

Cascades **CONNECTION**

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Greening Loudoun

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Faith, PAGE 7 ♦ E, PAGE 8 ♦ Real Estate, PAGE 11 ♦ Sports, PAGE 12 ♦ Classifieds, PAGE 13

Neha Batra,
Supervisor Andrea
McGimsey (D-
Potomac) and
Katherine Kuan.



Vacancy To Fill

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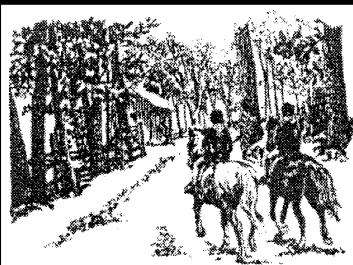
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Double-Digit Drop

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Twinge of The Macabre

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BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/FEB. 5

ASHBURN KIDS' BOOK CLUB will meet 7 p.m., at the Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. The club, recommended for ages 8-11, explores one award-winning, high-quality book. Registration required and begins four weeks before the program. Register at library.loudoun.gov or 703-737-8100.

CASCADES SENIOR CENTER camera club will meet 1 p.m., at the center, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Includes discussion on camera gear and the month's theme is Cameras 101, the month's display is Think Spring. Call 703-430-2397.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

LA LECHE LEAGUE OF ASHBURN will hold its next meeting 10:15 a.m., at the Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. The topic is "The Advantages of Breastfeeding." Pregnant and nursing women as well as their children are welcome to attend. Free. Call a La Leche League leader at 703-753-3214.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

BROAD RUN HIGH SCHOOL, 21670 Ashburn Road, Ashburn, is hosting its second annual "Spartan Spectacular" Winter Color Guard and Drum Line competition, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. More

than 60 teams from across the area will be participating. Admission: \$10 adults, \$7 students, free for children under 5.

STERLING BOULEVARD CLEANUP is scheduled 9 a.m.-12 p.m. and will start at the Park View Recycling Center, 400 W. Laurel Ave., Sterling. Volunteers needed. Call Kevin Chroninger at 703-406-7749 or visit www.sterlingfoundation.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 10

MAD SCIENTISTS' CLUB will meet 7 p.m., at the Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Children, 8-11, can explore scientific topics through fun and informational activities.

Register at library.loudoun.gov or 703-737-8100.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

MAGIC TREE HOUSE children's book club will meet 4 p.m., at the Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Recommended for children aged 7-9. Registration begins two weeks before the program. Register at library.loudoun.gov or 703-737-8100.

MOMS CLUB of Ashburn Farm is holding a Valentine's Day Party at the Ashburn Fire Department on Ashburn Road, from 3:30-5 p.m. Bring the children and enjoy fun treats. Jenn Schlosser, 703-858-1918.

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Going Green Organically

Supervisor Andrea McGimsey brings in two student interns to help Loudoun "go green."

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Loudoun's green revolution is growing organically thanks to two of the nation's brightest young minds who are helping the county become the standard, not the status quo.

Neha Batra and Katherine Kuan, both undergraduates at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the country's premier institutions of higher learning, responded to a pitch from Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac) to help the county promote and create a green infrastructure. Equipped with only limited knowledge of the area and a passion for energy issues, the two arrived Jan. 6, ready to take on a rather sizable foe.

BATRA, A FORT Lauderdale, Fla., native and junior majoring in electrical engineering, was assigned to focus on the residential aspect of energy conservation and efficiency. According to Batra, she was initially tasked with compiling information on what counties that were ahead of the energy



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

M.I.T. students and "green interns" Neha Batra and Katherine Kuan.

curve were doing so that Loudoun would have a model to build on.

Kuan, on the other hand, was assigned to handle the business and commercial aspect. Kuan, a senior double majoring in elec-

cal engineering and computer science originally from the Bay Area in California, said that she examined other localities and organizations in order to create ways to get businesses engaged in the cause.

"We met dynamic and interesting from all walks of life here," Kuan said. "They were already very passionate in promoting en

SEE INTERNS, PAGE 5

Property Values Fall

2009 Assessment Report shows double-digit drop in residential property values.

A 14.69 percent drop in the Loudoun's residential property tax assessments shows that the nation's fastest growing county is not immune to the reverberations of the sagging housing market.

According to the 2009 Annual Assessment Report compiled by County Assessor Todd Kaufman, the total value of single-family residential homes fell from \$44.1 billion in

Community activists and county officials' several efforts to invigorate the Sterling area with projects recommended by the Belfort Park Task Force and other proved not to be vain, as the assessment showed that the

Sterling District saw the largest declines countywide in property values.

ACCORDING TO the assessment, single-family residential property values declined 31.07

percent since last year, with townhouses and condominiums hit the hardest. The report states that townhouse values fell 33.64 percent, while condominiums tumbled more than 43 percent. Commercial property, like

See the Assessment

Go to www.loudoun.gov, click on the "government" tab at the top of the page, click "taxes" under the "Government in Loudoun County" subhead and click on the link to the Office of the County Assessor to see the 2009 Annual Assessment Report.

SEE PROPERTY, PAGE 11

McDonnell To Step Down

Bill Mims in-line to fill vacancy.

general have stepped down from this post in order to run for governor. It is the right and proper thing to do."

MCDONNELL NOTED that serving as attorney general "has been the highest professional honor of my life," citing the people and the duties of the office.

"The lawyers and professional staff with whom I work are dedicated public servants who serve the commonwealth selflessly," McDonnell said. "We enacted tough laws to combat sexual predators, made our Internet safety laws a national model, protected our environment, added important new safeguards for private property rights, protected Virginian's Second Amendment rights, combated gang violence and the tragedy of OxyContin addiction and abuse, reformed Virginia's mental health laws, strengthened our Homeland Security measures and established a Senior Alert to help locate missing senior citizens with

SEE MIMS, PAGE 7

WEEK IN LOUDOUN

Bowers Retires

Loudoun County Administrator Kirby M. Bowers announced his retirement after more than 31 years of service with the Loudoun County government. He has served as county administrator since June 1992. His retirement will be effective April 1.

Bowers, 56, has accepted a position as executive director of the Triangle J Council of Governments, which provides regional planning and administrative services for local governments in the greater Raleigh-Durham area of North Carolina.



Kirby Bowers

BRMC Rejected

By a margin of 5-4, the Board of Supervisors denied, Tuesday, Hospital Corporation of America's special exception and zoning modification application that would have permitted the company to build a 164-bed full-service hospital in Broadlands. Supervisors Kelly Burk (Leesburg), Susan Klimek Buckley (Sugarland Run), Eugene Delgaudio (Sterling), Sally Kurtz (Catoctin) and Lori Waters (Ashburn) voted against the applications.

