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History in Photos

NEWS, PAGE 2

'Clifton' by Fairfax History Commissioner Lynne Garvey-Hodge seeks to tell the history of Clifton through pictures and photographs taken by town members through the generations.

Middle School Approved

NEWS, PAGE 2

Government Lesson

NEWS, PAGE 3

PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ❖ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

Clifton in Black and White

Author signs copies of book that chronicles town history through photographs.

For Clifton resident and historian Lynne Garvey-Hodge, using mostly pictures to tell the story of Clifton's history was a tall order. She wrote over 100,000 words for her original manuscript. Arcadia Publishing, known for its "Images of America" series, limited her to 18,000, 350 for every chapter and just 70 per caption. She joked that it was an exercise in brevity.

On Sunday, Jan. 25 Garvey-Hodge hosted a book signing event for "Clifton" at The Canary Cottage bed and breakfast she operates on Main Street of town. From 1-4 p.m., a gathering of friends, colleagues and residents filled the main floor while Garvey-Hodge signed copies of her book at the rear of the home.

"Clifton" uses photographs from a multitude of different sources to paint a timeline of the town's history stretching back to its purchase by Englishmen in 1710 to the Civil War and subsequent change to the town's cur-



Author Lynne Garvey-Hodge signs a copy of her book 'Clifton' for Doug Detwiler, a former Clifton resident.

rent name through the modern progressive era. Garvey-Hodge said in addition to the photos she was able to procure from her town neighbors, some of whom have lived in Clifton for generations, she also spent a good deal of time researching at The Virginia Room in Fairfax and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.. Because the book was a pictorial essay, some aspects of the town's history without photographic evidence, like the string of reported UFO sightings in 1952, didn't make it into the book. Still, Garvey-Hodge said the format had its advantages. "I knew it was something I

could do without years and years of research," she said.

Garvey-Hodge said Clifton represented a very affluent cross-section of the country's history.

"I really think we are what America is all about these days," she said.

"Clifton" by Lynne Garvey-Hodge is available at major retail outlets including Borders, and Barnes and Noble for \$21.95. It is also available in local stores within Clifton such as The Clifton General Store on Main Street and The Cottage Arts on Chapel Road and from internet outlets such as Amazon.com.

— DEREK B. JOHNSON

PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

Middle School Set For 2012

School Board gives final OK to new school.

The Fairfax County School Board gave final approval to the construction of a new South County Middle School Jan. 22, promising to complete the school by 2012.

The new middle school was originally scheduled to open several years from now, but residents in the Fairfax Station and Lorton area have lobbied the school board, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Virginia General Assembly and even congressmen to push up its start date.

Community members said the new middle school is needed to relieve capacity problems at South County Secondary School, which has been one of the most overcrowded schools

"This is \$30 million we don't have to build a building we don't need."

— School Board Member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill)

in the county since it opened in 2005. When the new middle school opens, South County Secondary will be converted into a high school and the student population will be spread across the two buildings.

"I'm really, really relieved. This has been a long time coming. It really completes the South County area and will accommodate all the growth that is taking place," said School Board member Liz Bradsher (Springfield), who, as a South County parent, led the effort to get both the secondary school and the middle school built.

SOUTH COUNTY parents hope the new middle school would cause the School Board to redraw some of the South County school boundaries. Currently, some families that live within a mile of South County Secondary School attend Hayfield Secondary School approximately 7

SEE BOARD, PAGE 10

"I really think we are what America is all about these days."

— Lynne Garvey-Hodge

Local Businesses Go Virtual

Online chamber of commerce seeks to meld modern technology with sense of community.

BY DEREK B. JOHNSON
THE CONNECTION

Over the next 10 years, the southern portion of Fairfax County is expected to be one of the fastest growing regions of the county. A congressionally mandated consolidation of military and defense personnel (BRAC) will bring more than 19,000 federal jobs to Fort Belvoir and surrounding areas, along with thousands of private sector support employment by 2011. A new elementary school in Laurel Hill is currently being staffed and a new middle school is in the works.

