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SPORTS, PAGE 12

Lake Braddock senior point guard Dominic Morra drives to the basket during a 59-45 win for the Bruins Monday night. Morra finished with 14 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Lesson in Democracy

NEWS, PAGE 3

Families Lobby In Richmond

NEWS, PAGE 3

CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

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NEWS

Petersen Reports from Capitol

Northern Virginia state senator looks to leave mark on environment, transportation.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

For Virginia senators and delegates, the General Assembly in Richmond serves as an opportunity to address the problems, both big and small, they see in their home districts every day.

One of the more ambitious aspects of President Barack Obama's (D) proposed economic stimulus package is a plan to put America at the forefront of the "green" industry, energy efficient and environmentally friendly technology. At the state level, Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) has proposed a series of energy and environmental bills that he hopes will have a similar effect in Virginia.

Petersen described his strategy as two-pronged: make Virginia a net exporter of energy rather than an importer, and give incentives to small businesses to become more energy efficient.

"We bring in energy from all over the U.S. We have some coal power but we should [be getting away] from that. There's a huge gap right now in our states'

economy," said Petersen, who sits on the Energy Committee.

Serving both of those ends is a pair of bills granting tax credits of up to \$1,000 to businesses that create green jobs and up to \$2,000 for buildings that utilize wind and solar power. Both measures, Petersen hoped, would help sow the green infrastructure that will help Virginia to reap the benefits of the jobs that are expected to be awash in federal dollars under the new administration.

"I see it as a David and Goliath situation. And I'm David."

— Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

ALSO UP for proposal by Petersen are bills requiring state buildings be built to green standards, allowing drilling on private wells to install geothermal heating systems and legislation requiring 20 percent of the energy purchased by Virginia be sustainable by 2020. Petersen said he expected the tax credits to have favorable chances of passing through the General Assembly, but that other measures will be fought by power and energy companies.

"I see it as a David and Goliath situation,"

SEE PETERSEN, PAGE 5

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Jewish Teens Learn About Social Justice

Teens from Temple B'nai Shalom learn to make voices heard on Capitol Hill.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Last weekend, a group of Reform Jewish high school students from Temple B'nai Shalom of Fairfax Station joined more than 250 teens from across the U.S. to look at social justice and public policy issues through Jewish eyes.

The students had the chance to voice their opinions to their members of Congress, visiting the offices of U.S. Sens. James Webb (D-Va.) and Mark Warner (D-Va.) and of U.S. Reps. Gerald Connolly (D-11) and Frank R. Wolf (R-10).

"It's wonderful because it teaches these young people to be participants in the process."

— Amy R. Perlin, senior rabbi of Temple B'nai Shalom

THE TEENS participated in the Bernard and Audre Rapoport

ETaken Social Justice Seminar, a four-day seminar sponsored by the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC). They studied a variety of programs that looked at homelessness, health care, poverty and the environment.

"The program is really designed to speak to the students in a sophisticated language that they can understand, and enable them to feel empowered even though they're teenagers," said Amy R. Perlin, senior rabbi of Temple B'nai Shalom. "I think it's a wonderful program."

The RAC is the Washington office of the Union for Reform Judaism, whose 900 congregations across North America encompass 1.5 million Reform Jews, and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, whose membership includes more than 1,800 Reform rabbis.

"The purpose was for them to learn about Judaism and social justice and specific issues that are going on today, and how they can make their voice heard on the Hill on these specific issues," said RAC Program Director Rabbi Michael Namath of the ETaken seminar.

"The [program] creates such an awareness of the American political system and



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Students from Temple B'nai Shalom of Fairfax Station gather outside the Supreme Court between visits to their House and Senate offices last weekend.

the way an individual can make a difference," said Perlin. "It's wonderful because it teaches these young people to be participants in the process."

"We teach 'tikkun olam' — to repair the world," she said. "The word 'ETaken' means

'to repair.'"

The group participated in a candle-lit Havdalah service on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial. They also visited the

SEE D.C. VISIT, PAGE 7

Parents Seek Aid for Disabled Children

Howell warns against 'draconian cuts.'

BY STEPHANIE POWER
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Helen Hollis is a Fairfax County mother of two. Her daughter graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 2000 and her 22-year-old son has significant delays in his cognitive development ability, with autistic tendencies and some retardation.

Because of a Medicaid waiver received in July, Hollis' son now lives in a group home in Richmond called Hands of Unity. Hollis attended a General Assembly public hearing last week, Monday, Jan. 19, to speak up for those still on the waiting list to receive waivers.

Hollis had been on the waiting list since before age 10.

"We've had many peaks and valleys along the way," Hollis told legislators from the Senate Finance and House Appropriations committees. "We've had day-to-day behavioral challenges."

"We've had many peaks and valleys along the way."

— Helen Hollis

Hollis was one of 165 people who signed up to speak at the hearing, which gave the public a chance to address Gov. Tim Kaine's proposed budget cuts.

According to Del. Kirk Cox (R-66) of the House Appropriations Committee, 80 percent of the speakers spoke on the issue of Medicaid waivers, which provide at-home services and benefits for mentally retarded individuals.

The Medicaid waivers, known as mental retardation waivers, make services found in state institutions available for qualifying individuals inside their house. They help relieve the cost of keeping those individuals at home.

According to Cox, about 4,200 Virginians are currently wait-listed.

Cox filed House Bill 1853, which would eliminate the wait list for mental retardation waivers in 10 years.

"Each of our families is unique," Hollis said. "There are times when help is needed, when caring for a family and raising a dis-



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE POWER/CNS

Helen Hollis went to Richmond to thank legislators for her son's MR waiver.

abled child to become the best that they can become."

Hollis said she is thankful for the care her son is receiving.

"The disabled child or children, teenag-

ers or young adults deserve the resources to help them reach their fullest potential," Hollis said.

To balance Virginia's 2009 budget, legislators must cut nearly \$4 billion. Kaine's proposed cuts affect areas like education, transportation and health care.

State Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), a member of the Senate Finance Committee, knows how serious cuts to mental-health funding are.

"We're 48th among the states with what we do in public services, so to have to cut is just intolerable," Howell said. "We're trying to do as little damage as possible to public education and services."

Howell said that if Kaine's proposed cigarette-tax increase of 30 cents per pack is too tough to sell, the outcome would be "draconian" because Kaine earmarked the proceeds of the tax increase for health programs.

"We're cutting, literally, lifelines for people," Howell said. "If we don't get a substantial federal stimulus package for Medicaid, people are going to suffer and possibly die as a result."

Co-patrons of HB 1853 include Dels. Dave Marsden (D-41), David Poisson (D-32), Tom Rust (R-86) and Mark Sickles (D-43).

WEEK IN BURKE

Teen Stuck By Car Dies

Shahm Khaznadar, 16, died Monday, Jan. 26, five days after being struck by a vehicle while chasing his school bus on the morning of Jan. 21. According to a Fairfax County Police release, at approximately 6:45 a.m., a 1998 Ford Mustang driven by an unidentified 51-year-old Alexandria woman was driving in the east lane of Burke Centre Parkway near Marshall Pond when it struck Khaznadar, a student at Robinson Secondary.

"[He] was apparently running to try and catch the school bus and ran out in front of the car," said police spokesman Ed Azcarate.

The boy was flown to Fairfax Inova Hospital and was admitted with life threatening injuries. On Monday Jan. 26, Khaznadar succumbed to his injuries. The driver of the Mustang was not seriously injured.

Azcarate said police were investigating the incident and believe both speed and alcohol were not factors. No charges are pending in the case, according to the release.

"We had a detective working on the scene and we've been talking to witnesses," he said.

— DEREK B. JOHNSON

McAuliffe Raises Most Money

During 2008, Attorney General Bob McDonnell (R) raised more money than any of the three Democratic candidates he will face in Virginia's gubernatorial race this year. But former Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe has taken lead when it comes to Fairfax County fund raising.

McAuliffe, the only Fairfax County resident in the race, collected \$440,113 from the locality's residents and businesses while McDonnell received \$228,115, former Alexandria Del. Brian Moran received \$343,112 and state Sen. Creigh Deeds received \$123,860 from sources in Fairfax County.

McDonnell, Moran and Deeds have been preparing for years to run for governor in 2009 and began some of their serious fundraising early in 2008. McAuliffe announced his candidacy relatively late and only started to raise money during the last two months of year.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

County Gets 'Shovel Ready'

Officials make list of road projects that may be eligible for federal funding.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

The term "shovel ready" has been on the lips of many public officials ever since President Barack Obama (D) revealed that the federal government would send billions of dollars to each state to help fund various infrastructure projects.

