

Tysons Guidelines on Fast Track

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Fairfax County wants to transform Tysons Corner into a more livable, pedestrian-friendly community — pictured above — but the task could present many challenges.

Recognizing
Outstanding Volunteers

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Fire
Department
Hosts
Breakfast
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Tysons Guidelines on Fast Track

Landowners, supervisors want redevelopment plan in place before Metro line.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

The Tysons Corner Land Use Task Force took three-and-a-half years to articulate its vision of the transit-oriented, green downtown it hopes to see Virginia's largest business district eventually become.

Now, Fairfax County planners have a matter of months to craft the precise language that will help make that goal a reality.

County staff will draft a new comprehensive plan for Tysons by July. The Board of Supervisors should be able to vote on the new Tysons land use when members return from their August recess in 2009.

"It is an aggressive timeline. The Board [of Supervisors] asked for an aggressive timeline," said James Zook, director of Fairfax County's Department of Planning and Zoning.

THE AUTOMOBILE defines Tysons today.

Nearly half of Tysons, the country's 12th largest business district, is taken up by streets and parking. There are 13 jobs for every single household located in Tysons and the vast majority of people who work there commute by car.

Through new development guidelines, the county hopes planners will reshape Tysons into a community where residents live, work and recreate — all without getting into a car.

The Tysons Task Force vision calls for 95 percent of all development to be located within one half mile of the four new Metro stops and 600 feet of a planned circulator route.

Over the next few decades, the number of Tysons households would go from 14,000 to approximately 100,000. And the number of jobs per resident would drop to four to one.

"The task force has proposed nothing short of a transformation of Tysons Corner," said Walter Alcorn, vice-chair of the Fairfax County's planning commission.

THE TASK is an immense undertaking for both the planning commission and staff.

"We have never done any plan amendment as complex as this ... The planning commission does have a large task," said Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence), who used to sit on the planning commission before being elected to office.

Over the next few months, commission



COURTESY OF THE TYSONS LAND USE TASK FORCE

The planning commission and county staff will face numerous hurdles trying to transform Tysons Corner into the community as envisioned here.

Dulles Rail Moves Forward

Nearly a year after almost killing the project, the Federal Transit Administration approved \$900 million in funding for the Metro system's "silver line" extension to Dulles Airport and beyond. Though the decision is seen as a significant step forward, several people and entities, including the U.S. Transportation Secretary, the U.S. Congress and the federal Office of Management and Budget, must also sign off on the project before it can become reality.

If the Dulles rail extension is fully approved this spring, the first phase of the line, which would run through Tysons Corner out to Wiehle Avenue in Reston, would be completed in 2013. The second phase of the line, which would end in Loudoun County, would open two years later.

The following are some of the reactions people with a vested interest in the project had to the Federal Transit Administration's approval:



"This can't go on forever. We are ready for things to move. But do I wish it was going to be underground? Yes."

— Linda Smyth (D), Providence District Supervisor, who voted against the project in the spring of 2007 because it did not include a tunnel through Tysons Corner



"Not only are we moving forward on Dulles rail but we are also moving forward on the Tysons plan. We want to be ready."

— Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins



"Extending rail to Dulles will help ease traffic congestion on our roads and improve the quality of life for all northern Virginians who are tired of sitting in traffic rather than doing the things they want to do."

— U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), who secured more than \$250 million for the project through the congressional appropriations committee



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Outstanding Volunteer Vivian Morgan-Mendez accepts her framed certificate from Providence District Council chair, Charlie Hall, and vice chair, Becky Cate. Morgan-Mendez directs Nottoway Nights summer concert series and promotes preservation of natural resources.

Recognizing Outstanding Volunteers

Providence District Council applauds environmental custodians' commitment to preservation.

At the Providence District Council's (PDC) holiday party Dec. 9, the council recognized Outstanding Volunteer of the Year, Vivian Morgan-Mendez, and posthumously, environmental advocate, Sally Ormsby. Council chair, Charlie Hall, and vice chair, Becky Cate, presented the recognition awards.

Ormsby helped found the council and, throughout her public service career, championed the cause of environmental protection and preservation. She last served on the Water Conservation Board before her death this year.

When state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) decided to get his feet wet in politics, he was told to talk with two people who knew the ins and outs: Jean Packard and Sally Ormsby.

"Sally was a Democrat, but she was part of nobody's political machine," Petersen said. The Fairfax-area contingent is filing a resolution at the state level to recognize Ormsby's achievements and lifetime commitment to conservation measures.

The resolution set forth by PDC focuses on Ormsby's volunteer activities, a "lifetime mission of community service ... unsurpassed in her passion to protect the environment."

Ormsby's husband, Clay, and son, Tyler, accepted the certificate of recognition.

AGAINST A LITANY of accolades for her

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 5

WEEK IN VIENNA

Robbery, Wounding In Tysons Corner

Police responded to the report of a shooting in the area of Chain Bridge Road and Tysons Boulevard shortly after 3 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10.

Officers determined that a car broke down on Chain Bridge Road; the driver, a 23-year-old man from Greenbelt, Md. got out to work on his car and a second car pulled in front of the first. One occupant got out of the second car, approached the man working on his car, produced a gun and demanded money. A second occupant got out of the second car, approached the 43-year-old female passenger, from Brentwood, Md. in the first car and demanded money. The victims struggled with their assailants; the male victim was shot once in the upper body, the female was struck in the head with a hard object. Both victims were transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

The suspect with the gun was described as being black, in his 40s, about 6 feet tall, weighing approximately 300 pounds. He had short hair in dreadlocks, a thick goatee and acne. He was wearing a gray, hooded sweater, gray pants and white sneakers. The second suspect was white, in his late 20s to early 30s. He was about 6 feet tall and weighed approximately 150 pounds. He had short, dark hair and a thick goatee. He was wearing tan pants and a sweater with white and black stripes.

The suspects were driving a silver or gray sedan, possibly a Ford. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Guilty Plea in Vienna Inn Attack

On Dec. 9, 2008 Jaimea Espinal plead guilty to a charge of malicious wounding in Fairfax County Circuit Court. The plea follows several months of preparation for a trial by detectives of the Vienna Police Department and was entered just after a jury was empanelled to begin hearing the case.

The plea comes as the result of an arrest and investigation which began in July for the malicious wounding of a Vienna Inn employee. The employee was the victim of a serious assault which occurred during the early morning hours of July 26, 2008. Sentencing is scheduled for March 13, 2009.

Shannon Receives Honor, Support

State Del. Steve Shannon (D-35) was honored by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance for his work as a member of the Governor's Commission on Sexual Violence from 2007-2008. Gov. Tim Kaine also was honored for his advocacy efforts putting together the Commission and sponsoring an ambitious legislative agenda in the area of victim's rights.

Shannon served as one of three chairmen on the Commission and was chief patron of House Bill 965 during the 2008 Session of the General Assembly, enacted into law on July 1. Victims of stalkers are now eligible to receive funds through the Virginia Criminal Injury Compensation Fund to cover expenses associated with recovering from the crime.

Shannon is a former Fairfax County prosecutor, and he and his wife Abby are co-founders of the Metro Washington AMBER-Alert program, designed to recover missing and abducted children.

Businesses Celebrate Anniversary

Ron Wheaton Custom Kitchens, Inc. is celebrating its 20th anniversary. With over 30 years in the kitchen remodeling business by designing kitchens to fit customer's lifestyle and budget, Ron Wheaton invites customers to come to their 213 Mill Street N.E. studio in Vienna to help celebrate anniversary.

Virginia Cosmetic Laser & Medispa in Vienna, celebrating their fifth year in business, on Saturday, Dec. 20 from 12-4 p.m., offers free skin consultations and will have bowls to collect names for multiple drawings for facials, peels, massage and more. Virginia Cosmetic Laser & Medispa is planning to run an ad in this paper with a highlighted word that will be the password to qualify you for the featured service discount for that week. Call 703-939-5721 or visit at 8300 Old Courthouse Road in Vienna, suite 140.

NEWS



Braden Coward, 5, emphasizes that it is "presents" he likes the most at Christmastime. His 2-year-old brother, Henry, likes playing with the oversized Dalmatian.



Not all of Santa's helpers are elves. Some are volunteers with the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. Daniel Sieff, Howard Springsteen, Debi Droke, Joan Dempsey and Donna Gray help out Santa.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Fire Department Hosts Breakfast

Tradition continues with hot buffet and Santa Claus.

