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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION FAITH, PAGE 12 ❖ E, PAGE 6 ❖ REAL ESTATE, PAGE 9 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 8 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

Tough Finish

SPORTS, PAGE 8

Potomac Falls senior running back Michael Baker found little room to pick up yardage against a stingy Broad Run defense last Friday night in Ashburn, where the Spartans defeated the Panthers 33-6 in the Region II title game.

Reimagining Belfort Part
NEWS, PAGE 2

Changing Market
NEWS, PAGE 2

Rallying Around Silo
NEWS, PAGE 2

Task Force Prepares Recommendations

Belfort Park Task Force winnows down ideas from September charrette for final report in January.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

The creation of a Belfort Park Task Force early this year has allowed an opportunity not only to examine access and transportation problems in the area southeast of the Route 28 and Route 625 interchange, but also to make plans for how the area could look decades from now.

At a design charrette in September, members of the task force and the Loudoun County Design Cabinet talked about opening up access to the area, but also discussed mixed-use development, the creation of a central park and the introduction of a railroad theme to Belfort Park.

The task force is scheduled to make its final report to the Board of Supervisors in January.

The area known as Belfort Park is bounded by Church Road, Route 28, Sterling Boulevard and the W&OD Trail.

The construction of an interchange at the intersection of Route 28 and Church Road/

Waxpool Road in 2005 cut off direct access to Belfort Park from Church Road, which has not helped businesses in the area. Then, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) made a portion of Cedar Green Road one way so that it provides an entrance from Route 28, but no egress. These two changes have routed commercial traffic into the residential neighborhood of Old Sterling Gable. Also, the street names can be confusing, with Shaw Road intersecting with itself a number of times before abruptly becoming Cedar Green Road. And the road grid needs to be completed. Now, VDOT wants to close the left turn from Sterling Boulevard onto Shaw Road, further restricting access.

These are the challenges the task force faces.

Nonetheless, task force co-chair and business owner Mike Huber said the design charrette was "a fun day."

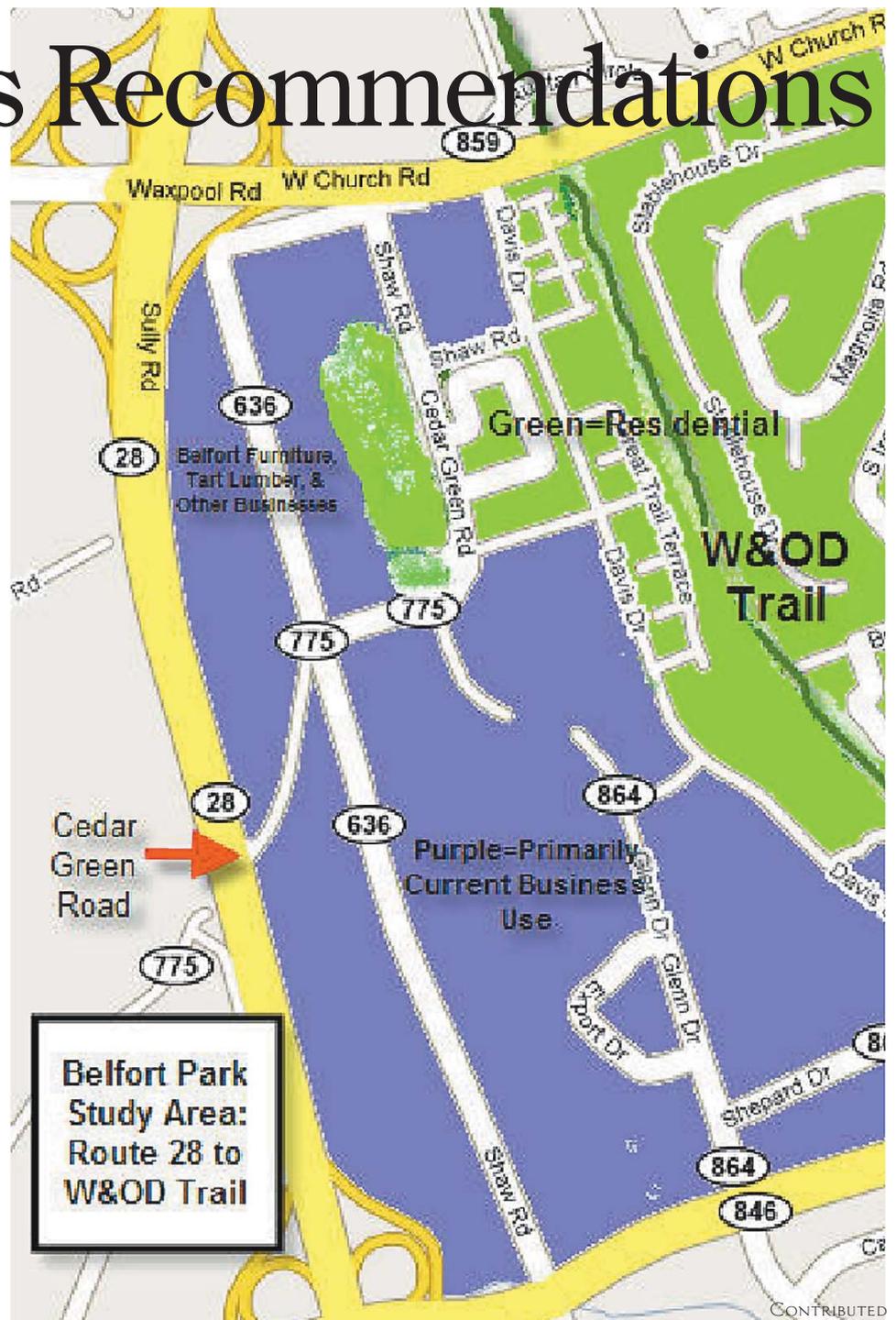
"It's created this wonderful dialogue between people and a sense of hope for a part of Loudoun that was forgotten," said Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac), the group's other co-chair.

AT THE CHARRETTE, the task force worked with the county's design cabinet, a volunteer group of design professionals, to come up with three "visions" for the area's future. The public was invited, but McGimsey said no one showed up, probably because the ses-

"It's created this wonderful dialogue between people and a sense of hope for a part of Loudoun that was forgotten."

— Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac)

SEE BRAINSTORMING, PAGE 3



Belfort Park as it exists today.

Buyer's Market

Home sales for less than \$200,000 become common in Sterling.

Last month, 45 of the 127 homes sold in the Sterling area went for less than \$200,000.

Even as home prices were nosediving a year ago, buyers could not find any home for such a price, said longtime Loudoun real estate agent Nancy Yahner. "If you did, it was in rough, rough, rough, rough shape."