"While today's decision is certainly disappointing to us, the real blow is to Loudoun County, whose hospital resources are inadequate to meet current community needs and will remain so," Margaret Lewis, president of HCA's Capital Division, said in a press release. "Loudoun loses not only the hospital beds and services it needs, but also the tax revenues, new jobs and charity care this facility would have generated — and it does so at a time when the county's financial health is fragile at best."

Support of Earth Day

The Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in support of Earth Day on April 22 and local Earth Day events being organized by the Broadlands Certified Community Wildlife Habitats Committee. The resolution was approved by a unanimous vote.

For information about EarthDay@Loudoun, contact the Broadlands Certified Community Wildlife Habitats Committee at 703-725-8040 or e-mail oya.simpson@gmail.com.

Carjacking and Pursuit

A Sterling man is facing serious charges after he allegedly carjacked a vehicle and then led deputies on a pursuit through CountrySide. The individual, 21, of Sterling, was charged with robbery (carjacking), driving under the influence, driving on a revoked license and disregarding a signal to stop.

Deputies were called to the 400 block of Enterprise Street shortly before 8 p.m., Saturday, where a female victim told authorities her car was stolen at knifepoint. The victim left her three child-aged family members and a friend in a car in front of the CVS. An unknown Hispanic male entered the vehicle, eventually brandished a knife and told the occupants to get out. The suspect then drove away.

Approximately 30 minutes later a deputy on patrol on Route 7 observed a vehicle driving erratically in the area of Davenport Drive. The deputy initiated traffic stop and the vehicle pulled into a parking lot. The vehicle continued through the parking lot and then turned onto CountrySide Boulevard. During the pursuit it was learned the vehicle was involved in a reported car jacking.

The vehicle continued to flee deputies before losing control and ran into a median. The vehicle traveled into the opposite lanes where it eventually stopped. The driver then attempted to flee on foot but was apprehended by a Loudoun County Sheriff's Office K9 unit. The man is being held without bond at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center.

Committee Seeks Public Input

The joint Board of Supervisors and School Board committee is seeking public comment on the county/school land-acquisition process. The joint committee will hold a public input session, Thursday, Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m., in the Board Room of the Loudoun County Public Schools Administration Building, 21000 Education Court, Ashburn.

POLITICS

Parents Seek Help

More than 100 hundred speak at Richmond hearing.

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 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 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."

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 Delegate 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 individuals with mental retardation.

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



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Fairfax County resident Helen Hollis thanked legislators for her son's MR waiver.

"We're trying to do as little damage as possible to public education and services."

— Sen. Janet Howell (D-32)

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 disabled 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, teenagers 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.

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 will 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 Delegates Dave Marsden (D-41), David Poisson (D-32), Tom Rust (R-86), and Mark Sickles (D-43).

COMMUNITY NOTES

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

The **AARP Tax Aide Program** will have IRS-certified counselors at the Cascades Library, 21030 Whiffield Place, Potomac Falls, to prepare federal and state tax returns Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., **through April 14**. There is no charge for this service and you do not need to be an AARP member. Bring photo identification, social security cards for taxpayer, spouse and dependents, all tax documents received for 2008, receipts for medical, tax, interest and charitable expendi-

tures, a copy of 2007 tax returns (federal and state) and the amount of the stimulus payment you received in 2008.

The Loudoun County Department of Animal Care and Control will hold its **Furry Friday program**, where adoptable animals visit the Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling on Fridays, **Feb. 6 and Feb. 23**, 5-7 p.m. Visit www.loudoun.gov/animals.

The **Loudoun Valley HomeGrown Markets Association** is accepting applications for its summer farmers markets. The season runs May-October in Leesburg, Ashburn, Middleburg, Purcellville, Lovettsville and Cascades. Anyone wishing to participate must fill out an application and submit it to the LVHMA board by **Feb. 6**. Applications received after this date will be considered on a space available basis. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance to the LVHMA markets by Feb. 23. There are also a few spaces available at the LVHMA winter market, which runs Saturdays, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., at Virginia Village Shopping Center, 32 Catoctin Circle S.E., Leesburg, through April 25. Visit www.loudounfarmersmarkets.org or call market coordinator Judy Stroske at 540-454-8089.

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program**, locally known as the Northern Virginia CASH is seeking volunteers to deliver free tax preparation services at no cost to working families and individuals in the community who earned less than \$42,000 in 2008. Contact Karen Velez, 703-771-5718.

NEWS

Interns Lead Green Charge

FROM PAGE 3

ergy efficiency, so for us, it was only a matter of getting them together."

Loudoun, as evidenced by their first-place award in the Virginia Municipal League's inaugural Green Government Challenge, had a desire to expand their green practices to the citizens, so McGimsey reached out. She posted a job pitch on a database for M.I.T. students and Kuan and Batra both responded. After ironing out the particulars of the one-month internship, McGimsey sent the two, who did not know each other previously, two 100-page documents on climate change and energy efficiency in the area to prepare them.

"I was looking at the postings and I was interested in this because you can take risks [because it is a newer field]," Kuan said. "Plus, my work in the M.I.T. Society of Women Engineers translated into a passion for community organizing."

Once they arrived, they hit the ground running. Within days, they were sitting at the head of a conference table, pitching energy ideas to a group of people whom they had never met. Batra's goal was to persuade local homeowners associations to form a "Green Homeowners Association Coalition" that would promote energy conservation in individual communities. For her part, Kuan's

mission was to garner interest in a "Green Business Awards" program designed to recognize businesses that made commitments to energy efficiency.

THEIR INITIATIVES got off to a slow start, as only six people were in attendance at the initial meeting. However, that number more than doubled at the next meeting, growing to 16. Soon, by the third and final meeting, they not only had fleshed out ideas, but also the support of people like Karen Ficker, president of Community HOA and Martha Kaczmarczyk, property manager of Cascades.

Batra's fleshed out plan focused on getting more HOAs to become a member of the Green HOA Coalition. When enough HOAs were members, Batra's plan called for those groups deciding upon green standards for their respective communities. Once the standards are put in place, then energy efficient products like insulating windows and roofing would be purchased in bulk from a distributor, lowering the cost for the HOAs and installed.

