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# Inheriting The Ball

SPORTS, PAGE 20

Edison junior Levi Barber, assuming the team's quarterbacking duties from his older brother Ben this season, has provided a running and throwing threat for the undefeated Eagles.

Connolly,  
Fimian Vie in  
11th District

NEWS, PAGE 3

Wegmans  
Coming to  
Hilltop Village

NEWS, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION HOME SALES, PAGE 18 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 20 ❖ FAITH, PAGE 22 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 23

## NEWS

# Politicians and Pancakes

Seniors, lawmakers hash out priorities amid economic turmoil.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t the legislative breakfast in the Hunter's Crossing building of Greenspring retirement community on Spring Village Road, the burgeoning economic crisis loomed over the room like rain clouds.

Members of the community listened to speakers and ate breakfast with county supervisors, state delegates and senators at the event Thursday, Oct. 2. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Aging Network (NVAN), the breakfast was supposed to deal with the organization's budget priorities for the next fiscal year and give seniors a chance to pick the brains of their elected officials. The recent collapse of financial giants like Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, AIG and The Lehman Brothers combined with the subsequent \$700 billion bailout plan passed by Congress colored the tone of the speakers.

"There's a tough road ahead. You bet," said Erica Wood, of the NVAN legislative committee.

"It's going to hurt, there's now way around it," said Linda Nablo, commissioner of the Virginia Department for the Aging, who said Gov. Tim Kaine (D) was calling for a revised revenue forecast for the

state.

Despite the country's economic woes, committee members expressed confidence that the legislative and budget priorities listed on the handouts peppering the tables were all attainable. Increasing the Livable Homes Tax Credit to at least \$1,000, increased training requirements for direct care workers and \$1.5 million in state funds for geriatric mental health outreach are all still necessary.

"The reality is that helping elder Virginians does require financial needs," said Wood.

The featured speaker was James Firman, president and CEO of the National Council on Aging. In his speech, Firman attempted to quell the uneasiness permeating the room.

"How many of you here are feeling that you don't have the money these days to get the services you need?" Firman asked to raised hands throughout the audience. "How many are pessimistic about the future?"

When even more arms went up, Firman said:

**"There's a tough road ahead. You bet."**

— Erica Wood, NVAN legislative committee

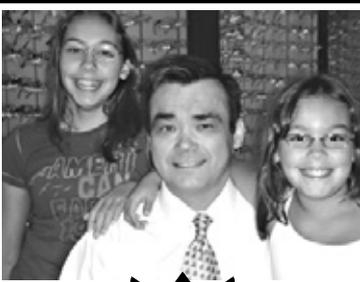
SEE SENIORS, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

**James Firman, president and CEO of the National Council of Aging, was the featured speaker at the Oct. 2 legislative breakfast at Greenspring retirement community in Springfield.**

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## Connolly Seeks Higher Office

Fairfax chairman runs for U.S. Congress.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

When Chantilly resident Joe Carney first met Gerry Connolly 41 years ago, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors chairman was just a teenager enrolled in Carney's American history class at a seminary.

Then a Maryknoll priest, Carney, was 13 years older than Connolly but was nevertheless impressed by his student's intellect.

"He was the best student in my class. ... I thought, at 15 years old, he was asking questions that a college senior or a graduate student would ask," he said.

**CONNOLLY** is the Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress in Virginia's 11<sup>th</sup> District and faces Republican Keith Fimian in the

election Nov. 4. The incumbent, U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R), is stepping down from office.

Connolly has served a little less than five years as Fairfax County's chairman. He was also the Providence District representative to the Fairfax Board of Supervisors from 1995 to 2003.

The Democrat's experience in local government gives Connolly a good understanding of some of the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District's biggest issues, such as the local impact of the military's base realignment and closure plan, he said.

If elected, Connolly would also bring a back-

ground in international relations to Congress. He worked as a staff member for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1979 to 1989 and has traveled to 76 countries.

The chairman's experience on Capitol Hill means he can also identify with federal

**"He was a real live wire."**

— Mary Lee McIntyre,  
McLean resident



PHOTO BY JULIE O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

**Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly (D) is running for U.S. Congress.**

employees, with many living in the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Connolly also works part-time for a defense contractor, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), one of Northern Virginia's largest private employers.

"I have worked for very large federal contractors — that is the industry of Northern Virginia. That is what we do here. ... I can advocate for that sector and those federal

SEE CONNOLLY, PAGE 21

## GOP Challenger a Political Newcomer

Keith Fimian, an Oakton businessman, wants to be hardest working man in politics.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Keith Fimian was a man with a single mission July 4 – to talk to as many people as possible.

The Republican is running to succeed Rep. Tom Davis (R-11) in Virginia's 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and faces a well-known opponent, Fairfax County Chairman Gerry Connolly (D). In order to compete with Connolly, Fimian knew he was going to have to reach as many voters as he could.

So he extended his hand to one person after another sitting on the curb watching the Orange Hunt parade. If a break appeared in the crowd of spectators,

Fimian would run ahead of his campaign workers walking in the parade to get a head start on greeting the next group of potential supporters, sweating through his green and white William and Mary football shirt.

Several hours later, Fimian was also one of the first people out on the synthetic turf field at Fairfax High School after a rainstorm cleared up. As people peeled off their plastic raincoats and smoothed out blankets to

recline on during the fireworks, the candidate pitched his candidacy and shared his concerns about the national debt.

"I am afraid of what the future brings if we don't get spending under control," said Fimian, crouched in front of a group of people in camping chairs.

"Whatever your party, help me control spending," he added.

Fimian's faith in his ability to outwork anybody to success is not surprising.

A Virginia Beach native, the Republican said his parents instilled the importance of working "very, very hard" in him and his three brothers at an early age. The candidate's work ethic has served him well over the years.

Fimian earned a four-year football scholarship to the College of William and Mary. Tall and athletic, he has the look of a television star, perhaps someone who would play a father figure on the defunct teen drama "The OC." But Fimian does not seem nearly big enough to have been a college football star.

Yet, when Fimian played, William and Mary beat the University of Virginia, Vir-

**"My work ethic is second to none."**

— Keith Fimian



PHOTO BY JULIE O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

**Keith Fimian talks to Fairfax resident Mike Thieman at Labor Day celebration.**

ginia Tech and the U.S. Naval Academy in one season. Out of college, he was invited to try out for a professional football team, the Cleveland Browns.

**FIMIAN** also took a start-up company from his old garage in Dunn Loring to the national stage. In 1986, the candidate founded U.S. Inspect, a multi-million dollar operation that he says is the nation's largest provider of commercial and residential real

estate property inspection services.

"My work ethic is second to none," he said.

Starting a business was not easy. In the beginning, Fimian said it felt like he was "sitting on a tree branch and sawing it off at the same time."

During the 18 months he was in business, Fimian didn't draw a salary and lived off

SEE KEITH FIMIAN, PAGE 21



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

**Correction** The wrong caption ran in 'Week in Springfield,' Connection, Sept. 24-Oct. 1, 2008. Here are the correct photo and caption. Jim Landall of Springfield competes in the 200-meter run at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center during the opening day of the 2008 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics on Saturday.

## Board Still Seeks New Building

The Fairfax County School Board has decided to stay the course when it comes to purchasing a second central administration facility.

During the body's late-night meeting Oct. 2, School Board members voted unanimously to extend the deadline under which the desired facility — adjacent to the school system's current administration building in Merrifield — could be purchased.

Fairfax County and the building owners now have until Dec. 1 to reach an agreement about the sale. Under the current agreement, the school system would spend approximately \$110 million on the purchase and renovation of the building.

The School Board had initially endorsed the purchase of the building last month, saying that it would promote efficiency and pay for itself through cost savings. But the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors rejected the proposal, unsure that the current financial climate was the appropriate time to be purchasing a new administrative building.

Several School Board members were upset that the supervisors had turned down their proposal. They said the new building would allow the school system to move staff from several smaller facilities and leased space into one place. It would also return money to the schools' operating budget, said School Board members.

"We could be putting money into schools which is being spent on 12 different [administrative] facilities," said School Board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence.)

The School Board plans to use the extended timeline to provide more information about the building purchase to the Board of Supervisors. The possibility exists that the school system could negotiate a better deal for the building.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 5

## NEWS

# Wegmans Eyes Hilltop

Mixed use, recreation facilities to transform landfill, golf course

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
THE CONNECTION

**W**egmans Grocery is finally coming to the Mount Vernon and Lee districts. But, primarily to Lee District, since the plot of land of its future home only contains a small corner in Mount Vernon District.

That was the word delivered by Lynne J. Strobel, of Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh to members of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce during the group's luncheon last Thursday at Belle Haven Country Club. "Wegmans is 100 percent committed to this project," she said.

The project she was talking about, to be known as The Hilltop Village Center, will be located at the intersection of Telegraph Road and Beulah Street, presently home to a construction and demolition debris landfill operation and a nine-hole golf course. The overall property, approximately 150 acres, is owned by Hilltop Sand and Gravel Co., Inc.

The new Hilltop Village Center will occupy an estimated 33 acres in the northwest quadrant of the site. In addition to the 150,000-square-foot Wegmans, which is scheduled to employ an estimated 400 people, the plan calls for a 96,000-square-foot office building with a garage, 63,732-square feet of retail space in four buildings that will also contain office space on the upper floors, two banks, 890 parking spaces dedicated to Wegmans and 2,100 spaces for the total site.

"Hopefully, Wegmans will open by 2012 as the first tenant of the site," Strobel said. The back of the gro-

cery store, facing Telegraph Road, will be shielded from view by a landscaped berm.

Hilltop Company is proposing a series of land-use applications for the property that would not only provide for the Village Center but also "transform the existing landfill into active recreation facilities" and produce "minor modifications to the existing golf course." Those modifications would not change existing golf course operations, according to Michael C. Gailliot, vice president of operations, Hilltop Golf Club.

The company plans to reduce the land area being used for construction and landfill, but increase the fill volume and contours to create a level plateau for play fields, according to Strobel. The eventual recreation fields will be privately owned due to post closure care requirements but will be available for public use.

"All of the uses combined will create a vibrant activity center conveniently located to Mount Vernon and Lee district residents," Strobel said. Proposals to amend the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plans are expected to commence in November.

Chamber members were also expecting to hear a presentation by Mount Vernon District Police Station's new Commander, Capt. David Moyer, but he did not make an appearance. Last month, the Chamber conducted a tribute luncheon honoring the recently promoted station's outgoing commander, Maj. Michael Kline.

**"Wegmans is 100 percent committed to this project."**

—Lynne Strobel, speaking for project developers

## Seniors Meet with Lawmakers

FROM PAGE 2

"I'm here to tell you you're wrong."

While many think the large influx of baby boomers into Social Security, Medicaid and Medicare will overload the systems, Firman turned that concept on its head, portraying it as a strength. As their generation ages, boomers will become a powerful voting bloc to be reckoned with, he argued.

He also argued against the idea that the priorities he listed could not be accomplished, despite what he referred to as "the perceived irrelevance of the aging services network in Washington."

In her speech, Nablo agreed with that assessment, saying NVAN's priorities were still within reach.

"I don't think it means you change anything. You have a very reasonable agenda," she said.

**REFORMS OF** Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid remained at the top of the agenda, along with an expansion of the Older Americans Act. In order to push through these reforms, the senior community needs to get involved in the process. They must also change their mindset from consumers to activists.

"We share the philosophy that older people are the solution," Firman said. "We need to get out of the business of services. That won't cut it. We need

to get into the outcome business."

That means getting involved with legislators, something the audience members had an opportunity to do both before and after Firman's speech. Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said encouraging private developers to build universally designed homes and increasing the senior volunteer work force as two of the concerns that can be handled on at a county level.

"Increasing volunteering in a time of budget shortfalls allows the county to use resources it would otherwise have to pay for," said McKay.

Laura Nabili, an employee for Fairfax County Department of Housing, was in the audience and said the speakers helped alleviate some of her concerns.

"I think [Firman's] comments were very encouraging because everyone is concerned with what's going on [economically]," said Nabili.