As a result, states and localities are compiling lists of unfunded or delayed construction projects for schools, roads, bridges and buildings that are ready to begin breaking ground within the next 1-2 years. The stimulus bill is still being drafted in Congress and has yet to be approved. Part of the problem is determining what projects will be eligible, regardless of their shovel-ready status.

"It's too early to speculate until there's a stimulus package," said Joan Morris, spokesperson for the Virginia Department of Transportation. "We don't know what the rules are going to be."

Nevertheless, state and county officials have already identified a host of transportation projects that they believe would be candidates under the proposed bill. One view held among some state officials is that previously designated projects, which ran out of funding or were delayed in the aftermath of the fall 2008 financial meltdown, are the likeliest choices for federal funding.

"Projects cut or delayed from the plan would obviously be candidates under a stimulus bill," said Morris.



"We don't know what the rules are going to be."

— Joan Morris, VDOT spokesman

PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

Projects like the unfinished portion of Fairfax County Parkway are prime candidates for federal funding under the proposed stimulus package.

State Sen. George Barker (D-39) pointed to the unfinished portion of Fairfax County Parkway and Telegraph Road improvements as a prime examples of the type of projects that could get moving quickly enough to qualify.

Barker shared the belief that these projects would be among the first to be considered and would take some of the burden off the state government and Fairfax County while they deal with their own budget woes.

"The advantage of federal money is that it can be used to do a number of construction projects that we've planned in the past but don't have the funds for," said Barker.

Here is a list of transportation projects compiled by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors sent to the Fairfax County delegation to the 111th Congress. All projects are ready to break ground before 2010 and

are listed with the amount still left unfunded:

- ❖ \$60 million to complete phases three and four of Fairfax County Parkway through to the Engineering Proving Grounds in Springfield

- ❖ \$9 million to complete construction of a secondary road from Old Keene Mill Road to Fairfax County Parkway in Springfield

- ❖ \$20 million to complete improvements on Interstate Route 29/Gallows Road in Fairfax

- ❖ \$11 million to complete construction of Mulligan Road (Old Mill Connector Road) through Fort Belvoir

- ❖ \$49 million to complete construction of Telegraph Road

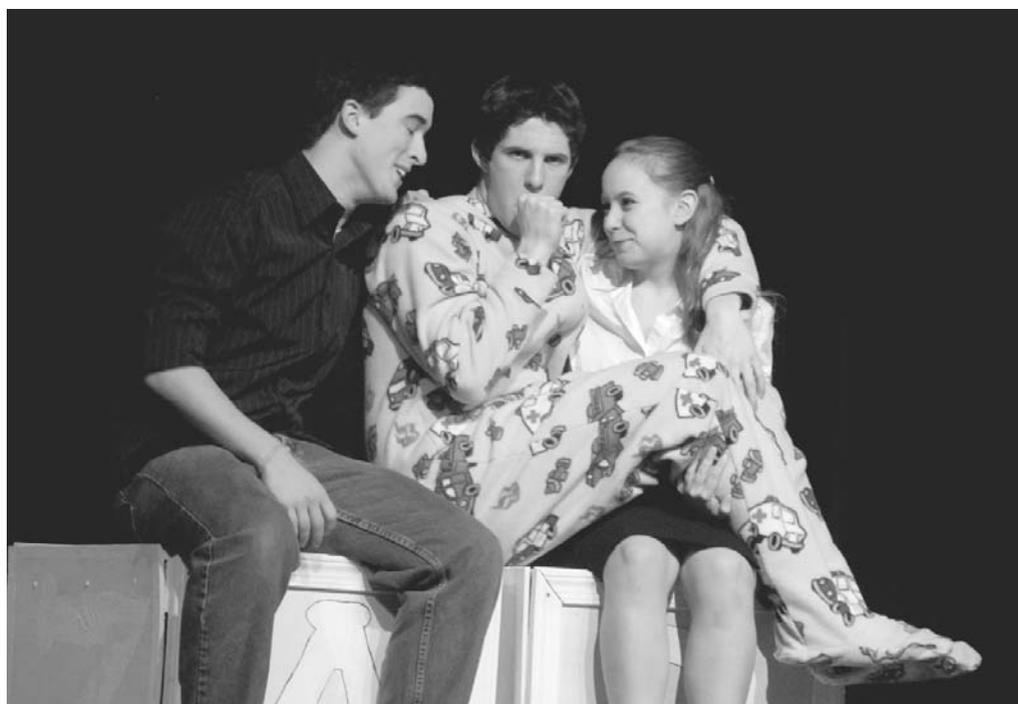
- ❖ \$900 million to complete phase one of the Dulles Rail Project

- ❖ \$4.1 million to fund more powerful locomotives for the Virginia Railways Express.

Mommy, Daddy And 'Baby' Makes Three

Ian Johns playing the role of Daddy, Brendan Rice playing Baby and Samantha Melvin, playing the role of Mommy, present the production of 'Baby' as part of the Liberty District Theatre One-Act Festival at Marshall High School on Jan. 24.

PHOTO BY
ROBBIE HAMMER



NEWS

Petersen

FROM PAGE 2

said Petersen, before quickly adding: "And I'm David."

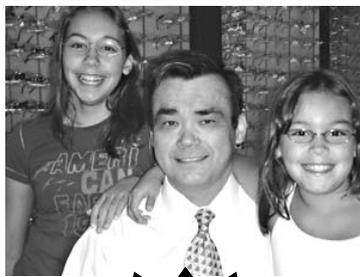
THESE DAYS, a rundown of a Northern Virginia politicians' upcoming legislation isn't complete without discussing transportation. Petersen has drafted a bill that would add the City of Fairfax to a list of localities required to spend 50 percent of funds received from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority on secondary and urban projects. Petersen said the bill, drafted at the request of the Fairfax City Council, was mainly designed to free up money for the city to use on its CUE Bus system.

"The idea is to allow Fairfax City to use its money now as opposed to holding it for new projects," said Petersen.

More

To look up specific legislation drafted by Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and the rest of the Virginia General Assembly, visit <http://legis.state.va.gov>.

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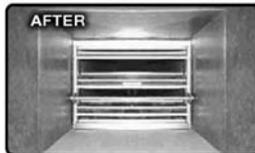


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A Time To Sleep?

Parents share some of the challenges of getting students up before dawn to go to school.

The Fairfax County School Board is considering changing school start and dismissal times, in part to streamline transportation schedules and costs, and in part to consider a later start time for high school students.

No decision has been made on changing the bell schedule, and no decision has been made on any programs that could be impacted such as after-school activities and athletics.

Before making a decision, the School Board will seek input from parents, staff and community members through six community dialogues in planning stages for the last week in February plus a survey that will be posted on the schools Web site the first week of February.

Members of a grass-roots parent organization, SLEEP, (Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal) have been advocating for a later high-school start time for years, arguing that scientific research shows that early start times are unhealthy for most teens. SLEEP organizers asked some of their supporters to share their experiences with the current high school start times; here are some excerpts.

For many more submissions from parents, see www.ConnectionNewspapers.com. For more on start times, see www.sleepinfairfax.org and www.fcps.edu.

FAIRFAX HIGH SCHOOL

My family has found it extremely difficult adjusting to the early start times of high school in Fairfax County. It was a shock to our systems when my twin daughters started their freshman year at Fairfax High School. We live at the western edge of the school boundary for FHS. The bus comes to our neighborhood at 6:15. In their freshman year and for part of their sophomore year, before they could drive, we were out of bed by 5:30 so they could make that 6:15 bus. My girls would arrive at school by 6:50 for a start time of 7:20. I was told stories of fellow students who would find a quiet hall to lie down in and catch a few more minutes of sleep during the 30 minutes they had to wait for school to start. ... I can think of no reason that serves our children for them to start their day so early.

My girls are now 16-year-old juniors. I insisted that we get them a car so they could drive themselves to school. Now we get up at 6. They leave the house at 6:40 and get to school at least 10 minutes before school starts. Of course, I start my day with them. So at 6:45, I often try to get started on some household business. But, I usually can't. No



Robinson students on the school bus before 7 a.m. in this undated file photo.

one is available so early in the morning. Only our children and the teachers and administrators who serve them. ... As numerous studies have shown everyone who has paid any attention to this issue, these teenagers cannot get themselves to go to sleep at an early enough time to get the eight-nine hours of sleep they need.

— **Denise A. Groppe, Fairfax**

KIDS SUFFER

My son who is in seventh grade must get up at 5:50 in the morning to get on his bus by 6:30. I am a physician, and am well aware of the hormonal changes young adults go through, and one of these is the nocturnal shift of their sleep/wake cycle. I am already noticing that my son is more depressed and irritable during the week; he needs to sleep many hours on the weekend to make it up. There is only one reason later times are not changed — money. Should our kids suffer for it?