Kuan's plan called for the implementation of the "Green Business Awards." Businesses participating in the program would be given a checklist of 53 things that a business can do to be more energy efficient, ranging from changing to energy saving light bulbs to



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

Local residents and business leaders gather for a meeting hosted by Neha Batra and Katherine Kuan in the Lowes Island Community Center.

recycling to improving air quality. As the businesses complete the checklist, they reach different levels of achievement.

"I think that businesses are interested in going green," Kuan said. "They all want to save money, but they do not know how to do the things they need to [to become green]. Being recognized as a leader in the community is a great incentive as well."

THE TWO COMPLETED their time in Loudoun with a final meeting Jan. 30, where they laid out the blueprints for what needs to be done after they leave to complete their vision and keep Loudoun on track to becoming a green leader. They drafted a document titled "The Top 12 Energy Saving Strategies for Loudoun County"

so that there was a plan to follow and then wrote draft letters that the people in attendance could send to their HOAs and government officials to help draw interest and support.

After leaving the county's green fate in the hands of residents and business leaders, Batra and Kuan headed back to Boston for the start of the spring semester with not only new experiences, but also with a new friendship.

"Essentially, we came in wanting to help out and make an impact and I think we accomplished that goal," Batra said. "We got to impact the community and have fun. Plus, we didn't know each other before, so through this experience we have been able to become friends."

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OPINION

Importance of College Options

Northern Virginia Community College will have a growing and critical role in coming decade.

Here in Northern Virginia, residents, businesses and government all recognize the importance of quality public schools. Great schools benefit everyone, not just families with children in school.

In Fairfax County, the public schools absorb more than half the county funds available. In Loudoun, the percentage is much higher. Spending per student in Arlington and Alexandria demonstrate those localities' commitment to their public schools as well.

Another critical component of the quality of life, education and the economy here is the Northern Virginia Community College. While it's hard to overstate the importance of NOVA, the second largest community college in the nation with more than 60,000 students, will play an even bigger role in the decade to come.

While NVCC (or NOVA as it is more commonly known), along with local school districts, has taken its share of budget cuts, the General Assembly should not take steps to cap

EDITORIAL

its tuition. Northern Virginia Community College offers access to high quality college classes and degree programs at a very affordable price (well under \$3,000 annual tuition for a full-time student) and also offers support to students with financial need in a variety of ways. The school must have some flexibility to manage its revenues to continue to meet growing demand.

NOVA is one of the most internationally diverse colleges in the United States, with students from more than 180 countries; international students make up about 20 percent of student population.

The community college conducts significant outreach to the many students in Northern Virginia high schools who could be the first in their family to go to college, many of them immigrants. This is a critical link to the American dream.

NOVA provides an affordable path to a four-year college degree, plus provides certificates and training in careers high in demand like nursing and health care, "green" technologies.

With even many affluent families feeling the effects of the economic crisis, many students in Northern Virginia will need to find alternatives to paying full freight for four years of college education.

NOVA accepts IB and AP credits, so an advanced student from Fairfax County could arrive at NOVA with a year's worth of college credit, get an associates degree in one year at an affordable rate, and then transfer to a four-year college, finishing in three years and potentially cutting their college costs in half.

Students who graduate from NOVA with an associate's degree and a minimum grade point average are guaranteed admission to other Virginia colleges and universities, including George Mason University, the University of Virginia, and the College of William and Mary.

NOVA has campuses in Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Springfield and Woodbridge along with educational centers in Reston and Arlington. NOVA offers more than 160 certificate programs and degrees at the associate's level, along with distance learning programs.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gift Beyond Measure

To the Editor:

More than a thousand Loudoun residents gave special gifts to the special people in their lives this past holiday season. They gave the gift of shelter to the homeless, health care to the poor, hope to people living with a mental illness, friendship to a homebound senior and much, much more. They did all this by participating in the Saint Gabriel's Alternative Gift Fair (AGF). To these Loudoun residents who helped the community while giving a meaningful gift for Christmas, Hanukkah or Ramadan, we say thank you. Your generosity provided \$34,046 to local nonprofits helping your neighbors in need.

Thanks to the Alternative Gift Fair's amazing sponsors, every cent given goes directly to help nonprofits and Loudoun residents. We are deeply grateful to the generous and gracious employees of NEW Customer Service Companies for their contributions and to NEW management for matching their employees' donations dollar for dollar. Event sponsors such as Blue Ridge Title & Escrow; Bob Miller with Southern Trust Mortgage; Michael J. O'Connor with O'Connor & Fierce Associates; Mel Pine with Allstate Insurance; Dr.

Gordon Culp; Peter Burnett with Burnett & Williams, the Luckett's Community Advisory Board; and Waterford Development contributed greatly to this year's AGF success. Special thanks to Inova Loudoun Hospital for the significant contribution that helped us to surpass last year's AGF totals and break the \$30,000 goal we had set. Lastly, thank you to the staff and management at Sonabank for donating venue space and going above and beyond to welcome and accommodate the gift fair volunteers and "shoppers."

Sponsors are vital to the AGF's success, but it's the support of Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church that is essential. Pastor Jeunée Cunningham and her parishioners have our heartfelt appreciation for the many months they worked tirelessly to make this AGF the best ever. They secured generous sponsors, reached out to the media, located fair venues, set up online giving, staffed the fair and volunteered countless hours.

What began four years ago as Saint Gabriel's gift to the community has grown into an opportunity for the Loudoun community — in particular the faith community — to shine. We celebrate the interfaith collaboration that brought the AGF to Sha'are Shalom and Beth Chaverim Reform Jewish Congregations, St. James Episcopal Church and the All

Dulles Area Muslim Society.

We commend all who made this Alternative Gift Fair such a success and gave a gift beyond measure — they helped Loudoun County experience true community in troubled times. We look forward to seeing you and your family and friends at the 2009 AGF.

Barbara Simpson, Blue Ridge Speech & Hearing; **Bill Haney**, Every Citizen Has Opportunities (ECHOworks); **Julie Pastore**, Friends of Homeless Animals;

Judy Hines, Friends of Loudoun Mental Health; **Vickie Koth**, Good Shepherd Alliance;

Yvette Castro-Green, La Voz of Loudoun; **Andy Johnston**, Loudoun Cares; **Kim Burk**, Loudoun Families for Children;

Jennifer Montgomery, Loudoun Free Clinic; **Alta Jones**, Loudoun Habitat for Humanity; **Bonnie Inman**,

Loudoun Interfaith Relief;

Candace Kroehl, Loudoun Literacy Council; **Amy Shelton**, Loudoun Volunteer Caregivers

Are We Catching-22?

