be tough to muster wins arguably the toughest district in the state.



Lake Braddock Bruins



Head Coach: Jim Poythress, fifth year.

Career Record: 42-29

2007 Record: 8-3 overall, 6-1 Patriot District (lost in first round of Div. 6 playoffs)

Returning Starters: one offense, two defense

Key Losses: QB Shane Halley; WR/DB/KR Keon Robinson; FB Michael Harrison; OL/DL Judson Gates; OL/DL Robert Vickers; TE James Phillips

Top Returners: QB Ryan Curtis, Jr., 6-2, 195; DE Kyle Merrell, Sr., 6-3, 200; C/DE J.C. Weidinger, Sr., 6-0, 185; OL Khamrone Kolb, Jr., 6-6, 300

Must win: Week Five, Sept. 26 vs. T.C. Williams

Fun Fact: Lake Braddock held four different opponents to single digits, including two shutouts. The 124 points the Bruins gave up last season were the least throughout the Northern Region.

Aspect to Watch: Perhaps more than any other team, Lake Braddock was decimated by graduation. Having lost so many key players, like standouts Shane Halley and Keon Robinson, who will step up to fill their shoes? With games against Robinson and W.T. Woodson to open the season, there isn't much time to find the answers.



Northern Region at a Glance

CONCORDE DISTRICT

Westfield

The **Westfield Bulldogs** used 48 seniors — 21 of who were starters — to earn its second Division 6 state title in four years, defeating Woodbridge, 42-14, which completed a perfect 15-0 season. The Bulldogs were downright dominant, beating its opponents by an average of 29.4 points, while allowing only 8.8 points per game and recording five shutouts. Head coach Tom Verbanic, who is 69-6 over the past six years, will look to junior quarterback Danny Fenyak to replace Mike Glennon, who is now playing at NC State. The Bulldogs also have to replace receiver Johnny Pickett (Ball State). But with Tyler Barfield, an all-region lineman, returning and one of the top junior varsity teams in the area, Westfield should be poised for another solid season.



Chantilly

The **Chantilly Chargers** have something to prove this season after getting ousted by Robinson in the first round of the Division 6 playoffs, just a year removed from a state championship appearance. The Chargers have to replace senior quarterback/safety Austin Decker and linebacker Mike Quigg, but have two solid Division I recruits in running back Torrian Pace and Issac Sine. Pace, clocked at 4.47 seconds in the 40-yard dash, averaged 10.9 yards per carry en route to 12 touchdowns while sharing with three other backs a year ago. This season, he and Sine, a 6-foot-3, 218-pound linebacker, will have to lead a young crop if the Chargers want to make a third-consecutive playoff berth.



Oakton

The **Oakton Cougars** are now three years removed from the 2004 Division 6 state title, and frankly, there has been a two-year hangover. After having eight Division I players graduate in 2006, Oakton struggled to a 5-5 record in 2007, losing to Madison and Annandale to open the season. The offense should be strong with Ryan Harris and Chris Coyer, both solid senior quarterbacks, returning along with all-district selection Trey Watts in the backfield. Senior Jack Tyler, a 6-foot-2, 215-pound linebacker who has 193 career tackles, will help to anchor the defense, while 6-foot-5 all-region punter/tight end Wade Reynolds also returns. Oakton should be undefeated heading into a home game against Chantilly in week six.



James Robinson

The **James Robinson Rams** made five-straight regional title game appearances, winning the state championship in 2001 and losing in 2004. But ever since joining the Concorde District four years ago, the Rams have lost 12 times compared



to just five losses in the previous five years. Robinson still made the playoffs last season, their ninth time in the past 11 seasons, but squandered a late lead to West Springfield. Robinson is still hopeful with quarterback Timmy Meier and running back Alex Murray both returning after starting last season. The schedule is again brutal with Lake Braddock, West Springfield and Stone Bridge littering the non-district schedule.

Centreville

The **Centreville Wildcats** ended a two-year playoff drought, but squandered a 12-point lead over West Springfield with less than six minutes remaining in the region quarterfinal. It was only the second time the Wildcats relinquished 15-plus points all season. But 2008 will be different as defensive coordinator Mike Skinner went to Stone Bridge and assistant Roy Ferri was hired at Stuart. Second-year coach Gerry Pannoni has to replace first-team all-region standouts Darryl Hamilton (Richmond) and Donnell Carpenter defensively, but senior defensive end Mike Upham is a nice start. Senior David Toth and junior Cam Walter are vying for the starting quarterback slot, while third-year starter Luke Bowanko, who has committed to the U-Va., will again anchor the offensive line. The biggest questions are at the skill positions, where Pannoni is considering playing freshmen.



Herndon

The **Herndon Hornets** were one of the hottest teams at the end of the 2007 season, winning four of five (the lone loss was against Westfield) after starting the season 1-4. The Hornets, who had their a non-winning season for the first time in five years, have now adjusted to second-year coach Joe Sheaffer's schemes and should again vie for a playoff slot. Junior Zach Ozycz will again command the offense, a job he won late last season. On the ground, junior tailback Devin Thompson replaces Desmond Seifu and Chris Winston, while junior fullbacks Austin Moore and Sam Grother will also be counted on.



Fairfax

To say the **Fairfax Rebels** have struggled of late would be an understatement. The Rebels haven't had a winning season in nine years, and since joining the Concorde District three years ago, Fairfax hasn't sniffed a victory. In fact, it's given up 30 points per game since 2005, and was outscored 218-28 within the district in 2007. A sliver of hope for second-year coach Chris Haddock is that he returns 13 starters, including senior quarterback Abdul Amin, running back Alex Price and 6-foot-4, 285-pound Josh Patterson. And the Rebels face Washington-Lee and Falls Church — the two teams they collected wins against last season — again this year.