— **Robert Hally, M.D., Fairfax Station/Robinson**

Our daughter definitely has trouble functioning early in the morning. Despite the fact that she goes to bed by 9:30 or 10, she is frequently in a nearly comatose state at 6 a.m. She has absolutely never been capable of eating breakfast in the morning. At times, she is so incapable of functioning that she misses large parts of her first pe-

riod. Frequently, when she is on time, she is terribly tired in class. By the time she gets home she has no energy left for what used to be her normal activities. She has given up soccer and dance. ...

We truly believe the general population would be greatly served by having later start times for the middle and high schools.

— **Stacey L. Huffman, Robinson/Burke**

My son is a sophomore at Lake Braddock High School. Nick has to be up by 6 a.m. He is one of the lucky ones, the bus picks him up in front of our house at 6:50 a.m. I sit by the window watching for the bus while he eats breakfast, otherwise he eats in an anxious rush worrying he'll miss the bus. ... Nick is definitely not alert in the early morning. He participates in music programs at school, takes guitar lessons and works one night a week. ... He needs to be to bed by 10 p.m. in order to get up in time and many times he has not finished his homework. He often falls asleep while reading. A later start time makes so much more sense.

— **Shelley Jennings, Burke**

I have a son in high school who is borderline inattentive ADD. He strongly dislikes the medications we have tried and does not like the way they make him feel. Occasionally, I let him sleep in when I feel that he can miss his first class and really needs more sleep. On those days, he finds it possible to pay attention in class without medication.

— **Julia Margulies, Woodson/Fairfax**

My son, who is now in college, struggled with the early start times all through high school. I can simply illustrate this by the following story.

In ninth grade, he was very excited about taking Latin. He did very well and was excited about the prospects of learning Latin as a basis for a future in anthropology. In 10th grade he took Latin II and ended up with it first period. Unfortunately, I was soon forced to ask his Latin teacher why his interim grade was an "F." He explained, "because he sleeps in class." He suggested that we insist that my son get to bed earlier. He was already going to bed by 10:30, which for a child at that age was relatively early. I can tell you he was not sleeping in class because he was staying up too late and not because of a lack of interest in Latin.

— **Karen Matthews, Fairfax Station/Lake Braddock**

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS. EMAIL MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

I am the father of three kids, 19, 14, 12, and have seen the impact of the early bell schedule on my 19-year-old son while he went through seventh-12th grade at Lake Braddock. He routinely slept through first period and correspondingly struggled with grades in those classes all six years. He was also so tired that one or two times a week he would come home from school and promptly fall asleep for two-three hours. He ... is now a sophomore at George Mason where his first class doesn't start until 9:30.

My 14-year-old daughter is in eighth grade at Frost Middle School and is also struggling with the early bell schedule. She too has to take a nap one or two times a week after getting home from school. Recently, she came home exhausted and went to bed at 3:30 and didn't wake up until 5:30 the next morning. I don't believe this is healthy for her and detracts from family time. ...

I am also a stepfather for three boys and the youngest is 7 and in first grade at Oak View. He is up on his own and then waits at least 45 minutes for the bus to take him to school at 7:50. My other two stepsons are 15 and 11 and attend private school with start times of 8:10 and 8, respectively and both have much more energy when they get home from school.

I have no doubt that cognitive abilities [of high school students] are better suited to a later start time.

— **Tim McCurdy, Fairfax**

My daughter just started seventh grade at Robinson Secondary School this past autumn. I have always been in favor of SLEEP's agenda for a variety of reasons. After the first few months on the current schedule, it is now glaringly apparent how important it is to change the current bus schedules.

My daughter is now 13-years-old. This year, she is picked up by the bus for Robinson at 6:40. She usually has to set her alarm for 5:45 a.m. There have been many nights where she has had to go to bed of her own volition since she is so tired. How many 13-year-olds would do that except under strained circumstances? She has often complained of being overly tired in the afternoons and evenings and this does affect her mood and interpersonal interactions. Most weekends we try to let her just sleep until she naturally wakes up to make up for lost sleep during the week. She now sleeps until 10-11a.m. regularly on the weekends.

I thank you for your on-going efforts to make these changes happen as soon as bureaucratically possible. I hope ... we live to see the changes take place before my daughter graduates in 2014.

— **Larry M. Meinstein, Fairfax/Robinson**

NEWS

D.C. Visit

FROM PAGE 3

renovated American History Museum, went to dinner in Georgetown and Pentagon Row and had a service at the Jefferson Memorial.

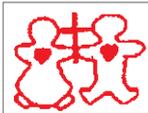
They spent the final day on Capitol Hill participating in the advocacy process firsthand by meeting with members of Congress and their staff.

"This program allows students to discover the connection between Judaism and social justice. At the end of the four days, the participants understand the Jewish mandate to be a part of social and political change," said Namath. "When people care about an issue, that's when action happens," he said.

Aaron Green, 17, of Burke, said the overall experience was great because most teenagers don't really have a chance to get involved. The best part, said the senior at Lake Braddock Secondary, was meeting with his representatives' staffs in the House of Representatives and Senate. "It was very well organized because they had all the activities planned out," he said.

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OPINION

Major Party Candidates Plea Their Cases

Why Vote for Bulova?

BY SHARON BULOVA
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Bulova

In my years as a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many people from all parts of Fairfax. I am gratified that people tell me that they have chosen to live here because they enjoy the excellent schools, exceptional public safety, and first rate business climate. They tell me that realize that is a good place to live, work, raise a family and grow old.

In the upcoming Feb. 3 election for the Chairman of the Board, the most important message that I hear from voters is that they realize the good things about Fairfax County haven't happened by accident. Voters know that we are one of the best managed jurisdictions of our size in the country because we have had public leaders who have paid attention, set priorities, made the tough decisions, and demanded quality in all that we do.

In the 21 years, I have served on the Board, I have chaired the budget committee for 17 of those years. I know that our budget is our most important statement of our values. We can say we are for something, but it we aren't willing to put resources there, we are misleading. I know that building the annual budget is a constant quest for the best balance between revenue and expenses. We have a AAA bond rating, and we also have schools that rank among the very best in the United States. We have welcomed diversity as a great asset, even though that same diversity has challenged us and sometime cost us more to provide the services people here need and de-

IN HER
OWN
WORDS

mand. We have worked hard to find the right balance.

Voters know that our Board works best when we work together. I have a long record of reaching "across the aisle" and working with people from all parts of the county to build consensus about priorities. Voters know that I have been a leader in developing new ways to get public input, connect public and private resources, and improve the quality of life for everybody.

Voters know that in the past I was one of the most consistent advocates for mass transit to help relieve our traffic mess. I was one of the early sponsors of the Virginia Railway Express (the VRE) and have spent the last ten years as an advocate for rail to Dulles.

Voters know that as Chairman of the Board, I will continue that civil consensus-building open and honest approach. I won't walk away from a problem because it is hard or because I didn't get my way. I will be the leader of the Board and will set the agenda, but I will always respect those who disagree.

Respectfully, I ask the citizens of Fairfax County for your vote on Feb. 3. I pledge that I will always work to keep Fairfax the place where people will want to choose to live, work, and play.

Vote Feb. 3

All Fairfax County polling places will be open on Tuesday Feb. 3 for the special election for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to replace Gerry Connolly.

Why Vote for Herrity?

BY PAT HERRITY
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS



Herrity

Campaigns are about highlighting differences, but I am confident we can agree on one thing: Fairfax County is a great place to live. For decades we have had the best schools and beautiful parks. We've had a Triple-A bond rating since 1975, and we have been the economic engine for the state.

Yet our future success is not preordained. We currently face significant challenges. Most pressing is our \$650 million shortfall, the largest in our history and larger than all of our surrounding jurisdictions combined. We face this shortfall despite the fact that taxes on homeowners have doubled in the past seven years. County spending has exploded, growing the budget by a billion dollars beyond inflation and population growth, squandering the good times on misplaced priorities.

We've spent \$200 million in the past two years to buy government housing and have built a large housing bureaucracy that makes us among the largest landlords in the County. We're subsidizing housing for those making \$99,000 a year.

At the same time, our schools are in dire need of renovations and class sizes continue to increase. Teacher pay has dropped from highest in the region to sixth highest. Despite this, the School Board, with my opponent's support, wants to spend \$130 million on a fancy administration building.

Fairfax County needs a leader with tested financial skills, who knows how to read a balance sheet, how to say "no," and who will focus spending on priorities. I am a chief financial officer with an award-winning financial track record of turning around troubled companies. I am the only candidate for Chairman with the financial experience necessary to lead us out of this financial train wreck.

I am also a recognized leader in transportation. I sit on the operations board for VRE, and was leading the effort for telecommuting with the Northern Virginia Technology Council before telecommuting was an accepted concept. On the Board, I have led

IN HIS
OWN
WORDS

the efforts for both short-term and long-term improvements to the I-66 corridor.