Barbara Karro, who works for the City of Arlington, came to the breakfast looking for more information on universal design, the practice of building homes with the needs of the elderly or handicapped in mind. Calling it "the next big thing," Karro said she was heartened by what she heard from the speakers and legislators. She was also pleased with the light seniors were cast in during the speeches.

"It's nice to see older people not just being referenced as a drain on the economy," she said. "We have to change the way we engage people to volunteer."

# NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

"We have an excellent opportunity to improve upon the business model," said School Board chairman Dan Storck (Mount Vernon).

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman Gerry Connolly (D-At-large) said more information about the building purchase and certainly a better deal would be welcome.

"We were not overly convinced it was going to produce savings. The board wanted much more convincing evidence than what was presented," said Connolly.

Even with a new deal, the supervisors might still be skeptical about the plan.

"We are trying to save money and cut spending and the question is does it make sense to even be looking at this issue?" said Connolly.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

## Malicious Wounding Suspect Identified

A suspect involved in a Sept. 5 assault of two women at their Layton Drive home in Springfield has been identified by Fairfax County Police as Antonia Mendoza-Martinez, 28. The suspect was last known to live in Springfield.

According to a Fairfax County Police release, Mendoza-Martinez also goes by the first name "Dora" because of her resemblance to cartoon character Dora the Explorer. Officer Eddy Azcarate, spokesman for the Fairfax County Police Department, said Mendoza-Martinez's likeness to the character was mentioned numerous times during interviews with friends and

associates.

"Everybody we've talked to who have known this woman, that's what they say," said Azcarate.

The release goes on to describe the Sept. 5 incident, in which two female victims answered a knock at their door to find Mendoza-Martinez armed with a knife. After cutting the first victim, a 36-year-old Alexandria woman, in the hand and forcing her to the ground, Mendoza-Martinez pursued the second victim into the bedroom. The second victim, 23 and pregnant, was stabbed in the arm during the ensuing struggle before Mendoza left the premises. Both victims were transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital and treated for non life-threatening injuries. Azcarate said both the mother was recovering and her unborn child was not harmed.

Mendoza-Martinez is wanted for burglary while armed, aggravated malicious wounding and malicious wounding. Though she was identified after the assault by the victims, who knew her, Azcarate said the information was being released now because police had exhausted their resources looking for her.

"The problem is we can't find her. The reason we're publishing now is because we need to find her," said Azcarate.

## Alexandria Couple Robbed At Kingstowne ATM

A husband and wife were robbed Sunday, Oct. 5, just after 1 a.m., while making a deposit at an ATM at 5820 Kingstowne Center.

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 11

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Saturday's events will include *OF THIS EARTH*, an Alexandra Bryant musical interpretation of the wonders of creation, featuring a dance piece and string quartet.

**Time:** Friday, October 24: 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. • Saturday, October 25: 9:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.  
**Location:** Christ Church on Embassy Row • 3855 Massachusetts Ave. • NW, Washington, D.C., 20016  
**Admission:** Friday, October 24: Free and open to the public • Saturday, October 25: \$40 Adults/\$20 Students  
**Registration:** Please register at [www.cconembassyrow.com](http://www.cconembassyrow.com) or call (202) 363-4090

2009 marks Charles Darwin's 200th birthday (Feb. 12) and the 150th anniversary (Nov. 24) of his book *On the Origin of Species*. The Reasons To Believe, Washington, D.C., Network and Christ Church on Embassy Row are proud to announce an RTB Regional Conference addressing this all-important event. Hear RTB scholars Fazale Rana, Kenneth Samples, Jeff Zweerink, and Hugh Ross present the latest evidence that challenges Darwinism and supports the Christian faith.

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## PEOPLE

# Sharing the Holidays

### Jewish congregations welcome new members during High Holidays.

BY MARC GOLDMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**his week ends 10 days on the Jewish calendar considered the holiest of the year. The celebration of the Jewish New Year called Rosh Hashanah began on Monday night, Sept. 29. The annual period of spiritual renewal concludes on Oct. 9 with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

These days mark a new beginning for many members of the Fairfax Jewish community who have recently affiliated with a local temple. For others, the High Holidays reinforce a congregation's role as family away from family.

The community includes two congregations offering different approaches to worship — Adat Reyim in Springfield and Temple B'nai Shalom (TBS) in Fairfax Station. Adat Reyim is a Progressive Conservative congregation.

"Heavy emphasis on tradition, more Hebrew in our services while still addressing the challenges of modern society," said Rabbi Bruce Aft of Adat Reyim.

TBS is a Reform congregation that provides a variety of Jewish spiritual, social, and educational experiences for children and adults.

Membership is expected to reach approximately 500 families at TBS and 325 at Adat Reyim. "Most of our members are within five miles of temple," said Rabbi Amy Perlin, in her 21st year at TBS. "Still, the majority of the Jews in our area aren't affiliated, which is sad for me."

A seat at High Holy Days services combined with the start of religious school annually energizes new residents and previously unaffiliated families to pursue membership. In recent weeks, both congregations opened their sanctuaries to prospective new members offering building tours, time to meet the rabbis and even services "under the stars." In an effort to encourage young families to join and enjoy a savings on religious education, for the second year,

## BUSINESS NOTES

Commonwealth Orthopaedics of Northern Virginia has added two new physicians, **Sarah Pettrone, M.D.**, a hand and upper extremity specialist and **Amanda B. Trucksess, M.D.**, a physiatrist.

Pettrone graduated summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, from the University of Notre Dame with a B.S. in biology, and earned her medical degree from the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville, followed by an orthopaedic surgery internship and residency at New York University-Hospital for Joint Diseases and a hand fellowship at the University of Washington in Seattle. She was an administrative chief resident at NYU.

A native Virginian, Trucksess attended The College of William and Mary where she graduated cum laude with a major in kinesiology. She earned her medical degree from Virginia Common-

wealth University School of Medicine at the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, followed by a four year residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Working Mother magazine has named **Booz Allen Hamilton** one of the 2008 Working Mother Best Companies for the 10th consecutive year. From flextime and telecommuting to backup child care and parental leave, Booz Allen is expanding the concept of family-friendly benefits to ensure they cover adoptive parents, fathers and grandparents as well as working mothers. The company was selected based on an extensive application of 500 detailed questions about workforce, compensation, child-care and flexibility programs and leave policies. This year, particular weight was given to flexibility, family-

TBS offered pre-K and kindergarten classes for free. In 2007, this program doubled the size of the kindergarten class.

While much of the membership activity occurs at this time of year, new families are welcomed all year, according to Perlin, the senior member of world's first all female rabbi team. "Especially around here, where there are so many military families moving in and out of the area," said Aft.

"When families are relocating to Northern Virginia they are looking for an area supportive of Jews," said Perlin. "We want to make Burke and Fairfax Station Jewish-friendly." To that end, Perlin works to ensure Giant and Great Harvest Bread offer traditional recipes for challah (braided bread eaten on the Sabbath) and Hamentaschen (preserve-filled, three cornered cookies for the holiday of Purim in the spring).

"When considering membership, families look at their connection with the rabbi, the educational programs, the sense of community and the proximity to their home," said Aft. To extend the reach of his congregation, Aft is planning several "Rabbi on Wheels" programs this year and will conduct services in community centers in residential areas just beyond the traditional reach of his congregational boundaries.

"Many new members come with a consumer mentality and wonder, especially in this economy, what they are getting for their dollar," said Perlin. "The members most connected to the Temple are the ones that make the most of the experience — trying adult education, attending family programs, coming to services, getting to know the rabbis."

**ADDITIONALLY**, Perlin points to the emotional needs served by a congregation. "For many members, there just isn't immediate family right here. The temple through outreach by the rabbis or caring committees of members can be at nursing homes, hospitals, a member's house or just by phone when needed in a crisis."

"We are building a community of friends," said Aft.

And while membership has its privileges, Perlin views belonging as a crucial element to supporting and growing the Jewish community. "At this time of year, especially, we must ask ourselves 'How we as individuals are keeping the Jewish community alive,'" said Perlin. "It is a mitzvah (blessing) to belong."

friendly policies, leave policies, and benefits for part-timers.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center named **CSCI**, headquartered in Springfield, as a finalist for the Corporate Citizenship Award in the category of Corporate Stewardship, Small/Midsize Business. CSCI, along with four other finalists will be recognized at a dinner on Nov. 18 in Washington, D.C. The objectives of CSCI's community relations program are to make a positive impact on the community, to support organizations in which its employees are involved and to fund projects that support U.S. service members who are stationed overseas. The core of the company's program involves support for the March of Dimes, Santa Sac, SemperComm Foundation and PEARL Women's Leadership Forum.



Gail Ledford, left, has received the Cleary Award from SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) founder Dave Cleary and Board President Kim Fiske.

## Ledford Receives SCAN Award

**S**top Child Abuse Now recently presented Gail Ledford with the Cleary Award. Ledford has worked to raise funds and develop SCAN's program design and delivery, laying the foundation for Alexandria/Arlington CASA, Parent Education and Public Education programs.

Over 14 years, Ledford has held numerous leadership positions on SCAN's Board, including two terms as president, and has worked to make Board recruitment and development fit more intimately with the organization's strategic direction. Her familiarity with child welfare issues both nationally and statewide, as well as her intimate knowledge of Fairfax County's programs and operations, have benefited SCAN in its own program development and organizational maturity.

The Cleary Award, named after SCAN founder Dave Cleary, recognizes individuals and organizations whose dedication and commitment to children and families stands out in ways that make a positive difference in the lives of children.

## VIEWPOINTS

### What do you think is the number one issue in the presidential race?



"The most important issues for me are the financial situation and foreign policy."  
**Daniel Noon, Arlington**



"The whole economic situation is very important."  
**Jamie McClung, Reston**



"The Iraq war."  
**Michael Paquette, Fairfax**



"Right now, the economic issue."  
**Grace Linsangan, Reston**

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL

# CRIME

Activities reported by the Franconia District of the Fairfax County police department through Sept. 26.

## ATTEMPTED ROBBERY/ASSAULT

**7000 block of Rhoden Court.** A 22-year-old Alexandria-area man and a 29-year-old Manassas Park man were the victims of an assault and attempted robbery on Sunday, Sept. 28. The victims were walking with two other men in the 7000 block of Rhoden Court around 12:41 a.m. The two men assaulted the victims, attempted to take a bracelet from one of them and fled with nothing. The suspects were described as white and both wore black shirts. One suspect was approximately 5 feet 6

inches tall. The victims did not require medical attention.

## TELEPHONE THREAT/BIAS INCIDENT

**5600 block of Tower Hill Circle.** On Sunday, Sept. 28, a man received a threatening phone call from an acquaintance who also made racially biased claims. This incident stemmed from an ongoing disagreement between the victim and the suspect. The victim, 43, from the Alexandria area, is pursuing criminal charges. The Fairfax County Police Department recognizes the potential harm that bias incidents can have in a community, and encourages people to report them. All bias crimes and incidents are investigated thoroughly.

## LARGENIES

**4600 block of Apple Tree Drive.** Cash stolen from vehicle.  
**6300 block of Dakine Circle.** Steering wheel stolen from vehicle.  
**7400 block of Farnum St.** Purse stolen from residence.  
**5700 block of General Washington.** License plates stolen from vehicle.  
**6500 block of Gildar St.** Laptop computer stolen from residence.  
**7700 block of Gunston Plaza.** Wallet stolen from business.  
**7700 block of Gunston Plaza.** Wallet stolen from business.  
**7700 block of Island Creek Court.** Speaker stolen from vehicle.  
**4300 block of Ravensworth Road.** License plates stolen from vehicle.

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# Voter Profile: Military Veterans

Virginia veterans active in both McCain and Obama campaigns.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**R**etired Brig. Gen. John Johns supported Sen. John McCain's bid for the U.S. presidency eight years ago.

"The first political sign I ever put in my yard was for John McCain in 2000," said Johns, who lives in the Lansdowne development in Ashburn. The retired Army officer attended the National War College with McCain and considers the Arizona senator a friend.