To the Editor:

The expression, "Catch-22" was one of the first few new phrases that I learned when I came to the United States twenty some years

ago.

Today, I think the new administration may feel that way. Headline news this morning read: "WASHINGTON (Jan. 21) - After the flub heard around the world, President Barack Obama has taken the oath of office. Again. Chief Justice John Roberts delivered the oath to Obama on Wednesday night at the White House — a rare do-over."

Was that necessary? The first thing that came to my mind was the classic question: how can we balance democracy and efficiency? As human beings, we have limited energy and time to spare.

I agree with Obama's practical approach to the foreign policies. However, it is a Catch-22 when the American government uses any sensitive terms such as "Communism." The government newspaper in China got some "hiccups" when its writers tried to translate this sentence from Obama's speech: "Recall that earlier generations faced down fascism and communism not just with missiles and tanks, but with the sturdy alliances and enduring convictions." ...

As a Chinese native, I know there are few who still believe the ideology of extreme Communism in China.

Daniel Nie
Ashburn

THE CONNECTION

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Newspaper of
Cascades

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NEWS

Mims In-Line for Job

FROM PAGE 3

mental deficiencies. Eighty-three of our legislative proposals were passed and signed into law by the governor, most with overwhelming bipartisan support."

MCDONNELL ALSO ANNOUNCED that he is asking the General Assembly to appoint Chief Deputy Attorney General Bill Mims, a former state senator from Loudoun County, as the 45th Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The responsibility for choosing a new attorney general due to a resignation rests with the General Assembly if a vacancy occurs during the legislative session. It rests with the governor if the vacancy occurs when the General Assembly is not in session.

Mims is a veteran of Virginia politics, having represented parts of Loudoun County in the House of Delegates from 1992-1997 and from the state Senate

"I fully support his run for governor and the staff and I want to continue on the path he has set."

— Bill Mims,
chief deputy attorney general

Mims said that with the tradition of attorneys general stepping down when running for governor, he knew for some time that McDonnell's resignation was a possibility so there was no great shock. Mims also said that there are no other candidates vying for the spot, so he expects the official appointment to be handed down by the General Assembly when they appoint new judges on Feb. 25.

— JUSTIN FANIZZI

PEOPLE NOTES



PHOTO BY MICHAEL ROYTEK

Inauguration Scouts

Three local Boy Scouts volunteered at Barack Obama's Inauguration on Tuesday, Jan. 20, in Washington, D.C. From left, Alan Lambert, Scout executive of the National Capital Area Council Boy Scouts of America, is briefed early on Inauguration Day by Scouts Azraf Ullah of Herndon; Will Danning of Fairfax and Hamza Hooke of Sterling on the Boy Scouts' flag distribution plan.

Send announcements to loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Del. David Poisson (D-32) has appointed **Ibrahim Moiz** to be his legislative assistant in the upcoming General Assembly session, which convenes Jan. 14. Moiz served last year as law clerk to Maryland District Court Judge Thomas Love and more recently in the Fairfax law firm of Garbia, MacGregor & Plocki. He also previously served as director of civil rights for the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

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Chris Kingery of the Loudoun County Office of Transportation Services has received the "Unsung Hero" award from the Chesapeake Chapter of the Association for Commuter Transportation, which includes Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., and West Virginia. Kingery was nominated for her outstanding customer service skills in dealing with the growing ridership of LC Transit, the county's commuter bus program.

Coed Venturing Crew 761, chartered by the Rotary Club of Sterling, recently held its eighth annual Court of Honor where one Outdoor Bronze, three Gold, four Ranger and nine Silver

awards were presented to local Venturers. In addition, five BSA Scuba and Snorkeling, and two Recruiter special awards were presented to Venturers and Advisors.

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors appointed **Joseph G. Paciulli** to serve on the Loudoun County Economic Development Commission as member emeritus for 2009. The commission serves as a forum through which business and government leaders meet to exchange ideas. It is organized with 27 voting members, featuring representatives from key economic development businesses and organizations from diverse industries.

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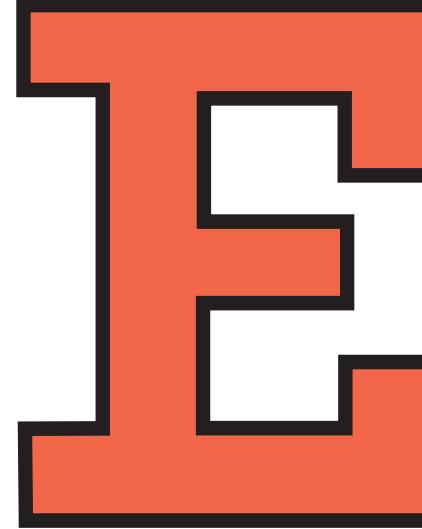
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A Bit of 'Arsenic and Old Lace'

Dominion High School stages classic period comedy Feb. 5-8

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Food & Drink

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

Tuscarora Mill Restaurant, 203 Harrison St. S.E., Leesburg, is hosting a Victory Brewery dinner Wednesday, **Feb. 4**, 7 p.m. Five courses of Tuskie's food and five beers will be served. The restaurant will also host their annual sparkling wine dinner Saturday, **Feb. 7**, 7 p.m. Sample champagne from France as well as sparkling wines from California and Australia, all matched with food. Cost: \$110 per person. Call 703-771-9300 or visit www.tuskies.com.

Tarara Vineyard and Winery, 13648 Tarara Lane, Leesburg, is hosting a "Time to Wine Anti-Valentine's Day Affair" Saturday, **Feb. 7**, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wine and cheese tasting for singles. Fees apply. Call 703-771-7100.

Demystify decanters, glassware and the gamut of wine accessories at an **oenology seminar** Sunday, **Feb. 8**, 1-3 p.m., at Tarara Winery, 13648 Tarara Lane, Leesburg. \$15 per person; fee for Wine Club members. Tarara will also host a **Valentine's wine dinner** Saturday, **Feb. 14**, 6:30 p.m., fee TBD. Tarara will also host a **day of wine sampling** and live jazz Saturday, **Feb. 28**, 11 a.m. Tasting fees apply. Call 703-771-7100.

Willowcroft Farm Vineyards, 38906 Mount Gilead Road, Leesburg, offers gourmet sweets and ice and dessert wines for Valentine's Day Saturday, **Feb. 14**, 12:45-30 p.m. Cost: \$12 per person. Call 703-777-0426.