Contrary to my opponent's accusations, I did not attempt to block the Dulles Rail project. In 2002, I filed suit against the project in order to ensure it was competitively bid, in an effort to save taxpayer money. To date, the project has never been competitively bid. I believe if it had, we would have been able to build a tunnel, the best option for Tyson's Corner, and still have met federal cost standards.

We can't afford to wait for Richmond to solve our problems. Thirty years ago when my father, Jack Herrity, was chairman of the Board, private-sector funding for transportation outweighed federal, state and local funding combined. Developers were held accountable for infrastructure improvements. We need to return to this kind of responsible leadership and creative solutions.

We also need to make our commercial tax base a priority. The commercial tax base was 27 percent but has now fallen to 17 percent, shifting the tax burden onto homeowners. It is important now more than ever for government to be responsive to the need for tax relief for residents. That is why last year I proposed a balanced budget that included an actual tax cut for homeowners. My budget also included an increase in education spending and more money for public safety programs than the budget passed by the Board.

I want my children to raise their children in a Fairfax County that is the best place to live, work, and play. I ask for your vote on Feb. 3.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
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McLean, Va. 22102
Call: 703-917-6440.
By fax: 703-917-0991.
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ENTERTAINMENT

Get Out and Have Some Fun

Connection wraps up its countdown of 101 Fun Things To Do.

Two Scoops, Two Mayors

❖ Peterson's Ice Cream Depot
7150 Main St.
Clifton
703-830-2898
www.petersondepot.com

❖ Sweet Life Café
3950 Chain Bridge Road
Fairfax
703-385-5433
www.thesweetlifecafefairfax.com

Never has politics been so sweet as when two local politicians put down their gavels and pick up ice cream scoops.

From the end of March through the beginning of December, Mayor Tom Peterson and his family run Peterson's Ice Cream Depot in the Town of Clifton. The shop offers gourmet ice cream, hot dogs and specialty drinks. The depot will reopen on March 29.

Coincidentally, Mayor Robert Lederer and his family operate the Sweet Life Café in the City of Fairfax, specializing in homemade ice cream and deli sandwiches. The café is open year round, and hours are

Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Time Travel

Civil War Encampment
Blenheim Mansion
Fairfax

During the first weekend of May, the City of Fairfax offers Civil War-related activities at the Blenheim Mansion. The encampment weekend includes a military muster, period music and family-oriented demonstrations. For more, call 1-800-545-7950 or visit www.fairfaxva.gov.

101

WAYS TO
HAVE FUN

Explore History On the Rails

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum
11200 Fairfax Station Road
Fairfax Station

This museum houses artifacts and exhibits from the Civil War, the Red Cross, and a collection of historic railroad memorabilia. Call 703-425-9225.

101 Ways To Have Fun

The complete list of 101 Ways To Have Fun can be found online at www.connectionnewspapers.com

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February 7th & 8th

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Chocolate Lover's Festival

IN THE CITY OF FAIRFAX

Chocolate Lovers Festival

February 7th and 8th

After visiting the Chocolate Lovers Festival and the Chocolate Challenge come and visit Old Town businesses!

Enjoy the Village Marketplace, Sat 10-6pm Sunday 11am-5pm—
Old Town Village Gallery—a taste of chocolate and wine at The Wine House—on the Sunday sign up to run The Chocolate Mile sponsored by Pacers Running Store

Sit and enjoy a chocolate chip bagel at Panera, a chocolate milkshake at Metro Diner or Potbelly, or a chocolate gelato at Piccomolo.

The Bobcats will be playing their own style of smooth music in the Marketplace 4 pm-6 pm

www.chocolatemile.com

www.oldtownvillage.com

Old Town Plaza Businesses

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Pacers Running Store
Potbelly Sandwich Works
The Wine House



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CALENDAR

BURKE CONNECTION ASSISTANT EDITOR PAULA FRIEDRICH
703-917-6459 OR BURKE@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

To have community events listed, email southcalendar@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6459 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

"Property Rights," 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. 703-219-2351 or www.fxplayers.org.

Sonny Landreth, slide guitarist. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$24. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Independent Living Exercise

Class, 12 p.m. Reduce falls, improve balance and build strength. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333.

Energy Efficiency First: The Path to An Energy Efficient Virginia, 7-9 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, 6560 Braddock Road, Alexandria. Contact Lauren Glickman, 804-335-0915

Faith Communities in Action

Older Adult Service Coordination Task Force, 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, Rooms 2 and 3, First Floor Conference Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 703-324-3453 or ciluser@fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Miró Quartet. 8 p.m. Chamber Music at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

"Singin' in the Rain," 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. 703-219-2351 or www.fxplayers.org.

The Blackjacks and U.S. Royalty. Rock. 9 p.m. \$10 advance/ \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m. Classic songs at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap

Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

"Singin' in the Rain," 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. 703-219-2351 or www.fxplayers.org.

An Evening with Face the Fish and Stepanian. Americana/rock/blues. 9 p.m. \$8 advance, \$10 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Philadelphia Dance Company, 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Free pre-performance discussion begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$21-\$42, age 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association Country Western Dance, 7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. \$12 per person. 703-860-4941 or www.nvcwda.org.

IndyYr! Back By Popular Demand and Tami D'Mar, 7 p.m. at CoffiHouse, 8433 Lee Highway, Merrifield. info@COFFIHOUSE.com.

MONDAY/FEB. 2

Old Town Hall Children's Series: Mr. Skip - Fairfax's favorite Music Man. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-352-ARTS or www.fairfaxarts.org.

Open Mic Night with Ron Goad. 7 p.m. \$2. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Calling All Guys, 7 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Book discussion group for boys. Call for title. Age 9-12 with adult. 703-978-5600.

TUESDAY/FEB. 3

The Guggenheim Grotto. Acoustic. 8 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The Chocolate Lovers Festival will be Feb. 7-8 in Old Town Fairfax, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Contact 703-385-1661 or www.chocolatefestival.net for admission fees and schedule.

❖ **Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast,** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive.

❖ **Craft Show, Bake Sale and Friendship Raffle,** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive.

❖ **Scouts and Crafts at City of Fairfax Regional Library,** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at 10360 North St.

❖ **Question and answer session with Warren Brown and Norman R. Davis,** 10-11 a.m. at City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St.

❖ **Lunch at Fire Station 3,** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at 4081 University Drive.

❖ **Child Fingerprinting by the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office,** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Fairfax Court House, 4000 Chain Bridge Road.

❖ **Taste of Chocolate at Old Town Hall,** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 3999 University Drive. Cakes, candies, brownies, fudge, ice cream and more.

❖ **Chocolate Challenge,** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at City Hall Atrium, 10455 Armstrong St.

'Constructs VI' Opening

Reception, 4-6 p.m. at the George Mason University Fine Arts Gallery, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A Panel discussion will follow from 6-7 p.m. The exhibition of abstract paintings will be on display from Feb. 2-28, and the gallery is open to the public on weekdays from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Bibliomaniacs Book Discussion Group, 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Join a family book discussion of Frindle by Andrew Clements. Age 8-12 with adult. 703-644-7333.



- ❖ **The Chocolate Caper Mock Trial,** 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at Fairfax Court House, 4000 Chain Bridge Road, with the Fairfax Bar Association.
- ❖ **Turley the Magician,** 11 a.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St.
- ❖ **Jim Moyers Circus Club,** 12 p.m. on South Street and University Drive, weather permitting.
- ❖ **So You Think You're Smarter Than a Lawyer?** 11:30 a.m. at Fairfax Court House, 4000 Chain Bridge Road.
- ❖ **Chocolate-Covered Fairy Tales,** 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St.
- ❖ **An Afternoon With the Living History Foundation,** 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

- at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. Games and dancing of the early 1800s.
- ❖ **Legato School Open House,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Route 123/Chain Bridge Road, between Judicial Drive and Sager Avenue. Learn about the heritage of chocolate.
- ❖ **Ford House Open House,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 3977 Chain Bridge Road, childhood home of Civil War spy Antonia Ford.
- ❖ **Ratcliffe-Allison Open House,** 12-4 p.m. at 10386 Main St., depicting lives of everyday people in 19th century Fairfax.

Fairfax Anime, 7 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Watch anime and discuss anime and manga. Pizza and snacks provided. Age 12-18. 703-293-6227. 703-293-6227.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

Sonya Kitchell, "Burn Brightly" and Residency. Acoustic/indie. 8 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 5

Greg Howard and Harper. 7 p.m. \$25. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Lizz Wright, jazz singer. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Tales for Twos: Penguin Playground, 10:15 a.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about penguins. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

Independent Living Exercise Class, 12 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. 703-644-7333.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

The Persuasions. A cappella gospel and pop. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Future, Politicks, Mello-D & the Rados and The Remedy, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Lunch Bunnies, 12 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Bring lunch and listen to stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-978-5600.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Chocolate Lovers Festival, Old Town Fairfax, 3999 University Drive,

Fairfax. Some events require a fee, and other events are free. Contact 703-385-1661 or www.chocolatefestival.net for details.