What's more, 24 of those homes sold for less than \$150,000, and four — two condos and two townhouses — were purchased for less than \$100,000.

Eight detached, single-family homes went for less than \$200,000, all in Sterling Park. And in the higher-end Cascades and Coun-



This house in Sterling Park sold for \$149,000 last month. Home prices in Loudoun are at their lowest since 2003.

tryside areas, five homes — three townhouses and two condos — sold for less than \$200,000.

Of the 23 detached homes that sold in

SEE HOME, PAGE 5

Trying to Save Silo

Historic silo in Countryside Shopping Center could be torn down.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

The latest idea for preserving the silo in Countryside Shopping Center is to propose renting it out to cell phone companies as a tower. The possibility was suggested to Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac) by one of the two dozen or so residents who have contacted her about saving the silo.

"They're passionate. People really care about the silo," she said.

The property owner, Saul Centers, has applied for a permit to demolish both the silo and the adjacent building, which currently houses the Los Toltecos Mexican restaurant. The silo is a leftover from Pigeon Hill Farm, which occupied the land long before the shopping center.

McGimsey said she had not yet discussed with Saul Centers the idea for making it a cell phone tower, and the company had the right to tear it down if it wanted to. "It's not like I can make the property owner do anything," she said, adding that her hope was to convince the company that keeping the silo could be a smart business decision.

She noted that cell phone reception in the Countryside and Broad Run Farms neighborhoods, which the silo overlooks, was "terrible." As for the building, which Los Toltecos is to move out of, she said it could

SEE RALLYING, PAGE 3

Rallying Around Silo

FROM PAGE 2

be turned into a teen center or rented out to the Sterling Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) chapter, which is looking for a home.

ONE PROBLEM with the building is that it blocks one or two other businesses from view, McGimsey said. She said a member of the Loudoun County Design Cabinet had volunteered to meet with the property owner to explore alternate solutions to the visibility problem.

McGimsey is also circulating a petition imploring Saul Centers not to demolish the silo. "The people who live around here are the property owner's customers," she said, adding that she wanted to make sure the company knew how shoppers felt. She said there had been some talk about seeking historic designation for the structure, but that would probably take too long.

Los Toltecos manager Salvador Tovar said the restaurant liked the building, but that it was old and in need of about \$40,000 worth of repairs. The roof leaks and the air conditioning doesn't work properly, he said. After seven years in the building, the res-

taurant is to move into a unit next to Suntrust Bank, which Tovar said would be "a much better building for us."

He said he had heard a number of people expressing concern about the silo being torn down. "If [Saul Centers] can get the permits from Loudoun County to do what they want to do, there's nothing we can say," Tovar said.

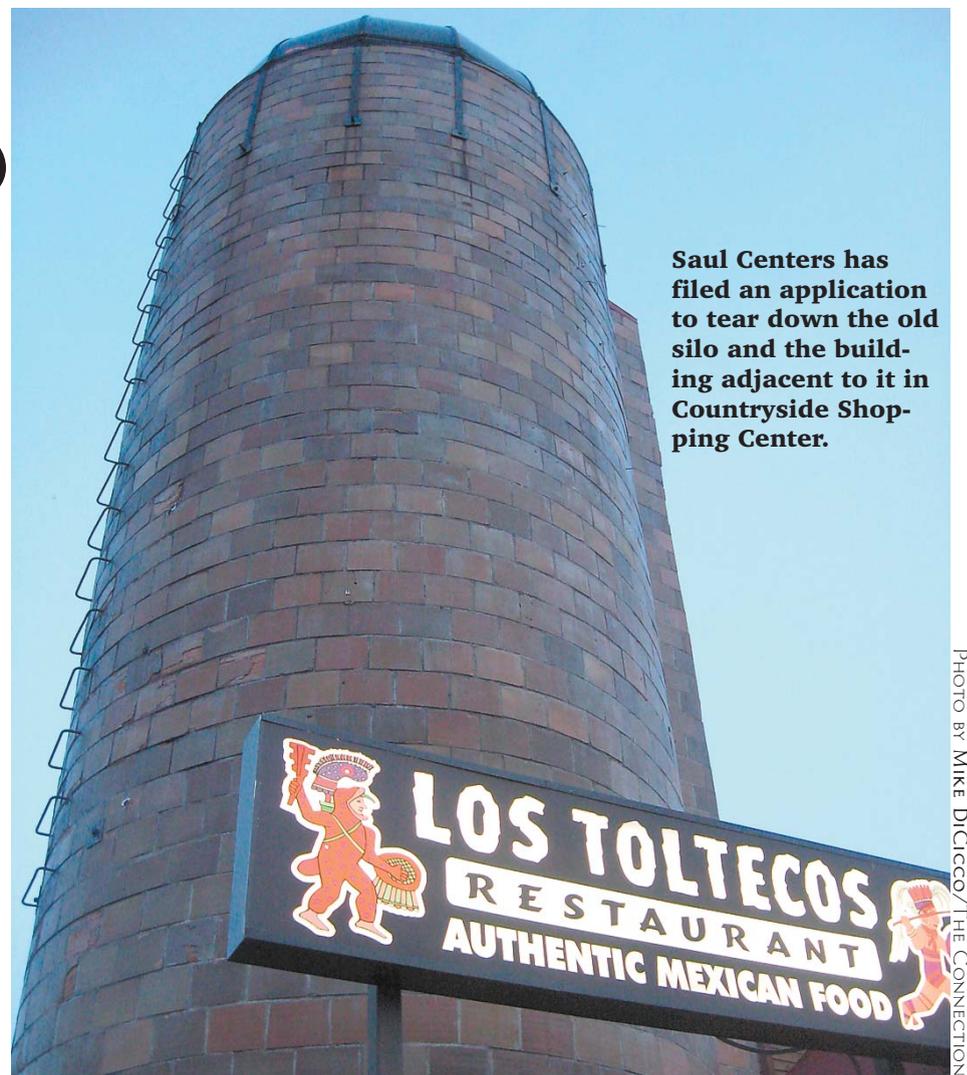
THIS IS NOT the first time the company has considered demolishing the structures. The company obtained a permit to knock them down in 2005 and again in 2006, but let them lapse, McGimsey said.

She said this year's permit had not yet been granted, so there was still time to lobby on behalf of the silo.

Anyone wishing to sign the petition can e-mail andrea.mcgimsey@loudoun.gov.

"They're passionate. People really care about the silo."

— Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac)



Saul Centers has filed an application to tear down the old silo and the building adjacent to it in Countryside Shopping Center.

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

Brainstorming Ideas for Belfort Park

FROM PAGE 2

sion started at 8 a.m.