The annual community pancake breakfast at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department stationhouse pulled in more than 350 parents and children Dec. 6.

The VVFD Auxiliary served pancakes, bacon, sausage, coffee and doughnuts. Santa Claus stopped by to listen to Christmas wishes.

Nine-year-old Maya Chatterjee is planning on leaving out chocolate pecan pie and milk for Santa; her mother said the youngster loves to cook. Maya's most

favorite part of the holiday season is spending time with her family.

Braden Coward, 5, was succinct and very emphatic. "I like the presents the most," Braden said, putting lots of imaginary exclamation points after "presents."

VVFD president, Howard Springsteen, said the Santa breakfast is more of a community service than a fund-raiser. Town Councilwoman Edythe Kelleher, state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova socialized with other guests.

Petersen asked Santa, "What can we get for you, Santa?"

"Just world peace," Santa said.

— DONNA MANZ

Marshall Students Provide 'Bagged Meals'



Two Marshall High School students, Allison Lees and Jordan Rennert, spearheaded a community service project in which about 40 students volunteered, within an effort to create a permanent bagged meals catering service for the Embry Rucker Community Shelter through the efforts and donations of Marshall High students. Students exceeded their goal of packing 70 bags of food donated by Marshall students and community.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Clay and Tyler Ormsby accept the Outstanding Volunteer Award on behalf of Sally Ormsby, environmental preservationist. Presenting the certificate are Flint Webb, Providence District Council chair Charlie Hall, state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and Becky Cate, vice chair.

Volunteers

FROM PAGE 3

preservation work, Vienna resident, Vivian Morgan-Mendez, accepted her award of recognition. Morgan-Mendez was the driver of the Friends of Nottoway Park, an avid gardener who defended acres of trees at Nottoway from destruction, and director of Nottoway Nights, a concert program in partnership with private sponsors and the Fairfax County Park Authority. She is, said Ken Quincey, the Providence representative on the Park Authority Board, the "volunteer's volunteer." Quincey noted that

Morgan-Mendez helped publicize the park bond issue this year.

Morgan-Mendez was instrumental in the removal of invasive plant species at Nottoway and in the creation of the park's Community Gardens.

"Once you give me an award like this, it means I'll be calling your more," Morgan-Mendez said.

The congenial group knew one another well and held common ground. Turkey wraps, dips and spreads and sweets topped off the holiday party.

— DONNA MANZ

Ask Dr. Casey

Is there a proper way to take care of my toothbrush?

Your toothbrush can be a breeding ground for germs. After using your toothbrush thoroughly rinse it with tap water to remove any remaining toothpaste and debris. Store your toothbrush in an upright position, and allow it to air dry. Do not store your moist toothbrush in a closed container and if several toothbrushes are stored in the same holder, keep them separated. Do not share your brush. You could be sharing body fluids, increasing your risk of infection.

It is also important to change your toothbrush if you've had a cold, flu, sore throat or infection. Germs hide in the bristles and can lead to reinfection.

Do not put your toothbrush in the dishwasher or microwave. When the bristles start to fray replace your toothbrush. You should get a new one every three or four months.

Dr. Todd Casey is a general dentist whose practice is geared towards cosmetics and overall family care. He is in practice with his father, Dr. George Casey, and they have been serving the greater Oakton/Vienna area for the last 35 years. If there are any questions you may have about dentistry, you may contact their office at 703-938-7773 or visit www.caseyfamilydentistry.com.

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NEWS

Rail Prospects Speed Up Tysons Planning

FROM PAGE 3

members and staff will have to come up with solutions for several challenges, many of which were not addressed directly by the Tysons Task Force in their report, she said.

For example, the task force wants to see a grid of streets in Tysons, even though the area is already built up and existing buildings stand in the way.

The task force also envisions more open space, parks and a circulator system in Tysons. But the creation of such public amenities requires landowners to give up lucrative pieces of property — possibly already with buildings standing on them — for public use.

"We have a lot of existing buildings that are not going to go away for a very long time. And all of these things that task force didn't really deal with at all," said Smyth.

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S planning department is also relatively new to urban developments of the type envisioned for Tysons. Some wonder whether the county has expertise for this type of project.

"Planning is part of their job. It is what they do. But Tysons is getting some big changes to it and it is going to be more urban and more intense. They may lack some expertise and experience doing this. There may be a little bit of learning curve," said Mark Zetts, who has followed the Tysons Corner redevelopment process for the McLean Citizens Association.

According to officials, the Fairfax County planning department is used to tackling different types of projects. Some of the staff planners and consultants have training and experience in urban planning.

They have also worked on projects like development around the Vienna Metro station, which is similar to what is being pro-

posed in Tysons, said Zook.

"We have an extremely competent staff. Between our staff and the consultants, we have the ability and the talent to do the planning that is necessary," said Zook.

STILL, supervisors and the county business community exerted pressure on Zook and his staff members to speed up the overhaul of the Tysons plan language. After threatening to back off the project last January, the Federal Transit Administration approved \$900 million for the 23-mile, \$5.2 billion Dulles rail project Dec. 4. The project — the focus of Tysons redevelopment — still faces some other hurdles, but the transit agency's blessing is considered a milestone.

"It is another important step toward ultimate approval. It doesn't guarantee it but it is a very important point of progress," said Bill Lecos, president of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

IN A JOINT resolution passed Dec. 8, the supervisors emphasized their desire for swift action on the drafting of new Tysons Corner plan language, in part due to the federal transit agency's decision.

"This Board and the [Washington Metro And Transit Authority] Board of Directors want to make sure the enormous public investment into Rail to Dulles is supported by a land-use plan that emphasizes Transit-Oriented Development," wrote the supervisors.

Even before the transit administration's announcement about rail last week, people had already indicated that county needs to work quickly to create a land use plan that accommodates metro.

Some Tysons Task Force members, who handed in their vision for the business district's transfor-

mation Sept. 22, grumbled about the planners' lack of progress during a Dec. 1 meeting, three days prior to the federal agency's endorsement of the rail project. "Optimistically they think it will be [fall of] 2009 when the board will be able to approve the plan. That is quite a gap if the rail project gets approved in the spring. Landowners are going to know rail is a reality but they won't know what is happening with Tysons and no good can come of that," said Lecos.

IF DEVELOPMENT of the new Tysons land use regulations lags behind the Metro's construction, the county could run the risk of not fully integrating the new stations with the surrounding architecture, said Lecos, who is also on the Tysons Task Force.

If uncertainty about Tysons Corner's new land use regulations lingers, landowners could also choose to develop their property under the current comprehensive plan, which means it would be built out as Tysons traditionally has been.

"If things start getting developed under the old plan, the citizens would be justifiably annoyed. If we build more in Tysons and get the same old, same old, I understand why that would be annoying," said Lecos. But Fairfax County's planning department took issue with Lecos' characterization of the situation. "I think developers have a relative degree of confidence on the predictability of the planning process," said Zook.

Under Zook's leadership, Fairfax County will keep stakeholders informed of what is under consideration as part of the Tysons plan. Planning staff will probably start meeting with landowners to discuss their plans for redevelopment and how they might fit into the new regulations governing Tysons, he said.



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OPINION

When To Chase? How to judge when benefits outweigh risks to police, public?

In the past week, there were two instances of police chasing perpetrators through multiple jurisdictions that raise some questions.

In one case, a tractor trailer driven by a man fleeing police in Montgomery County crossed the American Legion Bridge on the Capital Beltway into Fairfax County and then exited in Tysons Corner before crashing down the block from this newspaper's offices on Westpark Drive. Dozens of police cars from Maryland and Virginia participated in the chase, broadcast live on some channels via helicopter.

The chase ended with a few fender benders

and the suspect being tasered. No one else was hurt.

EDITORIALS

But we wonder what kind of damage could have occurred. When does it make sense to chase a suspect driving a vehicle with contents unknown into the center of one of the largest shopping districts in the United States during the holiday shopping season? With helicopters in pursuit perhaps this is a case where tracking the truck until it ran out of gas was a possibility.

Last week, a 19-year-old bank robbery suspect from McLean was shot dead by police

within sight of a middle school after a foot chase led them to an Arlington neighborhood.

Last February, a Fairfax County Police Officer drove her police cruiser through a red traffic signal on Richmond Highway on the way to answer a call, striking the car of 33 year-old Ashley McIntosh and killing her. The officer was cleared of charges of reckless driving.