PATRIOT DISTRICT

West Springfield

In 2007, the **West Springfield Spartans** made the Northern Region final for the first time in 14 seasons, eventually losing to Westfield. Coach Bill Renner's son, quarterback Bryn Renner — a UNC recruit — will command the offense (2,749 passing yards, 32 touchdowns) along with senior tailback Brandon Bailey (1,438 rushing yards, seven rushing touchdowns). The Spartans have to improve defensively (having relinquished an average of 32.7 points per game over the past two seasons), but return the majority of their offensive line and are poised for a possible state championship run. But tilts against Stone Bridge and Edison in the first two weeks of the season will be brutal tests.



West Potomac

In 2007, the **West Potomac Wolverines** went 8-4 — the team's best season since 2000, the same year it last made the playoffs. The Wolverines reversed a 41-0 regular season loss to Lake Braddock when they narrowly defeated the Bruins in the playoffs. West Potomac graduated 13 starters, including two Division I signees. But quarterback Cole Walter (2,195 passing yards, 26 touchdowns), running back Daniel Baker (542 rushing yards, five touchdowns) and speedy wide receiver Kristian Rodriguez (395 receiving yards, four touchdowns) return for an offense that averaged 39.5 points during a four-game stretch last year. The key will be avoiding injuries and maintaining momentum once the district season starts.



South County

The **South County Stallions** took another step forward in 2007, making the playoffs for the first time in school history. After starting the season 1-3, the Stallions won five of their last six regular-season games to sneak into the eighth and final Division 6 playoff spot. Coach Pete Bendorf will run a spread offense, going with either junior Aaron Andrews or sophomore Evan Beal at quarterback. All-district playmaker Titus Pennington graduated, so senior Eric Dorsey will step in at running back. The Stallions do return three offensive linemen and eight starters on defense. The experience — and youth at quarterback — will be tested when South County faces Westfield and Edison within the first three weeks.



Lake Braddock

It's hard to believe, but the **Lake Braddock Bruins** were winless four seasons ago. The 2007 season yielded an 8-3 record — the team's most wins this decade — and a Patriot District co-championship. More importantly, the Bruins made the Division 6 playoffs for the first time in eight years, losing at home to West Potomac. But things will be drastically different as Lake Braddock graduated two-way all-district standouts Shane Halley and Keon Robinson. Actually, of the 12 all-district selections, only junior linebacker Chris Lavery returns. The Bruins will again rely on defense, where they've yielded an



impressive a 14.5-point per game average over the past three seasons.

T.C. Williams

The **T.C. Williams Titans** grabbed momentum heading into the off-season with a come-from-behind 15-14 victory over West Potomac in the season finale. The win vindicated Dennis Randolph's first season, despite the school finishing 4-6 for the fourth-straight season. The Titans have to replace Jamal Ford at quarterback and all-district selections Quintas McCorkle and Carlton Dotson on defense. Offensively, seniors Dominique Copeland, Marcus Via and 6-foot-4 Zach Goehler return, giving Randolph weapons to toy with. A possible playoff berth hinges on whether the Titans can conquer their non-district slate.



Annandale

The **Annandale Atoms** took a small step backwards last season, after winning the Patriot District in consecutive years, going 4-6 — the team's fewest wins in six seasons. So longtime coach Dick Adams will turn to senior quarterback Cason Kynes, an all-district strong safety last season. Kynes accounted for more than 1,600 yards of total offense in 2007, powering the offense to four games over the 33-point mark. Defensive tackle Shane Doty, the only other 2007 all-district selection will anchor the defense.



Robert E. Lee

The **Robert E. Lee Lancers** won two games in 2007, but still inched into the Division 5 playoffs on merit of its brutal schedule. The 2008 slate is just as tough, as the Lancers open with perennial powers Edison, Westfield and Centreville. It's hardly an ideal setting for third-year coach Rob Everett to unveil a new quarterback and backfield. Junior Greg Lopez takes over for Kelly Fitzgerald at quarterback, Jazmier Williams and Dante Taylor will step in at running back and potential Division I recruit Anthony Nsekela and Jabrill Mara will be their lead blockers. The Lancers return eight starters defensively, including all-district linebacker Kyle Addy. With the tough schedule, any win will be cherished.



Hayfield

The **Hayfield Hawks** may be looking forward to next season, when quarterback Anton McCallum will be a third-year starter and when the school transitions to the easier National District. Over the past two seasons, 10th-year coach Billy Pugh has gone 1-19 while getting outscored by a combined 522 points. In the season finale, Hayfield succumbed to Lake Braddock, 63-14, just a week after getting blasted by West Springfield, and much of it has to do with enrollment. Hayfield, a Division 5 school, has 1,500 kids compared to five other district schools with at least 2,000 kids. With Wakefield — its only win last season — much improved, wins will be scarce.



SPORTS: PIGSKIN PREVIEW

PIGSKIN PROGNOSTICATORS: **Week One**

Each week, **The Connection's Pigskin Prognosticators** select winners from the top five prep games.