She said her group came up with the idea of introducing a railroad theme to the area, incorporating an "Old Sterling Railroad Park," architectural elements reminiscent of old railway stations and perhaps a railroad-style water tower with a restaurant offering a view of the hills around Leesburg. The W&OD Trail used to be a railway and a station was located not far off.

She said her group also wanted a pedestrian and bike-oriented bridge over Route 28 to connect Belfort Park to the planned Metrorail station that is to be built not far to the west. Hers was one of two groups that suggested a central park.

According to summary notes created by

the design cabinet, another group focused primarily on immediate transportation needs, particularly getting truck traffic out of the residential area. The plan included a right-in turn south from Church Road and another west from the north end of Davis Drive. Also suggested were an acceleration lane on Route 28 south from Sterling Boulevard and making a portion of Shaw Road four lanes across. This group was also one of two that discussed allowing mixed-use buildings combining commercial, residential and/or office space.

The third group suggested combining the central park with a community center and ball field. It also wanted a trail network and workforce housing.

Huber said most of the task force's recommendations, particularly those concern-

ing land use, would be general. Solutions to transportation problems, though could be more specific. At the group's latest meeting, members had gone over all suggestions from the charrette and two points everyone agreed on were that Cedar Green Road should be extended to Davis Drive and that access to Shaw Road from Sterling Boulevard should not be restricted, Huber said.

FOR THAT intersection, McGimsey said, the group would recommend a configuration like the one used at the intersection of

"We just wanted a place where kids could play without worrying about being run over by an 18-wheeler."

— Dan Palmer

Shaw Road and Old Ox Road just south of Belfort Park, where Shaw again crosses the road right next to a Route 28 interchange.

Huber said there was also a consensus for a bridge over Route 28 that would not be open to general traffic, as well as a pedestrian and bike network that would connect Belfort Park to Sterling Park. He said there was also "quite

a bit of interest" in allowing mixed-use buildings in a town center-style development.

SEE MOBILITY, PAGE 5

New Runaway Opens

More than 200 guests gathered in a new Airport Fire and Rescue Station, at Dulles International Airport, Nov. 20, to witness the opening of the first new runway in the Washington area in more than 46 years when Runway 1L-19R was declared open by U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters for the first flight of an American Airlines plane bound for Los Angeles.

The three existing runways at Dulles dated back to the airport's 1962 opening. A master plan for the airport called for construction of two additional runways when required by growth of passengers and airlines at Dulles.

The \$355 million fourth runway and its associated projects will support the future development of the airport and will allow the air traffic controllers more flexibility in directing aircraft operations. Other costs and projects associated with the new runway included the construction

of the new Airport Fire and Rescue Station, environmental mitigation, relocation of the National Weather Service facilities, land purchase and radio system expansion. The new runway is a north-south runway 9,400 feet long and 150 feet wide. Plans call for a fifth runway in the future that will run east-west.

COMMUNITY NOTES

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

The Salvation Army's **Red Kettle Campaign** will have its official kickoff at the main entrance, next to the Cheesecake Factory, at Dulles Town Center Friday, Nov. 21, 11 a.m. From **Nov. 21-Dec. 24**, the red kettles will collect donations at the Dulles Town Center, Giant and Safeway stores, the Premium Outlets mall in Leesburg, Sam's Club in Sterling, Harris-Teeter at Lansdowne and Wal-Marts in Leesburg and Sterling.

Nonprofit organization, **Operation Pinecone**, begins its holiday collections drive and plans packing parties to prepare donations for shipment to our troops stationed in Iraq, and Afghanistan, and

delivery to local military hospitals, Saturday, **Dec. 6**, 9 a.m., Moe's Southwest Grill, 667 Potomac Station Drive, Leesburg; and Saturday, **Dec. 13**, 9 a.m., Moe's Southwest Grill, 5005 Westone Plaza, Chantilly. To volunteer or donate items, visit www.operationpinecone.org.

The Loudoun Valley HomeGrown Markets Association is holding a **"Gingerbread Farmers Market Stand Contest" Dec. 6**. The contest will be held at the Leesburg Winter Farmer's Market, 32 Catocin Circle S.E., Leesburg. Create a farmer's market stand out of edible product. Visit www.loudounfarmersmarkets.org for entry forms.

LINK is seeking volunteers to help with its holiday basket distribution. Volunteers are needed Saturday, **Dec. 20**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church, 46833 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling, for food distribution. Call 703-437-4409 or e-mail Diana@hamiltongroup.com.

Stuffing Every Stocking

Local charities are seeing requests rise, but donations falling.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

The holiday season is a most joyful time of year for many people. Bountiful feasts and piles of presents comprise the ideal merry vision for most, but the sad fact is that it is not experienced by all. Many families across the county, especially in this difficult economic climate, need the support of their community to enjoy the things that are often taken for granted.

Many organizations that provide assistance to those less fortunate in the area are feeling the effects of the financial crunch just like any other industry. With rising costs and tightening budgets, peoples' ability to donate money and other goods is hindered, and as a result, many charities and support organizations are experiencing decreased donations and increased need.

THE SALVATION ARMY, which is traditionally one of the most recognized presence during the holiday season, is one of those organizations feeling the pinch of a slow economy. According to Capt. Bill Criss, the Army's Loudoun County Corps Officer, there has been a marked decline in donations of usable items to their store at 10 Cardinal Park Drive in Leesburg, while at the same time there has been a significant increase in the number of shoppers at the store.

"We've seen a serious decline in items that can be resold [at the store], but the number of shoppers and sales has increased," Criss said. "It's usually a good indicator of the economy when there are more people looking for used items."

In addition to the increased patronage at the thrift store, Criss said that requests for emergency assistance have risen as well. According to Criss, last year, the number of applications received for Christmastime assistance for things such as food vouchers, monetary aid and

others totaled 540. This year, that number has already surpassed 640, with more than a month to go before the holiday.

Facing such a daunting task, Criss said that the Salvation Army is turning to new methods to help in their mission. This year, they are bringing their famous red kettles online, allowing people to donate electronically. The online kettle also allows visitors to create their own kettles that they can direct friends and family to make donations.

The red kettles out on the streets have been changed as well this year, allowing for even more ways to donate. In addition to accepting change and cash, the kettles will be retrofitted to accept gift cards. Criss said that the organization now has the ability to take used gift cards with outstanding balances and retrieve the remaining money left on it. So, instead of wasting what Criss said was totaled at \$3 billion in gift cards in 2007, the money can be put to good use.

ANOTHER PRIVATE organization that offers assistance to people in the county, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, based in Leesburg, is faced with similar circumstances. Just like the Salvation Army, according to Marty Maykrantz, head of food collection and distribution, Catholic Charities has seen a decrease in direct donations, while seeing a simultaneous jump in requests for aid.