But Johns, who left the military 30 years ago, will not be supporting McCain in the upcoming election Nov. 4. The veteran was the keynote speaker at a "Veterans for Obama" event Oct. 4.

"John McCain is the only one that insists we need to stay the course [in Iraq.] It is tearing our Army apart. ... It is wrecking our military and John McCain is stubbornly staying the course," he said.

A political independent, Johns said he has supported other veterans, including retiring Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), but does not think military service should be a prerequisite to the presidency.

"I commanded at higher levels than John McCain but to say this would qualify me to be president is nonsense," he said.

**JOHNS' OPINION** is far

from the norm. Veterans, both locally and nationally, have thrown a significant amount of their support behind McCain.

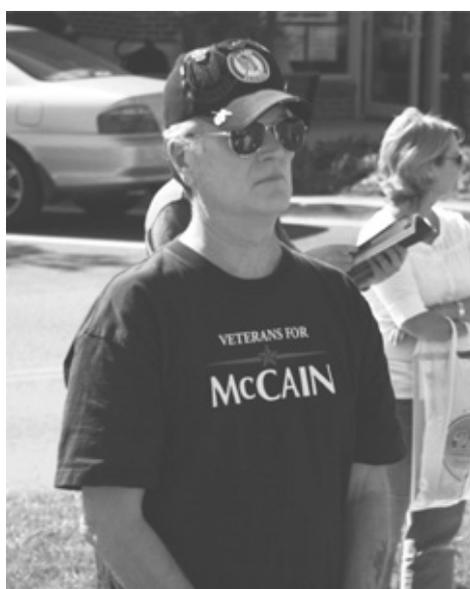
Only a few miles from the "Veterans for Obama" event where Johns spoke, the McCain campaign held a much larger event for supporters who are veterans. Twenty-one former leaders of the nation's largest veterans' organizations – the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars – also endorsed McCain Oct. 1.

"I have a wide audience of veterans and everyone I know supports John McCain," said John Hunter, an Arlington resident who is one of the McCain campaign's 31 "area coordinators" for veterans in Virginia.

"I am definitely more likely to support a veteran because of his military training and love of country," he added.

Approximately 13.5 percent of Virginia residents are veterans, the fifth highest percentage of veterans in any state population.

Arlington County (12 percent), the City of Alexandria (13.3 percent) and Fairfax County (11.8 percent) also have a higher



**Arlington resident John Hunter attended a Veterans for McCain-Palin rally in Ashburn Oct. 4.**



**Loudoun County resident Thom Beres is a state director for Veterans for Obama.**

PHOTOS BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

percentage of veterans among their residents than the United States on average (10.4 percent), according to 2006 census data.

Overall, about 138,200 veterans live in Northern Virginia, including Loudoun County, according to census figures.

"Are we critical? I think the race will be so close in Virginia that we are critical," said Thom Beres, the former head of the Loudoun County Democratic Committee and volunteer co-director of Veterans for Obama in Virginia.

"**THE MILITARY** is very conservative and so people in the military tend to align better with the Republican Party," said Don Raines, an Ashburn resident who graduated from the Air Force Academy and served in the military until 2006.

Raines, a McCain supporter, said he has a hard time identifying with or condoning Obama's recreational drug use as a young adult. "I didn't smoke a single joint in high school," he said.

Veterans also put a premium on a strong national defense and the Republican Party is perceived to favor a stronger approach to national security.

"In presidential elections, I tend to lean Republican because of national defense issues," said Springfield resident Bill Hurd, who also supports McCain.

But veterans supporting Obama said there is misconception about the link between the military and the Republican Party.

"I think you will find that officers skew Republican and enlisted folks skew Democrat," said Beres, a retired colonel who served for 26 years.

Beres added that recent reports also show people currently serving in the military – about three-percent of Virginia's total population – prefer Obama to McCain. Accord-

ing to the Center for Responsive Politics, active soldiers had contributed more money in larger numbers to Obama than McCain by the middle of August. Among those people who were deployed, Obama had a six-to-one advantage over McCain, the same analysis revealed.

Despite what Republicans might say, Democrats are not "weak" on defense, added Beres.

"The defense budgets increase under Democrats. Republicans tend to spend more money on fighter planes and bombers. Democrats spend more money on soldiers and benefits," he said.

**VETERANS** on both ends of the political spectrum agree that the next president should to focus more attention on the needs of retired and wounded soldiers.

"We veterans are looking at how our future president is going to take care of vet-

erans and our issues. ... I haven't really heard either presidential candidate talk about veterans issues," said Lew Lipscomb, commander of American Legion Post 176 in Springfield.

Lipscomb knows several local veterans who are having problems acquiring adequate health care. Many veterans feel their illnesses are getting lower "ratings" and that they are receiving fewer benefits than they would if they had the same problem in other regions of the country, he said.

"We have veterans coming to us needing money. They think we are rolling in money and we aren't," said Lipscomb, at the Springfield Post's annual "Pig Roast."

According to Lipscomb, there are approximately 8,000 American Legion members in Northern Virginia and Post 176 is the largest, with about 1,600 members.

**MANY VETERANS** said they thought McCain, a former prisoner of war, would better meet the needs of the military and veterans if elected.

"He is one of us. He knows what it means to get shot at," said Charlie McKinney, an Ashburn resident and coordinator of the "Veterans for McCain" effort in Virginia's 10<sup>th</sup> congressional district.

But Beres said McCain does not have a track record of being interested in veterans' issues.

"During [McCain's] 27 years in congress, he never volunteers to be on any committee or subcommittee

that deals with veterans and veterans' rights," said Beres.

**"I have a wide audience of veterans and everyone I know supports John McCain."**

— John Hunter, Arlington

## COUNTY NOTEBOOK

### Fairfax Pushes To Extend Voting

Fairfax County wants to having the option of leaving the polls open later should the region experience inclement weather or another calamity on election day.

Over the objections of county staff, the Board of Supervisors may ask the Virginia General Assembly to provide them with the option of extending voting hours in special circumstances. The bill would not be considered until after the presidential election takes place Nov. 4.

Fairfax County chairman Gerry Connolly (D) said he was upset on presidential primary day last February when Maryland was able to keep their polls open late during an ice storm but Northern Virginia was not.

"People were prevented physically from voting because they got stuck on a roadway," said Connolly.

Still, staff members said giving elected officials this power could open the voting process up to abuse. People could start extending polling hours in certain places as part of an effort to turn out more votes for the candidate of their choice, staff said.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE



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# OPINION

## Signs of Life

While the economic news is enough to ruin your breakfast (and lunch, and dinner), there are signs of life and resilience here in Northern Virginia.

While unemployment climbs in other parts of the country, employment is stronger here than almost anywhere. Proximity to the federal government in general, and to the Pentagon in particular, continues to boost our economy and employment.

We can look forward to new federal jobs created to support oversight of \$700 billion in federal investment in mortgage-related debt.

The Treasury, along with Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, should waste no time in fixing some of the problems at the root of the current housing and mortgage crisis. Adjustable rate mortgages should be rewritten or refinanced for a fixed rate of 6 percent for 30 years. Prepayment penalties should be abolished and banned. Every effort should be made to keep current homeowners in their current homes, and rescue them from the threat of foreclosure if they are able to make payments on the actual value of their homes at a reasonable and fixed interest rate. These steps will go a long way towards restoring a sense of confidence in the value of most families' primary investment. It's critical to let would-be homebuyers know that the end is in sight for prices dropping due to foreclosures.

On the home front, August home sales

showed signs of life here, even during a month notorious even in good times for low sales activity.

In communities that are served by the Connection Newspapers, in the month of August, more than 120 homes sold for more than \$1 million.

To give a sense of the variety of sales, the home that sold for the most money in the area in August was a four-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath condo in Arlington, which sold for \$5.3 million.

A three-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath home on an acre in Alexandria sold for \$3.875 million. Two homes in McLean and one in Great Falls each sold for more than \$3 million.

A dozen more condos and townhouses in Arlington and Alexandria sold for between \$1.09 million and \$2.325 million.

A four-bedroom home in Vienna sold for \$1.6 million on Aug. 27. A four-bedroom home in Oakton sold for \$1.45 million on Aug. 29. Ten more homes in Vienna and Oakton sold in August for more than \$1 million each.

A five-bedroom, six-bath home on more than five acres in Clifton sold on Aug. 1 for \$2.388 million. A seven-bedroom home on five acres in Fairfax Station sold on Aug. 25. Several homes with Lorton addresses topped \$1 mil-

Northern Virginia, it's time to count your blessings; real estate market alive at both ends of spectrum.

lion, along with at least one in Springfield and one in Centreville.

A home on a little less than an acre on Broad Creek Place in Herndon sold for \$1.275 million on Aug. 21.

A six-bedroom home on half an acre in Ashburn sold for \$1.845 million on Aug. 6.

At the other end of the spectrum is a glimpse of affordability that we haven't dreamed of in this area in nearly a decade.

Some examples:

In Arlington, 10 condos sold in August for less than \$200,000, six of those for under \$150,000.

In Reston, 14 homes — condos and townhouses — sold for under \$200,000, with another 16 selling between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

In Herndon, more than 40 homes, mostly townhouses, sold in August for less than \$200,000, 15 of those under \$150,000. More than 20 more sold for between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

Even in McLean, more than a dozen condos sold for less than \$300,000.

With homes at the top of the market selling, and new opportunities opening up at the affordable end of the market, our area's real estate market and home values should be reassuring.

### EDITORIAL

### COMMENTARY

## Gatehouse II — A Bad Deal

For Springfield supervisor, FCPS proposal to purchase of office building doesn't add up.

By SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY  
R-SPRINGFIELD

At the Sept. 22, 2008 meeting, the Board of Supervisors declined to provide the EDA bonding necessary to finance the purchase of the Gatehouse II building. The school system wanted to purchase the Gatehouse II facility in order to consolidate the administrative staff. While the formal vote was unanimous, there was significant disagreement among the Board of Supervisors. The school system is actively working to revise the proposal to bring it back to the Board of Supervisors.

I am a strong believer in consolidation and the efficiencies they typically bring. However, the proposal put forth by the school system was a bad deal. Here are just some of the reasons:

❖ **Purchase Price Too High.** The school proposed paying \$52M for a building that was purchased by the current owner for \$44 million just two years ago. Building values have fallen in the last two years. The schools consultant indicated it was a good deal because fully leased up the building would be worth \$60 million. However the building has no

leases.

❖ **Minimal Cost Saving.** The estimated cost savings over the 30 years was presented at \$22 million. This equals less than \$1 million per year. The savings for Gatehouse I was presented at approximately \$25 million but is now estimated to be at only \$10 million. As noted in the following two paragraphs the savings is both understated (no reductions for personnel efficiencies) and overstated (much of this benefit does not pass to taxpayers).

❖ **School Cost Savings Does Not Equal Taxpayer Savings.** Much of the \$22 million in cost savings results from the elimination of the cost of operating and maintaining the current buildings. However, the project as presented keeps all of the properties in Fairfax County's hands meaning taxpayers continue to pay the cost. Most of the buildings were proposed to be transferred to the Board of Supervisors but there was no discussion or plan on use or disposal of these properties — especially given our pending reductions — meaning that taxpayers likely would continue to bear the cost even if the schools did not.

❖ **No Reduction of Personnel for Efficiencies.** The school claims that the consolidation of offices would result in efficiencies. However, the only positions that were eliminated due to this consolidation were the custodial and building maintenance staff. If there are real efficiencies then I would expect to see real reductions in staff being proposed as a result.

❖ **Failure to Consider Upcoming Administrative Staff Reductions.** The school administrative staff has grown at a significantly higher rate than the school population. Based on the current Lines of Business Review being undertaken by the school I would expect to see a significant reduction in administrative personnel. The proposal kept the school administrative staffing at the same level as current level when looking at the administrative facilities need for Gatehouse II.