We don't pretend to understand all of the factors that come into play in making such decisions in general or these decisions in particular. We do know that we would like police to be open with the public about their policies.

More on Poor Students

Several thoughtful emails were sent responding to our editorial, "Don't Lump Poor Students Together." (Dec. 3, 2008, www.connectionnewspapers.com/article.asp?article=322904)

Some writers pointed to many factors besides concentration of student poverty that affect the quality of a school.

For example, Graham Road Elementary, with a high percent poverty rate, performs comparably to many schools with wealthy student populations. Graham Road, at least one writer

said, is a good school because of great principal, great resources and parents who care.

The way the editorial was written does present too simplistic a picture.

While concentration of poverty in schools creates significant and often unnecessary challenges, and decreasing the concentration has benefits, this is far from the only factor involved in creating a successful school and student achievement.

Absolutely a great principal can inspire staff and parents; teachers and parents who care

can make an incredible difference. And it is also quite possible for a school populated by affluent families to be mediocre.

Any yet, as the school system draws new boundaries, it is a mistake to create this additional challenge of concentrating poor students in one school.

But there is much more work than that involved in creating great schools.

— MARY KIMM,

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

COMMENTARY

Navigating Budget Challenge

Make your voices heard on hard choices ahead.

By CATHERINE M. HUDGINS
(D)
SUPERVISOR, HUNTER MILL DISTRICT

Just as many of you are facing tough decisions with your household budgets, the county is facing difficult decisions with its current FY 2009 budget. You may be cutting back on dining out or travel, or you may be struggling to pay your mortgage or your prescriptions. Fairfax County faces similar challenges and consequently, has instituted measures to reduce expenses, including limiting overtime and travel and furloughing all nonessential county employees for one day in January. We are all trying to figure out how to pay for the things we deem are essential.

With each passing budget presentation, I am made more aware of what an arduous task balancing the next budget will be for me and my fellow board colleagues. We know that we will not be able to provide the same level of services that residents are used to. From my perspective, how we make our decisions depends largely on the answer to this question — when all is said and done, what kind of county do we want

to be?

The core purpose of Fairfax County government is to protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County. As a resident and public servant, I take that seriously. I take pride in how the county government conducts itself and that we repeatedly earn recognition as one of the best managed counties in the nation and as one of the best places to live. Despite our successes, we cannot ignore the reality of the current economic situation: less revenue for the county means less available funding for the services we value. The challenge is that citizens of Fairfax County are diverse and place different values on these services. The board has a responsibility to consider those opinions and weigh them against its legal obligations and the best interests of everyone in order to reach a balanced and equitable budget.

So, where do we go from here? We know today that we face a \$500 million shortfall for the budget year that begins July 1, 2009. That number may very well grow.



The good news is we have already instituted measures to mitigate the projected shortfalls, including adjustments to the current budget. Unlike many other jurisdictions, we began this discussion months, if not years, ago and have already implemented measures to address it. So, while there are hard decisions being made and even more to make in the weeks and months ahead, we are in a better position than many other jurisdictions. I would caution that panic will not get us through the challenges we face. What is needed is thoughtful consideration of the services and programs we value and an honest discussion about the things we will have to live without.

I have learned that in times of difficulty, communities respond and people and organizations find ways to help each other. There will be reductions and no matter how they are achieved, programs and people across the county will feel the effects. I encourage you to be actively engaged in this process by ensuring your voice is heard, either by visiting the county's Web site and submitting your budget

ideas online or contacting my office. Ask yourself, what kind of county do I want to live in? Your answer to that question is vital if we are to maintain the quality of life we all value.

To stay informed on the latest Hunter Mill District and Board of Supervisors news, subscribe to the Hunter Mill District e-blast, visit my Web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/> and select the appropriate link. As always, call or e-mail my office at 703-478-0283 with any thoughts, concerns or questions.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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CRIME

Incidents reported by the Town of Vienna police Department through Dec. 5.

ARREST

7-11, 427 Maple Ave. East, Nov. 26, 12:52 a.m. A man entered the 7-11 convenience store located at 427 Maple Ave. East in Vienna and purchased several money orders. It was later determined that the bills used to pay for the money orders were counterfeit. After investigation, it was determined that the subject uttering the counterfeit bills was a 49 year old male of Drewlaine Drive in Vienna, Virginia. Warrants were obtained and served on the suspect for Uttering Forged Bank Notes and Possession of Forged Bank Notes. After being arrested he was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. He is being held on \$1000 bond.

Beulah Road and Creek Crossing Road, N.E. Nov. 29, 12:08 a.m. Sergeant Reeves observed a vehicle speeding above the posted limit on Beulah Road, N.E. After interacting with the driver, Sergeant Reeves detected signs of possible impairment. He then conducting field sobriety tests, and the driver was subsequently arrested for Driving While Intoxicated. The driver, an 18 year old male of Wolftrap Oaks Court in Vienna was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center for analysis of his breath. After completing the test, he was taken to a Magistrate, formally charged, and held on a \$1000 bond.

Casmar Drive and Desale St. S.E. Nov. 29, 12:13 a.m. Officer Maiorana observed a vehicle commit traffic violation. He then conducted a traffic

SEE CRIME PAGE 10

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CRIME

FROM PAGE 9

stop on the vehicle and detected signs of possible impairment while talking to the driver. Officer Maiorana conducted several field sobriety tests and subsequently arrested a 19 year old male of Ashburn, Virginia for Driving While Intoxicated. Mr. Park was then transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and tested to determine the alcohol content in his blood. After completing the test, he was formally charged with Driving While Intoxicated and Driving Without a License and released on an unsecured bond of \$1000.

300 Block Maple Ave. West Nov. 29,

10:18 p.m. Officer Myers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a traffic infraction. After stopping the vehicle and interacting with the occupants, Officer Myers detected signs indicating the possible presence of marijuana inside the vehicle. Further investigation revealed suspected marijuana and paraphernalia. The evidence was seized and the juvenile driver, 17, and a juvenile passenger 17, were detained. After calling their parents, both juvenile males were released to their parent's custody pending obtainment of petitions charging each with Possession of Marijuana. Two other adult occupants of the vehicle were allowed to leave on their own as they

were not involved.
Creek Crossing Road and Woodnor Drive, N.E. Nov. 30, 4:01 a.m. Officer Monaco conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for exceeding the speed limit. After approaching the vehicle, Officer Monaco observed suspected marijuana and paraphernalia inside the vehicle. Officer Monaco seized the evidence and will obtain a petition charging the 16 year old juvenile male with Possession of Marijuana. A verbal warning was given for the speeding violation.
Magruder's, 180 Maple Ave. West. Nov. 30, 12:50 p.m. PFC Simon

SEE CRIME PAGE 11

Happy Holidays & Warm Wishes from Burke & Herbert Bank!



Holiday Art Contest Winning Entry

Congratulations to Cheyenne McGuin, age 8, of Alexandria, winner of our Kids Holiday Art Contest! Cheyenne wins a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond.

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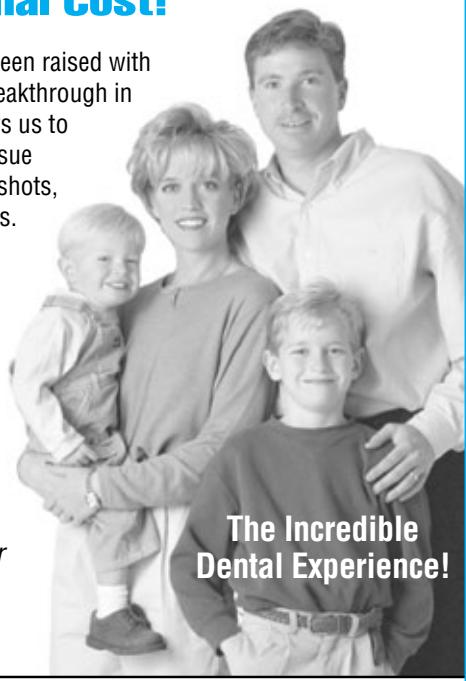
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CRIME

FROM PAGE 10

responded to Magruder's for a shoplifter that was being detained by store personnel. His investigation revealed that a 44 year old female of Oakton Terrace Road in Oakton, had concealed merchandise from the store without paying for the item. The suspect was issued a summons for the violation and released after signing it.