A group of South County businessmen, unsatisfied with their memberships at chambers of commerce in Springfield or Alexandria, were looking for a way to begin coordinating with their neighbors on an

overall business strategy for the developing area.

"You know this part of Fairfax County is probably the fastest growing area in the Washington region," said Peter Weyland, vice chairman and co-founder of the newly formed South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

In a time of national recession, the Lorton and Laurel Hill areas continue to plan and build office space, townhouses and retail outlets to ensure that enough infrastructure is available to service the expected surge in population and foot traffic.

"We have new businesses, new people have moved in. We really didn't feel a close affiliation with the existing chambers," said Weyland, who owns Look.net, LC in Lorton, a Web-based company. "We're a new area, other chambers are legacy chambers who

have been around for a long time [and] have issues other than a newly developed area."

KEEPING WITH the theme of looking forward, Weyland, along with fellow founders Shep Crow of The Cricket Box in Kingstowne and Tim Rizer of ITEM Inc. in Alexandria, decided to make the chamber almost a completely online experience. They had caught wind of a company based out in Quincy, Calif., that developed a software program called Chamber Nation, which is designed specifically for transitioning brick and mortar chambers of commerce to the online world.

Instead of spending money finding a building, hiring staff, printing newsletters and dealing with the assortment of other costs that come with running a chamber, the three businessmen decided to jump right onto the net and build a foundation there.

"We're going to be the new kind of cham

SEE CHAMBER, PAGE 10

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 5

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).

NEWS BRIEFS

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.



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 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

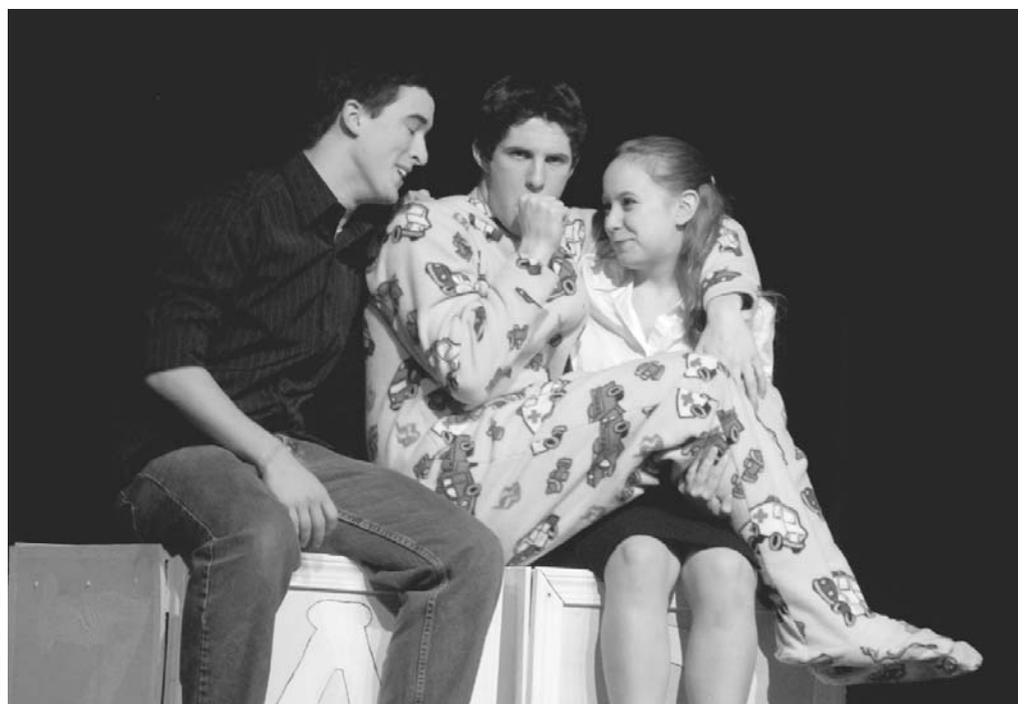
- ❖ \$900 million to complete phase one of the Dulles Rail Project

- ❖ \$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



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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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

SCHOOLS

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

Ray Yankey of Fairfax Station, a freshmen majoring in general engineering, has been selected to be a member of Virginia Tech's a cappella group, Mixed Emotions. To become a member of Mixed Emotions, students must audition at the beginning of each semester for all voice parts including vocal percussionist. The group hosts one major concert each semester that showcases a range of music genres. They also sing throughout the year for fund raisers, charity events and campus organizations.