GAMES OF THE WEEK

1. W. Springfield at Stone Bridge
2. Oakton at Madison
3. Westfield at South County
4. Mount Vernon at T.C. Williams
5. West Potomac at Centreville
6. W.T. Woodson at Fairfax
7. Lee at Edison
8. Robinson at Lake Braddock
9. Alabama vs. Clemson
10. ECU vs. Virginia Tech

WEEK NINE SCHEDULE:

Games played Thurs., Aug. 28
 Hayfield at Marshall, 7:30 p.m.
 Annandale at McLean, 7:30 p.m.
 Lee at Edison, 7:30 p.m.
 Falls Church at Jefferson, 6:30 p.m.
 Broad Run at Wakefield, 7:30 p.m.
 Robinson at Lake Braddock, 7:30 p.m.
 Games played Fri., Aug. 29
 Oakton at Madison, 7:30 p.m.
 Wilson (D.C.) at Yorktown, 7:30 p.m.
 W.T. Woodson at Fairfax, 7:30 p.m.
 Mount Vernon at T.C. Williams, 5 p.m.
 George Mason at J.E.B. Stuart, 7:30 p.m.
 Washington-Lee at Dominion, 7:30 p.m.
 Heritage at South Lakes, 7:30 p.m.
 Westfield at South County, 7:30 p.m.
 West Potomac at Centreville, 7:30 p.m.
 West Springfield at Stone Bridge, 7:30 p.m.



Craig Sterbutzel

Sports Photographer

Last Week: 0-0

Season: 0-0

Percentage: 0%

1. Stone Bridge
2. Oakton
3. Westfield
4. T.C. Williams
5. Centreville
6. W.T. Woodson
7. Edison
8. Robinson
9. Alabama
10. ECU



Mark Giannotto

Sports Editor

Last Week: 0-0

Season: 0-0

Percentage: 0%

1. W. Springfield
2. Oakton
3. Westfield
4. T.C. Williams
5. West Potomac
6. W.T. Woodson
7. Edison
8. Robinson
9. Alabama
10. ECU



Rich Sanders

Sports Editor

Last Week: 0-0

Season: 0-0

Percentage: 0%

1. Stone Bridge
2. Madison
3. Westfield
4. T.C. Williams
5. West Potomac
6. W.T. Woodson
7. Edison
8. Robinson
9. Clemson
10. Virginia Tech

Northern Region Div. 6 Power Points — 2007 Final

1.	Westfield	33.0
2.	Chantilly	31.0
3.	West Springfield	30.9
4.	Lake Braddock	28.7
5.	West Potomac	28.4
6.	Centreville	27.3
7.	Robinson	27.0
8.	South County	26.9
9.	Langley	26.8
10.	Oakton	26.1
11.	Herndon	25.5
12.	W.T. Woodson	25.1
13.	T.C. Williams	23.9
14.	Annandale	22.9
15.	Fairfax	20.9

Northern Region Div. 5 Power Points — 2007 Final

1.	Stone Bridge	31.7
2.	Madison	29.0
3.	Edison	28.8
4.	Marshall	25.8
5.	Mount Vernon	24.7
6.	Yorktown	24.0
7.	South Lakes	21.5
8.	Lee	21.1
9.	Washington-Lee	20.9
10.	Wakefield	18.9
11.	Falls Church	19.7
12.	McLean	19.2
13.	Hayfield	19.2
14.	Jefferson	18.5
15.	Stuart	16.4

2007 Final Standings

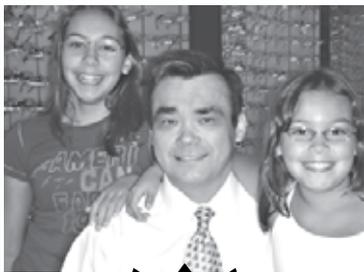
School	District	Overall
Stone Bridge	7-0	14-1
Madison	5-2	9-3
Langley	5-2	6-4
Marshall	4-3	8-4
W.T. Woodson	4-3	5-5
South Lakes	2-5	3-8
McLean	1-6	2-8
Jefferson	0-7	1-9

School	District	Overall
Westfield	6-0	15-0
Chantilly	4-2	8-3
Centreville	3-3	6-5
Oakton	3-3	5-5
Herndon	3-3	5-5
Robinson	2-4	6-6
Fairfax	0-6	2-8

School	District	Overall
West Springfield	6-1	10-3
Lake Braddock	6-1	8-3
South County	5-2	6-5
West Potomac	4-3	8-4
T.C. Williams	3-4	4-6
Annandale	2-5	4-6
Lee	2-5	2-9
Hayfield	0-7	1-9

School	District	Overall
Edison	6-0	10-3
Mount Vernon	5-1	6-5
Yorktown	4-2	5-6
Washington-Lee	3-3	4-6
Wakefield	2-4	2-8
Falls Church	1-5	3-7
J.E.B. Stuart	0-6	0-10

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SPORTS: PIGSKIN PREVIEW

A Coaching Establishment

Long-tenured coaches are rare — but highly successful.

By ERIC J. GILMORE
THE CONNECTION

Twenty-eight seasons ago, Vaughn Lewis, Mike Skinner, Dale Eaton and Gerry Pannoni were all neophyte Groveton assistants serving under Chip Armstrong, a then-recent high school graduate. It was so long ago that Lewis, the last coach at Groveton before it merged with Fort Hunt to form West Potomac in 1985, had to dig out the championship plaque just to jog his memory of who his boss was. Being a full-time high school foot-

Bruce Hanson, the Yorktown head coach since 1981, epitomized his coaching passion when his Patriots squeaked through another win over archrival Washington-Lee at the conclusion of the 2007 regular season. Hanson's loyal assistants had already carpoled over to his house, ready to decompress and dissect film, and yet the Northern Region's longest-tenured coach was still conversing candidly with two local sportswriters among sweaty socks.

"We're hoping to get back up," Hanson said Monday, reiterating the same message he made before bowing out to Lewis' senior-laden Edison team in the 2007 playoffs.