Patrick St. at Cottage St. S.W. Nov. 30, 1:45 p.m. A citizen called to report an individual that was having trouble standing up near the roadway. Officer Mangan located the individual and determined that he was intoxicated. The individual, a 36 year old male of Cedar Lane in Vienna was arrested for Drunk in Public. He was then transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

ASSIST FIRE/ EMS

300 Block Maple Ave. West. Dec. 4, 12:20 p.m. MPO Taylor responded for an automobile which had caught fire. The vehicle was a total loss and the fire was believed to be accidental. An environmental clean up company responded to remove the fuel which had escaped during the incident.

CHECK FRAUD

Trousseau, 306 Block Maple Ave. West. Nov. 12, 5:41 p.m. PFC Bailey investigated a check fraud case at Trousseau. The store owner reported that a known subject wrote a check to pay for various merchandise. When the store went to deposit the check, it was learned that a stop payment had been placed on the check. Attempts to contact the person

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 17

Book discussion Group. 7:15 p.m. "Galileo's Daughter" by Dava Sobel. Adults. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. 703-242-4020.

Miss Belle's Sing-Along. 10:30 a.m. at the Patrick Henry Library. Enjoy old favorites and original songs. Ages 1-5 with adult. 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

PJ's and Popcorn. 7 p.m. Watch a movie in your PJs, ages 1-5 with adult. 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

Steps to Reading. 1:30 p.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library. Stories and activities, ages 4-5 with adult. 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

THURSDAY/DEC. 18

Rude Buddha and Cerca Trova. Rock. 8 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Pokemon League 3 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library. Ages 3-18 learn and play. 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

VIP Vienna. 10 a.m. at the Patrick Henry Library. Support group for adults with vision loss. 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

A Christmas Carol, the Musical. 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center. Tickets at 703-790-9223 or 703-573-SEAT. Non-perishable food or toy donations accepted for SHARE.

Wine Tasting at The Saddlery, from 6-9 p.m. 703-759-3500 or sarah.kirk@thesaddleryinc.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 19

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8 a.m.-6 p.m. at Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Holiday Gift Boxes and pure Maple Syrup also available. Proceeds support local community youth, patriotic activities, and veteran needs. 703-356-8259.

James Madison Girls Lacrosse Chili Dinner and Cook-Off, 5-7 p.m. at Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Proceeds benefit the team. Adam Swink will be performing

A promotional graphic for Massage Envy. It features a purple gift card with a gold ribbon bow and the words "GIFT GIVING". To the right is the "Massage Envy" logo in purple script. Below the logo is a purple banner with white text: "This holiday season give the gift of relaxation with a Massage Envy gift card. A soothing one-hour massage session is only \$49* for first-time guests. Get your gift cards today at Massage Envy." To the right of the banner is a large purple price tag with "\$50" and the text "COMPLETE GIFTS START AT JUST". Below the banner are two small images of people receiving massages. At the bottom left is a purple ribbon graphic with the text "HAS NEVER BEEN SO STRESS-FREE". At the bottom right is contact information: "Herndon/Reston", "2557 John Milton Drive", "Fox Mill Shopping Center next to Glory Days Grill", and the phone number "703-391-0123".

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at the dinner. Tickets \$8, children 6th grade or younger \$5.

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English Conversation. At the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

Miss Belle. 1 p.m. at the Oakton Library, song and dance for Preschoolers. 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. 703-242-4020.

Game on. 6 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library. Wii, DDR, Rock Band and more. ages 10-18. 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

A Christmas Carol, the Musical. 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center. Tickets at 703-790-9223 or 703-573-SEAT.

SATURDAY/DEC. 20

The Conservatory Ballet's 37th Annual 'The Nutcracker,' 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Madeira School Theater, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. \$24 adults, \$18 seniors, \$20 age 12 and under. 703-476-4500 or conservatoryballet.com.

American Legion Post 270 Charity Citrus Fruit Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at Post 270, 1355 Ball's Hill Road, McLean, 703-356-8259.

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A My Favorite Highway Christmas and Chelsea Lee. Pop/rock. 7 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

It's a Hanukkah Happening. 3:30 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library. Songs and Stories with songwriter

Carol Boyd, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

A Christmas Carol, the Musical. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Alden Theater in the McLean Community Center. Tickets at 703-790-9223 or 703-573-SEAT.

SUNDAY/DEC. 21

A My Favorite Highway Christmas and Chelsea Lee. Pop/rock. 7 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

Open Mic Hosted by David Cotton. 7 p.m. Free. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Crafts for the Holidays. 4 p.m.

Pottery painting, mosaics and more. Age 6-12. Great Fall Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-757-8560.

Oakton Kids Read. 2:30 p.m. at the Oakton Library. Virginia Young Readers titles. Ages 6-12. 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. 703-242-4020.

Game-On Afternoon Edition. 3:30 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library. Mario Kart Wii Tournament, snacks and prizes. Ages 6-16. 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

TUESDAY/DEC. 23

Todd Wright's Sixth Annual

Christmas Spectacular. 8 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

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2:30 p.m. at the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. 703-790-8088.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 24

Jewmongous. 7 p.m. \$17 in advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 26

The Bigger Lights, The Friday Night Boys and Mercy Mercedes. 5 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 27

The Pat Sommers Project, 6 p.m. at Ned Devine's Irish Village, 21800 Town Center Plaza, Sterling. 703-444-7873 or irishvillage.neddevines.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 28

Tom O'Connor and Brent Shuttleworth. Pop/rock. 2 p.m. \$8. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.
Jonasay Reunion Show and Trustfall. Pop/rock. 7:30 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/DEC. 29

Winter Break Camp for Children at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, from Monday, Dec. 29 through Friday, Jan. 2. Games, arts and crafts, music and special events.

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usually
comes
to
those
who
are too
busy
to be
looking
for it.

—Henry
David
Thoreau

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Registration forms at the Old Firehouse Teen Center. Half-Day Camp, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. for ages 4-6; \$55 non-residents, \$45 district residents. Full-Day Camp, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. for ages 5-9; \$85 non-residents, \$75 district residents. 703-448-TEEN.

Open Mic Hosted by David Cotton.

7 p.m. Free. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Rock-a-Bye Baby. 10:30 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Library. Rhymes, stories, and songs. Birth-1 year with adult. 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

"Robbie-noceros" New Years Eve

Party for Kids: Robbie Schaefer and Rocknoceros ring in the New Year. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Virginia Coalition. New Years Eve Celebration. 8 p.m. \$75 plus \$25 optional bar package. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 2

Melodime and Louis Fabrizi. Rock/blues/country. 7:30 p.m. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or [jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

GALLERIES



'North, South, East and West,' a collection of black and white landscape photographs by Great Falls photographer Jan Bender, will be on display Jan. 4 through Feb. 8 at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, Jan. 4 at 12:30-2:30 p.m. The exhibit will be open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. 703-430-9566.

McLean Project for the Arts, through Dec. 20 at the McLean Community Center: the Emerson Gallery will have Georgia Goldberg: Seeing the Unseen-Light, Shadow and Air, The Atrium Gallery presents Aimee Helen Koch: Undressed, and The Ramp Gallery will display Photographs by Michael C. Mendez.

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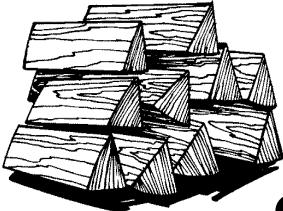


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Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ... 703-757-8134
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Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516
First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525
The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church ... 703-281-2556

Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center ... 202-331-2122

Church of the Brethren

Oakton Church of the Brethren ... 703-281-4411

Charismatic

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

Church of Christ

Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

Disciples of Christ

Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

Episcopal

Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521

Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991

St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church ... 703-938-2119

St. Athanasius Lutheran Church ... 703-455-4003

Methodist

Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509

Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-5987

Dunn Loring United Methodist ... 703-573-5396

Ephiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494

Great Falls United Methodist ... 703-759-3705

Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233

Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-5994

Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700

Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680

Non-Denominational

Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

Presbyterian

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ... 703-560-6336

Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577

Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

Quaker

Langley Hills Friends ... 703-442-8394

Seventh-Day Adventist

Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001

Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-388-8383

Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230

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FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Vienna Assemblies of God is located at 100 Ayr Hill Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-938-7736 or www.viennaag.com.