Abdullah Alsaeed of Clifton participated in Valparaiso University's College of Business Administration annual Assessment Center. Business students at the Indiana college are placed in roles that give them practice responding to real-life situations, while local business executives observe and offer feedback on the students' communications skills and teamwork. Alsaeed, a business major, is the son of Abdulrahman Alsaeed and Ibtisam Al-Hermaid.

Robert J. Farlow of Clifton has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Furman University of Greenville, S.C. Farlow is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Farlow of Archlaw Drive, Clifton.

Patrick C. Barron of Fairfax Station has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Furman University of Greenville, S.C. Barron is the son of Mr. and Mrs. David Barron of Flora Lee Drive, Fairfax Station.

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THURSDAY/JAN. 29

Stories and Science, 4 p.m. Stories, activities and an age-appropriate science experiment. Age 4-6 with adult. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

Ponderings: Hibernators, 4:30-6 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8510 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Search for den sites of hibernating animals. Ages 6-10, reservations required. \$5 per child. 703-451-9588.

Milkweeds, Grasshoppers and Box Turtles, 7-8:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park & Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Learn why native grasses and wildflowers are important. 703-768-2525.

Robert E. Lee High School Orientation for rising ninth graders and their parents/guardians, 6:45 pm in the school auditorium, 6450 Franconia Road in Springfield, followed by Curriculum Night for all students and parents at 7 p.m. Adam.Greenberg@fcps.edu.

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Lunch Bunch, 12 p.m. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Birth-5. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. 703-971-0010.

Chop Tank Murphy, 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. katesirishpub.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Philadelphia Dance Company, 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Free 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 at www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

VITA Tax Assistance, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$42K. Adults. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Chop Tank Murphy, 8:30 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

Winter Hike: Hawks and Marsh ducks, 1-3:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park & Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Look for winter hawks and other birds. For hikers age nine and up. \$6 per person. 703-768-2525.

ZO2 and more, 9 p.m. Tickets \$5. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night," 3 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performed by members of the Shenandoah University Conservancy. Includes opportunities for audience interaction with Director Mark Kittlaus. clorange@su.edu or acambel@su.edu.

SUNDAY/FEB 1

Karaoke, 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

Nature Quest: Signs of Spring, 10 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Ages 3-6. Reservations required, \$4 per child. 703-451-9588.

MONDAY/FEB 2

Open Mic Night, 8 p.m. Kate's Irish Pub, 6131 Backlick Road Springfield. 703-866-0860 or katesirishpub.com.

Nature Quest: Signs of Spring, 10 a.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. An outdoor program designed for children age three to six years old. Learn about plants and animals indoors before the hike, then discuss them over free hot cocoa afterward. If the weather turns severe, the program will be canceled. Reservations required. \$4 per child. 703-451-9588.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

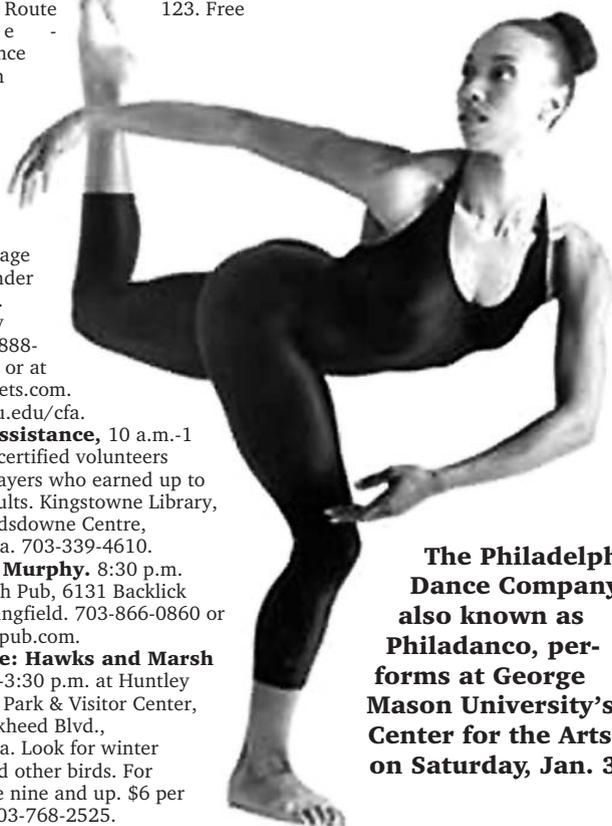
Practice Your English, 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults. 703-339-4610.