A few weeks earlier, Lewis' Eagles had overpowered Washington-Lee, a district foe during a cold, sputtering November rainstorm. Lewis, and his ever-supporting wife — an absolute essential — were the last two to be pried from the field, ignoring the miserable weather to chat more Northern Region football.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Westfield coach Tom Verbanic will have to rebuild after completing Westfield's second undefeated state championship run in 2007.

years ago because we had a 225-pound tailback and some big boys in the trenches... The last four years we've had more athletes on the squad. It's only been the past five years we've gone spread or no huddle."

COACHES CARRY CREDIBILITY, especially the ones that have lingered. In the two Northern Region final games last season, there were nearly 80 years worth of head coaching experience, with Renner (Mount Vernon, Langley and West Springfield) facing Verbanic (Fairfax, Westfield) and Mickey Thompson (Park View/Sterling, Stone Bridge) clashing with Lewis (Groveton, Edison and Jefferson) for the third straight season.

Lewis' former Groveton assistant, Mike Skinner, took Centreville to four straight Northern Region title games, winning a Group AAA Division 6 state championship in 2000. He was the defensive coordinator for his former Frostburg State teammate Pannoni last season, before jumping to Stone Bridge to Thompson in the off-season.

"We all went our separate ways," Lewis said of his former Groveton staff. "Gerry (Pannoni) and I are the only ones left coaching now."

Thompson, winner of two of the past three Northern Region Division 5 titles and

the defending state champion, has been coaching in the area since 1990, and has another loaded roster expected to repeat as state champs.

Annandale's Dick Adams won back-to-back Division 6 state titles in 1993 and 1994, while Robinson's Mark Bendorf (1997 and 2000) and Westfield's Tom Verbanic (2004 and 2007) also have two state titles. Bendorf and Verbanic's schools were recently named among the top-20 programs of the past decade.

ASK ANY COACH, including McLean's Jim Patrick, who is in his first year, and he'll admit that hiring a quality staff is essential. Some coordinators may be coaches waiting in the wings, but if history is any indication, the fraternity isn't ready to initiate many new members.

But Lewis and Hanson, and the entire crop will eventually have to step aside, clearing a path for assistants that could represent the next generation of soon-to-be established coaches.

"I enjoy what I do and I'm very proud of what we accomplished at Edison and you can't accomplish unless you've got great assistants under you," Lewis said. "Having been an assistant at Groveton, I know that."

That part, at least, he does remember.

"It has gone from rock 'em sock 'em with who is bigger, stronger football to spreading it out, throwing the football more and trying to create running space."

—Vaughn Lewis, Edison head coach

THE GAME HAS EVOLVED.

But it's clearly still dominated by experience. Any of the long-tenured head coaches, West Springfield's Bill Renner, Annandale's Dick Adams, Robinson's Mark Bendorf and Westfield's Tom Verbanic, along with Hanson and Lewis, will admit the schemes vary drastically from the mid-to-late 1980s when wishbone and traditional triple-option offenses were the norm,

as teams tried to overpower opponents with muscle and brute force.

"The main change (since I started coaching in the area) is the game itself has changed a lot," Lewis said. "It has gone from rock 'em sock 'em with who is bigger, stronger football to spreading it out, throwing the football more and trying to create running space."

The spread schemes, which accentuates athletes' speed in space, is the rage as West Springfield, Westfield and T.C. Williams now employ varying degrees of pass-happy offenses.

"It all depends on how your kids fit," Lewis said. "We still ran the I-formation five

ball coach is a job that is an annual commitment. So it's hard to blame Lewis, who has been coaching for more than a quarter-century, for blending seasons together.

"We were all coaching together," Lewis said of his colleagues who all became successful head coaches. "That was special because we were all fairly young."

A mere generation later, Lewis and many of the "old guard" are still around, having transitioned from eager assistants and coordinators into seasoned head coaches. But more than seniority and even more than X's and O's, the few remaining Northern Virginia treasures have continued to hover on the sidelines on Friday nights.

There is no instruction manual for high school football coaches, though they appear to all be a similar breed — tough-nosed, no-nonsense, fear-striking massive men. But aside from their ear-piercing whistles, the tutoring of teenagers and demand for discipline, all have done what quality coaches do. Gain respect. And win.



West Springfield should be one of the best teams in the Northern Region this season.

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Volunteers Clean Up Marshall Cemetery

New group looks to continue efforts at other historic sites.

By DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

When the Marshall family cemetery in Burke was vandalized last April, some residents blamed the sight line. The small plot had become overrun with brush and trees.

Hidden behind a wall adjacent to a 7-Eleven, the stone monument signifying the presence of the unmarked graves was virtually undetectable. That lack of visibility made it a prime spot for drinking, drug-use and, eventually, vandalism.

It was most likely a group of teens, said Fairfax County History Commissioner Lynne Garvey-Hodge (Springfield), that left beer bottles and trash all over grounds and spray painted messages like "They will live forever" over the stone marker. Those acts prompted Garvey-Hodge to create the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Organization and charge that organization with the mission of identifying, documenting, preserving and maintaining the more than 350 cemeteries within the county.

"Our plan is to get non-profit status and we just established a board of directors," said Garvey-Hodge about the newly formed organization.

UP FIRST WAS the vandalized Marshall cemetery at the intersection of Ox Road and Hampton Road. On Saturday morning, Aug. 23, Garvey-Hodge and around 15 volunteers cleared brush and cut down trees to increase visibility of the monument, collected enough bottles, wrappers and garbage to fill almost a dozen black trash bags and laid down wood chips over the cleared surfaces.