♦ **A Blue Christmas**, services for those who have lost a loved one or have family deployed. Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. Not a celebratory service: where those who are mourning can experience comfort.

♦ **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**, celebratory service for the whole family. Dec. 24 at 7 p.m.

Chanukah Wonderland at Tysons Corner, 8100 Oak St., just off Gallows Road in Vienna, through Friday, Dec. 26. Sunday-Thursday 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free admission. Meet Judah Maccabee, tour the Chanukah House, make candles, build a giant Lego menorah, design cards for Israeli soldiers. Arts and crafts, games, olive oil show and olive press, Chanukah Superstore and café, Chanukah Mad Science, Katie Balloons and comedy and magic shows. 703-821-7770 or www.chabatdysons.com.

Redeemer Lutheran Church Annual Living Nativity, Dec. 18 and 19, 6:30-8:30 pm. Visit live animals at the crèche, where children can dress like Mary and Joseph. Crafts, Christmas carols, cookies and hot cocoa. Redeemer is located at 1545 Chain Bridge Road in McLean. 703-356-3346 or www.redeemermclean.org.

Oakton Church of the Brethren Christmas Eve service with candle lighting and communion will be Wednesday,

Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. Childcare is available. 10025 Courthouse Road in Vienna. 703 281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.

St. Mark Catholic Church's 24th Annual International Crèche Exhibit, on Saturday Jan. 3 from 5-7:30 p.m., and Sunday Jan. 4 from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Crèches from many nations will be shared by the parishioners of St. Mark. Free admission. 9970 Vale Road, Vienna. 703-938-4355.

Great Falls United Methodist Church Celebrate Recovery Ministry begins Wednesday, Jan. 14 at 6 p.m. A 45-minute contemporary-style service with music, prayer, and biblically-based messages, followed by coffee fellowship. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. 703-759-3705.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, at 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton chorale, a 60-voice adult choir, welcomes new members any time and meets Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. The Circle of Music Makers meets the first Monday of the month, for those who can share a vocal or instrumental solo. Contact Judy Harrison at 703-281-4230, ext. 26, or jharrison@uucf.org. Joint Activities in Music at Sunrise is for preschoolers, kindergarteners, parents and residents of Hunter Mill Sunrise Assisted Living Center, on Wednesdays, 1:15 p.m. Contact Marsha Giusti at 703-425-1902 or giustim@juno.com.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed, strength is gained, and friendships are formed. Mondays 9:15 a.m. and Fridays 9:45 a.m. Childcare is free for registered students. E-mail bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org for more information.

A Centering Prayer Group meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

St. John's Episcopal Church supports over twenty outreach ministries, including SHARE, Habitat for Humanity, Martha's Table, and the Gen. Colin L. Powell Leadership Club at Macfarland Middle School in Washington D.C. Services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. 703-566-4902 or www.stjohnsmclean.org.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources for parents raising Jewish children. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha're Shalom in Leesburg, Congregation Beth Emeth in Herndon, Temple Rodef Shalom in Falls Church and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax. ShalomDC.org.



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4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Christmas Pageant

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10:30 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist (10:00 p.m. Choral Prelude)

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Horses and Bunnies and Dogs

Hundreds of pets abandoned as recession worsens.

By NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

Cupcake is a dwarf rabbit, as sweet a small furry thing as one can imagine. She loves to lie down on her back next to you and fall asleep as you rub her stomach. She did not focus on the appeal by the U.S. automobile executives for a \$34 billion bailout or the billions pumped into the banking system, but she is a victim of the rising U.S. recession nevertheless.

Her young mistress, who dearly loved her, lost her job and had to move in with others in a building that doesn't allow animals. She brought her beloved Cupcake to the Fairfax County Humane Society with tears in her eyes, grateful that someone would try to take care of the little animal.

Now Cupcake lives with six other rabbits hoping for adoption in a time when, according to Susan Spaulding, a 20-year veteran of rescuing animals, "there is a huge drop in adoptions and that means shelters don't have the space to care for more animals."

Sugar and Spice, a pair of chestnut Quarter horses, lucked out in this dangerous world. When their 72-year-old mistress lost her farm home in Lorton to foreclosure last August, the Fairfax County Humane Society was able to take them in. The equine pair took the second ride of their lives on a horse trailer, nervously induced to go up the ramp with horse treats. Now they roam a 13-acre farm run by the Society on Route 29 in Centreville. Adoption, perhaps not together, is a possibility. There are seven other horses at the farm and six on the waiting list.

Licorice's owners brought this lovely black and white cat and her companion Candy to the Humane Society because they lost their jobs and went back to Canada. Then Candy was adopted and Licorice was so upset for a while that she wouldn't come out of her carry all. Now she's one of 39 cats awaiting new homes at the Humane Society.

Carol Relkin, who runs the Humane Society's headquarters where small animals reside, said the calls she gets everyday "are often heart-breaking," as people try to find a place for beloved pets.

THERE WERE thousands of foreclosures in Fairfax over the past year, and many people cannot afford the rent in county apartments. Michelle Hankins, number two official of the Fairfax County's government-run shelter said the number of "owner-sur-



Sugar and Spice landed at the Humane Society farm in Centreville after their 72-year-old owner lost their home to foreclosure.



The Humane Society's Vicki Kirby with Spice; Sugar is in the background.

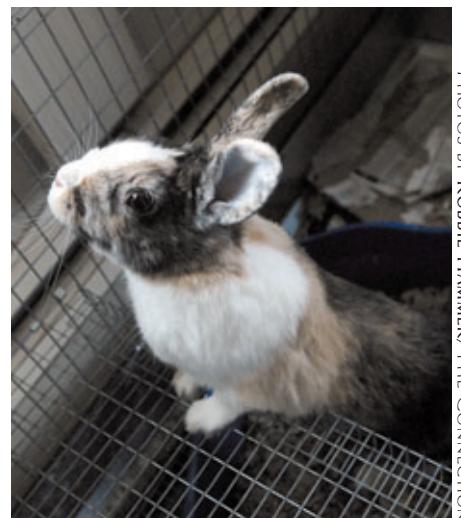
rendered animals" is up 39 percent over 2007 and it keeps the shelter packed.

The county had 32 cats ready for adoption earlier this month and 38 other pets from gerbils and rabbits to parrots and hamsters.

But that literally is the tip of the iceberg. Hundreds of cats and dogs are being cared for in shelters and foster care while seeking adoption by animal rescue groups across



Licorice arrived at the Humane Society when her owners lost their jobs and moved back to Canada.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Cupcake's owner lost her job and had to move in with friends in a place where no pets were allowed, landing Cupcake at the Humane Society of Fairfax County.

"Now they bring in animals because they can't afford food or vet bills or they lost their jobs or are facing foreclosure."

— Vicki Kirby,
Fairfax County Humane Society

the area.

Chris Haslam, president of the Commonwealth Cat Rescue, Inc., has 38 cats for adoption. Now he gets 10 or 12 calls a day from owners seeking to find a home for a cat they cannot afford.

The chief of NOVA Rottweilers (www.md-novarotties.org) said her group's funds are exhausted and adoptions have virtually stopped. She has two Rottweilers left, but cannot take any more until she gets more contributions and finds more foster homes.

Space and money are the factors in the humane handling of animals. Fairfax County's animal shelter, run under the direction of the police department, has an earned reputation for being one of the more humane shelters, according to Spaulding who has moved around the coun-

Donate, Adopt

The Humane Society of Fairfax County needs donations of money, pet food, and other items. Mail or drop off at the Humane Society offices, 4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, 22030. Call 703-385-7387 or see www.hsfc.org.

Humane Society Thrift Store

SECOND CHANCE THRIFT STORE
4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax VA 22030
Tel.: 703-385-3064
Monday-Friday – 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday – 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

try in her husband's years as a military officer from South Texas to California and then to Northern Virginia.

"What we try to do is change the 'pound attitude' to a 'shelter attitude,'" she said, urging county authorities to view their role as helping small animals and not just waiting to kill them.

Behind the current crisis is "pet overpopulation," which Paw Prints and Purrs, Inc., a national study group, said results from people not understanding what a responsibility pet ownership is. According to the Doris Day Animal League, more than six million dogs and cats are "euthanized in shelters each year." Millions of other pets die on the streets, highways and forests from starvation, freezing and attacks by predators.