There were several positive outcomes from the proposed purchase of Gatehouse II, the biggest being the availability of three schools currently used for administrative staff that are or will be needed as schools — Dunn Loring, Lacy and Devonshire. However, in my opinion, these positives were significantly overshadowed by the points above and may be able to be accomplished with staff reductions. In this time of limited resources, we need to be focusing on our teachers, school and kids and not adding administrative space.

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# NEWS

FROM PAGE 5

According to a Fairfax County Police release, the man, 30, was approached while leaving the ATM by two armed men demanding money. After the man handed over his debit card, the men left without further incident. Officer Eddy Azcarate of the Fairfax Police Department declined to identify the weapon used, but described it as a type of firearm and "not a knife." The wife, 36, was inside the couple's car during the incident and no injuries were reported.

**NEWS BRIEFS** The release goes on to say that the first suspect was described as a black male, 5 feet 9 inches, slim and in his 20s. He was wearing a black jacket and black jeans. The second man was described as a white male, 5 feet 10 inches with a heavy build. Also in his 20s, he was wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt and dark sunglasses.

## Input Sought on Watershed Plan

On Wednesday, Oct. 15, Fairfax County officials will host a forum to receive public input on development of a watershed management plan for Pohick Creek. The forum, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., will meet in the cafeteria at West Springfield Elementary School, 6802 Deland Drive, Springfield. Presenters at the meeting will introduce the watershed planning process to members of the community and report on watershed conditions. Comments and ideas from the audience are welcome. A watershed advisory group will be formed after the meeting and will include representatives from neighborhoods, businesses, conservation and other groups. For more, call 703-324-5500 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/watersheds).



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DINING

# There's The Rub

Entrepreneur spreads message of dry rubs through barbecue competitions.

BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL  
THE CONNECTION

**A**fter 20 years of being a graphic artist, Chris Capell was looking for a way to spice up his life through a career change.

"After 9/11, that was the point where it seemed to turn," said Capell, sitting at the counter of his partially renovated Fairfax home.

With a the glut of artists on the market and the advent of computer programs like Pagemaker and Photoshop making it easier for businesses to do their own design work, Capell knew it was time to change.

"I realized that if people didn't want to pay me to develop their image and develop their company, I'd do my own," he said. "I decided to pick my own favorite passion and kind of created the company around that."

Capell's passion was barbecue and the company that he helped to create was Dizzy Pig, which produces dry rubs for grilling meat, chicken and fish.

Dizzy Pig's 10 rubs boast enticing names like Tsunami Spin, Dizzy Dust and Jamaican Fire Walk and are sold through its Web site [www.dizzypigbbq.com] and select outlets across the country.

"We mix all of the seasonings here in our basement," said Capell, assuring that USDA makes regular visits to his production facility. "We're still a teeny company, but we have customers in every state and stores in almost every state are carrying our stuff."

As a small company, Dizzy Pig has relied on some word of mouth to slowly expand its reach. Capell said that often it's the customers who provide leads on possible retail outlets. "They'll send us the stores they'd like to see it in and we'll send them a kit."

Locally, Dizzy Pig is sold at Whole Foods Markets. Capell has even put on a grilling demonstration at the Whole Foods in Fair Lakes.

**ANOTHER WAY** that Capell

promotes his business is by entering barbecue competitions. The impetus for this strategy came from Dizzy Pig's need for a little self-affirmation.

"People say they like it, but we started doing competitions to see if people were lying to us," said Capell. "We wanted to find out how we did in a blind judging situation. Using all our rubs on the competition

food, turning it in, in a blind box, where the judges can't tell who it is.

That's how we'll really know. That's how we did the first competition."

Against 25 other teams at that first event, Dizzy Pig finished eighth overall, with two sixth-place calls. "We were hooked," Capell said. "I guess they're not lying."

Since then, the Dizzy Pig barbecue team has won 10 grand championships. Up to two years ago, the team was av-

eraging four or five wins per year. "Half of the contests we we're entering, we were winning," said Capell. "We had a pretty good stretch."

**ON OCT. 24** and 25, the Dizzy Pig team will be in Lynchburg, Tenn., for the 20th Annual Jack Daniel's World Championship Invitational Barbecue.

"It's really the big game as far as barbecue competitions go," said Elizabeth A. Lewis, judge and media relations representative for the event.

Each year, 20,000-25,000 barbecue enthusiasts descend on the small Tennessee town of 361, which is more famous for its whiskey than its barbecue.

This will be Dizzy Pig's fifth year in a row in Lynchburg, having earned an invitation with a victory at the New Jersey state championship.

"It's a very prestigious competition, with 60-65 domestic and 10-20 international entries each year," said Lewis. Over \$30,000 in cash and prizes will be presented. The top six finishers in each of the categories receive a jug.

"We have two jugs for sauce and we've got a sixth place in ribs and chicken," said Capell. "We've gotten an award every year, but as far as overall, we've usually been right in the middle of the pack. Hopefully, things will be a little better this year."

Aside from the competition, the Jack Daniel's World Championship includes performances by cloggers and musicians, artisans, games and activities for children.

"It's bigger than Christmas in Lynchburg," said Lewis.

When Capell is not competing or mixing dry rubs, he's strategizing on how to take his basement company to the next level.

"We've got a lot of interest internationally — Australia, Denmark, Germany," he said. "That's my next goal, to get some distributors set up overseas and start shipment out that way." In the meantime, he anticipates staying in the basement for another year.

"One thing I found out early is that you've got to sell a bunch of rub to make any money," said Capell.

"One thing I found out early is that you've got to sell a bunch of rub to make any money."

— Chris Capell, Dizzy Pig

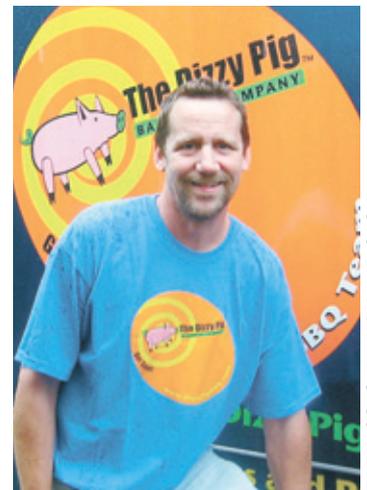


PHOTO BY MICHAEL O'CONNELL

Chris Capell of Dizzy Pig

## Grilling Tips

Chris Capell of Dizzy Pig has conducted demonstrations of his company's dry rubs at Whole Foods Markets around the Fairfax area. He also hopes to begin offering grilling classes. Here are a few pointers that Capell offers the home griller.

❖ **Don't overcook.** "Most people are overcooking their meat. By the time they get the color they want, it's overcooked on the inside. They haven't developed a feel for it or they aren't checking their internal temperatures."

❖ **Grilling is not baking.** "The conditions are different every time and you've got to have a feel for how the meat's coloring up. Do you need more heat? Less heat? It's a little more of an art."

❖ **Get a feel for the food.** "Observe and see what's wrong. Was it dry and pale on the outside? Did it have good color? Was it burnt and raw inside? ... On the outside you want a crust for flavor and browning for flavor. On the inside, you want it moist and tender to be perfectly cooked. Finding that balance is the trick."

❖ **Know your meats.** "Like boneless, skinless [chicken] breasts, I'll cook in like seven or eight minutes, while thighs I'll cook for two hours [on a lower temperature]. It's all finding that balance and finding out which part of the fire to cook under. People on their gas grill should be cooking up on the warming rack if they have something that needs to cook a while, like thighs. Thighs take a while to get the meat done by the bone. If you're grilling on hot and it's charred in 10 minutes, you've got a problem."

❖ **Hot and fast are sometimes best.** "For chicken breasts or a lean pork chop, you want to get that thing seared on each side, hot, fast, because by the time you're done searing, it's going to be done. But if you're going cooking low, you're never going to get that color by the time the meat's overcooked."

❖ **Use a rub.** "It's about the flavor crust. It's an easy way, and I think the best way ... to get flavor. You're building a crust on the meat. That's your flavor. That's what a rub does."

# CALENDAR

SPRINGFIELD 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, OCT. 9

**Uli Jon Roth and more.** Age 21 and over. 8 p.m. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

**George Mason University presents Bert V. Royal's "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead."** 8 p.m. An unauthorized parody of Charles Schultz's "Peanuts," "Dog Sees God ..." centers on the cruelties teens inflict upon each other. Tickets \$6 general admission, \$3 for students and seniors. George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8600.

**Dave Berry.** 8-12 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860.

## FRIDAY, OCT. 10

**Los Gatos, traditional Latin music fused with contemporary jazz.** 7 p.m. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. The Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. www.workhousearts.org.

**Springfield Art Guild October Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. 703-644-6677 or magickaldl@earthlink.net.

**Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa** brings an array of singers, dancers and musicians to the Concert Hall stage at George Mason University's Center for the Arts. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Charge by



**The 41st Annual Clifton Day Celebration will be on Sunday, Oct. 12, featuring Civil War reenactments, craft fairs and vendors, live music, barbeques and historic displays.**

phone at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com. The Center for the Arts complex is on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**Jon Oliva's Pain with Circle II Circle, Manticora Division and more.** 7:30 p.m. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or www.jaxxroxx.com.

**George Mason University presents Bert V. Royal's "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead."** 8 p.m. An unauthorized parody of Charles Schultz's "Peanuts," "Dog Sees God ..." centers on the cruelties teens

inflict upon each other. Tickets \$6 general admission, \$3 for students and seniors. George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8600.

**Dave Berry.** 8:30-12:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860.

## SATURDAY, OCT. 11

**Fairfax Out of the Darkness Community Walk,** benefiting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Registration will begin 8:15 a.m., with the walk scheduled to begin 9 a.m. at Shelter A at Burke Lake Park. To register or donate, visit SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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# CALENDAR

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The Korean American Cultural Arts Festival, celebrating Korean traditional music and culture with the Nangye Gugak Orchestra and prominent representatives of Korea's traditional arts community known as Intangible Cultural Assets, will be at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall on Sunday, Oct. 12.

FROM PAGE 13

www.outofthedarkness.org.  
**Song and Dance Ensemble of West Africa** brings an array of singers, dancers and musicians to the Concert Hall stage at George Mason University's Center for the Arts. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com. The Center for the Arts complex, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Visit www.gmu.edu/cfa.  
**The Cold War Museum Conference on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Prague Spring.** Registration 8 a.m., program starts 9 a.m. Advance admission \$25, at the door \$30, students free. Lunch included.

Collecting oral histories from Cold War veterans, "Spy Craft" by Linda McCarthy, the history of the Lorton Nike Missile site, and more. South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. 703-273-2381 or museum@coldwar.org.  
**Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League (MAGDRL) Meet & Greet.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Come meet some Danes, and ask volunteers any questions you may have. MAGDRL helps find homes for abandoned or homeless Great Danes; educational information will be available and donations appreciated. Felix & Oscar, 6671-A Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-866-0222. MAGDRL will be at Felix & Oscar on the second Saturday of every month. www.nova-

magdrl.org.

**Ultimate Warrior Challenge - Confrontation.** Professional mixed martial arts action. 6 p.m. Tickets \$28.50-\$128.50, available online at www.ticketmaster.com or via 703-573-SEAT. Visit www.uwmma.com or www.patriotcenter.com. The George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. 703-993-3000.

**George Mason University presents Bert V. Royal's "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead."** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. An unauthorized parody of Charles Schultz's "Peanuts," "Dog Sees God ..." centers on the cruelties teens inflict upon each other. Tickets \$6

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

general admission, \$3 for students and seniors. George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8600.

**Dave Berry.** 8:30-12:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 12

### 41st Annual Clifton Day Celebration.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. Live music, barbeques and baked goods, a petting zoo, face painting, a climbing wall and children's games, a Civil war camp reenactment by the 49th Virginia, and pony rides for children by the Clifton Horse Society. Nearly 180 vendors will line Chapel Road and Main St., including basketry, ceramics and pottery, clothing, fabric, furniture, glass, jewelry, mixed media, sculpture and metalwork, stained glass and wood and decorative painting. Historic Town of Clifton, 7144 Main St., Clifton. [www.cliftonday.org](http://www.cliftonday.org).