The immediate plan is to fix up the surrounding area and clean the marker, which one member suggested they do with lots of nail polish. Long-term, the organization plans to transform the cemetery grounds into a park and memorial, installing benches and some signs indicating the site's historical significance.



PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County history commissioners Lynne Garvey-Hodge and Mary Lipsey are part of a newly formed organization dedicated to the preservation and protection of county cemeteries.

"We may be back tomorrow. We're definitely coming back another day to clean the marker," said History Commissioner Mary Lipsey (Braddock).

The cleanup had some other notable volunteers. Glenn Curtis, owner of Marshall cemetery and a descendant of John and Mary Marshall was in attendance, as was Virginia State Del. Dave Marsden (D-41).

"You more or less expect it to happen," said Curtis of the vandalism.

Curtis, who owns just one of the handful of Marshall family cemeteries in the Burke and Lorton area, said he didn't think he could have done anything to stop the vandalism but regretted not visiting his ancestors' resting place more often.

"I'm sorry that I didn't spend more time down here checking up on it," he said.

Marsden said one of his constituents alerted him to the vandalism and from there he notified police. About one block away from the cemetery, he showed a tree-filled makeshift alley behind a shopping center

with gang symbols spray painted between two parallel walls. It was here, Marsden said, that gang activity and drug paraphernalia became such a problem that police stepped up their patrols of the area. The area has been quieter since then, he said.

"To curb this kind of activity you need: A, a police presence, and B, you need to keep things fixed up. It's sort of like the 'broken windows' theory," he said.

THE CEMETERY was a family plot started by John and Mary Marshall. John Marshall, the first postmaster of Burke in 1852, was part of a family that has had roots in the Burke area for over 150 years.

Keith Pearson, a relative of Curtis and the Marshall family, also took part in the cleanup. Pearson has a funny connection to the Marshall family. Back in the days leading up to Civil War, Pearson's great, great grandfather George Steele voted against Virginia's secession from the Union. When he did, he was told that he ought to have

"You more or less expect it to happen."

— Glenn Curtis, descendent of John and Mary Marshall

been shot for his decision. The man who told him that? John Marshall.

"I guess he was for the Confederates," said Pearson with a laugh.

Now, as a member of the Marshall family through marriage, Pearson spent the day clearing brush and dumping woodchips side by side with Curtis.

"It's been going on for 30 years," Pearson said of troublemakers using the site as a hang out. "Kids were always here drinking. They didn't mark the stone [until recently]."

Pat Edmiston, a Burke resident for 30 years, explained why she came out on a Saturday morning, coincidentally her birthday, to fix up Marshall cemetery.

"I've always had an interest in the history of this place," said Edmiston, of her Fairfax County home. "One of the connections to the past is our cemeteries."

GARVEY-HODGE said the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Organization will not stop with Marshall. The group is planning on not only preserving the cemeteries located on the large, wall-sized map she had in her car, but also to identify and document the many unmarked ones hidden throughout the county. They are looking for more volunteers and have scheduled a Sept. 15 meeting at the West Springfield Government Center on Rolling Road.

Diana Taylor said she was on board with the organization's goals.

"I agree with their philosophy. We're losing too many cemeteries to abandonment, development or whatever," said Taylor, who is from Annandale. "We have to fight for them, this is our history. These people may not be as famous as George Washington or George Mason, but they walked the same earth."

Marsden said that the increased visibility from the street along with a few additional police patrols should make the site an undesirable location for vandals.

"Just making sure that things look cared-for, it tends to be ignored by people looking to do damage," he said.

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the West Springfield District of the Fairfax County police department through Aug. 22.

GRAND LARCENY/NARCOTICS

Middle Ruddings Drive/ Fifth Place. Police were called to the area of Middle Ruddings Drive and Fifth Place at on Tuesday, Aug. 19, at 1:53 a.m., for a vehicle tampering. Officers learned that an alert citizen watched as two males exited a waiting car and attempted to

break into other cars in a neighborhood by pulling door handles. When the two suspects entered a parked car, the witness approached them and they fled. A female in the suspects' car drove away. Officers located the two suspects in the vehicle and the third suspect walking nearby. Further investigation determined the suspects were reportedly in possession of items stolen from other vehicles. In addition, one was in possession of drug paraphernalia. All three suspects were transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention

Center. Yusuf Benghuzzi, 18, of the 6100 block of Lynley Terrace in Alexandria, was charged with grand larceny and possession of drug paraphernalia. Patrick Hayward, 18, of the 5100 block of Celtic Drive in Alexandria, was charged with grand larceny. Natasha Black, 19, of 6509 Walso Court in Alexandria, was charged with grand larceny. An outstanding warrant for an unrelated case was also served on Black.

ROBBERY

Rectory Lane/Heritage Drive. On Wednesday, Aug. 20 around 2:30

p.m., a 23-year-old Montgomery Village-area man was assaulted and robbed near the intersection of Rectory Lane and Heritage Drive. The victim was waiting in his vehicle at the intersection when two men approached him and demanded money. One suspect punched the victim while the second suspect brandished a black handgun. They took an undisclosed amount of cash and fled on foot. The victim received minor injuries. Both suspects were described as Hispanic, approximately 20, with black hair. One suspect was about 5-feet 10-inches tall, weighing

130 pounds. He was wearing a light-colored hat, blue T-shirt and white jeans and had a mustache. The second suspect was about 5-feet 7-inches tall, weighing 200 pounds.

LARCENIES

4200 block of Americana Drive. Catalytic converter stolen from vehicle.

4200 block of Americana Drive. Tools stolen from vehicle.