Spaulding said that owners often let cats loose when they abandon them under the theory that cats can survive more easily than dogs, but animal experts said most house cats only last a short time in the open. The critical lack of space and foster homes in this new rush of abandonment means more cats and dogs are facing euthanasia.

Haslam said that not only is the intake of animals skyrocketing, but also the adoptions have dropped off sharply meaning that the foster homes where his animals are cared for have no more space.

Two years ago, the Fairfax Humane Society refurbished its farm on Route 29, building a multi-room dog facility with fenced outdoor play areas and veterinary treatment and viewing rooms. It built new stables and refurbished the farmhouse. Here they care for nine horses as well as some dogs.

Neutering is the primary defense against pet overpopulation. All the animals that enter rescue homes or the county shelter are neutered before they can be adopted as pets and other medical needs are met. But the cost is not cheap.

"Our main expense is veterinarian care," said Haslam. "You need blood work, testing, surgery." Animal care far exceeds the small fees that they charge for adoptions.

November and December are prime months for gifts to meet the Dec. 31 deadline for tax deductions. But Kirby said that donations are coming in more slowly than past years.

White Out

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

When he is sworn in on Jan. 20, President-elect Barack Obama will be the first African American to hold that office. He will also boost the number of people of color who represent Fairfax County by 25 percent.

Only four of Fairfax County's 80 current elected representatives, from United States President to Northern Virginia Soil and Water board members, are not white. None are Hispanic or Latino.

According to the 2006 U.S. Census, about 40 percent of Fairfax County defines itself as members of racial or ethnic minority groups.

Fairfax County Public Schools is a "majority minority" system, with white students making up just 48 percent of the total student population in 2008.

YET FAIRFAX COUNTY'S representatives hardly reflect the county's multi-ethnic and multi-racial make up. While nearly one-third of the county is not white, 95 percent of its elected officials are.

Until Obama takes office, none of Fairfax County's elected official at the federal level is a member of a minority group. Every person that represents Fairfax County in the state government, including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, six state Senators and 16 members House of Delegates members, is white.

At the local government level, Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who is African American, is the only person of 10 sitting on the county board that is not white. Elected in 2003, Hudgins is the first African American and non-white person elected to the Board of Supervisors.

Ilryong Moon, Korean American, and Tina Hone, who is biracial, are both at-large members on the 12-member Fairfax County School Board.

George Lovelace, who is African American, sits on the Vienna's town council. He is the only non-white elected representative out of 20 in the county's three town governments of Vienna, Herndon and Clifton.

"The richness of Fairfax County is its diversity and, when you look across the room, you don't see that diversity across the leadership," said Hudgins.

— **Cathy Hudgins,**
Board of Supervisors

by the political leaders," said Moon. "Such imbalances also miss opportunities to tap resources and talents that minority candidates and communities can provide."

THERE ARE different theories as to why Fairfax County's political leadership does not reflect the county's population.

Some say Fairfax County's minority com-

While nearly one-third of the county is not white, 95 percent of its elected officials are.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

When Barack Obama, shown here at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax in July, takes office as President, he will increase the current minority representation of Fairfax County by 25 percent.



Tina Hone



Ilryong Moon



Cathy Hudgins



George Lovelace

"I know fully that one does not have to be a minority to understand and be passionate about issues that affect minorities. ... [But] I am someone who actually believes a government should reflect the diversity of the electorate."

"Especially for something like the school board, it is important to have various points of view represented on the board," said Bob

Frye, an African American elected to Fairfax school board in 1995. "Having people from diverse backgrounds and occupations helped."

Elected officials also run the risk of leaving minority communities isolated or disenfranchised when the political leadership fails to reflect the electorate.

"Such imbalance does not help garnering support and buy-in from the under represented communities for policies set

munities have grown fairly recently and are still trying to grow roots establish themselves.

According to the U.S. Census, Fairfax was 81.3 percent white in 1990. By 2006, the county population was 67.9 percent white.

"When you compare [Northern] Virginia to the rest of the United States, our communities are still very young," said Isis Castro, a former county school board member.

MANY OF the new residents who make up Fairfax's fastest growing minority communities, Asian and Hispanic, are also immigrants. About 27 percent of Fairfax residents are foreign born and 32 percent speak a language other than English in their homes, according to 2006 census data.

The language barrier can make it very difficult for minority communities to get involved in politics and could also explain why certain groups have lagged in representation. "If you come here, you have to learn the language first, become successful and get involved in your community before you can move on to politics. That can take time," said Castro, who was a refugee from Cuba, moving to Florida as a child.

"I am not naive enough to think that color doesn't matter but a person of color would get a fair look in Northern Virginia."

— **George Lovelace,**
Vienna Town Council

nearly 70 percent white.

"I think if a person of color runs for office in Northern Virginia, I think they are chosen based on what they bring to the table," said Lovelace, the Vienna Town Councilmember. "I am not naive enough to think that color doesn't matter but a person of color would get a fair look in Northern Virginia."

FAIRFAX COUNTY has a deficit of minority elected officials not because people of SEE LITTLE DIVERSITY. PAGE 19

Fairfax Minority Elected Officials:

- George Lovelace:** Town of Vienna Council (1982-1996, 2003- present); House of Delegates (1997-1999)
- Bob Frye:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (1996-2003)
- Ernestine Heastie:** Fairfax County School Board, Providence District (1996-2003)
- Ilryong Moon:** Fairfax County School Board, Braddock District (1996-1999); Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2004-present)
- Isis Castro:** Fairfax County School Board, Mount Vernon District (2000-2003)
- Rita Thompson:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2000-2003)
- Cathy Hudgins:** Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Hunter Mill (2004-present)
- Tina Hone:** Fairfax County School Board, At-large (2008-present)
- Barack Obama:** United States President (takes office 2009)

New immigrants may also have a hard time understanding the political process in the United States or have had negative experiences with government officials in their home country.

"Many minority communities have not been in Fairfax long enough to learn and become comfortable with the American political process. Some communities have also traditionally shunned politics due to their own cultural and historical experiences," said Moon, who moved to Northern Virginia from Korea in high school.

"In addition to candidate recruiting, more education on our political process needs to be provided to communities," he said.

MANY CANDIDATES don't believe people of color really need "majority minority" districts to get elected in Fairfax County. Every minority elected official in Fairfax County was chosen by a majority white electorate. County voters seem willing to look past race when voting.

When Ernestine Heastie was elected Providence's representative on the school board in 1995, the district had one of the smallest African American populations, just 5.2 percent, of any in the county. According to 2006 census data, the Hunter Mill district, which Hudgins represents, is just 6.2 percent African American and

Little Diversity in County Leadership

FROM PAGE 18

color can't get elected but because of a deficit of minority candidates.

"There have not been enough minority candidates running for public office," said Moon. "The political parties need to do a much better job of reaching out to minority communities to recruit, encourage, groom and train more minority candidates."

Mexican American and Republican activist Laura Varamirez Drain agreed with Moon. The Reston resident was focused on national politics this past fall as national co-chair of Latinas for McCain and Virginia's only Hispanic delegate to the Republican National Convention in early September. But she says she will direct more of her attention to local politics now. "Fairfax is a very diverse community and we are not well represented. I think we have to do a better job of running for positions," said Drain.

SCOTT SUROVELL hopes to increase minority participation in the Fairfax County Democratic Committee as the organization's current president.

"I think candidates will come from that," he said. The local Democrats are trying to have more of a presence at ethnic community events and fairs. Surovell said party officials are also reaching out more to the ethnic media.

The party's information piece for public schools' Back-to-School Night was printed in four different languages this year. Fairfax County Democrats are also working toward offering their "sample ballots" in several languages.

Surovell added that the amount of money and time it takes to run for office is also a barrier. "A lot of people simply can't afford to make the jump [to elected office]," he said.

MOST of Fairfax County's minority elected officials have been affiliated with the Democratic Party, though Rita Thompson, a former school board member, was a Republican. The Republican Party also ran Vellie Dietrich Hall, a Filipino American, unsuccessfully for Mason District supervisor in 2007.

"In my opinion, we have a very diverse Republican Party. We have a lot of people participating from very different backgrounds. Our party vice chair is Korean and the head of the Mason District Republican Committee is African American. ... But all that hasn't translated into candidates and candidates getting elected," said Jim Hyland, recent head of the Fairfax County Republican Party.

The local Republicans have a hard time recruiting candidates, whether they are

"The political parties need to do a much better job of reaching out to minority communities to recruit, encourage, groom and train more minority candidates."