Tuscarora Mill Restaurant, 203 Harrison St. S.E., Leesburg, is hosting an Australian wine dinner Wednesday, **Feb. 25**, 7 p.m. Wines made from Semillon, Shiraz and Grenache will be paired with Tuscarora's interpretations of Australian culinary classics. Cost: \$95 per person. Call 703-771-9300.

The Arts

An **exhibition of quilts** made by members of the CountrySide Quilt Guild is on display at the Loudoun County Government Center's Gallery One, Government Center, first floor, 1 Harrison St. S.E., Leesburg. Ten quilters are participating in the exhibit, which showcases more than a dozen quilts. The quilts can be viewed through the month of **February** during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The **Sterling Playmakers** are holding open auditions for John Bishop's "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" Friday, **Feb. 6**, 7-9 p.m., and Saturday, **Feb. 7**, 1-4 p.m., at Sterling Middle School, 201 W. Holly Ave., Sterling. Auditions should be at least age 18-years-old. Visit www.sterlingplaymakers.com or e-mail mcm1940@sterlingplaymakers.com.

A special exhibit of paintings by **Lavonne Donohue** opens **Feb. 6**, at Gallery 222, 222 S. King St., Leesburg, and runs through the month. Donohue is a member of the Loudoun Sketch Club and the Loudoun Arts Council. Visit www.gallery222.com or call 703-777-5498.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Dominion High School students in "Arsenic and Old Lace," top row, from left, Matt Eisenberg, Desi Sipes, Bryan Fountain, Rachel Ayers, Fiona Ritchey, Taylor Barrett, Julia Germain, Chris Wolf and Eric Abrahamsen. Bottom row, Stephanie Booth, Barbara Rion, Ty Sheedlo, Tyler Grad and James Russell.

To Go

"ARSENIC AND OLD LACE"

Performances: Feb. 5-8 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m.
Location: Dominion High School Auditorium, 21326 Augusta Drive, Sterling
Cost: \$7 students and children; \$8 adults; tickets can be purchased at the door.

around." He hopes to study music in college.

JULIA GERMAIN, 17, of Lowes Island, plays Elaine Harper, the not-so-smart girlfriend of Mortimer. "Elaine is very flirtatious to say the least," she said. "She is definitely promiscuous." She spends the whole time trying to get Mortimer to pay attention to her. "It's hard to be that promiscuous or that flirty," she adds.

Tyler Grad, 18, of Seneca Ridge, plays Officer O'Hara, the archetype of a bumbling Brooklyn police officer. "He simply lacks the perception of putting 2 and 2 together." He said the challenge was "dumbing myself down" to making simple statements. And the fun part is that he gets to act outrageously.

Stephanie Booth, 15, of Seneca Ridge, plays Ethel Gibbs, a lonely old lady who rents a room from the Brewsters. "They try to kill her, but she gets away," she said.

Herschel is playing an older woman with a lower voice. In one scene she gets chased while wearing heels. "I'm scared I'm

"It's hysterical and the actors continually bring their own zany personalities that add to the production."

— Amy Young, drama director

Ty Sheedlo, 16, of Lowes Island, plays Dr. Einstein, who has a drinking problem. "I get

to act really stupid and do some funny things," he said. But the biggest challenge is having to act drunk. He also plays the character using a fake German accent.

Matt Eisenberg, 17, of Lowes Island, plays a cop named Brophy who has Brooklyn accent, and "not the brightest guy in the world," he said. "He thinks he's very smart and intelligent, but actually he's a goof." Barbara Rion, 16, of Rivercrest in Sterling, plays Lt. Rooney. "She is a really determined, domineering officer," which is fun because most of the guys in the police force are taller and idiotic, "so the contrast is really funny."

James Russell, 15, of Lowes Island, plays Elaine's father, the Rev. Harper, a similar role to one he played in "Little Women." The dad doesn't approve of his daughter going out late and coming home at 3 in the morning. "There's a lot of fun people in the cast," he added.

Erik Abrahamsen, 15, of Sterling, plays Officer Klein who has a thick Brooklyn accent. "I just like being part of this community of everybody here at Dominion." He said getting down the accent is a bit difficult, but he uses his grandma's New York accent as a guide. He said he hopes to study musical theater in college.

Her challenge is playing an older woman with a lower voice. In one scene she gets chased while wearing heels. "I'm scared I'm

going to fall on my face in front of everyone," she said.

Erik Abrahamsen, 15, of Sterling, plays Officer Klein who has a thick Brooklyn accent. "I just like being part of this community of everybody here at Dominion." He said getting down the accent is a bit difficult, but he uses his grandma's New York accent as a guide. He said he hopes to study musical theater in college.

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CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION. 10:45 a.m.-3 p.m., Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Travel to the Thomas Balch Library for a tour of the facility, discussion about black history and lunch at a local restaurant. Registration required, call Erik Onate, 703-430-2397.

THURSDAY/FEB. 5

CRIME CAPER MYSTERY. 4 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Children, ages 8-11, can help solve the mystery of a missing item. Registration begins two weeks before the program online at library.loudoun.gov or by phone at 703-444-3228.

PAJAMA TIME

7:30 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Children ages 3-8 can

wear their pajamas and bring a teddy bear to this story time featuring the books of author Sandra Boynton. Registration required; visit library.loudoun.gov or call 703-430-9500.

FRIDAY/FEB. 6

LED ZEPPELIN. 7 p.m., Ned Devine's Irish Village, 21800 Town Center Plaza, Sterling. The Paul Green School of Rock Music will play Led Zeppelin's greatest hits. Cost: \$10. Call 703-444-7873 or visit www.irishvillage.neddevines.com.

ARCHEOLOGY

7 p.m., the Loudoun Museum, 16 Loudoun St. S.W., Leesburg. Tammy L. Bryant, M.A., a senior archeologist at Thunderbird Archeology, will share the results of her archaeological excavations in Loudoun County. Cost: \$5 per person. Call 703-777-7427.

SOMEBOUNNY TO LOVE

5-7 p.m., Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. The Loudoun County Animal Shelter and RabbitWise are teaming up to help shelter rabbits find new homes. Visit www.loudoun.gov to see rabbits available for adoption.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

LED ZEPPELIN. 7 p.m., Ned Devine's Irish Village, 21800 Town Center Plaza, Sterling. The Paul Green School of Rock Music will play Led Zeppelin's greatest hits. Cost: \$10. Call 703-444-7873 or visit www.irishvillage.neddevines.com.