4900 block of Erie St. License plates stolen from vehicle.

COMMUNITY

Local GOP Groups Prepare for November Election

FROM PAGE 3

Warner (R), who is retiring at the end of his term in 2008. In the presidential race, Sens. John McCain (R) and Barack Obama (D) are both campaigning to replace George W. Bush.

In two of those three races, the candidates face an uphill battle. Gilmore trails Warner 59-33 in the latest Rasmussen poll, and internal polling released by Connolly's campaign showed Fimian trailing 52-21. The presidential race is far closer, with McCain and Obama in a statistical tie, 45-45, according to Rasmussen polling. However, the Virginia went for Bush 54-45 in 2004 and has voted to elect the GOP nominee in 12 of the last 13 presidential elections, often by similar margins.

Becky Stoeckel, Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee said that certain factors, like not having an incumbent running and demographic changes in Northern Virginia, could help to explain some of those tightening factors.

"Well as you know, in '04 we had an incumbent president, she said. "Virginia was not perceived as a battleground state. I think it might have been a little bit easier then, with an incumbent."

Kaplan said he has noticed the change from past election cycles.

"I do think [the changes] are real, I think there's a change of people coming into Northern Virginia," he said. "We've seen a growth in technology jobs and contracting jobs. A lot of new people who are coming from urban areas. A lot of people are leaving because they can't afford to live in Fairfax County anymore."

Stoeckel rejected the notion, however, that a broader shift is occurring in Virginia politics, saying that other than the Northern Virginia area, the state remains solidly conservative.

"There's been a perception of a demographic shift in Virginia. That we're now a battleground state, that [people] think we're up for grabs. I personally don't think that's the case," she said.

Likewise, Kaplan said he was not overly concerned, judging by what he's seen in Fairfax.

"I recognize polls show that in generic votes for Congress or president, Democrats seem to win. When you put names on the ballots, McCain is tied or up. So what I see in the city is we're not voting the generics,

we're voting for the people," he said.

Meet and greets serve a vital role in connecting the community to their Republican candidates, according to Rollins. Surrogates from the McCain and Fimian campaigns were in attendance, along with a host of officials, including Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and John Brownlee, a candidate for the Republican Attorney General nomination, a race that will take place next year.

Rollins said that the more local the races are, the more impact organizations like hers can have on the outcome.

"People can feel and touch a local candidate easier than they can a national candidate. We have Keith [Fimian] come to our meetings. We've talked with him. On a national scale, it's a little harder to do that," she said.

The RWC, started in 2006, has around 110 members and, according to Rollins, that number is rising. Throughout the next 70 days, her organization will host meet and greet events like the Aug. 24 barbecue and also staff phone banks for each of the three

candidates. Like the CFRC, they are coordinating with other organizations in order to provide assistance when and where they need it, including sending volunteers over to support other grassroots, county and state branches of the GOP election apparatus. "We may get only 24 hours notice for an event," said Bonnie Fite, chair of the RWC's Public Relations Committee. "I know I've responded to some of them. We have to be flexible too."

They're also actively getting involved in the Internet, creating election blogs and running a special edition of their newsletter focused solely on introducing voters to John McCain. Rollins said the organization is experimenting with social networking sites like Facebook and Myspace to get their message across as well.

TRAFFIC AND the Iraq war are two issues that are squarely on the minds of Clifton voters, according to Fite.

"We have seen traffic just get horrendous. For my work I can choose when I go places, and I'll purposely avoid rush hour," she said.

On the Iraq war, she said Virginia's high military population will play a factor as well.

"There's a ton of military folks and so the war is really a hot button issue and people care very much about it."

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Ekoji Buddhist Temple Seminar on Everyday Nembutsu Practice. Saturday, Aug. 30, from 12-4 p.m. Free seminar and lecture with guest speaker Rev. Harry Bridge from the Lodi Buddhist Church; light lunch provided. The Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lake Haven Lane, Fairfax Station. Call 703-239-0500 or visit www.ekoji.org.

Messiah United Methodist Church is located at 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. Call 703-569-9862 or visit www.messiahumc.org.

❖ A Community of Contagious Joy. Sunday worship: 8:15 (with Holy Communion every Sunday), 9:30 and 11 a.m. (Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month)

❖ Block Party, Sunday, Sept. 7 at 12:30 p.m. Food, dunk tank, face painting, balloon art, spin art, clowns inflatable games, castle moon bounce, human car wash, variety show and more. Collections taken for Nothing But Nets and items for Flood Buckets for flood recovery in the midwest.

St. Marks Coptic Orthodox Church is hosting an Egyptian Bazaar, on Saturday Sept. 20 and Sunday Sept. 21, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Egyptian food and music, children's games and rides; car wash; antique furniture; jewelry and imported goods for sale. Church and school tours available. St. Marks Coptic Orthodox Church, 11911 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Call 703-591-4444.

ESL Program at St. George's

UMC. English as a second language classes are offered from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at St. George's United Methodist Church, 4910 Ox Road, Fairfax. Registration is on Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. with classes from Tuesday, Sept. 9 through Nov. 20. Call 703-385-4550.

The Church of the Good Shepherd will offer registration for fall ESOL classes on Wednesday, Sept. 3 and Thursday, Sept. 4 from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and again 7-9 p.m. The church is located at 9350 Braddock Road. Fall classes run Sept. 16 through Dec. 4 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m., and 7-9 p.m. A \$50 fee will be collected at the first class. Call 703-323-5400.

Community Fun Day will be held Saturday, Sept. 6 from 12-5 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke, between Rolling and Guinea Roads. Free pony rides, a giant slide, face painting, games, food and more. Visit www.ststephensfairfax.org or call 703-978-8724.