— Ilryong Moon,
Fairfax school board

Moon.

Time and money are major reasons that minorities in particular do not run for office, according to several current and former minority representatives.

"Being on the school board pays \$12,000 per year and it is a matter of people who can do it. In my case, I was retired so I knew I would have a pension coming in," said Heastie, former school board member.

The average household income of Asian, African American or Hispanic households in Fairfax significantly lower than it is for their white counterparts, indicating that people from minority communities may

Northern Virginia's Minority Populations

This information is based on U.S. Census data for 2000 and 2006, depending on which data is available for the locality. The numbers given are percentages.

	White	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black
City of Alexandria	66.4	5.3	13	20.9
Arlington County	71	8.9	15.8	8.7
City of Fairfax	72.9	12.2	13.6	5.1
Fairfax County	67.9	15.8	12.9	9.5
Loudoun County	72	13.1	9.7	7.6
Virginia	70.5	4.8	6.2	19.6
United States	73.9	4.4	14.8	12.4

Fairfax County's Minority Communities by Magisterial District:

This information is given in percentages and based on data from the 2000 U.S. Census.

	White	Asian/ Pacific Islander	Hispanic	Black
Braddock	71.2	16.1	9	5.6
Dranesville	75.6	11.3	9.7	4.2
Hunter Mill	69.9	11.1	8.3	6.7
Lee	59.1	11.8	14.9	17.7
Mason	58.1	15.7	23.5	9.1
Mount Vernon	68	5.6	9.1	18.5
Providence	67.2	18	13.3	5.2
Springfield	77	12.6	6.1	5.3
Sully	74.7	13.9	6.6	6.1

from a minority community or not, he said.

"It is getting harder and harder to get people to run for office. It has gotten more expensive and time consuming so people are less inclined to do it. You essentially have to be wealthy or in a situation where you don't have to work," said Hyland. "There are lots of good people I would love to run for office and they say they like being active in the party but they are not sure they want to quit their job, raise money and get pummeled by the press," he added.

Several people who currently hold and previously held elected office agreed the running for election is an intimidating task.

"It appears to be an awesome venture to do something like that. The person either has to have the resources or the ability to raise the resources," said Frye.

For minority candidates, role models and mentors are also few and far between.

"That fact that there are not many minority elected officials itself is not encouraging to any minority who may be considering a run," said

have less financial flexibility to run.

"For people who have kids it is just very difficult to give up the time and the money," said Hone, current school board member.

She added that people of color are more likely to have grown up poor or working class and giving up the luxury of free space in their schedule or extra money can be particularly hard because they have never had that flexibility before.

"It was hard to give up time and that extra financial security because I had never had it growing up. If I have extra time and extra money, do I give it to politics or my family?" Hone said.

The local Democratic Party expects its candidates to be active in the community and local politics for years before they attempt to run for office so energy and financial investment can be a long one that some people can't make.

Still, Hudgins, on the Board of Supervisors, said the way to cultivate and encourage minority leaders is to get them involved in community and county leadership.

As a supervisor, Hudgins tries to make sure her appointments to commissions, boards and authorities include people from an array of backgrounds.

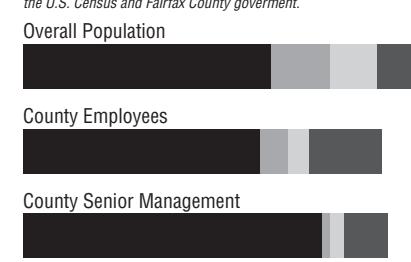
"Most people in serving in elected office in Fairfax County today have been involved in some part of county government as citizen activists," said Hudgins.

HUDGINS also emphasized the importance of having a diverse county workforce, particularly among the civil servant leadership.

Currently, about 65 percent of county employees, excluding those in the school system, are white. Senior management in county government, however, is 82 percent white, 12 percent African American, two percent Asian and four percent Hispanic.

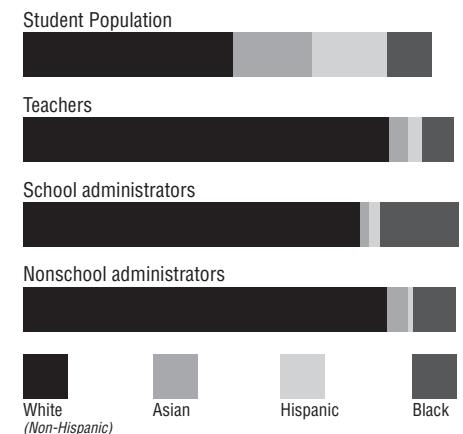
Fairfax County Government Employees By Race/Ethnicity

The Asian and Hispanic communities – Fairfax County's two largest minority groups -- are underrepresented in the Fairfax County government. The following information is provided by the U.S. Census and Fairfax County government.



Fairfax County Public Schools Employees by Race/Ethnicity

Fairfax County Public Schools is a majority minority system, where white students make up less than half of the school population. But Fairfax County's teaching core and administrators are still overwhelmingly white.



Though students in Fairfax public schools are only 48 percent white, 84 percent of its teachers are white. About seven percent of teachers are African American, three percent are Hispanic and four percent are Asian.

IN TERMS OF elected officials, Obama could prove inspiration for other people from minority communities who might want to run for public office.

"The Obama campaign did a lot to bring people in that we have not seen before. I am hoping that it will have a lasting impact," said Surovell of the local Democrats.

Several of the people of color who have been elected to office said they were inspired by previous campaigns.

"I am someone who actually believes a government should reflect the diversity of the electorate."

— Martina Hone,
Fairfax school board

"I reflected on the success Doug Wilder had running for Governor. I had been an appointed school board member so I thought I would try to run and I was successful," said Frye of his decision to become a candidate for school board.

Hudgins said she and others were inspired by Jesse Jackson's run for the U.S. presidency in 1984 and 1988. Jackson won the Virginia Democratic primary in 1988.

"There was a ground swell, particularly after '88, of folks who started running for office. When you are not seeing your face in a leadership role, it takes a bit more effort to say 'I can make that move,'" she said.

SPORTS

Fast Basketball Start for Oakton Girls

Cougars improve to 6-0 with win over Lake Braddock.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

One of Oakton's greatest strengths early on in the high-school girls basketball season has been its ability to put the ball in the basket with great frequency. The unbeaten Cougars (6-0), through their first six games, have averaged 75 points per contest thus far.

"We're doing OK right now," Fred Priester, veteran Oakton head coach, said. "[But] it's early in the season."

Oakton had a typically big scoring game last Friday night when it defeated visiting Lake Braddock, 79-33, in a non-district game. Freshmen guard Caroline Coyer scored 18 points to lead all players. Her twin sister, backcourt Katherine Coyer, added 13 points while both Erin McGartland, a senior forward and team co-captain (13 points) and Sasha Borojeni (11), a senior guard and co-captain, were also in double figures. Senior forward Brianna Johnson added nine points in the victory over the winless Bruins (0-5).

Oakton is coming off a 2007-08 season in which it finished 22-3 overall while winning its fourth consecutive Concorde District title. But the Cougars' season ended on a down note when they were beaten by Annandale in a first-

round game of the 16-team Northern Region tournament. Oakton, a perennial powerhouse over the years under Priester, has won 11 district titles over the past 13 years. Its last region crown came in 2005.

Priester said this year's Cougars are playing at a faster pace than last year's squad. Oakton, like last year, is not an overwhelmingly big team physically.

"We're playing a different style of play this season than last year, a more up-style tempo," said the coach. "We're getting solid contributions from everyone. We're still not very big, but we're a lot faster."

OAKTON HAS three returning starters back in the lineup in McGartland, Johnson and sophomore guard Zora Stephenson.

Johnson, who is 5 foot 9 inches, is a frontcourt player capable of mixing it up inside with opposing centers. She has a knack of scoring key baskets in big games and is quite an athletic player.

"She can play post [position] and she has guard-like skills," Priester said. "She takes the ball to the basket pretty well."

In November, Johnson signed a letter of intent to play the sport collegiately at Division 2 University of Indiana in Pennsylvania.

McGartland, 5 feet 8 inches, also



Oakton coach Fred Priester and the Cougars will be hosting the eight-team Casel's Holiday Tournament Dec. 26, 27 and 29.

has a versatile all-around game. Last year, she averaged 13 points and eight rebounds a game and earned First Team All-District and Honorable Mention All-Region honors.