### Third Annual Korean American Cultural Arts Festival.

6:30 p.m. Celebrating Korean traditional music and culture, with a performance by the "Nangye Gugak Orchestra," joined by prominent representatives of Korea's traditional arts community known as Intangible Cultural Assets. Tickets at [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com) are \$40, \$20 seniors and students. George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-507-4492.

### George Mason University presents Bert V. Royal's "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead."

2 p.m. An unauthorized parody of Charles Schultz's "Peanuts," "Dog Sees God..." centers on the cruelties teens

inflict upon each other. Tickets \$6 general admission, \$3 for students and seniors. George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-993-8600.

### Run for Wounded Warriors.

7 a.m. Once around the lake at Burke Lake Park, 4.7 miles. Race fees support the Wounded Warrior Project. \$35 in advance, or \$40 day of event. Free race t-shirt with registration. Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Register online at [www.jmwaller.com](http://www.jmwaller.com).

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 15

### Mushroomhead with The Autumn Offering and more.

All ages. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or [www.jaxxroxx.com](http://www.jaxxroxx.com).

## THURSDAY/OCT. 16

### George Mason University Speaker Series.

Jonathan D. Moreno, Ph.D., David and Lyn Silfen University Professor, professor of medical ethics and of history and sociology of science University of Pennsylvania; Mind Wars: Brain Research and National Defense. 6 p.m.; free. George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Mason Hall, Room D3AB, Fairfax. Call 703-993-1850 or visit <http://chpre.gmu.edu>.

### Opening Night for Third Annual Washington D. C. International Horror Film Festival

at Cinema Arts Theatre at Fair City Mall, at the corner of Main Street and Pickett Road in Fairfax, with host Count Gore de Vol. Doors open 7 p.m. Tickets \$8, age 17 and under admitted only with parent or

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16




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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 15

guardian. Scheduled films are "Back to Life," "Foet," "The Sleuth Incident," "Snip" and "No Through Road". [www.thespookymovie.com](http://www.thespookymovie.com) or [www.cinemaartstheatre.com](http://www.cinemaartstheatre.com).

**Kamelot with EdGuy, Blood Corps and more.** All ages. 6:45 p.m. \$27 in advance, \$30 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or [www.jaxxroxx.com](http://www.jaxxroxx.com).

**Rocky Guttman**, 8-12 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 17

**Overkill with Warbringer, Epicurean, Kneel to Zod, Tranquil Terror, Botched Autopsy and more.** All ages. 6:30 p.m. \$22 in advance, \$25 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or [www.jaxxroxx.com](http://www.jaxxroxx.com).

**Virginia Opera's Verdi's Il Trovatore.** 8 p.m. Staging by Lillian Groag, set by Michael Ganio and lighting by Richard Winkler. Soprano Eilana Lappalainen, tenor Gustavo López Manzitti and two-time Grammy Award-winning baritone Nmon Ford. Mezzo-soprano Jeniece Golbourne and bass-baritone Ashraf Sewailam. Conductor, Peter Mark. Tickets \$44-\$98, at 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com). George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123.

**Third Annual Washington D. C. International Horror Film Festival** at Cinema Arts Theatre at Fair City Mall, at the corner of Main St. and Pickett Road in Fairfax. Doors open 9:45 p.m. Tickets \$12, age 17 and under admitted only with parent or guardian. Scheduled films are "Night of the Hell Hamsters," "Excision," "Crushed," "A Break in the Monotony," "Prombies!" and "Brain Dead." [www.thespookymovie.com](http://www.thespookymovie.com) or [www.cinemaartstheatre.com](http://www.cinemaartstheatre.com).

**Songs of a Lifetime, with Beverly Cosham, Charles Williams, and George Fulginiti-Shakar.** A gallery exhibition preview and reception at 6 p.m. will be followed by the concert at 7 p.m., on the second floor of Gallery

(W-16) at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road in Lorton. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. [kevinsheehan@lortonarts.org](mailto:kevinsheehan@lortonarts.org), 703-495-0001 or [www.WorkhouseArts.org](http://www.WorkhouseArts.org).

**Choptank Murphy**, 8:30-12:30 p.m. at Kate's Irish Pub and Restaurant, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860.

**Aldersgate Church Community Theater presents "Dearly Departed,"** directed by C. Evans Kirk, at 8 p.m. in Wesley Hall, Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for students and seniors. 703-660-2611 or [www.presaleticketing.com](http://www.presaleticketing.com).

## SATURDAY, OCT. 18

**The 2008 Northern Virginia Buddy Walk**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., hosted by the Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia, will take place, rain or shine, at the Fairfax County Government Center. 202-326-3152 or [www.dsav.org](http://www.dsav.org).

**Fall Watershed Clean-Up Day.** 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Lake Accotink Park, 7550 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. 703-569-3464 or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefront](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefront).

**The Flag Circle**, a fall festival featuring arts and crafts, craft-making demonstrations and old-time games for children and adults. Hayrides, music, food and more. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission. Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road, Lorton. 703-339-2385 or [www.dcr.virginia.gov/state\\_parks/mas.shtml](http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/mas.shtml).

**Archaeology Day.** 12-4 p.m. Under the tutelage of Gunston Hall's archaeology staff, screen for artifacts, clean and mend found objects, and become acquainted with other basic techniques of the profession. To learn about important discoveries made on site, take the Hunting for George Mason's Garden tour at 1:15 or 3:15 p.m. Under age 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Groups of five or more must make reservations. 10709 Gunston road, Mason Neck. 703-550-9480 or [www.gunstonhall.org](http://www.gunstonhall.org).

**Hearts & Hands Bazaar.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Crafters, vendors, collectibles, books, toys, and more. Coffee and donuts while you shop. Lunch and a Tea Shoppe available. Messiah Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-9862.

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**Who:** Everyone—children, teens, adults, families, pets!  
**What:** 5k non-competitive walk  
**When:** Saturday, November 1, 2008 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Where:** Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA  
**How:** Register online at [www.WalkLikeMadd.org](http://www.WalkLikeMadd.org) (select "Fairfax, VA")

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# LETTERS

## A Smart Move

To the Editor:

Low prices for real estate mean that property tax revenues have declined and local governments are strapped for revenue. However, these low prices also create real estate bargains.

A few years ago, Fairfax County Public Schools noted that its central office employees were scattered across the county — in expensive leased offices and in run-down former schools. In 2004, we and the Board of Supervisors agreed to a two-phase plan to move our central office staff into two new centrally located buildings. We would give up the leases, and transform old schools into new schools or community centers, meanwhile reducing our central office staff and saving millions. Both Phase I and Phase II would be funded with revenue bonds, which would be guaranteed by, and paid off with, the savings derived from the move. No money would come from the existing operating budget or from taxpayer-approved school bond issues. In fact, the move could free up money for both of these.

Phase I, completed in 2006, was a success. We reduced operating

costs, paid for the first building with savings from consolidation, and freed up vacant land and school buildings for community use. Consolidation reduced both traffic and air pollution.

This year we are ready for Phase II. The original concept of Phase II was to build another new building next to the Phase I building. But the real estate downturn presented a unique opportunity to save even more taxpayer funds. An existing building right next to the Phase I building can now be had at a bargain price. Buying and renovating this building will enable us to consolidate our other central office employees, saving \$7.5 million over the next three years, and tens of millions long-term. We can then terminate other leases, return buildings to the community and free up three buildings for use by children, some of whom now attend school in trailers.

The Board of Supervisors should support our efforts to operate more efficiently, save tax dollars and concentrate resources in the classroom.

**Dan Storck**  
Chair

Fairfax County School Board

### AROUND TOWN

**Franconia Museum**, located in the Franconia Government Center building at 6121 Franconia Road, Franconia, is open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Members of the Board of Directors staff the museum and are on hand to take questions and discuss local history. The Franconia Museum is a private, non-profit local history museum dedicated to preserving the past, present and future of the Franconia area in pictures, artifacts and stories. On Wednesdays, Jac Walker is on hand to help Franconia residents begin writing their personal story of growing up in the area.

**The Greater Chesapeake and Potomac (GC&P) Region of the American Red Cross** reports a declining blood supply and low appointment rates. All eligible donors are invited to schedule a donation appointment at any blood drive or donor center, by calling 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. Platelet donors can call 1-800-272-2123 to schedule an appointment. Additional listings can be found at [www.my-redcross.org](http://www.my-redcross.org) or by calling 1-800-GIVE LIFE (1-800-448-3543).

## Hearts & Hands Bazaar

**Saturday, October 18**  
**9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Vendors • Crafters • Furniture • Toys**  
**White Elephants • Silent Auction • Books**  
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- \* Nature Hikes
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# OPEN HOUSES SAT/SUN OCTOBER 11 & 12



**Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.**

## Springfield

6127 GARDEN RD	\$949,000	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
8906 GUTMAM CT	\$365,000	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
6500 LAMESE CT	\$629,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
7324 SPRING VIEW CT	\$349,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
5931 BAYSHIRE RD	\$259,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
7688 GREEN GARLAND DR	\$529,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525

## Kingstowne Alexandria

250 CAMERON STATION BLVD	\$549,950	Sun 1-4	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808
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## Fairfax Station/Laurel Hill

9650 POTTERS HILL CIR	\$429,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
7627 BUCKLAND PL	\$669,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
8515 SILVERDALE RD	\$565,000	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
11306 LILTING LN	\$2,450,000	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
10328 REGENCY STATION DR	\$1,029,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
8502 CHASE GLEN CIR	\$659,967	Sat/Sun	ReMax	Bob/Shirley	703-407-4700
8506 OAK CHASE CIR	\$859,000	Sat/Sun	ReMax	Bob Lovett	703-407-4700
8728 FOXHALL TERRACE	\$729,900	Sat/Sun	ReMax	Bob Lovett	703-407-4700
7511 SOUTH REACH DR	\$899,000	10/12 1-4	Weichert	Kathleen Walter	703-691-0555
8200 CRUSADE DRIVE	\$975,000	Sun 1-4	Wolf Run Realty	Dan Breda	703-929-7532
7009 SYLVAN GLEN LANE	\$999,000	Sun 1-4	Wolf Run Realty	Jennifer Pogoda	571-218-7889
11451 QUAILWOOD MANOR DRIVE	\$1,390,000	Sun 1-4	Wolf Run Realty	Larry Askins	703-850-8176
7701 ROSE GATE COURT	\$1,275,000	Sun 1-4	Wolf Run Realty	Nora Foley	703-963-2621
11611 HENDERSON ROAD	\$724,247	Sun 1-4	Wolf Run Realty	Jennifer Pogoda	571-218-7889
7101 PARK POINT CT	\$749,950	10/12 1-4	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808

## Burke

9737 IRONMASTER DR	\$549,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
9125 LAKE BRADDOCK DR	\$599,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
5990 POWELLS LANDING RD	\$379,900	Sat/Sun	Re/Max	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski	703-239-2525
9721 WATERLINE DR	\$484,950	10/12 1-4	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808

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Contact: Karen Washburn

kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Mon. at 3pm.

See [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) on Saturday for open houses added after deadline.