Fairfax City Neighborhood Outreach Ministry and Emmett R. Anderson Scholarship Committee Black History Celebration and Benefit, 6-9 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Speakers Glen Harris and Pastor Jeffrey Johnson Sr., music by Café, African-American art, crafts, jewelry, desserts, choirs, skits, dance and more. Rondia.Pearson-prescott@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Cirque Éloize with Nebbia: a Magical Fog, 8 p.m. at George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$23-\$46, and age 12 and under are half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul. The All-Ireland Fiddle Champion and her band. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

'Ride on the Freedom Train,' 7 p.m. at James Lee Community Theatre, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. A collaborative play about Black history. For tickets, contact Nomikka Hunter at 703-324-555. Admission free. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec.

Read to the Dog, 1 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Call to sign up for a 15-minute session. Age 6-12. 703-644-7333.

Amy LaVere, acoustic/roots. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Cosmopolitan Clavier Charity Concert. 7 p.m. at Fairfax Christian Church, 10185 Main St., Fairfax. An

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

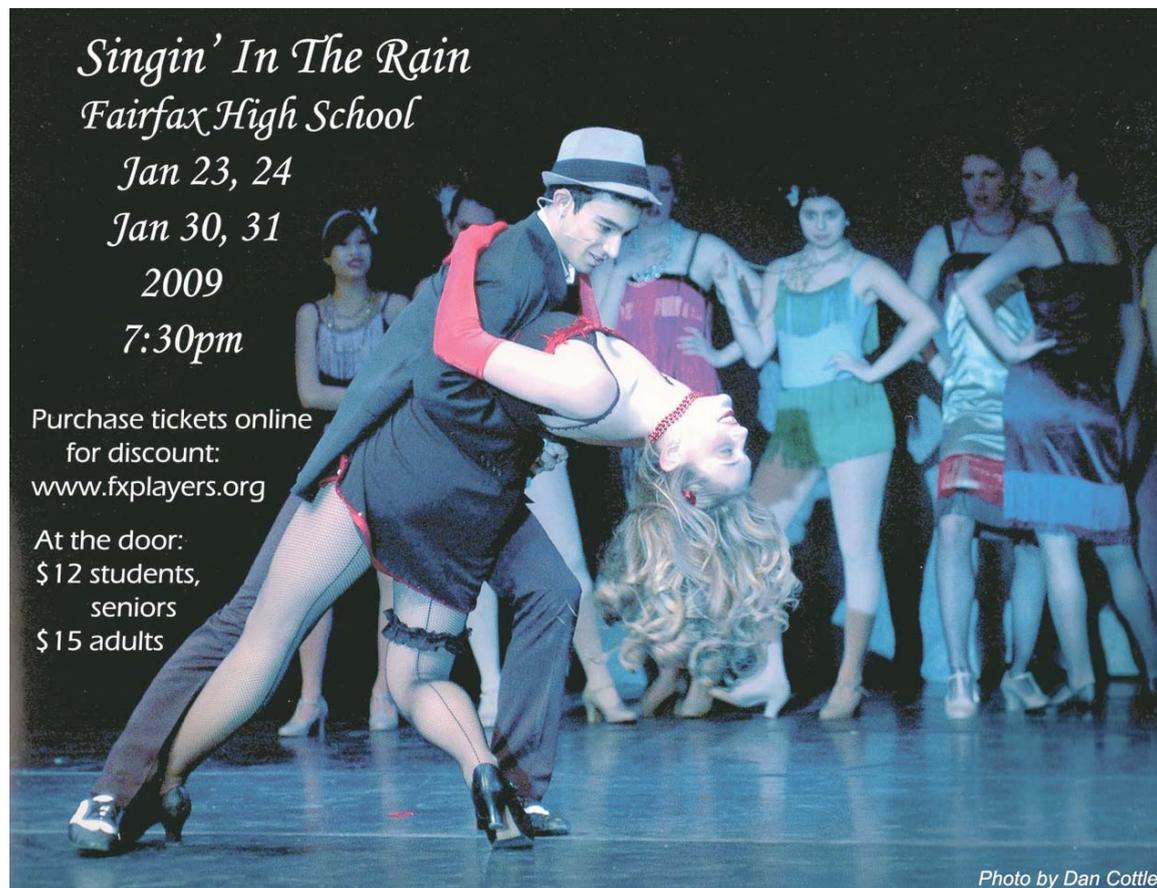


Photo by Dan Cottle

The Fairfax High School Drama Department presents "Singin' in the Rain" Jan. 30-31.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

evening of music by Cosmopolitan Clavier, an international group of pianists, followed by a reception in the Community Room. Donations will be used to help pay for the newly-installed stained glass window in the sanctuary. 703-385-3520 or www.fairfaxchristian.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 8

Cirque Éloïze with Nebbia: a Magical Fog, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performances on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$23-\$46, and age 12 and under are half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Chocolate Lovers Festival, Old Town Fairfax, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Some events require a fee, and other events are free. Contact 703-385-1661 or www.chocolatefestival.net for details.

"Growing a Great University," by Dr. Tom Hennessy from George Mason University, 2 p.m., Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Free. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Jewish Community Center Book Festival, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the JCC of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike. The nine-day event celebrates Jewish literacy and will include author lectures and programs, as well as books for purchase. Contact Laurie Albert at LaurieA@jccnv.org, 703-537-3064 or www.jccnv.org for the event schedule and costs.

Inova

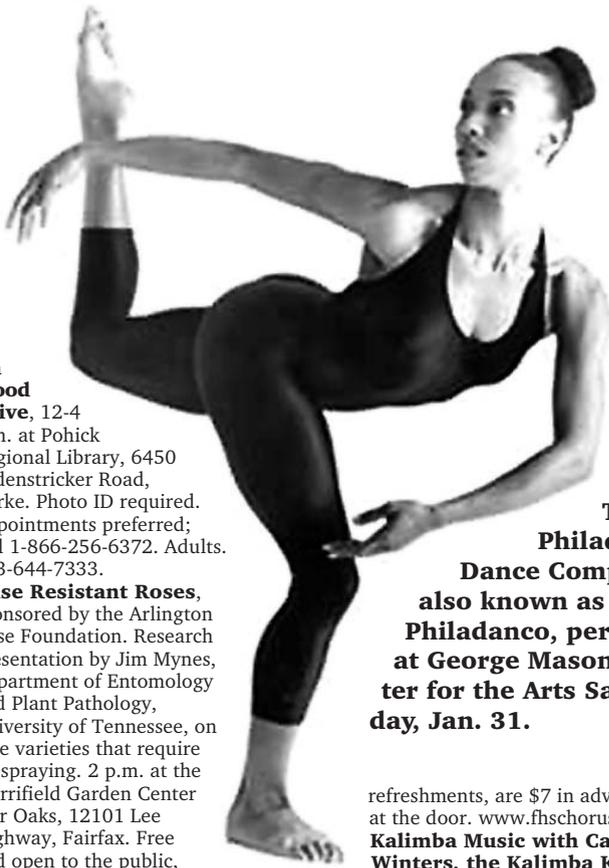
Blood Drive, 12-4 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred; call 1-866-256-6372. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Disease Resistant Roses, sponsored by the Arlington Rose Foundation. Research presentation by Jim Mynes, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, University of Tennessee, on rose varieties that require no spraying. 2 p.m. at the Merrifield Garden Center Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Free and open to the public, no reservations required. 703-860-0071.

Ralph's World, 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/FEB. 9

The Fairfax High School Chorus Department Cabaret Night. 6:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Chorus students will perform individually and in small groups. Tickets, including



The Philadelphia Dance Company, also known as Philadanco, performs at George Mason Center for the Arts Saturday, Jan. 31.

refreshments, are \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door. www.fhschorus.net.
Kalimba Music with Carl Winters, the Kalimba King. 2:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Celebrate Black History Month with jazz, spirituals, hip hop and blues played on kalimbas, also known as African thumb pianos. 703-644-7333.
Open Mic Night with Ron Goad. 7 p.m. \$2. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.
Love, 10:15 a.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, fingerplays and activities about all kinds of love. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-644-7333.

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Bruins Overcome Key Loss

Despite injury to Ryan Curtis, Lake Braddock finds other ways to win.

BY JASON MACKAY
THE CONNECTION

With less than six minutes remaining during the Lake Braddock boys basketball team's 59-45 win over West Potomac Monday night, senior point guard Dominic Morra pushed forward, seriously considering an ill-fated drive to the basket.