Family Movie Night. Saturday, Sept. 6. Preschool show at 8:15 p.m., family film at 9 p.m. Movie is free; popcorn and lemonade will be available. Bring lawn chairs and blankets. Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Call 703-451-2375.

Community Picnic. Sunday, Sept. 7. On church grounds, following 10:30 a.m. worship, Food, music, games, a moonbounce and face painting. Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Call 703-451-2375.

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Education Begins Before College

Better Business Bureau offers advice for college bound students and their parents.

BY EDWARD JOHNSON

Sending a child off into the world of higher learning can be an apprehensive time for all concerned. For students and parents alike, it is bittersweet. It is every parent's hope that with the new found independence, their child will embrace academia, learn, grow and put into practice the everyday life skills they have been taught. As the days draw closer to an empty nest, parents often impart words of wisdom. Some financial advice may also be in order.

efits throughout his or her life. Aside from the inherent benefits of saving money, starting early means taking advantage of what Albert Einstein described as one of the most powerful forces in the universe: compound interest. For example, if a freshman saves \$50 every month and puts it into a high interest savings account or money market account that earns 5 percent interest, by graduation they will have saved more than \$2,660 including dividends.

♦ **Pay your bills on time.**

U.S. PIRG found that more than 40 percent of college students who managed their own credit cards had paid bills late or paid at least one over-the-limit fee. Credit card companies often charge late fees

COMMENTARY
Last year alone, approximately 2 million students graduated from high school and headed to college. While most were equipped with bedding and books, many were ill equipped on the subject of financial literacy. According to a 2007 survey by Charles Schwab, fewer than half of teens considered themselves knowledgeable on how to budget money (41 percent), how to pay bills (34 percent) or how credit card interest and fees work (26 percent).

as high as \$40. Add to that any accruing interest, which can be upwards of 30 percent, and college students will quickly see how much can be lost by not paying a bill on time and in full. Aside from the immediate benefits of paying bills on time — specifically, reducing needless spending on fees and interest charges — it is an important way for college students to begin building a healthy credit report.

To help build a foundation of sound financial habits, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) offers the following advice for parents to bestow on their college bound children:

♦ **Guard your personal information.**

When comparing the age demographics of ID theft victims in the U.S., young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 were the second highest age group at risk for fraud according to an annual survey by Javelin Strategy and Research. Javelin also found that, in cases where the victims knew how their ID was stolen, 79 percent of the time it was stolen by someone they had contact with. Therefore, preventing ID theft is important both online and offline. Parents should encourage their students to shred unnecessary documents that include personal information such as social security or bank account numbers and keep a close watch over credit and debit cards and checkbooks.

♦ **Be responsible with credit cards.**

According to a U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) survey, two out of three college students report having a credit card, of which about two-thirds are responsible for paying their monthly bill. Overall, freshmen responsible for their own cards had average credit card balances of \$1,301. While having a credit card is an important first step for a college student to start building a credit history, parents need to stress the importance of using credit responsibly. This includes having a minimal number of credit cards, paying off the balances every month and keeping a reign on spending.

♦ **Start saving money now, even if it's just a small amount every month.**

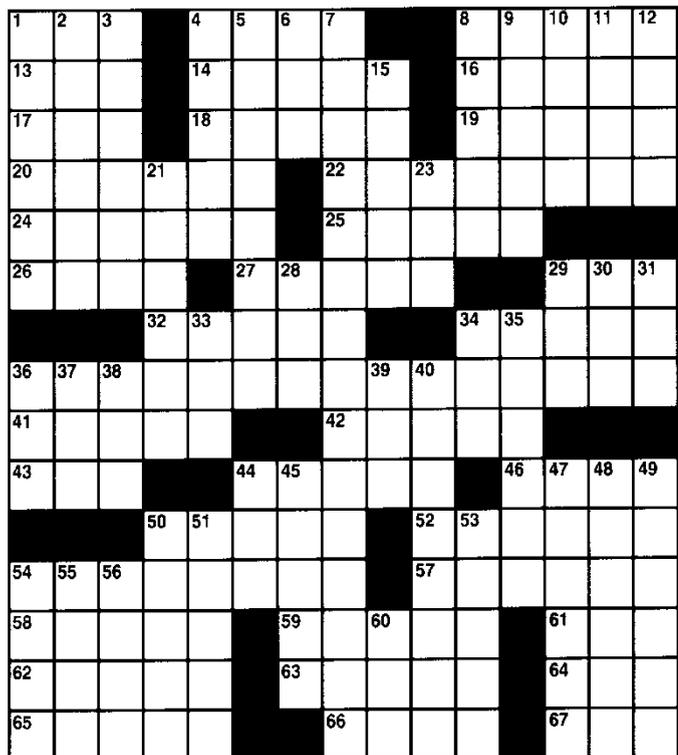
Developing good saving habits early on will help a college student reap the ben-

Edward Johnson is president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau serving the greater Metro Washington, D.C. region.