"There's only a tad [of decreases in donations] because most of our support comes from churches, who have been very helpful," Maykrantz said. "But there are not as many people walking in dropping things off as there used to be."

Though area churches are lending a hand, Maykrantz said that the increase in requests for assistance has skyrocketed recently. She said that last month, there was a 300 percent increase in the number of requests for their emergency services such as rent and utility payments, referral service for automobiles and more.

To keep up with the growing demand for their services, Catholic Charities is rolling out its own efforts to add to the collection of funds and goods collected by local churches. On Dec. 12, they are holding a benefit concert at Holy

way officially opened Nov. 17. The road required no public funding, as Erickson, the developer of the new Ashby Ponds Retirement Community, agreed to fund the project.

The extension supports Ashby Ponds and other area residences and businesses. The extension of the roadway facilitates travel between Gloucester Parkway and Waxpool Road and the Dulles Toll Road.

Rash of Thefts

A rash of thefts from vehicles has the Sheriff's Office reminding residents to lock their vehicles and remove items such as GPS units, MP3 players and wallets. So far this year the office has investigated 736 larcenies from vehicles. A 32

Support Local Charities

- ❖ Salvation Army: <http://www.salvationarmyloudoun.com/>
 - ❖ Community Holiday Coalition: <http://www.loudoun.gov/Default.aspx?tabid=1313>
 - ❖ Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington: http://www.cdda.net/programs_family.php
- Each site contains information for online donations, volunteer opportunities and special event information.

Trinity Lutheran Church, where the admission is \$10 in nonperishable food or a \$10 gift card to a grocery store. The concert will feature Christmas carols, inspirational readings and live jazz music.

WHILE THERE ARE more people in need than there should be, there are also a group of people who are making sure that the community's furry friends are provided for during the holidays, too. Loudoun County Animal Care and Control is hosting a program in conjunction with the Community Holiday Coalition called the Pet Pantry.

The Pet Pantry will be part of Animal Control's CARE program, which works year-round to assist low-income citizens with pet-care needs such as medical assistance, low cost spay/neuter surgery, and pet food. The pantry is asking for donations of unopened pet food, treats and toys, which will then stock the Coalition's Holiday store, located at 22714 Glenn Drive in Sterling.

According to community outreach manager Laura Rizer, the CARE program has seen a drop in donations with a marked increase in requests for assistance. Rizer said that since the pantry is a part of the Holiday Coalition, it is therefore a government program and as a result, the program cannot solicit citizens for funds. So, the pantry must depend on church groups, the Girl Scouts and other organizations and direct donations from the community to stock its shelves.

Though local charities outreach programs certainly have their work cut out for them this holiday season, through the kindness, generosity and support of count residents, hopefully every plate will be full and every face will have a smile.

percent increase during the same time period the previous year.

The evening of Nov. 17, several items were removed from vehicles in the Dulles area. The thefts occurred along Stanford Square, Boston Terrace and Brandeis Terrace. In many of these cases a window was damaged to gain entry into the vehicle. In recent weeks vehicles have also been targeted in the Dulles South, Ashburn, Leesburg and Sterling areas.

Anyone with information about the perpetrators of these crimes is asked to contact the Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division at 703-777-0475. If the caller wishes to remain anonymous, call Loudoun Crime Solvers at 703-777-1919, the caller could be eligible for a cash reward.

WEEK IN LOUDOUN

Fatal Crash

On Sunday, Nov. 23, at 1:50 a.m., a single vehicle crashed on Braddock Road near Virginia Chase Drive in the Centreville area, according to the Fairfax County Police. The driver, alone in the vehicle, was traveling east on Braddock Road when he struck a telephone pole. He was ejected from the 2001 Mitsubishi and pronounced dead at the scene. He was identified as Frank Jensen, 31, of Loudoun County. Speed appears to be a factor.

Parkway Opens

The extension of Gloucester Parkway, from Marblehead Drive to the Loudoun County Park-

Home Prices Dropping

FROM PAGE 2

Sterling Park in October, the average sale price was \$216,753, and the average Countryside townhouse, of which eight were sold, went for \$195,563. Only two detached homes sold in Countryside last month.

Yahner said the high end of the housing market was "sluggish," while the low end had been "really active" in recent months, with first-time buyers and investors scooping up properties at low prices. She said homes at the lower end of the market were be-

ginning to get multiple offers and some were selling for more than the asking price. "Actually, it's been going on for a few months."

Homebuyers with \$200,000 to spend can get townhouses and condos all over the county, she said. She compared the prices with the 2003 market, saying prices were 20 to 30 percent higher just a year ago.

"Our market is on sale," Yahner said. "If you'd like to go shopping, this is the best time I've seen."

— MIKE DICICCO

Mobility, Park Among Suggestions

FROM PAGE 3

In the short-term, McGimsey said, one improvement that could be made at low cost would be to make the street names less confusing and introduce some signage to help people find their way around. "That's going to be one of our strongest recommendations," she said.

While businesses were concerned about vehicular access and enthusiastic about redevelopment, "Residents were really concerned about traffic around the neighborhood," said Dan Palmer, who had represented Old Sterling Gable on the task force until he resigned from the presidency of the community's homeowners association and started grad school a couple of months ago. In a young neighborhood with

a lot of children, he said, residents were worried about their children's safety as the number of trucks coming through the area increased. He said the closing of the Cedar Green Road exit was largely responsible for the influx of truck traffic.

As for mixed-use development, he said the neighborhood was fairly neutral. "When I talked to other [HOA] board members, there wasn't a whole lot of 'Rah, rah, let's get behind this,'" Palmer said.

But he said residents were interested in the idea for a central park. "We just wanted a place where kids could play without worrying about being run over by an 18-wheeler," Palmer said.

All task force recommendations will be vetted by the Board of Supervisors and any changes to Belfort Park will be subject to public hearings.

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When:	Wednesday, December 31, 2008 at 4:00 PM
Where:	George Mason University - Fairfax Campus (Concert Hall) - 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030 Park in the Visitor Parking Deck by the pond. Check-in will be in front of the Concert Hall (Bldg. 60 on Mason Pond Drive). Further details will be posted at www.racepacket.com .
What:	USATF certified 5k race - course is two clock-wise loops around the Patriot Center
Registration:	\$20 on or before Wednesday, December 17 th , 2008; \$25 after December 17 th and on race day
Packet Pick-up:	Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at Metro Run & Walk from 6:00-8:00 PM (7516 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA)
Race Day Registration:	GMU Concert Hall, Wednesday, December 31 st from 2:30 to 3:30 PM (& Packet Pick-up)

Register online at www.racepacket.com

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CALENDAR

Send events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

CASINO TRIP. The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, will take a trip to Charles Town, W.Va. Includes slots and simulcast horse racing; lunch on own. Cost: \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers, includes transportation and \$5 cash back, subject to change. Minimum walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure and return times and locations.