But after sensing a double team and the lack of open space through which to maneuver, Morra skipped a perfectly-placed bounce pass to classmate Jared Watson, who made a backdoor cut and finished the play for an easy layup.

Watson's bucket staked the Bruins to a 41-33 lead, effectively pushing the game out of reach. But on another level, the play represented a change of sorts that has occurred off of Burke Lake Road recently.

Little more than two weeks ago, Morra, who's having a breakout offensive season while averaging 29.9 points per game, might've driven the lane and forced a shot. On Monday, Morra became more of a distributor and less of a scorer.

"I think we're doing what we have to do to win in our league," said Lake Braddock coach Brian Metress, whose team improved to 11-5 overall, 5-4 in the Pa-

triot District. "In our league, if you have one guy scoring all the points, he's going to get double teamed. When he gets double teamed, another guy's going to be able to make a play."

The change of philosophy has happened partly because of the increased attention that's now paid to Morra, but it has also happened because of an unfortunate injury. Regardless, Lake Braddock has achieved an offensive balance that features two quality, low-post scorers to complement one of the Northern Region's top offensive threats in Morra.

WITH ABOUT two minutes left in the second quarter of a 71-59 win over West Springfield on Jan. 13, junior center Ryan Curtis, the team's primary inside presence, landed awkwardly and broke his leg in two places, resulting in a compound fracture.

Curtis was averaging 10.4 points and 6.5 rebounds per game at the time. But the loss stripped Morra, who often teams with junior Patch McLucas (team-high 4.1 assists per game) to run Lake Braddock's offense, of the team's

second-best scoring option and forced both Watson and senior forward Art Sinthorntham to step into starring roles.

Both did so Monday night. Watson finished with a game-high 17 points and made seven of his eight shots, while Sinthorntham was the team's second leading scorer with 16. Morra added 14 points and six assists and tied Watson for the team lead in rebounds with eight.

"Ryan was a key rebounder and a key contribu-

"I have to step up. Everyone has to step up."

— Art Sinthorntham, Lake Braddock senior



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

With an injury to center Ryan Curtis, senior forward Art Sinthorntham has had to step up his play. Sinthorntham contributed 17 points during a 59-45 win over West Potomac Monday.

SEE SUCCESS, PAGE 13

Public Hearings Offer Athletics a Forum

Fairfax County athletic community voices displeasure with proposed budget cuts.

BY JASON MACKAY
THE CONNECTION

In both gymnastics and track and field, three minutes can represent a variety of things. On the uneven bars, three minutes could cause excruciating pain in even the most accomplished gymnast's arms, and those 180 seconds would surely turn every head in America if displayed next to the 1,600-meter run.

But last Wednesday night at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church, three minutes represented something completely new for the two embattled sports in Fairfax County: a platform.

With supporters of both sports finally given a chance to voice their opinions over the proposed elimination of gymnastics and indoor track and field from the fiscal year 2009-10 budget, five people spoke in favor of keeping gymnastics and indoor track and

field, with one supporting the former and four lobbying for the latter.

Another set of hearings was set for Tuesday night, which were canceled that morning because of a snowstorm. The second round of hearings, during which many more gymnastics and indoor track and field supporters were expected to voice their displeasure with the budget, ended too late for this edition.

"The elimination of indoor track and field would be penny-wise and pound-foolish," said McLean High School parent William Shapiro, whose three children graduated from the school. "If savings must be found, surely there are better ways of doing so."

"If savings must be found, surely there are better ways of doing so."

— William Shapiro, McLean parent

Wouldn't it make sense for modest reductions in all team sports?"

A BUDGET PROPOSAL comprised of three scenarios was unveiled at a Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting back in November, with gymnastics listed on all three levels and indoor track and field only on the most severe.

The budget alterations were brought forth to close what was expected to be around a \$170 million-\$180 million shortfall for the school district. Cutting gymnastics would save \$221,000 and cutting indoor track and field would save \$250,000.

But the expected deficit has since ballooned to around \$215 million, depending on whether or not the Board of Supervisors accepts schools superintendent Jack D. Dale's latest budget, which requires a 3.5

percent funding increase.

"It is entirely dependent on what the Board of Supervisors gives us," Dale said. "If there is no additional money, we will face a \$215 million shortfall."

School Board member Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence) started the hearing Wednesday night by re-affirming that none of the decisions were final. Dale recommended his \$2.2 million budget on Jan. 8, and the School Board would listen to these public hearings, formulate its own budget and submit that to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

THAT DIDN'T HELP quell the fears of parents and coaches who spoke out against the proposed measures. Matt Gilchrist, Chantilly's cross-country and track and field coach, kicked off the community's reaction by acknowledging the difficult task ahead. But, he continued to express a desire that no sport be eliminated.

"It is our hope as athletic supporters that no sports are cut, and that if economic needs

SEE HEARINGS, PAGE 13

Success Despite Key Injury

FROM PAGE 12

tor," Watson said. "It's going to be hard to replace him because he's that good. I had to step up big time when he went down."

Two months before the season, Sinthorntham suffered an injury to his ankle, one that required surgery and sidelined him for the first four games. Now healthy, Sinthorntham said the ankle has been getting stronger.

"We're spreading the scoring around, which makes us harder to defend," said Metress, whose Bruins will host Hayfield Thursday at 7:30 p.m. "That's the way basketball is supposed to be played. It's always harder to cover five guys than to cover one or two."

The loss of Curtis hurt, but it hasn't crumbled the Bruins' playoff hopes by any means. Lake Braddock suffered a 70-55 loss to T.C. Williams three nights after Curtis was lost and rebounded with a 66-55 win over South County on Jan. 21.

Despite falling 70-63 at Lee last Friday, Lake Braddock buoyed itself with a strong third quarter against West Potomac. After West Potomac's Martez Redfean (team-high 14 points) scored the first three points after halftime (24-24), Watson scored eight of the game's next 11 points to give Lake Braddock a 33-29 lead with three minutes



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Eighth-year coach Brian Metress has his Lake Braddock team at 11-5 overall, 5-4 in Patriot District play entering Thursday night's home game against the Hayfield Hawks.

remaining in the third quarter.

With its top inside presence sidelined because of injury, Lake Braddock hopes to continue to find second and third scoring options. In addition to Morra, the Bruins will start to rely more on Watson (5.9 ppg,

6.5 rpg) and Sinthorntham (7.3 ppg, 3.5 rpg) inside.

"Losing [Curtis] was tough," Sinthorntham said. "He was our main defensive presence, but I have to step up. Everyone has to step up."

Hearings

FROM PAGE 12

dictate that athletics be affected, such cuts would include small, incremental cuts across the board, rather than targeting individual programs," Gilchrist said.

Janelyn Price, a Lake Braddock parent and a former collegiate gymnast and coach, was the gymnastics community's lone representative Wednesday. Price argued that Lake Braddock conducted tryouts for the first time in a long time this season, while also pointing out that club gymnastics might not be a viable option.

"Many gymnasts were never club gymnasts to begin with and would not even make a club team," Price said. "Club gymnastics is also a very time consuming sport and is very, very expensive."

Rob Muzzio, a Robinson graduate and now a Robinson parent, stated that indoor track and field involved nearly 2,800 high school athletes last season at a relatively low cost. "All programs should be under scrutiny and subject to reductions across the board. But to eliminate the most cost-effective athletic program in all of Fairfax County doesn't make sense."

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NEWSPAPERS

PEOPLE

Two-Wheeling To Help

Ryan Dodd bicycles In Journey of Hope.

In June 2009, Ryan Dodd, 23, a senior at the University of Tennessee and 2004 Graduate of Robinson Secondary, will be meeting 90 other Pi Kappa Phi's from universities across the country and embarking on a 64-day Journey of Hope.

The Journey of Hope is a 3,900 mile cross-country cycling trek that raises funds and awareness on behalf of people with disabilities.

The Journey of Hope team members are all members of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and are joining forces to pave the road for a better understanding of people with disabilities. From the West Coast to Washington, D.C., the Journey of Hope team will be cycling from city to city, bringing the message Push America in a unique and inspiring way.

Ryan and the rest of the Journey of Hope 2009 team will be making dozens of presentations in communities across the nation, helping others to understand the issues facing those with disabilities. After cycling an average of 75-100 miles each day, the team will take part in many special events, often meeting with those for whom they're riding.

To help prepare himself for the race, Ryan is running close to 5 miles a day and biking more than an hour five days a week.

The Journey of Hope is a project of Push America, which was founded by Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity in 1977 with the mission to build leaders of tomorrow by serving people with disabilities today. Its members have raised more than \$8 million for Push America since its establishment.