STORY TIME MATINEE

2 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Stories, songs, a video storybook and a craft. Ages 3-6. Visit library.loudoun.gov for details.

SUNDAY/FEB. 8

BLUEGRASS JAM. 2:30-4:30 p.m., Heritage Farm Museum, 21668 Heritage Farm Lane, Sterling. Join musicians from the region in an afternoon of music. Free to visitors who bring a musical instrument. Refreshments provided. Blue Grass Jams will run the second and fourth Sundays through June. Call 571-258-3800 or visit www.heritagfarmmuseum.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 9

BUDDY STORY TIME. 4:30 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Encourage a child's love of books by pairing him with a teen reading buddy for one-on-one reading time. Recommended for ages 3-6. Visit library.loudoun.gov.

ALL ABOUT ARTHUR

4 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. A fun-filled time with books about Arthur and his buddies. Recommended for ages 6-11. Register at library.loudoun.gov or 703-430-9500.

SNOWFLAKES

9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Explore snow, winter cold and how the animals make it through these chilly months. Cost: \$10.50 per child. Ages 3-6. Call 571-258-3700.

VALENTINE'S CRAFTS

3-6 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Brigid's Faire Winter Music Festival features live music throughout the day. Free admission prior to 3 p.m., \$5 fee after that. Recommended for ages 6-11. Register at library.loudoun.gov or 703-430-9500.

STORY TIME MATINEE

2 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Stories, songs, a video storybook and a craft. Ages 3-6. Visit library.loudoun.gov.

TUESDAY/FEB. 10

FILM FESTIVAL. 7 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. "The Defiant Ones" will be shown in the second installment of the Sidney Poitier film festival. Visit library.loudoun.gov.

SUSAN CRITES

7 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Special story time with Susan Crites, Warrenton resident and children's author of "I Love You More Than Rainbows." Call 703-430-9500.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

BIRDING BANSHEE. 8 a.m., Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, The Woods Road, Leesburg. Join Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy and the Friends of Banshee Reeks for the monthly bird walk. Bring binoculars. Contact Joe Coleman at 540-554-2542 or jcoleman@loudbansheewildlife.org.

VALENTINE'S DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

11 a.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Children, ages 3-10, are invited to a morning of Valentine stories, activities and card making. Registration begins two weeks before the program, either online at library.loudoun.gov or by phone on 703-430-9500.

MIROSLAV LONCAR

7 p.m., Park View High School, 400 W. Laurel Ave., Sterling. Guitarist Miroslav Loncar will give a solo concert. Music books will be available for sale and donations will be accepted for the Aguado Guitar Club.

GUITAR COMPETITION

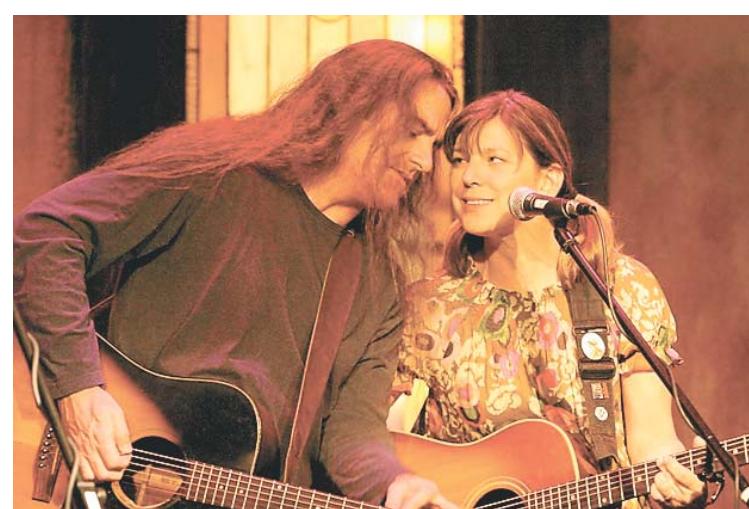
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WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

VALENTINE'S PARTY/DANCE. 2-4 p.m., Senior Center Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Music provided by disc jockey Sky Dantinne, includes door prizes, light refreshments. Transportation provided afterward. Cost: \$3 for members in advance, \$5 day of and for nonmembers. Call 703-430-2397.

TUESDAY/FEB. 17

ME AND MY WORLD. 4 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Explore books about your favorite dogs at this program called "Big Red Puppy Love." Register at library.loudoun.gov or 703-430-9500.



Stacey Earle and Mark Stuart perform as part of the Shenandoah Coffeehouse Series, Feb. 14, at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Loudoun.

CONTRIBUTED

SUSAN CRITES, 11:15 a.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Special story time with Susan Crites, Warrenton resident and children's author of "I Love You More Than Rainbows." Call 703-430-9500.

COLONIAL KITCHEN, 3:30-5 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Visit Lanesville House, explore the architecture during the colonial period. Cost: \$10.50 per child. Ages 6-10. Call 571-258-3700.

THEATER TRIP. The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, will take a trip to Baltimore, Md., to Toby's Dinner Theatre for the production of "Sophisticated Ladies." Cost: \$61 for members, \$63 for nonmembers, includes transportation, show, buffet lunch and tip. Minimum walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure and return times and locations.

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

SUSAN CRITES, 11:15 a.m., Cascades Library,

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Debra MacLean checks a nest box for bluebird activity.

CONTRIBUTED

The Nesting Instinct

Local mom finds joy in helping bluebirds with their brood

BY BONNIE EATON
LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

For Lowes Island resident Debra MacLean, home making is not just what she does for herself and her family. She also provides for Loudoun's bluebirds. "Before the kids, my husband and I used to go for day hikes nearly every weekend," said the mother of three. "We loved the open spaces and enjoying nature, some of which included birding. I had always been interested in birding, but only as a novice."

MacLean has turned her curiosity into a full-fledged passion.

"Several years ago, I was home schooling my children," she said, "and I saw an ad for volunteers for the Virginia Bluebird Society. I thought this would be a wonderful opportunity for my children to learn about volunteering, while also learning about birds."

A MONITOR FOR four years, MacLean is now the bluebird monitoring trail leader for Algonkian Regional Park in Sterling. She coordinates the efforts of three other bluebird monitors. "I'd love to have more volunteers," she said. "We always need people to fill in the occasional gaps due to conflicting schedules."