SENIOR JEOPARDY. 11 a.m., Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Includes prizes, open to all seniors. 703-430-2397.

THURSDAY/NOV. 27

FUN RUN/WALK. 8:15 a.m., Crossroads United Methodist Church, 43454 Crossroads Drive, Ashburn. Participate in a 10K, 5K or 2K run/walk to support an orphanage/school in Uganda. Cost: \$30 for the 10K, \$25 for the 5K, \$15 for the 2K. Register at www.active.com or www.ecrossroadsumc.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 30

BOOK SIGNING. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Border's, 21031 Triple Seven Road, Sterling. Susan Cites, author of "I Love You More Than Rainbows," will be signing books and telling children's stories. Visit www.susancrites.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

STORY TIME. 4:30 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. One-on-one reading time for children as they buddy up with teen volunteers who will read picture books to them. Recommended for ages 3-6. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

JAN BRETT. 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Celebrate the birthday of author and illustrator Jan Brett with stories, activities and a craft. Children ages 5-8. Register at <http://library.loudoun.gov> or 703-737-8100.

RACCOONS AND FRIENDS. 9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-6. Make own raccoon mask while exploring their lives and the lives of their furry friends. Cost: \$10.50 per child. Call 571-258-3700.

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

RAGTIME TO Rock n' Roll. 4:30 p.m., Loudoun County Extension Office, 30B Catoctin Circle, Leesburg. Barbara Martin introduces children to different music including folk, old time, blues and jazz in this interactive program. All ages. Visit library.loudoun.gov.

TUESDAY TALKS. 7 p.m., Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center Library, 17690 Old Waterford Road, Leesburg. Dr. Jennifer Brown, clinical assistant professor of emergency medicine and surgery presents Emergency Care for Equine Wounds and Lacerations. Free. Advance registration is required; e-mail Amy Troppmann at atroppmann@vt.edu or call 703-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

Singing for Students

Stone Bridge senior reaches out to help students in Africa.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI
THE CONNECTION

In July, Christine Coogle, 17, spent two weeks in Mukono, Uganda, as part of a mission trip with Crossroads United Methodist Church, helping the organization, The Humble Way, which promotes education in the African nation. There Coogle spent time at The Humble School, a primary school, as well as visiting other churches in the area and assisting in the building of a clinic near the school.

But it was the students that made the biggest impact on the Stone Bridge senior. So much so, that she recorded a compact disc of Christmas songs and will hold a benefit concert at the end of the month, with proceeds from both projects going to help the secondary-school students that have recently graduated from the school she visited just months ago.

"I talked to my parents about doing a benefit concert. My parents talked to Mark Odell [a founder of Artist Owned Records in Ashburn] and it kind of evolved," Coogle said of the CD project. "When we started I didn't know what charity I would support, but I did the church mission over the summer to Uganda and so it seemed a natural fit."

Odell agreed to donate studio time and studio talent to the CD project.

"Christine is actually a joy to work with," Odell said. "She is a bright young lady ... a perfectionist. Most of the efforts were spent polishing and improving her vocal levels. She was a real joy."

COOGLE, WHO plans to make music a career, is a student of classical music and as part of the Washington International Opera Institute for Young Singers, performed on the Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center in 2007. So when choosing songs for her first CD, she selected 13 Old English and French — which are sung in English — standards. Some familiar, such as "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" or "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman," others maybe not so well-known such as "In the Bleak Midwinter" or "The Infant King." A lot of the songs she had done with her music teachers. The others she found by doing research on the Internet.

"I kind of wanted to do something different," she said of her choices.

Coogle and her accompanist did the arrangements for a couple songs, while for the remaining pieces, she stayed true to the original.

THE ENTIRE process for the CD took nearly a year with Coogle starting her search for songs in January, then spending the winter researching licensing fees and practicing vocals and music. She starting



CONTRIBUTED

Bayati Mary, a student at The Humble School who is in the equivalent of fifth grade, with Christine Coogle during her trip to Uganda in July.

Supporting Education

Christine Coogle will hold a concert Sunday, Nov. 30, 7 p.m., at Crossroads United Methodist Church, 43454 Crossroads Drive, Ashburn. A \$5 tax-deductible donation is requested. To purchase her CD, "Make We Merry," visit www.christinecoogle.com. Cost is \$12 plus shipping.

Proceeds from the concert and CD benefit The Humble Way, www.theHUMBLEway.com, which sponsors the education of students in Uganda.

the recording process in May in order to have a finished product ready for sale by October.

"We had to fit recording in with her work schedule in the summer and her school schedule in the fall," Odell said.

And by most standards, the recording process seemed to run smoothly.

"It's not uncommon to be in the studio for 25 takes for each song," Odell said. "Christine had nothing over 12."

Coogle said she averaged four hours of studio time anytime she had an evening free, usually about twice a week.

"I just squeezed it in," she said.

Odell said Coogle's CD project was a natural fit for the studio, which specializes in contemporary Christian artists. He said the studio will occasionally get involved with charitable pieces when it has the time.

"Her proceeds are going to charity, it made sense," Odell said about being involved. "Christine is not a Christian artist per se, but it is Christmas songs ... you can't separate Christ from Christmas."

"It was our contribution to the cause. ... We did it to help."

WHILE COOGLE is hoping to attend Vanderbilt in the fall, where she wants to double major in vocal performance and linguistics, music isn't her only passion. She plays rugby, and until last year played soccer. In addition, she belongs to several clubs at school — some of which she serves as an officer, volunteers at the library and is an honors student who was one of several students recently honored at the Loudoun County Public Schools' Excellence in Education banquet.

Music is a dominate in her life, however. She has taken lessons at the Shenandoah Conservatory for the past three years, takes piano and teaches it to elementary-school students, and is co-president of her school's choir department.

She became interested in the mission trip through her piano teacher, Susan Yantis, who had made a similar mission trip previously.

"I wanted to go on a mission to Africa for a long time," Coogle said. "My piano teacher had gone before. She planted the African seed in my heart."

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6
771-6843.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

TEEN CENTER. 7-10 p.m., After-Hours Teen Center, Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Features winter wonderland dance. All teens attending the teen center must have a permission slip, signed by a parent or guardian, on file. Download the permission slip at <http://library.loudoun.gov> go to Teen Scene, Events, Hanging Out Rocks. For middle-schoolers.