Girls Night Out, 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Age 12-15 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Lunch Bunnies, 12 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Bring lunch. Age 1-5. 703-339-4610.

THURSDAY/FEB. 5

Decide, Vital Remains, Order of Ennead, Adrift and more, 6 p.m. Tickets \$20 in advance, \$22 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. jaxxroxx.com.



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

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

Cardinal Forest Elementary Fun Fair and Silent Auction, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at 8600 Forrester Blvd. in Springfield. Games, food, moon bounce, giant slide, cakewalk, raffles, and a silent auction of themed baskets created by each class. Game and food tickets will be sold at the door. cjchastain@aol.com or 703-569-7518.

WEDNESDAY 13 with Cab Ride

Home, The Buried, Crimson Hills and more, 7 p.m. \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Lunch Bunch, 12 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch for stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Re-Aligned Godsmack Tribute, Method of Friction, Along Those Lines, Bitter and Bentt, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

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.

Music Safari, 1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Nai Kante Davis in an interactive music show with authentic African instruments and clothing. All ages. 703-339-4610.

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.

Kung Food and Alex Rhoads, 7 p.m. at Coffhouse, 8433 Lee Highway, Merrifield. info@COFFHOUSE.com.

Drummers and Drillers, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Watch woodpeckers and learn how to attract them to a yard. Reservations required for this adult program. \$6 per adult. 703-768-2525.

SUNDAY/FEB. 8

Powerman 5000, Burn the Fields, Switch56, Not Liable, Through Exile, Kamura and Psychotic Revelation, 5:15 p.m. Tickets \$18 in advance, \$20 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

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.

Cirque Éloize 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. www.chocolatefestival.net for details.

MONDAY/FEB. 9

Little Hugs, 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Valentine fun. Age 24-35

Chocolate Lovers Festival

February 7-8

City of Fairfax, Virginia

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.
- ❖ **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.

months with adult. 703-339-4610.
Early Reader Book Discussion, 3:30 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for titles. Age 6-8 with adult. 703-971-0010.

parking permits should use the visitor parking garage for \$1 per hour. Free food and giveaways will be provided. Contact Jessie Zahorian at jzahorian@nvcc.edu or 703-323-3484.

TUESDAY/FEB. 10

Soilwork Tour with Withersoul and Olympus Shall Burn, 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$22 in advance, \$25 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

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 festival schedule.

Virginia Housing Development Authority Homeownership Education Seminar, 6 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike. The lecture will cover financial responsibility, ways to use credit wisely, strategies to build financial security through homeownership, and a variety of mortgage loans available with affordable financing terms. Attendees without NOVA

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum Quarterly Forum, 7:30-9 p.m. at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Jon Vrana will present Voices from City Point, describing first hand perspectives of civilian and military personnel as they are thrust together at a small Virginia town that became Gen. Grant's critical supply depot in the last year of the war, encompassing repair shops, hospitals, numerous bakeries and 22 miles of track connecting the wharves to the Union lines. Admission free, donations accepted. 703-425-9225.
Springfield Art Guild February Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St. Springfield. Contact Donnalynne Lefever at 703-644-6677 or magickaldl@earthlink.net.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Micro Wrestling Federation, 9 p.m. \$15 in advance, \$20 day of show. Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

Springfield. jaxxroxx.com.

"Hay Fever," 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-2787 or www.tickets.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Friends Book Sale, 10 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Used Book Sale, 10 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Friends Book Sale. All ages. 703-339-7385.