Before she became a stay-at-home mom and part-time virtual assistant, MacLean was a marketing executive for a nonprofit organization. No stranger to volunteering, she also donates time to her children's school, her church and other groups. "I'm a busy mother," she said. "I find my time out monitoring is extremely relaxing, even when the kids are with me. Anyone who loves spending time outdoors and

watching our local wildlife would find a lot of joy in monitoring the bluebirds."

Because the bluebird trail at Algonkian is on the golf course, MacLean can make her rounds with the aid of a golf cart. She takes along a waste receptacle and a notebook for observations. First, she taps lightly on the box to give the mother bird a chance to leave. Then, she unscrews the front cover. If the nest is old and abandoned, she disposes of it. She checks for predator activity. If there are eggs, she counts them and checks for progress in hatching. If there are fledglings, she also does a count and checks for overall health. Sometimes, a tree swallow or house wren is using the nest. She leaves these undisturbed.

As a dedicated parent herself, her affection for bluebirds grows every year. "Bluebirds are good parents," she said. "They will continue to feed their babies even after they've fledged."

LOUDOUN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY works in conjunction with the Virginia Bluebird Society (VBS) to ensure quality results. VBS provides specially designed nest boxes and establishes the monitoring protocol. The data gathered by MacLean and other monitors is turned over to VBS which makes it available to other state and national organizations.

"More boxes could be placed in parks throughout the county," MacLean said, "but to keep the program effective, nesting and breeding activity should be monitored by volunteers. I'd love to see more Scouts getting involved with bluebird monitoring, maybe for merit badges or for Eagle Scout projects."

MacLean has been a "witness to the beauty of new life," as well as attacks by predators. Once, she came upon a foraging snake. "Bluebirds are among the most beautiful creatures on Earth," she said, "but they are also incredibly vulnerable."

To become a Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy bluebird monitor for a public trail, or to start your own trail at home, contact Elizabeth Evans at eevans@loudounwildlife.org for more information.

REAL ESTATE

Property Values See Decline

FROM PAGE 3

the rest of the county, grew in the Sterling District, but instead of enjoying the sizable growth of its compatriots, it barely eked out a gain of 0.85 percent.

Though the Potomac District's home value did not fall as sharply as in Sterling, it certainly was not the exception to the rule. Single-family residential units dropped more than 16 percent in value, with condos being affected the worst again, falling 21.7 percent. Commercial values grew even less in Potomac than they did in Sterling, notching a 0.70 percent increase.

Rounding out the Sterling area, the Sugarland Run District's single-family residential property values fell by 14.90 percent. The downward trend in condominiums continued in Sugarland Run with a 30.3 percent drop.

As made clear by these three districts, condominiums saw the biggest slide, dropping 24.11 percent this year alone.

Reflective of the nationwide problem in the housing market, there was a sharp decline in the number of properties sold and an equally sharp increase in

foreclosures. According to the report, there were 23,000 property transfers in 2007 and only 16,500 in 2008. The rash of foreclosures across the area was conveyed in the assessment, where there was a 57.2 percent increase shown from 2007 to 2008. The report states that there were 1,260 foreclosures in 2007, compared with 2,200 in 2008.

Kaufman, in his conclusion to the report, painted a picture very similar to the previous year's in regard to expected value fluctuations. Kaufman stated that residential properties will continue their downward trend in the next year while he expects commercial properties to rise in value due to planned projects that will bring growth for the remainder of the decade.

"Real estate values are expected to continue to decline in Loudoun County in 2009," Kaufman wrote. "Even with this trend, Loudoun County continues to grow as exemplified by the projected change in parcels from 2008 to 2009 Based on this and other contributory factors, commercial development is expected to continue."

— JUSTIN FANIZZI

REAL ESTATE NOTES

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

The Virginia Housing Development Authority is offering a free

homeownership education class Tuesday, **Feb. 24** and Thursday, **Feb. 26**, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the Leesburg Safety Center, 65 Plaza St., Leesburg. Topics include credit issues, personal finances, home inspections and the role of lenders and real estate agents. Call Chris Vogel at 703-777-0353 in advance to ensure homeownership classes have not been cancelled.

BUSINESS NOTES

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

Pink Karma Salon and Spa, at 20960 Southbank St., Sterling, is holding a grand opening party, Friday, **Feb. 13**, from 4-9 p.m. Pink Karma will be offering specials on spa services like manicures and facials, as well as complimentary makeup consultations with product purchases, massages and henna tattoos. There will also be refreshments, gift bags, prizes and even a chance to win an Aveda gift basket worth more than \$200. For more information, visit www.pinkkarmasalon.com, e-mail info@pinkkarmasalon.com or call 703-

Loudoun Convention and Visitors Association is accepting nominations for the 2008 LCVA Annual Tourism Awards. All award entries must be for individuals, organizations or programs and recognize accomplishments for activities or events that occurred or were completed during 2008. Entries must be received at the LCVA Office or by online submission by 5 p.m., Tuesday, **Feb. 17**.

The **Loudoun County Department of Economic Development**, through its volunteer initiative, Loudoun Places, will be hosting a Business Association Summit Monday, **Feb. 23**, 6-8 p.m., at Rehau, 1503 Edwards Ferry Road N.E., Leesburg. The objective is for existing business associations in Loudoun to share about the benefits they offer

members, greatest successes and lessons learned. Registration is free; preregistration is requested. Contact Philip Denino at the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development, 703-777-0585 or philip.denino@loudoun.gov.

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

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

FAITH NOTES

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

Each 10:30 a.m. Sunday service at **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling**, 22135 Davis Drive, Sterling, has a different topic. The **Feb. 8** service is "Your One Wild and Precious Life." The **Feb. 15** service is "Ambiguity-The Challenge and the Responsibility." The **Feb. 22** service is "Agape, on the Rocks." Call 703-406-3068.

American Red Cross. About 30 mission members signed in for the blood donation and 21 units of blood were collected. The mission is expecting to hold another blood drive in April 2009.

The **Jewish "Lunch and Learn"** schedule for 2009 has been announced. The program consists of lunch-time studies, featuring five rabbis from western Fairfax and Loudoun counties. The sessions will be held at noon on Wednesdays, **Feb. 11-June 17**. All sessions are "brown bag" lunches and will be held in Sterling. Free. E-mail to JewishStudies.Teacher@gmail.com to sign up.

Sterling United Methodist Church, 304 East Church Road, Sterling, is collecting items for the Marshall Islands. Donated items must be in new or gently used condition. Mon-

etary donations are also welcome to help purchase items and offset general mission costs. Contributions may be dropped off at the church between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekdays or on Sunday mornings from 8 a.m.-noon. Contact Phil Mohr, youth director, by calling 703-430-6455 or by e-mailing youth@sterlingumc.org. A complete list of suggested items can be found on the Web site at www.sterlingumc.org.