TODDLER ONE AND TWO. 11 a.m., Rust Library, 34D Catocin Circle, Leesburg. Stories, rhymes and movement for ages 12-24 months with a parent or caregiver. Sign up online at library.loudoun.gov or phone 703-777-0323.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

RACCOONS AND FRIENDS. 9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-6. Make own raccoon mask while exploring their lives and the lives of their furry friends. Cost: \$10.50 per child. Call 571-258-3700.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

ZANY BRAINY GAMES. 11 a.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Play games such as crosswords, bingo and Assassin. Ages 8-12. Register online at <http://library.loudoun.gov> or phone 703-430-9500.

CONCERT. 3 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Too Human entertain and delight with their

jazzy-bluesy vocals, guitar, percussion and upright bass. All ages.
STORY TIME MATINEE. 2 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Stories, songs, a video storybook and a craft for 3-6 year olds.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

MONTHLY BREAKFAST. 8 a.m.-noon, Ashburn Volunteer Fire and Rescue Company, 20688 Ashburn Road. Breakfast of pancakes, eggs, bacon, sausage, gravy and biscuits, hash browns, coffee and juices. Features monthly themes and Kids Activity Corner; apparatus bay area is open to children of all ages. Cost: adults \$6, ages 3-8 \$4, under 3 free and seniors \$5. Call 703-729-0006.

COOKIE WALK. 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Sterling United Methodist Church, 304 E. Church Road, Sterling. The Sterling United Methodist Women are holding a cookie walk to benefit local missions. Purchase a container, \$5 small; \$10 large, then fill it up with cookies. Call 703-430-6455 or visit www.sterlingumc.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 8

STORY TIME. 4:30 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. One-on-one reading time for children as they buddy up with teen volunteers who will read picture books to them. Recommended for ages 3-6. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

A BEAR? WHERE? 9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-6. Discover the life of different bears and explore a "bear cave." Cost: \$10.50 per child. Call 571-258-3700.

THURSDAY/DEC. 11

CASINO TRIP. The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, will take a trip to Charles Town, W.Va. Includes slots and simulcast horse racing; lunch on own. Cost: \$8 for members, \$10 for nonmembers, includes transportation and \$5 cash back, subject to change. Minimum walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure and return times and locations.

A BEAR? WHERE? 9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-6. Discover the life of different bears and explore a "bear cave." Cost: \$10.50 per child. Call 571-258-3700.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

FURRY FRIDAY. 5-7 p.m., Sterling Community Center, 20 Enterprise St., Sterling. Once a month, animals from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter will be at the Sterling Community. Bring the whole family for a real "happy hour" with animals looking for new homes. Visit www.loudoun.gov/animals.

TEEN CENTER. 7-10 p.m., After-Hours Teen Center, Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Features winter wonderland dance. All teens attending the teen center must have a permission slip, signed by a parent or guardian, on file. Download the permission slip at <http://library.loudoun.gov> go to Teen Scene, Events, Hanging Out Rocks. For high-schoolers.

WHITE HOUSE TOUR. The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, will take a trip to Washington, D.C.

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Magical Season Ends at Region Finals

Woodlief's football squad finished 10-2; Broad Run headed for states.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

In many ways, Broad Run's 33-6 Region II high-school football championship game win over Potomac Falls last Friday night in Ashburn was a replay of the two Dulles District rivals' regular season meeting.

In the title game, just like the regular season meeting Oct. 24, the home team Spartans won the battle of the trenches, received dominant outings from their skill position players and jumped out to an insurmountable first half lead.

Broad Run, just as it was when it beat Potomac Falls during the regular season meeting, 38-0, proved to be the dominant team in the region finals matchup as well. Now, the unbeaten Spartans (12-0) will move onto the state AA playoffs where they will host Chancellor of Fredericksburg in a semifinals game this Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Potomac Falls, which qualified for the postseason for the first time in school history this fall, finishes the season 10-2 overall, with its only setbacks coming to Broad Run.

THE REGION title is the first for Broad Run football. Following a 2007 season last year, which ended with a disappointing first-round region playoff loss following a perfect 10-0 regular season, the Spartans were on a mission to make some postseason noise this year.

They opened the playoffs two weeks ago with a 47-28 home win over Loudoun County in a region semifinals game. That breakthrough win advanced the Ashburn team to the second meeting with Potomac Falls, which had ousted James Wood, 26-7, in its region semi home game.

And in the title game, it was all Spartans as the home team built a 27-0 halftime lead and a 30-0 fourth-quarter lead on way to the triumph.

"We just wanted to come out and prove we were the dominant team," Mikey Cotton, Broad Run senior linebacker, said. "It's unbelievable and an awesome feeling."

Following Broad Run's regular season win over Potomac Falls, Panther coach Scott Woodlief said a huge key in that game's outcome was the line play, where Broad Run got the better of the action on both the of-



Potomac Falls receiver Tarrell Owens makes a terrific catch near the Broad Run end zone during the Panthers' Region II championship game at Broad Run last Friday night. Owens and teammate Chad McMichael both had four catches in the game.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

fensive and defensive sides of the football.

On Saturday, Broad Run, once again, controlled the interior play. On offense, the Spartans' line contributed to a day in which Broad Run ran the football for 210 yards on the ground. Meanwhile, the Spartans' defense, held the Panthers' ground game in check with 110 yards.

"You've got to stop the run and they beat us up front a little bit," said Potomac Falls senior quarterback Greg Woodlief, also a member of the Panthers' defensive secondary. "We never could get it together. Right now it's kind of hard to remember the good times [of the season]."

BROAD RUN'S terrific

running back twosome of Breon Earl and TJ Peeler both scored a pair of touchdowns in the first half. Earl, the smallish, versatile playmaker, scored on a 25-yard run early in the second quarter to give the Spartans a 14-0 lead. That was the first of three touchdowns Broad Run would score during a stretch of less than three minutes in the decisive quarter of play.

Earl (12 carries, 105 yards) came up with perhaps the game's most exciting play midway through the second quarter when he returned a punt down the right side of the

field for a 35-yard touchdown, making the score 27-0.

Peeler, meanwhile, had a first half to remember as well as he scored on touchdown runs of 25 and 16 yards out. The first score, from 25 yards out, accounted for the first points of the game and came off a pitchout right play. Peeler, on the scoring play, jumped over a Potomac Falls pursuer before darting into open field and all the way into the end zone. The junior finished the game with 87 yards on 16 carries.

On the frigid, cold fall night, the game felt all but over at halftime. Neither team scored in the third quarter. But early in the fourth, Broad Run capped a 65-yard march with a 32-yard field goal by senior kicker Graham Allen to make the score 30-0.