VITA Tax Assistance, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

Animal Sweethearts Dance, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Music, dancing, crafts and more. Reservations required. For ages 3-8. \$6 per child. 703-451-9588.

Winter Tree Trek, 1-3:30 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Explore the woods and develop tree identification skills. Adults. Reservations required. \$6 per person. 703-768-2525.

Sherlock Bones, 1-3 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd.,

Alexandria. Skulls, skeletons and self-guided activities. Free. 703-768-2525.

"Hay Fever," 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, Black Box Theater, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 students and seniors. 703-993-2787 or www.tickets.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

N-Scale Model Trains Running at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum community room and caboose, 1-4 p.m. at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Admission is \$2 per adult and \$1 per child. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

Loisdale Court, Springfield. Members and first or second time visitors free. Non-members \$15.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

NARFE Springfield Chapter 893 Meeting, 1:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 176, 5620 Amherst Ave., Springfield. Ben Boxer, Communications & Outreach Manager, Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program will be speaker. rbricksin@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 17

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Diversity Committee, 9-10 a.m. at the United Central Bank, 6400 Brandon Ave., Springfield. Small, minority- and woman-owned businesses. 703-866-3500.

Schultz Circle, Fort Belvoir. For federal contractors looking for access to the procurement agencies at Fort Belvoir. Amanda Sapio at 703-752-7521 or asapio@fairfaxchamber.org.

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Community Business Partnership Brown Bag Lunch, 12 p.m. at 7001 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Members free, non-members \$5. Registration not required. Bring lunch, drinks and dessert provided. 703-866-3500

Ambassador Committee of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, 4:30-5 p.m. 6434 Brandon Ave., Suite 3A, Springfield. Jeff Scannell at 703-226-3226.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Networking Breakfast, 7:30-9 a.m. at the Comfort Inn Springfield, 6560

BULLETIN BOARD

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Mount Vernon's 22nd Annual Town Meeting, 7:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. Donations collected for the United Community Ministries Food Pantry. MtVernon@Fairfaxcounty.gov.

Lee District Open House, 1-3 p.m. at the Franconia Governmental Center, Alexandria. Meet Supervisor Jeff McKay and the Lee District Staff.

TUESDAY/FEB. 3

Clifton Town Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Hall, 703-923-3500.

GovCon Fort Belvoir Procurement Forum, 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club, Building 20, 5500

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Chamber Goes Online

FROM PAGE 2

ber, the future chamber, the electronic chamber if you will," said Weyland.

Richard Scully, owner of Chamber Nation, said that building a chamber online has many advantages, not the least of which is the ability to reach an untapped audience.

"Most chambers are all feel-good. It's 'join the chamber, we'll put you on the directory and you're supporting the community,'" said Scully. "The younger generation is not there."

If chambers of commerce are interested in continuing to be the go-to stop for local businesses, they have to at least consider adding a rigorous online component to their physical model, he said.

The online chamber model does have its downside. According to Weyland, the chamber would be less centralized and more reliant on the work each individual owner puts in to advertising and promoting his business. The South Fairfax Chamber will not host any community-wide events or promotions, except in a supporting role if such an event is already being organized.

THE CHAMBER, already up and running online, already boasts over 70 members from in and around southern Fairfax County. Weyland said they hope to have 100 before an inaugural meeting of businesses takes place on Feb. 19.

Chamber member David Saville Jr., owner of the American Bar-B-Que and Catering in Lorton, said one thing immediately jumped out at him when he caught wind of the idea.

"It's directly in my community," he said.

While he said he had not fully familiarized himself with the way the online model worked and hoped to get more information at the meeting, he said the prospect of moving chamber business to the web made sense.

"I think it will be easier, I really do. The way things are going today in my industry, people are finding us more through e-mails and online technology than



PHOTO BY DEREK B. JOHNSON/THE CONNECTION

Hidden Oasis Spa and Salon on Silverbrook Road in Lorton is one of over 70 businesses to join the newly formed South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

they are getting in their cars and seeing us face to face," said Saville.