"She's a do-everything player," Priester said. "I thought she was the best on our team last year. She can shoot the three and has solid post-up skills. She's very intelligent and knows every position on the floor."

Stephenson, also a First Round All-District selection last year, gives Oakton a terrific outside shooter. A year ago as a ninth-

"We're playing a different style of play this season than last year, a more up-style tempo. We're getting solid contributions from everyone. We're still not very big, but we're a lot faster."

— Fred Priester, Oakton High Girls Basketball Coach

grader, the sharpshooter nailed 58 three-pointers. This season, she has 12 treys through the first six games. But Stephenson's scoring production is not limited to long-range bombs.

"She has added a mid-range game," Priester said of Stephenson's improved game this winter. "She can score on drives and pull-ups."

Another key player is Borojeni, the co-captain and shooting guard who possesses speed, an outside shooting touch and excellent defensive skills.

THE COUGARS have a new look with ninth-grade siblings Caroline and Katherine Coyer in the backcourt.

Caroline Coyer, Oakton's starting point guard, scored 17 points, including three 3-pointers, in Oakton's 69-52 non-region road win at Potomac High (Dumfries) Dec. 10. Katherine Coyer added nine points in that win.

"Caroline can be a prolific scorer and she has had some prolific games," Priester, who also loves

the perimeter players' ability to pass the ball, said.

Caroline Coyer, in her team's 75-30 home win over non-district opponent West Potomac Dec. 9, distributed 17 assists while bringing down seven rebounds.

"She has versatility in her game to put us in the best position to win," Priester said. "She's a real good defender."

Katherine Coyer has been serving as Oakton's first player off the bench.

"She's a lockdown defender and can score, too," Priester said.

In this week's action, Oakton was scheduled to play at Westfield Tuesday and will be home against Robinson this Friday night. Both are district contests.

Over the Christmas holidays, Oakton will host the Cassel's Sports Holiday Tournament Dec. 26, 27 and 29. The eight-team field will consist of a team from Bethlehem, Pa., as well as local outfits Freedom High (Woodbridge), St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School of Alexandria, Stone Ridge (Md.), Wakefield, West Potomac, Potomac Falls of Sterling and the host Cougars.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The **Madison High** girls swim and dive team defeated Marshall, 232-83, in a recent Liberty District meet. First-place finishers for the Warhawks included Becky Shaak, Devin Youngblood, Katarina O'Reilly (double winner), Julia Tanes, Bev Dobrenz, Lindsay Mottola and Kelly Lloyd (diving).

Also, the Madison boys were 216-96 winners over Marshall. First-place finishers for Madison were Joseph Capra, Justin Dutta (double winner), David Fallavollita, Sean Fletcher (double winner), Matthew Russiello, Austin Chute and Ryan Fox (diving).

The **Flint Hill School** boys and girls swim teams both lost in a recent meet against St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School of Alexandria. The Huskies' boys fell by a 90-80

score, while the girls lost 107-73.

Double-event winners for Flint Hill included Jessica Spiegel (200 free, 500 free), Jenna Jacoby (50 free, 100 free), Chan Park (200 IM, 100 free) and Brian DeMocker (500 free, 100 breast).

The **Vienna girls** ages 13-14 Division I Fairfax County basketball team, coached by Thomas Joost, recently kicked off the new season by winning the Maryland Flames Thanksgiving Tournament.

Vienna went undefeated in pool play with wins over both Team Sol (Washington, D.C.-metro), 38-17, and the host team from Gaithersburg, the Maryland Flames, 44-31.

Vienna advanced to the championship game where it defeated the Maryland Elite (Baltimore),

43-36. Despite being decidedly out-sized at every position, Vienna used its speed, strong outside shooting and a high free throw percentage to clinch the tournament championship.

The **Madeira girls basketball** team recently played its first conference opponent in an Independent School League (ISL) contest at rival Maret. While Madeira is young this season — no seniors and only two juniors — the group is athletic, fast, and driven to succeed. Despite losing to Maret three times last year, each by 25-plus points, Madeira was determined to improve and do better in its first meeting this season. And while Madeira played a good game, it came out on the short end of a 46-37 loss.

COURTESY PHOTO



The Vienna Girls' 13-14 girls travel basketball team recently won the Maryland Flames Thanksgiving Tournament. Vienna players, back row, left, Erin Callahan, Keeley Grimm, Megan LeDuc and Megan Henshaw; front row, left, Marlena Tremba, Claire Trivisonno, Melissa Kellan and Jonee Finney. Not pictured, coach Thomas Joost, Mayumi Shill, Sydney Meruvia.

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25 Moves furtively

28 Gun's recoil

30 Money in

31 Province in

Tuscany

33 Indignation

36 Arachnid of song

40 Vegetable that's

hard to eat with

a knife

41 Rich soils

42 Close

43 Engagement

token

44 Olympic prizes

46 Football

Hall-of-Famer

Merlin

49 Unbroken

51 Nursery rhyme

fellow

57 Etna output

58 Grocery section

lake

60 In any way

61 Look of disdain

62 The "E" of

B.P.O.E.

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64 Shorebirds

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hard to eat with

a knife

This Belle Was Saved By ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I rescued a damsel in distress earlier today and I did it by sitting on my rear end and thinking (remembering, actually). I received the semi distress call from my wife, Dina, at 9:25 this morning. I was in McLean, she was still in Burtsville, 45 minutes away by car. Dina was calling to say that she had accidentally locked her keys in her car, and did I have any suggestions or words to that effect.

Being an experienced husband, I knew that inquiring (I use that term loosely) as to how such a thing, accidental though it may have been, could have possibly happened would serve absolutely no purpose, and most likely exacerbate an already unpleasant and inconvenient situation, so I refrained.

It happened. Why/how is irrelevant. Finding the solution was the proper course of action, at that particular time, anyway. And so we discussed our options: calling AAA, yours truly driving home to unlock her car with my key, attempting to use her car's second key-less entry key fob (the one I had on my key chain) to transmit a signal via cell phone in an technological trick to unlock the door while she held her cell phone against the car (something I had read somewhere — unfortunately, it didn't work), calling a locksmith, or even consider alternative modes of transportation: neighbor, taxi, subway, etc. After discussing all these options, I said I would call her back in five minutes after asking around the office in the event there was some idea that we hadn't considered.

A few minutes later I called her back. After speaking with other car owners in my office, some of whom had actually experienced the identical keys-locked-in-the-car problem, the consensus was that Dina should just call AAA. I called Dina back and advised her how best to proceed, and so she called AAA, with whom we've been members going on 25 years. I hung up and told her to call me back if she encountered any problems. At which point I figured my assistance was no longer needed so I resumed my morning duties and re-focused on the newspaper tasks at hand.

And as I returned to my desk and sat back down, I felt my car/house keys in my pant's pocket where I had put them in anticipation of possibly driving home after Dina had initially called to explain her plight. And while doing so, I felt again, saw again, the key fob to her car that I had on my key chain, that moments ago, in crisis mode, we had used (via our cell phones) unsuccessfully to unlock her car, and it hit me.

Dina doesn't use her car's key fob. She doesn't even carry it on her key chain. In fact, I think I remembered seeing it in the house, by itself, in an ash tray under a mirror in our living room where, if I wasn't mistaken, it had taken up permanent residence, so I called her back immediately, and somewhat excitedly, with news I thought, if true, would eliminate whatever cost and inconvenience waiting for AAA to arrive would cause.

And, before I could even finish my thought, Dina had, per my suggestion, looked in the ash tray, found her key fob and was already on her way outside to her car, a mere 10 yards or so from where the key fob was (and the front door is) and voila, one button press later, "presto chango," like magic, or shall I say exactly like key-less entry technology was designed to do, the car door opened. Dina quickly called to cancel the AAA Road Service and off to work she drove, with nary a hint of the disaster/delay that might have been.

Mighty Mouse would have been proud as I "saved the day!" And though I didn't exactly swoop down from the sky like he often did, it sure felt like it. For a low-tech, mechanically declined, tool twit like me, this rescue was as good as it gets.

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

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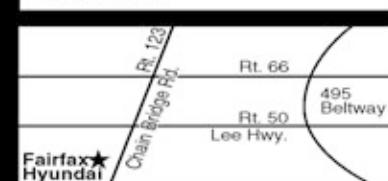
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