# HOME SALES

08/01/08 ~ 08/14/08

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	Subdivision
6072 DEER RIDGE TRL	5	4	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$725,000	Detached	0.31	..	HIGHGROVE ESTATES
7705 MARTIN ALLEN CT	3	2	1	..	ALEXANDRIA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.04	..	ISLAND CREEK
7207 TRAPPERS PL	5	3	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$496,000	Detached	0.24	..	ORANGE HUNT ESTATES WEST
8152 SHIPS CURVE LN	4	3	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$488,000	Detached	0.21	..	MIDDLE VALLEY
7405 DUNNINGTON PL	3	3	1	..	ALEXANDRIA	\$475,000	Townhouse	0.04	..	KINGSTOWNE
6624 PATENT PARISH LN	3	3	1	..	ALEXANDRIA	\$459,000	Townhouse	0.04	..	ISLAND CREEK
6302 WAYLES ST	4	3	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$449,888	Detached	0.30	..	MONTICELLO WOODS
8612 VICTORIA RD	5	3	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$435,000	Detached	0.32	..	KINGS PARK
6909 ROCHAMBEAU PL	5	2	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$430,500	Detached	0.31	..	LAKEWOOD HILLS
8638 WOODVIEW DR	4	3	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$430,000	Detached	0.22	..	BRAMBLEWOOD
6915 ROCHAMBEAU PL	4	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$430,000	Detached	0.51	..	LAKEWOOD HILLS
7426 WILLSHIRE HUNT CT	3	2	2	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$430,000	Townhouse	0.05	..	ORANGE HUNT SQUARE
6627 CREEK POINT WAY	3	3	1	..	ALEXANDRIA	\$414,900	Townhouse	0.04	..	ISLAND CREEK
7003 ASHLEIGH MANOR CT	3	2	2	..	ALEXANDRIA	\$404,900	Townhouse	0.04	..	KINGSTOWNE
8310 WYTHE LN	3	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$398,000	Detached	0.25	..	WEST SPRINGFIELD VILLAGE
7507 AXTON ST	3	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$386,500	Detached	0.25	..	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
6344 DEMME PL	3	2	2	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$382,500	Townhouse	0.03	..	JAPONICA
7509 LAURALIN PL	3	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$379,000	Detached	0.37	..	SPRINGFIELD
8111 BULLOCK LN	4	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$368,000	Detached	0.25	..	RAVENSWORTH
7907 TREESIDE CT	3	2	2	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.06	..	WINTER FOREST
6102 BRANDON AVE	5	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$360,000	Detached	0.21	..	YATES VILLAGE
7709 BRISTOL SQUARE CT	4	3	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$359,000	Townhouse	0.04	..	BRISTOL SQUARE
7609 HAMLET ST	5	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$349,900	Detached	0.40	..	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
6917 FLOYD AVE	3	1	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$345,000	Detached	0.27	..	LYNBROOK
5215 MILLAND ST	4	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$340,000	Detached	0.26	..	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
6019 AMHERST AVE	13	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$325,000	Detached	0.20	..	SPRINGFIELD
8863 WINDING HOLLOW WAY	4	3	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.04	..	TIMBERS THE
6019 DINWIDDIE ST	5	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$325,000	Detached	0.19	..	SPRINGFIELD
7511 DUNSTON ST	3	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$320,000	Detached	0.24	..	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
8132 DRAYTON LN	0	0	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$317,000	Detached	0.25	..	RAVENSWORTH
7707 HAYNES POINT WAY #D	2	2	0	..	ALEXANDRIA	\$305,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	..	CARRDINAL PLACE
7302 INZER ST	4	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$303,000	Detached	0.24	..	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
6807 BRADDOCK RD	5	3	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$300,000	Detached	0.26	..	EDSALL PARK
5900 DINWIDDIE ST	4	2	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$300,000	Detached	0.24	..	SPRINGFIELD
7207 DONCASTER ST	4	3	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$295,000	Detached	0.22	..	MONTICELLO FOREST
6516 ALEXIS LN	3	2	2	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$295,000	Townhouse	0.04	..	KEENE MILL VILLAGE
8103 HATTERAS LN	4	3	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$291,888	Detached	0.34	..	RAVENSWORTH
8443 CANYON OAK DR	2	2	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$259,000	Townhouse	0.03	..	SPRINGFIELD OAKS
5404 FERNDALE ST	3	1	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$250,000	Detached	0.27	..	NORTH SPRINGFIELD
8852 CORK COUNTY CT #1	3	2	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$248,000	Townhouse	0.05	..	SHANNON STATION
7701 DURER CT	3	2	2	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$225,000	Townhouse	0.05	..	NEWINGTON STATION
5900G QUEENSTON ST #G	2	1	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$136,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	.....	..	CARDINAL FOREST
7607 CHANCELLOR WAY	4	4	0	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$115,000	Detached	0.23	..	CHANCELLOR FARMS

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# CLASSES

## MISCELLANEOUS

**Colorful World**, a small minority women-owned education consulting organization in Springfield providing diversity education consulting, training and resources, offers several classes at the center, 7001 Loisdale Road, Suite C-215, Springfield. For more, visit [www.colorfulworld.com](http://www.colorfulworld.com) or call 703-778-9910.

**Fall Pottery Classes.** Susan Fox Hirschmann is currently enrolling beginner and intermediate adults for weekly classes. The class will include a hand building and learning to "throw" on the potter's wheel. Call for class schedule. Tuition total: \$355, including materials, all firings, glazes, 25 pounds of clay and use of studio tools, equipment and aprons. 4810 Tabard Place, Annandale. 703-978-1480 or [www.silverhawk.com/ex99/hirschmann](http://www.silverhawk.com/ex99/hirschmann).

### Join the Wakefield Chorale.

Practice is Tuesday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke, and meet in the lecture hall/multipurpose room, number B-167. No audition is required, come any time. 703-451-7917.

**Knitting.** The Yarn Barn offers a variety of knitting workshops on Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 6-8 p.m., and Saturdays 8-10 a.m. Call for classes and schedule. The Yarn Barn, 9413-C Old Burke Lake Road, Burke. [www.geocities.com/theyarnbarnonline](http://www.geocities.com/theyarnbarnonline).

## LANGUAGES

**English Classes.** Free English classes for adults Saturdays from 5-6:30 p.m. Free testing to determine which level students should be in. Text is \$20. Classes in Trailer Rooms 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B at Christ Church, 8285 Glen

Eagles Lane, Fairfax Station. Contact [debbie-tim-mccrory@cox.net](mailto:debbie-tim-mccrory@cox.net).

**English Classes.** Registration is in session for English classes for adult foreign nationals. The classes are offered in 16 locations in Northern Virginia. Childcare is available at some locations. \$20 processing fee. Check [www.eslim.org](http://www.eslim.org) for class locations and schedules or call 703-841-0292 and leave a message. Calls will be returned in English, Spanish, Korean, or Vietnamese.

**The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia (LCNV)** helps adults learn to read, write, speak and understand English through one-to-one tutoring programs and English classes. LCNV offers eight tutor training workshops to prepare volunteers. No teaching or foreign language skills are required. \$35 training fee. James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road in Falls Church. Call 703-237-0866 ext. 111 or visit [www.lcnv.org](http://www.lcnv.org).

**ESL Classes.** Tuesdays and Thursdays, from Sept. 30 through Dec. 11, at 7 p.m. Registration \$10; textbook \$25. School age childcare provided. Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Call 703-323-9500 or visit [www.lordoflifelutheran.com](http://www.lordoflifelutheran.com).

## FINANCE AND BUSINESS

**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. For more, call 703-768-1440 or visit [www.cbponline.org](http://www.cbponline.org).

**Getting Your Affairs in Order: The Box Class.** The objective of this class is to teach about keeping

financial records and important documents in order, what to keep, throw away or shred, etc. Four hours total for each two-night class. Thursdays, Nov. 6 and 13, 7-9 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3500 Old Lee Highway. \$69, including tuition and materials. Online registration at <http://www.aceclasses.org> or call 703-658-1202.

## PAINTING & DRAWING

**Art Classes.** Springfield Art Guild member Maureen Wolford teaches classes that focus on enhancing and refining basic drawing and painting techniques involving color, perspective and shading. Materials include watercolor, tempera, pastel, acrylic and oil; machine sewing, beginner needlepoint, architecture, art history and more. Ages 8 to adult, flexible schedules. Call 703-455-4473 or visit [www.lifethroughart.com](http://www.lifethroughart.com).

**Art Classes in Burke.** Classes are available for children 5-8, 8 and up 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 703-250-6930 or [www.geocities.com/czeitlinschneier](http://www.geocities.com/czeitlinschneier).

## SPORTS

**Skating Lessons.** Skater's Quest of Fairfax gives free skate lessons with a qualified professional. Lessons take place at Dick's Sporting Goods, 12501 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax. To register visit [www.skatersquest.com](http://www.skatersquest.com).

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**VDOT** Virginia Department of Transportation

**Proposed widening of a portion of Telegraph Road (Route 611) in Fairfax County**

### CITIZEN INFORMATION MEETING

You are invited to attend a Citizen Information Meeting on Thursday, October 30, 2008 between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. A brief presentation will be given at 6:15 p.m., followed by a question and answer period. The meeting will be held at the Hayfield Secondary School, Lecture Hall 1604, located at 7630 Telegraph Road in Alexandria, Virginia. Please use Entrance #9 at the rear of the school, which is directly accessible from Old Telegraph Road.

Find out about the preliminary project proposal to widen Telegraph Road from a two lane to a four-lane facility, with a curbed median, sidewalk, trail and on-road bicycle lanes. The proposed widening will begin at the intersection of Beulah Street (Route 613) and end at the intersection of South Kings Highway (Route 633).

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division, at the Northern Virginia District Office, 14685 Avion Parkway in the Chantilly, VA (703) 383-2000 or TTY/ TDD 711.

State Project: 0611-029-303, PE-102, RW-202, C-502  
Federal Project: STP-5401; UPC: 11012  
State Project: 0611-029-303, PE-106, RW-206, C-506;  
Federal Project: STP-5401 (648); UPC: 58453



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- Moon Bounce
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# Barber Keeps It in the Family

With his older brother at Virginia Tech, Levi Barber takes control of Edison offense.

BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

In the months following the 27-14 loss to Stone Bridge in the 2007 Northern Region Division 5 title game, Edison football coach Vaughn Lewis knew the shape that he wanted his team to take in 2008. He also had a premonition as to how he felt a certain position battle might shake out.

The problem?

Originally, Lewis didn't know the two thoughts were related. But, since junior Levi Barber trashed his coach's prediction by becoming Edison's starting quarterback, life couldn't be sweeter for both the 14-year coach and the quarterback who wasn't expected to win the job.

As the junior varsity quarterback last fall, it was not a certainty that Levi Barber was ready to take the reins from his older brother Ben, who racked up 32 touchdowns last year and whose final game was the Stone Bridge loss. None of that skepticism came from within the Barber family.

"There was no uncertainty on my part," said Ben Barber, who received a gray shirt from Virginia Tech and will begin football practice and classes there this spring. "I knew Levi had the job."

As the team tore into its off-season conditioning program, Lewis expected to play senior wideout Corey Washington at quarterback, fully aware that he'd be sacrificing his No. 1 receiver. But Barber, who focused

on agility drills, treadmill work and a rigorous weight training program during the off-season, ultimately enabled Washington to stay out wide.

**LEWIS TAPPED BARBER** to start after Edison's second scrimmage and the rest has pretty much been déjà vu: The Eagles, with a Barber under center, have been winning football games.

"All summer I worked hard," said Levi Barber, at 5-foot-11, 200 pounds. "I worked on my agility. I worked on my speed and I worked on my reads. Because I knew that if I came out and worked hard that I'd be the quarterback."

"Our option was Corey, which isn't a bad choice, or Levi," Lewis said. "But by Levi doing the things that he does, that allowed us to put Corey in the slot, and that's one more athlete we can try to get the ball to in open space."

Edison carried its unbeaten record to Yorktown High School last Friday night, expecting a National District battle against the 4-1 Patriots. However, that prognostication was nearly on par with Lewis' pre-season pick.

The Eagles rumbled to a 38-0 win, totaling 419 yards of offense and scoring on every first-half possession. Two of Levi Barber's three completions went for touchdowns and the signal caller contributed 154 total yards.

"This was a great stepping stone to come out and show everybody that we're on top of the National District," said Levi Barber,

"He is 500 percent better than he was last year."

— Vaughn Lewis



**With 154 total yards (78 passing, 76 rushing), Edison junior quarterback Ben Barber threw two touchdown passes and was a integral part of the Eagles' 38-0 win at Yorktown last Friday night.**

whose team is now 6-0 overall, 3-0 in the district.

"We knew it was going to be a big game, so we just did the little things and the big things took care of themselves," said junior running back Angus Harper. Last Friday, he rushed for 126 yards and two touchdowns while bolting 67 yards for a score on the game's first play from scrimmage.