Isabella Bratchelli, owner of the Hidden Oasis Spa Salon in Fairfax Station, said she was looking to join a chamber of commerce closer to her area of business when one day "out of the blue" Crow entered her store and passed along word of the newly formed chamber. She quickly joined, saying other chambers could not provide a focus on the Lorton and Laurel Hill area customers that formed an estimated 80 percent of her regular business.

"Especially when you're a small business, your community is your business," said Bratchelli.

Board Approves Middle School

FROM PAGE 2

miles away because South County is too overcrowded to accommodate all of the students who live nearby.

Some members of the school system's facilities department and School Board members from other parts of the county have expressed doubts about whether the South County Middle School is needed or not. Earlier in the process, staff had recommended the School Board either redraw the school boundaries or add an addition to the secondary school to deal with its overcrowding.

The school system has limited capital funding and while some people have doubts about the need for a South County Middle School, everyone agrees that other buildings in the school system that need renovations, said Dean Tistadt, the school system's chief operating officer.

"There is some ambiguity about the South County Middle School. ... But there is no ambiguity about the need to renovate Langley and West Springfield," he said.

At a time when the school system has insufficient

"It really completes the South County area and will accommodate all the growth that is taking place."

— School Board member Liz Bradsher (Springfield)

construction funds, School board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill) said the new South County Middle School was going to push back other projects that everyone on the School Board agreed needed to be done.

"This is \$30 million we don't have to build a building we don't need," said Gibson, who has regularly opposed pushing up the middle school in the construction queue.

"To balance the needs of children in South County on the backs of other children in the county is wrong. In my view, this is a political decision and I think that is sad," he said.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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Fine Dining in Clifton

**Heart in Hand Restaurant
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Clifton**
This restaurant is a wonderful place for any celebration or special occasion. They have special dinners on most holidays and are opened every day but Monday. The Heart in Hand Restaurant also caters and has a cookbook for purchase. The restaurant was originally founded in 1982 to arouse interest in the Clifton area with tea and lunch, but after popularity grew, dinner and holiday meals were added due to

customer demand. Many celebrities and distinguished figures have dined there such as Nancy Reagan and the cast of CATS, and they have catered several notable people as well, including Toni Morrison and Maya Angelo. For catering or reservation call 703-830-4111

Visit Georgetown

Bordered by the Potomac River, Rock Creek and Glover Park, Georgetown's heart is located on M Street and Wisconsin Avenue in North West D.C. It's home for high-fashion stores, outdoor bars and restaurants, boat races, as well as some embassies.

Other landmarks include Dumbarton Oaks, where the United Nations was outlined in 1944, and the oldest structure in D.C. — Georgetown Old Stone House. It is also the place where the movie 'The Exorcist' was filmed in 1973. The film's famous

staircase scene was located between Prospect Street and M Street.

Celebrate the Holidays

**Festival of Lights & Carols
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www.fairfaxva.gov**

During the month of December, the City of Fairfax becomes a winter wonderland with lights, decorations, caroling, musical performances and activities for the whole family. Santa pays a visit to Old Town Hall for a Saturday morning children's breakfast. St. Nick stays through the festival to meet with children. Visitors may partake in hot mulled cider while warming their hands by the

takes place on Sept. 12-13 this year, from late morning to about 5 p.m. This family-friendly affair features food, rides, games, and giveaways. There's live entertainment, and a large arts and crafts show with dozens of antique vendors. In the past, the festival has included live animal shows, wine tastings and local radio personalities.

Ring in the New Year

**First Fairfax
Old Town Fairfax
www.fairfaxva.gov**

This annual event offers family friendly fun on the night of Dec. 31. Events last year included ice-skating, carriage rides, comedy shows, laser light shows and areas specifically designed to entertain children of all ages. Food vendors are on hand, and the only fees the festival charged last year were for food purchases and skate rentals. Because a number of streets are closed for the event, shuttle buses are offered from both George Mason University and Fairfax High



Yule log.

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Bruins Overcome Key Loss

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

BY JASON MACKEY
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 MACKEY
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 Redfearn (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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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.

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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

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-



Bulova

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

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



Herrity

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
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General Assembly Watch: Barker

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

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.