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0325-2



- 29 Solitaire puzzle piece
- 30 Old French coin
- 31 Meditative thought
- 33 Hosp. scan
- 34 Fanatic
- 35 With 21-Down, composer of 36-Across
- 36 Combine
- 37 Hide-hair link
- 38 Rule out
- 39 Its anagram is a synonym of itself
- 40 Winemaking science
- 44 Ocean flier
- 45 Word with bore or wave
- 47 Selleck TV role
- 48 Not troubled
- 49 36-Across star
- 50 Brouhaha
- 51 Bridge positions
- 53 Some school methods
- 54 1979 disco classic
- 55 Circus cries
- 56 Kings Peak locale
- 60 Jonson work

ACROSS

- 1 Natl. Adopt-a-Dog Month
- 4 Concert gear
- 8 Knickerbockers
- 13 Malted drink that's not a malted
- 14 Experiences losses
- 16 Budget alternative
- 17 U.S. 36 crosses it
- 18 Accessory
- 19 Defraud
- 20 Obligated
- 22 With 54-Across, hit from 36-Across
- 24 Hosted
- 25 "— far, far better thing . . ."
- 26 North Sea feeder
- 27 Got off the ground
- 29 Popular candy
- 32 Tether
- 34 Heiress, maybe
- 36 Broadway premiere of 1946
- 41 Active

- 42 "Must—" (NBC slogan)
- 43 1939 Bogart title role
- 44 Actor Hawke
- 46 Mosque V.I.P.
- 50 Comical introduction
- 52 In the rococo style
- 54 See 22-Across
- 57 Weyerhaeuser Co. employee
- 58 Specks
- 59 On — (carousing)
- 61 "Platoon" setting
- 62 Canticle
- 63 Mantelpiece
- 64 I.O.C. member
- 65 Remains
- 66 Baseball's Ordoñez et al.
- 67 Blokes

- 5 Assortment
- 6 Prized
- 7 Apt description of 1-Down
- 8 Treaties
- 9 Football's — Bowl
- 10 Axis figure
- 11 Capone's adversaries
- 12 Dance partner
- 15 Popular legend of Dutch origin
- 21 See 35-Down
- 23 Yang's opposite
- 28 London-to-Dover dir.

DOWN

- 1 36-Across surname
- 2 What adjusters adjust
- 3 Playing card combo
- 4 Designer Simpson

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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Note: Due to space limitations, the crossword may not appear from time to time. In that case, you may look on our Web site: www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.

SENIOR LIVING

Senior Facilities Fair, Saturday, Sept. 20 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. Learn more about the offerings of eight senior living facilities. St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke, between Rolling and Guinea Roads. Call 703-978-8724.

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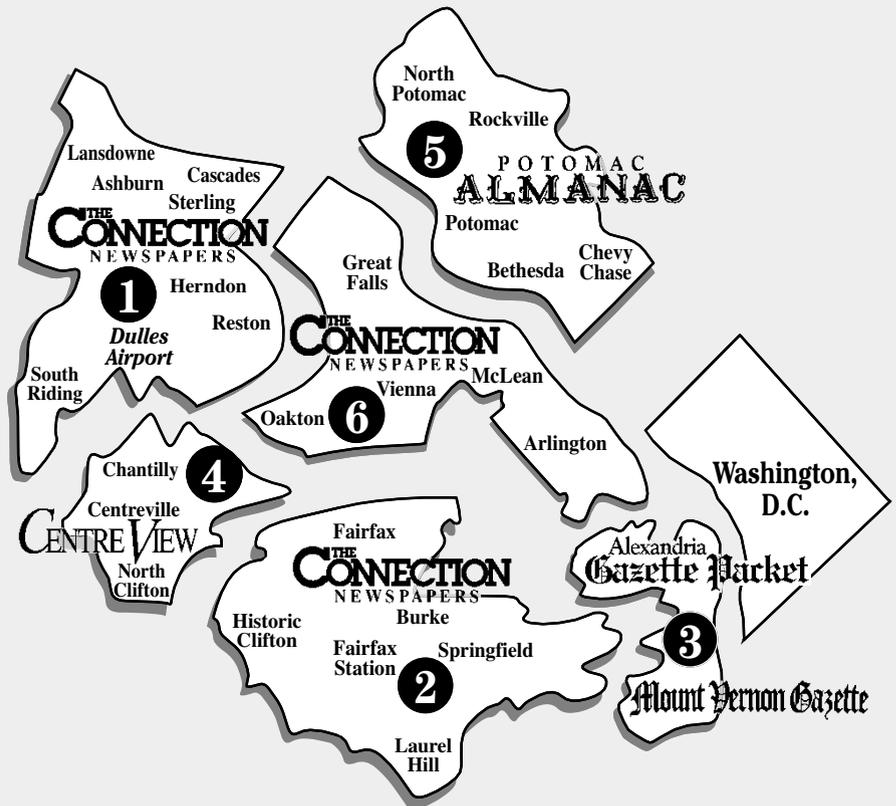
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21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE
OF VALUABLE
IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
9556 Hagel Circle, Lorton, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Santos Alfaro, dated December 5, 2007, and recorded December 10, 2007, in Deed Book 19694 at page 2031 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:
Tax Map No. 107-4-11-12-C
Commonly known as 9556 Hagel Circle, Lorton, Virginia 22079.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 6.25 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for any unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyancing will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY

Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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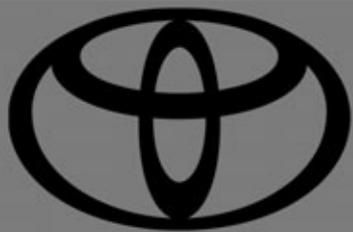
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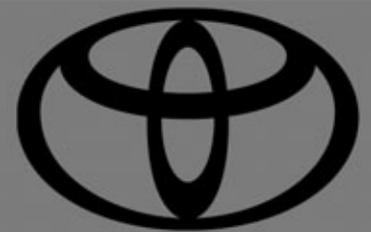
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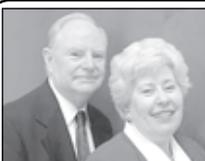
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