Levi Barber ran five times for 76 yards against Yorktown but wasn't the team's primary running threat — a fundamental difference between the Barber brothers. Ben Barber, who led the Eagles with 1,000 rushing yards last season, was a converted wide receiver and a more explosive running threat.

"Levi is more of a pure passer than I was," Ben Barber said. "He's more willing to stay in the pocket, deliver the football and make plays with his arm, where I was more willing to run and make plays than pass. He's a

much better [pocket] passer than I was."

And though Ben Barber was as physically gifted as they come, he was still an athlete playing quarterback, not a quarterback who was an athlete.

Levi Barber spent those last two seasons on the junior varsity squad, learning the nuances of being a quarterback. According to Lewis, the younger Barber understands "what we're trying to achieve and because of that our offense has been more effective this year with spreading the ball out."

With Levi Barber at quarterback, Lewis has utilized Washington's play-making ability in the slot. In the backfield, Harper and Robertson have supported Levi Barber. Both are capable of breaking a game open at any moment.

"He is 500 percent better than he was last year," said Lewis, of his quarterback. "He's turned into a very fine quarterback. It's been a big surprise and it's been a great surprise."



**After his older brother Ben graduated this past spring, Edison junior Levi Barber worked to become the team's starting quarterback, a job at which his older brother excelled.**

# Keith Fimian Touts Strong Work Ethic

FROM PAGE 3

the investments he made with money earned through the Cleveland Browns try-out. He knew if he failed, he could lose his house and said "my wife would have killed me."

Fimian's wife, his high school sweetheart, also made it clear he had to be home for dinner with his family every night. So he started waking up at 3:45 a.m. to fit exercise and a 12-hour work day before he had sit down with his family in the evening.

**IN SPITE** of his ambition, Fimian has always put family first, a quality that has carried over into his company's culture.

"The message from Keith was always put your family first. Get you job done but family comes first," said Faith Greenwell, national sales director for U.S. Inspect.

In previous jobs, Greenwell had been encountered hostility when she had to leave work to take care of a sick child or other family member. U.S. Inspect was different. Greenwell started working for the company when her husband was dying from emphysema and said Fimian was always supportive.

"He created an environment at U.S. Inspect that is accommodating of women in the workplace, a quality I really appreciate,"

said Greenwell.

Questions remain about whether Fimian's experience in business has prepared him for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Along with 10 years of experience working for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations committee, Connolly knows the issues facing Fairfax County, which makes up two-thirds of the congressional district. He is serving his fourth term on the county Board of Supervisors. Connolly's trajectory is similar to that of Davis, who was also Fairfax County's sitting chairman when he was elected to Congress in 1994.

"This is someone who has never been involved in the community ... has never testified before the board on anything even though hundreds of people sign up to testify every year," said Connolly of Fimian.

Even though he was not in the public eye, Fimian has been active in local Republican politics.

"I had known him for a year or two before he decided to run because he was active on our county committee," said Jim Hyland, head of the Fairfax County Republican Committee.

**THAT HE** has not served in elected office before also doesn't phase Fimian. To the contrary, the Republican sees his newcomer status as an asset.

## Keith Fimian

**Age:** 52

**Hometown:** Virginia Beach, Va.

**City:** Oakton

**Family:** Wife Cathy of 26 years and three adult daughters

**Education:** College of William and Mary, Bachelors of Business Administration, Accounting concentration - 1979

**Relevant Experience:** founder and chairman of U.S. Inspect, a large provider of property inspection services  
Web site: www.keithfimian.com

Fimian, who is a certified public accountant, wants to bring a businessman's sense to Capitol Hill. He has criticized Connolly for being a "tax and spend" political leader who did not have the fiscal discipline to prevent the projected \$430 million shortfall in the county's budget.

"We need fewer career politicians and more civilians in government. ... I believe if people like me who could do this don't do this, we are in trouble," said Fimian.

Fimian's status as a green politician could also be a campaign advantage in 2008, said Davis.

In a year where people are heaping rewards on presidential and vice-presidential candidates with little Washington experi-

ence, Fimian's inexperience with public office could be a benefit, said the congressman.

"People have to understand, Gerry Connolly has been around politics a long time and this is a year for political outsiders," said Davis.

Davis and other Republicans said the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District also favors moderate Republicans, like the current congressman, who focus on quality-of-life issues.

"People are looking for solutions. They want to get to work faster and get their kids into a decent college and they don't want to pay more taxes than they have to," said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), whose state seat is located inside the 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

"People write this district off but it has always been very good to me and plays well to more moderate Republicans, of which Keith is one," said Davis.

**THE DEMOCRATS** have tried to paint Fimian as anything but a moderate.

"His campaign is staffed by Ken Cuccinelli Republicans. They are hardly Tom Davis Republicans," said Connolly, referring to state Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37), who supports limiting abortion access and opposes

SEE BUSINESSMAN, PAGE 22

# Connolly Points to Experience, Intellect

FROM PAGE 3

employees that live here," said Connolly.

**REGARDLESS** of his qualifications, several people said Connolly's mind would be his single greatest asset in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Many, including those who sometimes butt heads with Connolly, immediately used words like "articulate" and "highly intelligent" when asked to describe the Fairfax County chairman.

Connolly makes an effort to be well informed. He reads, on average, one book per week in spite of his two jobs and a busy political schedule that has him out at public meetings at least six out of every seven nights.

"Gerry is extraordinarily bright and has a tremendous grasp of issues. He is extremely insightful about what is happening and what direction should be taken to resolve conflicts," said Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock), the Fairfax board's vice chairman.

Some who know Connolly from his work on Capitol Hill made similar comments.

McLean resident Mary Lee McIntyre first met Connolly in the 1980s when she and her husband, an employee with the U.S. Agency for International Development, lived in Lebanon.

"He was a real live wire, but he was able to see all the complexities that Lebanon

presented," said McIntyre of Connolly. "I think he will be a great asset in Congress."

Arlington County resident and Republican Charlie Flickner worked on congressional foreign relations matters with Connolly and described him as smart, competent and politically savvy.

Connolly has done such an excellent job as Fairfax County's chairman that Flickner sometimes wished "Fairfax would just annex Arlington," he said.

**MANY** of Connolly's colleagues on the Board of Supervisors consider Connolly to be exceptionally effective leader.

"I think he does an outstanding job of keeping the board focused and helping us get our work accomplished," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville.)

At the beginning of his first term in 2004, Connolly called the board together to stake out specific and measurable goals for the county and the board. Under his guidance, Fairfax has achieved or made significant strides toward meeting those goals set five years ago.

For example, the supervisors surpassed their goal of preserving 1,000 units of affordable housing, in part by dedicating a penny of the county's real estate tax rate — which totals a little over \$20 million annually — to assist with purchase and rehabilitation of lower-income units.

By setting measurable objectives, Connolly said government could judge its

## Gerry Connolly

**Age:** 57

**Born in:** Boston, Mass.

**City/Community:** Mantua

**Family:** Wife Cathy, teenage daughter Caitlin

**Education:** Maryknoll College, B.A. in literature; Harvard University; M.A. in public administration

**Relevant Experience:** Fairfax County Board of Supervisors: chairman (2004 - present), Providence District supervisors (1995-2003); U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff member, 1979 -1989

**Web site:** www.gerryconnolly.com

progress and make itself accountable to residents. Other initiatives under Connolly's watch included environmental benchmarks, with goals for stormwater management, tree preservation and acquisition of parkland and open space, and transportation improvements.

"I have an abstract belief that there is a bottom line that needs to be measurable. Rhetoric is fine. But are you providing measurable results that say you are effective in serving the citizens of the community?" said Connolly.

**THE CHAIRMAN** learned the importance of having a responsive and results-oriented government 18 years ago, when Connolly, as president of the Mantua Citizens Asso-

ciation, had to deal with an oil spill in his community.

Connolly found Fairfax County to be the only level of government that was responsive to the citizens' concerns at the time. Local elected officials put pressure on the federal Environmental Protection Agency to clean up the site and arranged for a survey to investigate whether there had been an increase in certain types of medical illnesses as a result of the spill, said Connolly.

"I have never thought about running for local elected office prior to that ever. ... But it seared in my mind how important this level of government was and is to the community. It taught me a lesson about how important it is to focus on results and actually deliver," said Connolly.

Some say Connolly's focus on delivering results and achieving the county's goals has led to a "bull-in-a-china-shop" approach to governing.

There is typically a lot of agreement among Fairfax County's supervisors and it is not unusual for the group to pass a resolution unanimously. But Connolly can be hostile toward people, including county staff, who disagree with him, said critics.

"When you are in agreement with him, he can be very easy and very good to work with. The problem I have always found with Gerry is when you don't agree with him, he doesn't show the proper amount of respect.

SEE CHAIRMAN, PAGE 22

# Businessman Seeks 11th Seat

FROM PAGE 21

embryonic stem cell research. "There are far fewer differences between Tom [Davis] and me and Keith Fimian and me," added Connolly. Fimian describes himself as pro-life and said he is anti-death penalty as well as anti-abortion. He also opposes embryonic stem cell research, which uses cells derived from a fertilized egg in an in vitro fertilization clinic, but supports other types of stem cell research, which he said are more promising. Fimian said contraception is a private matter that

should not be legislated. On the topic of the environment, Fimian said serious questions remain about whether global warming is the result of human activity. But the Republican does not consider himself conservative. "I have always seen myself as a moderate that leans conservative," said Fimian. He said he is in favor "government being there for people who cannot take care of themselves." As a congressman, Fimian would focus on issues like the economy, energy crisis and Northern Virginia's transportation deficit, not a social agenda.

# Chairman Hopes To Follow Davis

FROM PAGE 21

Gerry doesn't argue the facts. He attacks your motives," said Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully). He added: "The disagreements aren't always pleasant. ... Gerry's style tends to be one of intimidation, whether it is directed toward staff, me, Richmond or anyone else." But several of Connolly's other colleagues said he lets people voice their opinions, even when they disagree with him. "Most of the time there is very little dissent and more of a discussion. ... When there have been differences on policy, I never felt like I have been denied my opportunity to speak," said Foust.

Though the incumbent, Davis has endorsed Republican Fimian over Connolly in the race for fill his seat, Connolly supporters said the incumbent has more in common with their candidate than the Republican running. Both Connolly and Davis spent several years representing their magisterial district on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Davis was also Fairfax's sitting county chairman when he was first elected to Congress in 1994. "The similarities between Gerry and Tom are very strong. They are both very bright and real policy wonks. They are issue-oriented people who get a charge out of politics and they both have wonderful senses of humor," Bulova said.

FAITH NOTES

**Springfield Harvest Festival and Chili cook-off**, a family-oriented day of fun on Saturday, Oct. 11, from 1-4 p.m. on the grounds of Springfield United Methodist Church, 7047 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Activities include a maze, moonbounce, children's crafts and games. Music begins at 1:30 p.m. with professional square dance caller Hal Miller, leading all ages in a Hoe-Down. Chili Cook-off Competition participants may register entries by calling 703-451-2375. A \$10 entry fee will be collected at the festival. All festival participants can vote for the winners. Admission is free, and donations are always appreciated.

**Singer-songwriter Bob Franke** in concert on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m.

at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. The concert is free but donations will be accepted to support Parents Circle-Families Forum, which promotes reconciliation between bereaved Palestinian and Israeli families. Visit [www.burkepreschurch.org](http://www.burkepreschurch.org), [www.bobfranke.com](http://www.bobfranke.com), or call 703-764-0456.

**St. John's United Methodist Community Fun Festival**. Saturday, Oct. 11 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Rides, games, craft and vendor booths, music and more. Children and youth receive twenty free tickets; additional tickets \$1 each. St. John's United Methodist Church is located at 5312 Backlick Road, Springfield. 703-256-6655 or [www.saintjohnsumc.org/funfair.php](http://www.saintjohnsumc.org/funfair.php).