A few minutes later, Potomac Falls got onto the scoreboard thanks to its defense when Woodlief snatched a Broad Run fumble and ran the ball 33 yards into the end zone.

Broad Run answered with a drive from its own 34 to the Potomac Falls 9, which concluded with an Allen field goal from 34 yards out to make it 33-6.

IT WAS A bad night for the Potomac Falls offense, which turned the ball over six times. Woodlief (14 of 33 for 184 yards) had a tough game with four interceptions. Panther standout running back Michael Baker was held to just 41 yards on 16 car-

ries.

"We were able to key on Baker," Cotton said. "Woodlief is a good quarterback. We put pressure on him and the defensive line played great."

Broad Run got interceptions from Earl, senior linebacker Kenny McAdow and defensive backs Didier Saidi, Chris Jessop and Joey Quigg. Lineman Michael Reigel recovered a fumble.

"Our defense is awesome," Broad Run coach Mike Burnett said. "I've said it all year." Burnett said the 2008 Spartans are a special team indeed.

"Teams like this come around [for a coach] once in a lifetime," Burnett said of his unbeaten Spartans now headed for states. "It's very special. For a great team, it's about chemistry and selflessness. They love each other and I love them."

The coach said last year's Broad Run team was thrilled to win the district title and make the playoffs. This year's team wanted more than that.

"They're very hungry," Burnett said. "Last year there was a sense of satisfaction that this group doesn't have. More than anything they want to keep playing."

Woodlief, the Potomac Falls quarterback, said the team came a long way this season.

"We've done a lot of good things for Panther football," he said, of the '08 squad. "We accomplished a lot by making the playoffs for the first time in school history."

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Send events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

HOLIDAY CRAFTS. 4 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Library staff will help children ages 6-11 make holiday crafts. Register at library.loudoun.gov or 703-430-9500.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

TREE LIGHTING. 6-7 p.m., Leesburg Town Green. Includes local choirs and tree illumination. Call the Leesburg Parks & Recreation Department at 703-777-1368 or visit www.idalee.org. For inclement weather cancellations during the events, call the Inclement Weather Line at 703-737-7166.

CARD WORKSHOP. 5:30-6:30 p.m., Douglass Community Center, 405 E. Market St., Leesburg. Children create holiday cards. Includes 10 greeting cards with personalized signature from your child. Ages 3-13. Cost: \$40 per child. Advance registration required; call 703-771-5913.

CHARITABLE GIFT FAIR. 5-9 p.m., SonaBank at 1 E. Market St., Leesburg. St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church annual alternative gift fair. Includes ways to donate to local charities, live music and a visit from Santa or shop online through Dec. 31, www.SaintGabriels.net.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

HOLIDAY PARADE. 5-8 p.m., Historic downtown Leesburg. Holiday Parade and Winter Festival, includes horse-drawn carriages, Santa, Frosty and Rudolph will pose for pictures, children's hands-on games and art activities, local school choirs, ice sculpting demonstration, holiday

merchandise and refreshments will be available for purchase. To register to be part of the parade, visit <http://www.idalee.org/parks/events/holidays>. For inclement weather cancellations during the events, call the Inclement Weather Line at 703-737-7166.

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Ida Lee Park Recreation Center, 60 Ida Lee Drive, N.W., Leesburg. Includes handcrafted items from more than 90 local and regional artisans. Admission is free. Call the Leesburg Parks & Recreation Department at 703-777-1368 or visit www.idalee.org. For inclement weather cancellations during the events, call the Inclement Weather Line at 703-737-7166.

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK. 3:30-6 p.m., Claude Moore Park/Lanesville Heritage Area, 21544 Old Vestals Gap Road, Sterling. Includes candlelight tour of the Lanesville House, crafts, a hayride through the park, roasting marshmallows and caroling. Free, donations of new mittens, scarves and/or hats are requested for the Winter Warmth Tree. Call 571-258-3700.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR. 12-4 p.m., Unitarian Universalists of Sterling Church, 22135 Davis Road, Sterling. Gifts can be purchased for \$10-\$15 and are donated to local charities and purchasers are given a holiday card to present to the recipient. Call 703-406-3068.

ADVENT FAIR. 2-4 p.m., Sterling United Methodist Church, 304 E. Church Road, Sterling. Make crafts and ornaments, trim a gingerbread house and take pictures with Santa. Recommended for the family. Free admission. Call 703-430-6455 or visit www.sterlingumc.org.

NUTCRACKER BRUNCH. 12:30 p.m., Lansdowne Resort Grand Ballroom, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. Ravel Dance Studio of Reston presents this holiday classic. Cost: \$55 adults, \$35 children, includes brunch. Call 703-437-9664 or e-mail Rhall1006@aol.com for tickets.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA. 8:30

a.m.-12 p.m., Arcola-Pleasant Valley Volunteer Fire Department, 24757 Evergreen Mills Road, Sterling. Bring the family for breakfast and a visit with Santa. Cost: \$9 adults, \$7 seniors, \$5 children age 3-8, children under 3 free. Bring a toy or canned good for donation. Call 703-327-2222 and leave a voice mail in box 29.

NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE. 7:30 p.m., Heritage High School, 520 Evergreen Mill Road, Leesburg. The Northern Virginia Performing Arts Company presents this classic ballet. Cost: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors and children 3-12, free for children under 3. Call 703-443-1093.

CHARITABLE GIFT FAIR. Noon-8 p.m., SonaBank at 1 E. Market St., Leesburg. See Dec. 5 item for details.

BALLET PERFORMANCE. 2 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Celebrate the holiday season with a performance of "The Nutcracker" by Ashburn Academy of Ballet. All ages. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov>.

WINTER BAZAAR. 8 a.m.-noon, Countryside Elementary, 20624 Countryside Blvd., Sterling. Annual Winter Breakfast & Bazaar featuring silent auction, Scholastic Book Fair, prewrapped gifts in the Kids Only Secret Shoppe, musical performance, food and photos with a "special visitor."

CANDY CANE HUNT. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Claude Moore Community Center, 46111 Loudoun Park Lane, Sterling. Ages 2-10. Go on a candy cane hunt, have lunch with Santa and play games. Bring camera for a picture with Santa. Cost: \$10, \$3 for parent lunch. Preregistration required, call 571-258-3500.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Ida Lee Park Recreation Center. See Dec. 6 item for details.

NUTCRACKER PERFORMANCE. 3 p.m., Heritage High School, 520 Evergreen Mill Road, Leesburg. See Dec. 6 item for details.