In addition to raising awareness, the Journey of



Ryan Dodd

Hope will raise more than \$400,000 for future projects and programs of Push America. Brian is committed to raising a minimum of \$5,000 on behalf of Push America and people with disabilities.

Born in Walnut Creek, Calif., Ryan is the son of Brenda Dodd of the Bonnie Brae community and Jack Dodd of Oakton.

While at Robinson, Ryan took IB courses and played defensive line on the Rams football team for four years. The team won two district championships and was regional runner-up twice. At Tennessee, Ryan is a finance major and a member of the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals, a logistics club. He ran three different SGA campaigns; two as a senator and one on a support committee. He was initiated into Pi Kappa Phi in the spring of 2005. He recently spent a weekend at the Northern Virginia Training Center, doing the Give a Push Weekend, where he helped clean up nature trails, built a Zen garden, and built a new storage facility for the athletic equipment.

Ryan will be graduating with a degree in finance in May and hopes to work in investment planning or portfolio management.

Anyone interested in "Going the Extra Mile" by making a tax-deductible donation to Push America on behalf of Ryan Dodd should contact him at 703-407-8256 or e-mail rdodd4@utk.edu.

— STEVE HIBBARD



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Michelle Wang of Fairfax performs the Happy Drum Greetings along with classmates of the New World Bilingual Institute youth Chinese classes during Chinese New Year celebration at George Mason University on Jan. 24.



A demonstration of how to make Chinese dumplings was one of the activities.



Tasherit Dahal performs a traditional Indian folk dance as part of the Jan. 24 Chinese New Year celebration at George Mason University. The event also celebrated other Asian cultures.

Chairman's Race: A Matter of Experience?

Candidates come from different places professionally.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Residents will have a stark choice when they go to the polls on Feb. 3 to vote for the next chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Of the two major political party candidates, one is a political veteran who has been a county elected official for more than two decades. The other is a newcomer to public office, who won his first election in 2007.

DEMOCRAT and Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova has served as budget committee chair for 16 of the 21 years she has been on the Fairfax County board. Her colleagues also selected her to serve as the board's vice-chairman from 2003 to 2008.

Prior to being elected in the late 1980s, she worked as a staff member for her political predecessor, Audrey Moore, and became active in local politics as president of the Kings Park West civic association.

By contrast, Republican and Springfield District Supervisor Patrick Herrity has worked mostly for local federal contractors in the private sector since graduating from Virginia Tech in 1982. With a background in accounting, he specializes in helping to overhaul companies and turn them around financially, he said.

For his work in the high tech industry, Herrity was named the Greater Washington Technology CFO of the Year in 1998 and has been honored by the Northern Virginia Technology Council and Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce.

But Herrity has long-time connections to county government as well. His father, Jack Herrity, also served as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for 12 years in the 1970s and 1980s.

THE CANDIDATES both see their different backgrounds as advantages, especially when it comes to dealing with next year's projected \$650 million shortfall in the Fairfax County budget.

Bulova's extensive knowledge of the budget means that she will have a better understanding of how county residents will react to certain cuts to county services, she said. She may also have a better understanding of the purpose of each county budget line item and program than Herrity.

"My experience has given me a unique and deep appreciation for the way the county operates," said Bulova.

Herrity said he brings creative and "outside the box" thinking with him from the private sector. The Springfield supervisor also majored in accounting in college and emphasizes his financial background and



Bulova



Herrity



Campbell



DeCarlo

formal financial training. He is fond of quoting a line from another popular businessman-turned-politician, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner, who frequently said voters should support him because the country needs more people on Capital Hill who "knew how to read a balance sheet."

"I have actually had to make the tough decisions about a budget. I have actually had to say no," said Herrity.

SUPPORTERS of both Bulova and Herrity often mention their backgrounds and experiences as reasons voters should support one candidate over another.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who triggered the special election by resigning as county chairman in early January, said Bulova's years of county board experience makes her the stronger candidate.

"Sharon has been chairman of the budget committee for several years and the budget is the single most important thing we do on an annual basis. That is in sharp contrast to her opponent who has one year on the board. He has not been involved over the long term in any of the major issues the county faces," said Connolly.

"There are few individuals in the county that could rival Sharon's qualifications [for county chairman,]" he added.

BUT SUPERVISOR Michael Frey (R-Sully) said he is supporting Herrity because he would bring new energy, ideas and approaches to the county government.

Given the enormous budget shortfall, Frey said the county is going to have to look for different solutions to close the funding gap than they have in the past.

"Just looking at things the way we have isn't going to cut it. That is what Sharon would bring to the table – the way we have always done it. I think Pat is going to have a different approach," said Frey. Frey and Herrity are the two Republicans on the Board of Supervisors.

Though Herrity joined the board only last year, he had been working on several of the

Vote Feb. 3

The special election to select the next Fairfax County Board of Supervisors chairman will take place Tuesday, Feb. 3. Residents will vote at their normal polling station from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on that day.

There will be four candidates on the ballot, Sharon Bulova (D), Patrick Herrity (R), and two independents, Christopher DeCarlo and Carey Campbell.

Those who are eligible to vote absentee (see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/absentee.htm>) can vote early either in person or by mail.

In-person absentee voting is available at the Fairfax County Office of Elections in the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax) from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. through Friday Jan. 30 and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday Jan. 31.

The Office of Elections must have already received a voter's absentee ballot application form if the person intends to vote by mail. Election officials must also receive a resident's mailed-in ballot no later than 7 p.m. Feb. 3 in order for it to be counted in the race.

county's largest issues as an active member of the business community, in addition to his family background.

"Pat has been around long enough to understand issues and to understand government. He is not coming in from out of the blue," said Frey.

Frey also noted that U.S. President Barack Obama had relatively little experience in the federal government before moving into the White House a few weeks ago.

"The Democrats' whole argument this fall was change, change, change. But apparently now, we don't need change. Now, the old hand is what we need. It is kind of funny to hear them contradict themselves," said Frey.

BULOVA does receive praise from her Braddock District constituents, who find her easy to work with and willing to talk through problems.

"She is always so engaged and inclusive. Even when people don't agree with her, she wants to sit down with them and listen to what they have to say," said Kala Quintana, president of the Burke Centre Conservancy Board of Trustees.

Bulova is especially skilled at helping people in her district reach a consensus or buy into ideas that they may have been skeptical of at first.

For example, several residents were opposed to the new Virginia Railway Express parking garage in Burke when it was first proposed. So Bulova created a task force – which included members who were in opposition to the project – and asked them to come up with recommendations to improving the parking structure's design.

In the end, many of those who had been opposed to the garage ended up supporting it because Bulova was able to negotiate significant concessions from the builder for the community.

"In the beginning, not too many people wanted the garage. But we made it look different from what they originally proposed. We came up with a new design and they did it. Sharon supported us the entire time," said Sam DiBartolo, a Burke resident who sat on the garage's task force.

HERRITY has also received positive reviews for his work in the private sector.

Debate Highlights

Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock), Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) and Independent candidate Carey Campbell participated in a debate at Greenspring retirement community in Springfield Jan. 13. The next day, Bulova and Herrity also squared off at a second event sponsored by the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce. The following are some highlights from the two forums:

❖ Herrity said he is concerned about Fairfax County Public Schools' teachers' pay. Fairfax County teachers have gone from being the highest paid to the sixth highest paid in the region recently. He would like to raise their pay, though as chairman, he would not have any direct authority to do so. The Fairfax County School Board, not the Board of Supervisors, oversees teaching salaries.

❖ Fairfax County currently sets aside one penny of the real estate tax rate – approximately \$22 million annually – for affordable housing.

Herrity wants to eliminate this program, usually referred to as the penny for affordable housing. Bulova is in favor of protecting this funding stream, though she admitted it may have to be scaled back in the face of Fairfax's projected \$650 million budget deficit next year.

❖ Herrity described himself as "very active" in the push for high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes that are currently being built on the Capital Beltway from Springfield to just past Tysons Corner. He said there are private firms who are also interested in increasing capacity along Interstate 66.

❖ Campbell said a vote for his candidacy would save the taxpayers money. If Bulova or Herrity won the chairman's race, another special election will have to be held – at the taxpayers' expense – to find their replacements at the district supervisor level. Since Campbell is not an elected official, no additional elections would have to be staged if he were elected chairman.

❖ In the next budget cycle, Bulova said the county school system would most likely get all the money it needs to keep the schools "as excellent as they are." But she said the school system was not likely to get all the money it asks for.

"The schools will not get everything but we will not sacrifice our education system," said Bulova.

❖ Herrity said Fairfax County must come terms with illegal immigration and the strain it puts on the locality's school system, social services and housing stock. As chairman, he would address those issues but not in a "mean spirited" manner like Prince William County officials recently have done, he said.