Sen. George Barker (D-39), who sits on the Senate Education and Health Committee, sees storm clouds gathering on the horizon for Fairfax County schools.

"We have growing student populations, both in Fairfax and Prince William [counties]. We need to increase capacity," said Barker. "At the same time, we have schools that need to be renovated and tight budget situations that make it very difficult to fund projects."

In other words: More students, older buildings and not nearly enough county money to fix either problem.

In an effort to address this perfect storm, Barker has proposed legislation that would create a revolving school construction fund for Northern Virginia schools. The fund as he envisions it would draw donations from both the Commonwealth and a host of private businesses and charities from around the region who are looking to improve their local schools.

However, even if the bill is successful in the House and Senate, it was designed to slowly drip money into the funds over the years from public and private sources.

"If we were to be successful and get this passed, what we would have is the next year to get the [fund] up and running and hopefully a year from now, the economic situation improves and we'll be able to provide some funding for it," he said.

Barker claimed the bill was not designed specifically for the Northern Virginia area, but a provision in the bill would create an advisory board of state and local officials charged with oversight of the fund. The majority of that board, according to Barker, would be represented by localities like Fairfax and Prince William counties. Barker said taking the fund outside of direct state control was critical to ensuring that the money taken in is allowed to build up before being allocated.

Barker's bill is currently awaiting consideration in the Senate Committee on Local Government.

Barker will present a bill that makes cell phone use while driving a primary offense

for provisional drivers. The measure is intended to curb cell phone use among teen drivers, who made up nearly 12 percent of automobile fatalities in 2005 despite representing only 10 percent of the overall population, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I was for many years chair of the Fairfax County Transportation Commission, so I'm well aware of some of the traffic safety issues that we have," said Barker. "This is pretty much at the top of the list"

Barker has also proposed creating a joint subcommittee to study teenage drivers.

These days, a rundown of a Northern Virginia politicians' upcoming legislation isn't complete without discussing transportation. Legislation drawn up by Barker would require the

Commonwealth Transportation Board to utilize the estimated budget required to achieve "a minimum level of disparity" in highway maintenance funding across the state. He hopes the language of the bill will lead to Northern Virginia getting a larger cut of the transportation funds doled out by the state. Barker pointed to a 2007 Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) study on surface infrastructure, which found that highways in Northern Virginia were among the most poorly maintained in the state. However, the bill contains little in the way of specific benchmarks or figures mandating fund allocation.

"We're trying to make sure the roads are maintained to the same standard across Virginia," said Barker. "It doesn't say what that standard has to be, and it doesn't address the issue of how much money has to be allocated or what standard has to be applied."

"We're trying to make sure the roads are maintained to the same standard across Virginia," said Barker. "It doesn't say what that standard has to be, and it doesn't address the issue of how much money has to be allocated or what standard has to be applied."

More

To look up specific legislation drafted by Sens. Barker, Petersen and the rest of the Virginia General Assembly, visit <http://legis.state.va.gov>.

"I'm well aware of some of the traffic safety issues that we have."

— Sen. George Barker (D-39)

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21 Announcements



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 Olen; three sons, John E. Oien, Paul D. Olen both of Lancaster Virginia, James R. Oien and his wife Cynthia (Venable) Oien of Lively, Virginia. five granddaughters, Lauren Olen, 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

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.

The opening bid for the property will be \$825,000

The terms of payment will be:

A deposit equal to 20% of the highest bid on the property is required within 2 hours from the sale conclusion. The balance must be paid within 30 days or no later than 4:00 pm on March 24, 2009.

Payment of required deposit and balance of the purchase price must be paid by certified, cashier's or treasurer's check drawn on any bank or trust company incorporated under the laws of the United States. Payment may also be made by any United States postal, bank, express, or telegraph money order. All checks and money orders should be made payable to the United States Treasury.

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21 Announcements

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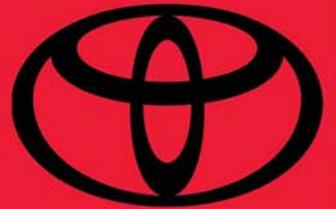
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21 Announcements

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