BUSINESS NOTES

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Manor Works Painting is holding a \$5,000 charity paint giveaway event. Nominations are being accepted for deserving families or nonprofit organizations in need of painting services. One recipient will be selected, based on need, to receive \$5,000 in free paint, labor and materials.

Nominations should be sent no later than **Nov. 25** to Manor Works Painting, 20 Pigeon Hill Drive, Suite 202, Sterling. Nominations may be submitted online at www.manorworks.com/givesback.

REAL ESTATE

Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Kelly Marrocco of the Loudoun County Department of Family Services will discuss the **Loudoun County Home Improvement Program** and the **Eastern Loudoun Revitaliza-**

U.S. gymnast and Olympian medallist Justin Spring is coming to **Northern Virginia Gymnastics Academy**, 22446 Davis Drive, Suite 109, Sterling, Friday, **Nov. 28**, 11:30 a.m. Spring will sign autographs, take pictures and give a short demonstration.

The Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce announced the winners in the 2008 **Small Business Awards**, Nov. 6, during a ceremony at the National Conference Center. The winners are: Ag/Equine Business of the Year, Notaviva Vineyards; Franchisee Business of the Year, Pump It Up; Home Based Business of the Year, MakeUp Artistry by Tracie Rosales; Product of the Year, Edibles Incredible Desserts; Retailer Business of the Year, Go Bananas; Service Business of the Year, Loudoun Family Practice; Technology Business of the Year, Zillion

tion Program, which are designed to preserve and rehabilitate existing affordable housing, 6:30 p.m., Monday, **Dec. 1**, at the Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. The programs make funds available to low- and moderate-income families who currently own homes that need rehabilitation. The seminar is free, but registration required, Marrocco at 571-258-3819.

Weichert Realtors kicked off the company's 30th Annual Toy Drive. Toys

Technologies Inc.; Entrepreneur of the Year, Hulya Asku, Modern Mom Media Corporation and top honor going to Go Bananas, named Small Business of the Year.

All local area vendors are invited to attend **Loudoun County Procurement's 2008 buyer/seller information exchange sessions**. These sessions are to provide information on the county's procurement processes and upcoming contracts. The sessions will take place Thursday, **Dec. 18**, 2 p.m.; Thursday, **Jan. 22**, 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, **Feb. 24**, 2 p.m.; Wednesday, **March 25**, 10:30 a.m.; Thursday, **April 23**, 2 p.m.; Thursday, **May 21**, 10:30 a.m.; Tuesday, **June 23**, 2 p.m.

For locations call 703-777-0403 or send an e-mail to Rebecca Kummel at procurement@loudoun.gov.

will be collected at each of the company's sales offices for distribution to financially and/or physically disadvantaged children within the local communities. Donations of new unwrapped toys accepted **through December**.

Heather Gosman of Weichert Realtors Ashburn led all sales associates in the region for new home dollar volume. Additionally, the entire Ashburn sales team led the Weichert region in new home dollar volume.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET**

Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$150.0 million budget for calendar year 2009.

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2009 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m. A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Revenues are expected to be \$150.0 million in 2009. Water sales are expected to provide \$125.1 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2008	2009
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$40,719	\$42,788
Power and Utilities	11,015	13,191
Chemicals	9,288	10,625
Fuel	989	1,028
Postage	419	449
Insurance	1,254	1,289
Supplies and Materials	3,492	3,694
Contractual Services	6,109	6,797
Professional Services	1,321	1,364
Other	1,964	1,981
Sub-Total	76,570	83,206
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(8,574)	(8,667)
Total	\$67,996	\$74,539

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$37,687,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$25,710,000

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**NOTICE OF WATER RATE
PUBLIC HEARING**

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 11, 2008, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2009, include the following:

1. An increase in the availability charge from \$3,850 to \$3,950†.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$6,400 to \$7,600.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$800 to \$850†.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$28 to \$29.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$6.25 to \$7.05†.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$1.70 to \$1.83 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$2.65 to \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons of water.
8. An increase in the Turn Off/Turn On Charge from \$40 to \$42.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. An increase in the Sewer Use Meters Charge from \$36 to \$37
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$13 to \$14.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

†Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

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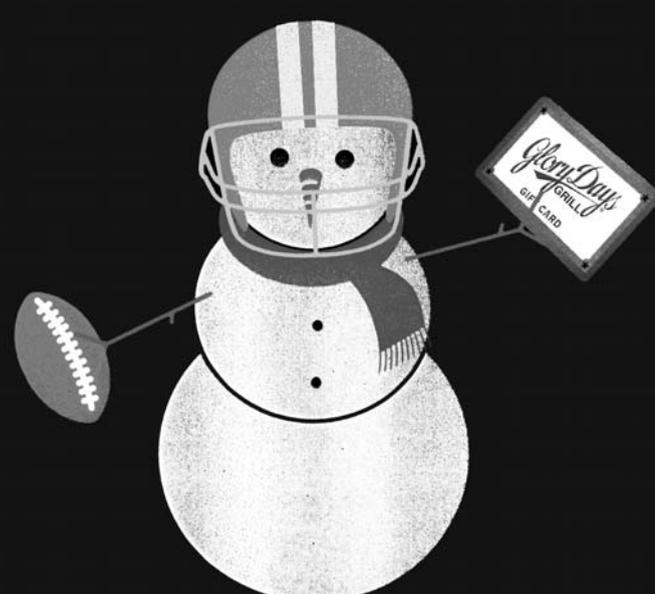
Send announcements or events, which are open to the public at no or minimal cost, to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday, two weeks before the event. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

The 10:30 a.m. service, Sunday, **Nov. 30**, at the **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling** is "Finding Spirituality." This lay-lead service will explore the meaning of and quest for spirituality through poetry and music. UUS meets every Sunday at the Sterling Oaks Commerce Center at 22135 Davis Drive. Call 703-406-3068 or visit uusterling.org.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 605 W. Market St. S.W., Leesburg, is dedicating its new pipe organ Sunday, **Dec. 7**, 11 a.m. The worship ceremony will be followed at 4 p.m. by the Loudoun Chorale's annual Christmas concert. Concert tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$5 students. Call 703-777-4912.

Sterling United Methodist Church, 304 E. Church Road, Sterling, is holding four **Christmas Eve** services: the family Nativity pageant, 5 p.m.; traditional candlelight communion services, 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Call 703-430-6455 or visit www.sterlingumc.org.

Stephen Ministry at Ashburn Presbyterian Church, 20962 Ashburn Road in Ashburn, is a one-to-one listening ministry for those who need support for reasons such as divorce, loss of a loved one, recent hospitalization or terminal illness. Call Mark Armstrong, associate pastor at 703-729-2012 or visit the church Web site at www.ashburnpresbyterian.org.



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