Annandale resident Mary Ann Elliot credits Herrity with turning around her telecommunications and government contracting company, Arrowhead Global Solutions, Inc.

"He came into a very bad situation when he came to work for me and he was able, with 60 days, to completely overhaul the financial structure of the company. I was very very pleased. He has only my highest recommendation. I owe him a lot personally," said Elliot, who was the founder, chief executive officer and board chairman of the company.

People enjoy working with him and for him, Elliot said. "He has very strong leadership skills, management skills and understands the financial side of issues. I wish more of our political leaders were that well-rounded. There are some that are good leaders and some are charismatic but not too many understand the financial side of things. Pat has it all," said Elliot.

She added: "Far too many of our government people have no concept of a profit loss and really having to live with a budget, meet payroll and deliver the kind of returns investors are looking for."

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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Marilyn lone (Olson) Oien of Lancaster Virginia passed away Saturday, January 17, 2009. She was the daughter of Walter Olson and Olga (Sealander) Olson, who preceded her in death. She graduated from Fergus Falls High School, Fergus Falls, Minnesota Class of 1956. She then graduated from the St. Francis School of Nursing at Breckenridge, Minnesota. She worked as a nurse at Walter Reed Army Hospital, Dewitt Army Hospital, and at the Veterans Hospital, Washington DC, and ended her career at the Inova Fairfax Hospital Emergency Room, Fairfax Virginia. She was loved by both patients and staff throughout her career.

Surviving are her husband of 49 years Eldor Roger Oien; three sons, John E. Oien, Paul D. Oien both of Lancaster Virginia, James R. Oien and his wife Cynthia (Venable) Oien of Lively, Virginia, five granddaughters, Lauren Oien, Jessica Oien, Crystal Pabon, Brandy DeJesus and Brittany Hanson; eight great grand children: Aryanna, Haley and Chloey DeJesus Kayla, Tyler and Elijah Pabon; Cameron Hanson and Lexie Seabolt; and her brother, Delmar Olson of Pringle, South Dakota.

Graveside services will be held 2:00 p.m. Friday January 30, 2009 at Quantico National Cemetery Quantico, Virginia. Friends may call 6 - 8p.m. Friday, January 23, 2009 at the Currie Funeral Home, Kilmarnock, Va.

Memorial may be made to the American Cancer Society Memorials, 895 Middle Ground Blvd., Suite 154, Newport News, VA 23606.

25 Sales & Auctions

25 Sales & Auctions

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION SALE –
REDEEMED PROPERTY

Under the authority of Section 7506 of the Internal Revenue Code, the property described below will be sold at public auction on an open occupancy basis. The United States redeemed this property under the provisions of Section 7425 of the Internal Revenue Code on January 5, 2009. The property was deeded to the United States on January 15, 2009. The sale will be by public auction to be held on:

DATE: February 25, 2009

TIME: 1:00 P.M. Bidder Registration at 12:30 P.M.

LOCATION: Fairfax County Courthouse, Front Entrance, 4110 Chain Bridge Rd. Fairfax, VA 22030

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION: ALL THAT certain property situated in the Township of Great Falls, in the County of Fairfax and State of Virginia, and being more particularly described in a deed dated 12/09/1988 and recorded 12/12/1988 in Book 7218, Page 1075 among the Land Records of the County and State set forth above.

Known as 11217 Raehn Court, Great Falls, Virginia, 22066, further identified as Tax Map/Parcel ID Number: 002-2-02-0031. Property is a single family dwelling consisting of 5,038 sq. ft. of living space, with 4 full baths, 1 half bath, 4 fireplaces, a 3 car detached garage, and an 800 sq. ft. swimming pool.

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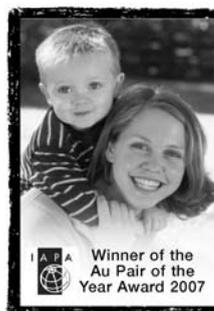
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21 Announcements
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Elect Herrity

To the Editor:

The voters of Fairfax County have a great opportunity in the upcoming special election on Feb. 3 to return Fairfax County to fiscal responsibility. We can elect Pat Herrity (R) as chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. He has repeatedly demonstrated the ability to understand the pressing problems that face Fairfax County, to identify areas of wasteful spending and to offer workable solutions in his tenure as Springfield supervisor. Conversely, we can elect his opponent who as chairman of the Board's Budget Committee has shown little regard for solving our fundamental problems.

What have Pat's opponent and her Democratic colleagues on the Board really done to address transportation, education, crime and general quality of life issues? They have been consistent in raising our property taxes, in spending more money and in creating budget deficits. Now is the time for Fairfax County citizens to act and to change the direction of our government. Elect Pat Herrity on Feb. 3.

Anne Damon
Fairfax

Contrasting Candidates

To The Editor:

A few days ago I received a mail piece from Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock) that contained some pretty ugly attacks on Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield). In this day and age, when it seems like the public has turned away from such negative campaign tactics, I found it interesting that Mrs. Bulova would resort to this while we face difficult times in Fairfax County.

But then it dawned on me, the Bulova campaign has to stoop to such tactics to cover up the truth about Mrs. Bulova's fiscal mismanagement of Fairfax County.

Here are the facts that Sharon Bulova doesn't want you to know:

FACT: As Budget Chair of Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Sharon Bulova has presided over the largest fiscal crisis Fairfax County has ever seen. Fairfax County is facing a \$650,000,000 budget shortfall. That is a larger than the combined shortfalls of Arlington, Alexandria, Loudoun, Prince William and the District of Columbia.

FACT: Sharon Bulova has distorted her own record as a tax-cutter. The truth is over the past seven years our homeowners' taxes have doubled!

FACT: Under Sharon Bulova's "leadership" as budget chair she spent \$200 million to buy government housing which makes Fairfax County the largest landlord in Fairfax County. Is that a proper use of taxpayer dollars when you face such a massive financial crisis?

FACT: Sharon Bulova proposed spending \$130 million on a school "administrative building" instead of putting the money directly into the classroom to benefit both our teachers and students.

After reading these facts it is clear that Sharon Bulova is not the person we want managing our county during these tough economic times.

There is someone who we do want to manage us through these tough times. His name is Pat Herrity. It is time for a change in Fairfax County. There is only one candidate in this election that has the experience, vision and skills to offer that change and put Fairfax County back on track.

Anthony Bedell
Chairman

Fairfax County Republican Committee

False Claims

To the Editor,

The letter posted online Jan. 26 entitled "Two Contrasting Candidates" restates several false claims that [Republican Board of Supervisors chairman candidate Pat] Herrity has made throughout this short campaign. Supporters of Mr. Herrity have repeatedly told him that his claims are false, yet Herrity continues to make them as if saying them enough times will make them true.

First, Mssrs. Herrity and the letter writer continue to blame a global recession and national housing collapse on Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock). Voters know better. Since first being elected in 1987, Sharon Bulova has presided over the growth of Fairfax County. Property values and income of Fairfax residents have more than doubled. Fairfax has become the largest and most successful jurisdiction in the region, outpacing somewhat comparable jurisdictions such as Montgomery County, Md. Blaming Sharon Bulova for a revenue shortage created by global meltdown is a sign of desperation.

Mr. Herrity attacks Sharon Bulova for working with non-profits and the business community to preserve affordable housing. This approach was found necessary after the approach promoted by Mr. Herrity failed to produce any gain in affordable housing units. Fairfax County is not the largest landlord in Fairfax County as claimed by Herrity — many for-profit corporations own and manage far more units in Fairfax County.

Herrity attacks Sharon Bulova for proposing the purchase of the Gatehouse II School Board complex after she made the motion, which passed unanimously to block this purchase. Mr. Herrity even sat in the boardroom and voted for her motion to block the purchase.

Sharon Bulova has managed Fairfax County's \$3.35 billion budget for 1,000,000 citizens for over 17 of her 21 years on the Board as Chair of the Budget Committee. Fairfax County's budget is larger than four states and 115 countries and it employs 12,000 people plus an additional 22,000 people that work for the schools.

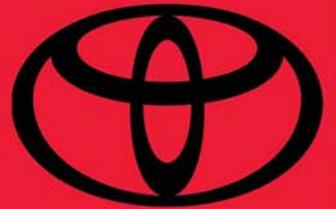
We need a tested leader for these tough times. Sharon Bulova is that leader. Please consider these facts and join me in voting for Sharon Bulova for Chairman.

Scott A. Surovell
Chairman

Fairfax County Democratic Committee

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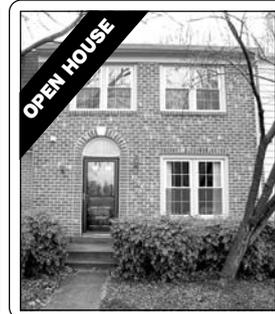
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