HEALTH NOTES

**Body & Soul Fitness** classes are cardio and strength training sessions set to contemporary Christian music. Mondays and Fridays from 9-10:15 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Until Nov. 23. For more call Suzann Albanese at 703-372-2332 or e-mail [salbanese@cox.net](mailto:salbanese@cox.net).

❖ Food Safety. Thursday, Oct. 16, from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

❖ Effects of Mixing Medications with Alcohol and Substances and Brown Bag Medication Review. Wednesday, Oct. 22, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

❖ Improving Your Nutrition. Thursday, Oct. 30, from 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**Fairfax County is sponsoring a series of seminars to help older residents remain independent.** All seminars are at the David Pinn Community Center, 10225 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Pre-registration required. Call 703-324-7210.

**Substance Abuse Recovery Support.** Oct. 14, from 6-7 p.m. at Natural Horizons Wellness Center for an overview of the entire holistic substance abuse program, and how we can provide support on the road to recovery. 10640 Main St., Suite 300, Fairfax. 703-246-9355.

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| <b>Baha'i Faith</b><br>Baha'is of Fairfax County Southwest...<br>703-912-1719                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints</b><br>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints...<br>703-451-0631 | <b>Methodist</b><br>Messiah United Methodist Church... 703-569-9862<br>Springfield United Methodist... 703-451-2375<br>St. John's United Methodist... 703-256-6655<br>Sydenstricker United Methodist... 703-451-8223 |
| <b>Baptist</b><br>Community of Faith Tabernacle... 703-455-4594<br>Fellowship Baptist Church... 703-569-5151<br>First Baptist Church-Hayfield... 703-971-7077<br>First Baptist Church-Springfield... 703-451-1500<br>South Run Baptist Church... 703-455-4521<br>Westwood Baptist Church... 703-451-5120 | <b>Disciples of Christ</b><br>Springfield Christian Church... 703-354-4994                                           | <b>Non-Denominational</b><br>Love International Church... 703-354-3608<br>New Life Open Bible Church... 703-922-7577<br>New World Unity Church... 703-690-7925<br>International Calvary Church... 703-912-1378       |
| <b>Bible</b><br>Immanuel Bible Church... 703-941-4124                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Episcopal</b><br>St. Christopher's Episcopal... 703-451-1088                                                      | <b>Presbyterian</b><br>Grace Presbyterian Church... 703-451-2900<br>Harvester Presbyterian Church... 703-455-7800<br>Kirkwood Presbyterian Church... 703-451-5320                                                    |
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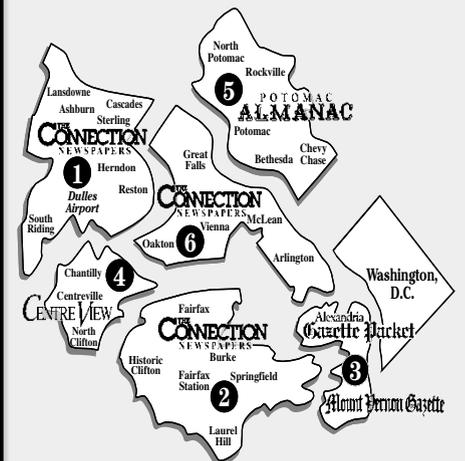
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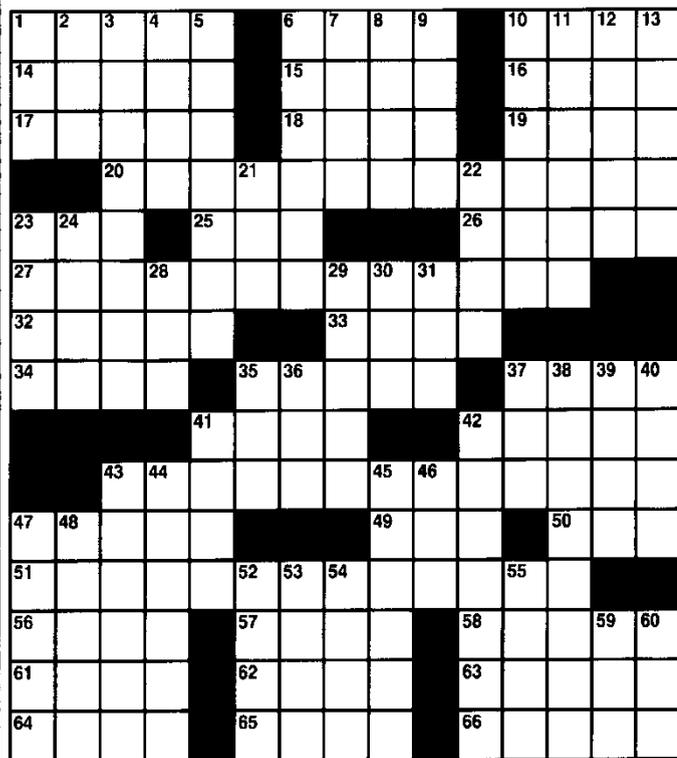
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# NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0401-2



Puzzle by Kelly Clark

## ACROSS

- 1 Cutoffs, maybe, before they were cutoffs
- 6 Sound of breaking up?
- 10 Masterpieces
- 14 Sylvia Plath book
- 15 Religious image
- 16 Baker's need
- 17 Oft-quoted Yogi
- 18 Old Spanish kingdom
- 19 Coin no longer being minted
- 20 What happens when Kansas City wins a World Series?
- 23 Sea's partner
- 25 Draw
- 26 Boston team, in brief
- 27 Why is the milk production survey so screwy?
- 32 Kind of wrench
- 33 Like a Burns acquaintance
- 34 Sharp
- 35 Detroit's county
- 37 Item in which to do a plié
- 41 Resistance units
- 42 Not just a franchisee

- 43 Why is the drought-plagued swim club bankrupt?
- 47 Film maker Frank
- 49 Playboy head, to friends
- 50 Lake Okeechobee's state: Abbr.
- 51 What's the anagrammatic reason for these odd questions?
- 56 Kind of gin
- 57 Food for Fido
- 58 Songs "di sentimento"
- 61 High scores
- 62 1963 Liz Taylor role
- 63 Busybody
- 64 New England's locale
- 65 Fish locale
- 66 "Broca's Brain" author

## DOWN

- 1 Elbows do it
- 2 Before
- 3 BB gun, e.g.
- 4 Peter Lorre's role in "The Story of Mankind"

- 5 Mercury astronaut Deke
- 6 Noted Talmudic sage
- 7 Ones that may be high?
- 8 Tough
- 9 — Domini
- 10 Green party?
- 11 In a bad way
- 12 Excellence
- 13 Says quickly
- 21 Be in a bad way
- 22 Kind of wit or test
- 23 Saturate
- 24 Curly cabbage
- 28 Compose
- 29 Authority
- 30 Press for payment
- 31 Ginger —
- 35 "— me?"
- 36 Band aid?
- 37 Air letters?
- 38 Making whole
- 39 Make known
- 40 Bear with us at night
- 41 Voiced
- 42 Times when you're not at your peak
- 43 Pinafores
- 44 Thirstiest
- 45 "Hey, check that out!"
- 46 Guitarist Paul
- 47 Class
- 48 Cop —
- 52 It's the truth
- 53 Spanish pot
- 54 Available
- 55 Vicinity
- 59 — standstill
- 60 Mateo or Miguel, e.g.

## ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	N	A	G	A	B	O	D	E	P	A	U	L
T	O	F	U	N	O	D	A	L	E	D	N	A
E	A	R	N	K	N	O	C	K	K	N	O	C
W	H	O	S	T	H	E	R	E	A	P	P	L
	M	A	S		N	E	A	T	E	R		
F	L	U	I	D	S	C	R	O	L	L		
E	A	S	T	S	A	L	A	M	I	J	A	B
T	H	E	H	A	N	D	Y	M	A	N	Y	O
E	R	R		V	O	I	D	E	D	A	N	N
			T	U	R	E	E	N	E	M	I	T
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A	I	R	E		V	I	N	C	E		E	C
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The winner of puzzle #0331-2 is:

# Margot U. Marino

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](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com) and click on the "Print Editions" button. It should appear in a newspaper from a different Classifieds zone.

## COMMUNITY

# Quiet Neighbors

Old family graveyards offer a private piece of history for some county homeowners.

By MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

When Fairfax County resident Donna Connor looks off her deck at a big, gray obelisk gravestone where the Fahnlne family was buried in the mid 1800s, she is appreciative.

"It's kind of cool. They're not hurting us," Connor said.

Three of the Fahnlins, an immigrant family from Germany, are buried at the site, which is surrounded by a wrought iron fence and is one of nearly 300 small, family cemeteries in the area. Many are actually in yards on land that is now considered the property owners but the cemetery has its own entity. The Connor family planted hydrangeas, day lilies and knock-out roses around the grave, and keeps it mowed as well, but it was spooky for the children at first. Their parish priest came over and blessed the house and grave, and now it's a part of their lives.

In Burke, Ellen Lyons, an archeologist by trade, loves the historic house she lives in called Mulberry Hill. The Windsor family lived from 1789 when the house was built until sometime in the 1800s, and many members of the family are buried in the wooded yard. When Lyons moved in, pieces of gravestones were piled near the shed that had been removed by previous owners, and she collected all 14 of them — some weighing nearly 50 pounds.

The gravestones have incomplete inscriptions like "in memory of Martha Ann, daughter of Rob NH Windsor, died July 1821, aged 5 years," "memory of Elizabeth," and "Robert Windsor, 1850, died at age 84." One of the gravestones marked the burial of a mother and daughter, and to Lyons, "you see a mother who was buried with the child she gave birth to," which she sees as a symbol of family and the progression of time. This cemetery is also listed on the county registry available in Fairfax County library's Virginia Room.

Over in Springfield, Thomas Bull lives next to a vacant lot, listed as 6628 Holford Lane. The lot is just a patch of woods with a flat area covered in ivy and overgrown boxwood bushes. According to the cemetery registry, it is the site of the Barker Family cemetery. Upon closer examination, the peaceful area has a few cut stone shards that resemble old tombstones, half way dug in the ground, and several impressions that may be collapsed graves. Bull heard the rumors of a graveyard. "I thought it was interesting when I found out," he said.

The cemeteries are full of local history and a glimpse of life in this area over the years,

but they're not selling points like hardwood floors or Corian counters might be. Kim Muffler, an agent with Long & Foster, was looking at Connor's house to buy for herself years ago, and they thought the presence of a graveyard was "cool," she said in an e-mail. She didn't buy the property for other reasons. Her daughter wasn't comfortable with it either. Another Long & Foster agent, Virginia Clark-Billups, sold a few townhouses in Tartan Village near Kingstowne which has a little cemetery on common ground in the back. "When they're small like that, people actually like it. A little historic one would be a good thing," she said.

**IN THE 1980S**, Brian Conley, an employee with the Fairfax County Libraries, surveyed all the family cemeteries he could find and published the reference list. The county listed 174 known cemeteries when he started, and that number jumped to 266 by February 1989. According to Senate Document 31 in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources rulings, one of the entries dealt with the destruction of cemeteries by new land owners. They ruled that the property owner would be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and charged as a van-

**"It's kind of cool. They're not hurting us."**

— Donna Connor

dal. The same document recommended that the cemetery be accessible to descendants as well.

Family members do have a right to visit graves of their ancestors said Jay Eskovitz, an attorney with Key Title, who is also a reference source for the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. He called it an "implied easement," and compared it to a case where a transformer for the electric company is in the yard, that must be occasionally accessed by electric company technicians. Eskovitz recalled a case that he was closing on years ago in Reston where a Civil War-era grave was located in the yard and a family member did come visit once in a while.

When Tony Washington bought a piece of land on Newington Road to build on, the Chichester family cemetery at the rear of the property didn't bother him. He is responsible for the upkeep, and it doesn't bother him at all. "I knew what I was getting when I moved here, it's a good piece of history," he said. Washington is working with Fairfax County to have a fence around the cemetery repaired.

Clark-Billups did note that houses that sit up to big, active cemeteries are more of a problem, as is the case in houses where the resident actually died in the house. "If somebody died in the house, that's a biggie," she said.

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