Sterling United Methodist Church, 304 E. Church Road, Sterling, is holding two special Ash Wednesday events **Feb. 25**. At 6 p.m., a family supper will be held in the church's fellowship hall. Following the supper, an Ash Wednesday service of prayer and meditations will begin at 7:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Call 703-430-6455 or visit www.sterlingumc.org.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Broadlands

42862 Springs Morning Ct...\$549,900 ...Sun 1-3Clark Smith.....RE/MAX Premier.....703-318-0067

Hamilton

16580 Swanbourne Dr*\$874,900 ...Sat 11-5Michael Severin.....Keller Williams.....571-233-5712
38576 Ditchling Pl.....\$1,299,900. Sat & Sun 11-5 Michael Severin.....Keller Williams.....571-233-5712

Leesburg

43032 Battery Point Pl, SE ..\$499,900 ...Sun 1-4Paul Anderson.....Long & Foster.....703-477-0603
42041 Brightwood Ln.....\$593,000....Sun 1-4Bridget Allen.....Weichert.....540-338-2024
21036 Great Woods Dr.....\$685,000 ...Sun 1-4Jocelyn Santiago.....Long & Foster.....703-244-1344
41086 Grenata Preserve Pl...,\$1,895,000 ...Sun 1:30-4Kimberly Fortunato.....Long & Foster.....703-786-5757
43487 Mill Wright Ter.....\$589,918...Sun 1-4Mary Tippett.....Avery-Hess.....571-236-1033
18772 Ridgeback Ct.....\$1,099,000. Sat & Sun 1-4.. Lisa Picciolo.....Weichert.....703-726-3909
812 Vanderbilt Ter, SE.....\$299,900...Sun 1-4John McCambridge.....Samson.....703-430-4234

Paeonian Springs

16879 Old Waterford Rd.....\$649,900...Sun 1-4Sherry Wilson.....RE/MAX.....540-338-6300

Potomac Falls

21223 Edgewood Ct.....\$784,000 ...Sun 12-4Deborah Gorham.....Long & Foster.....703-581-9005

Purcellville

19999 Colchester Rd.....\$574,900...Sun 1-4Chakib Rifae.....Samson.....703-430-4234

South Riding

25844 Turlough Ter.....\$379,000...Sun 1-4Ben Turpin.....RE/MAX.....703-600-9947

Sterling

46705 Corkwing Sq.....\$254,900...Sun 1-4Aziz Nawabi.....Coldwell Banker.....571-214-2265
304 Johnson Rd.....\$215,000...Sat 11-2Valerie Pineo.....Weichert.....703-444-4700
47304 Middle Bluff Pl.....\$645,000 ...Sun 1-4Mimi Glasgow.....Weichert.....703-759-6300

Herndon

13515 Huntsfield Ct.....\$429,900...Sun 1-4Bernie Kagan.....Samson.....703-216-0985
908 Monroe St.....\$325,000...Sun 1-4Janel Hansen.....Weichert.....703-753-3828
2705 Robaled Way.....\$825,000...Sun 1-4Bryan Felder.....Remax.....703-652-5710
1100 Grand Hamptons Dr.....\$995,000...Sun 1-4Debbie McGuire.....Weichert.....703-856-4766
13205 Stable Brook Way.....\$689,735...Sun 1-4Keith Harris.....Samson.....703-395-6601

Reston

2517 Freetown Dr.....\$449,997...Sun 1-4Rhea Thomas.....Weichert.....703-938-6070

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Lauri Swift or Winslow Wacker
703-821-5050 or E-Mail the info to Lauri@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.

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THE CONNECTION
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SPORTS

Patriots Can't Overtake Potomac Falls

But Park View boys believe the best is yet to come as regular season nears its close.

By RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

While the Park View High boys basketball team did a number of good things in its Dulles District game at Potomac Falls last Friday night, it was not enough for the Patriots in a 70-61 loss to the defending district champions.



Park View's Brian McCarter goes up for a shot during the Patriots' game at Potomac Falls last Friday night.

"Potomac Falls throws so many different looks at you pressure wise," Park View coach Mike Koscinski said of the Panthers' stifling defense. "We kept our turnovers in check but it's hard to get into an offensive rhythm. At this time of year, you have to really execute. For the most part, I was pleased with how we played, but we needed to execute better down the stretch."

Park View (7-11 overall, 5-5 in the district) trailed the Panthers 38-29 at halftime, but stayed in the game and got as close as four points early in the final quarter. But the Patriots could never get closer than that. Potomac Falls, currently second in the district standings behind first-place Dominion, improved to 12-5 overall and 7-3 in the district.

It marked the second time Potomac Falls has defeated Park View this season. In the first meeting between the two teams Dec. 19, the Panthers won at Park View, 82-62.

Koscinski said his team protected the ball better in Friday's game against Potomac Falls than it did in the December meeting when a high number of turnovers contributed to the lopsided score.

Marcus Freeman, Park View's senior shooting guard and leading scorer, tallied 19 points in Friday's loss. Also for the Patriots, senior forward Donnie Royer scored 16 points and Jordan Owens, a junior forward, and senior center Kenny Smith both had eight. Potomac Falls, in the win, was led by senior guard Kevin Bartnick's 23 points. Also in double figures for the Panthers were sophomore point guard Lukas Mihailovich (17 points), freshman center Greg Graves (11) and senior guard Greg Woodlief (10). Potomac Falls, a day earlier, had lost to Loudoun County, 74-70. Mihailovich scored 23 and Bartnick 17 in that game in which the Panthers held a slim



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Park View, shown here, will be at Broad Run this Friday night. Earlier this season, the Patriots defeated the Spartans in double overtime.

one-point halftime lead.

"At this time of year, we have to step it up and play at our best."

— Mike Koscinski,
Park View boys
basketball coach

PARK VIEW, a day before its loss to Potomac Falls, defeated district opponent Heritage, 70-58, on the road. Royer, who recently broke into the starting lineup, scored 16 points in the win. Senior point guard Josh Jones and Smith both contributed 12 points.

The Patriots played a good all-around game in beating the Pride.

"We executed well and our rebounding and defense was solid," Koscinski said.

Park View has received a nice boost of energy from freshman guard-forward Brian McCarter, who played most of the season on the junior varsity team before being called up to the varsity squad a few weeks ago. He has been utilized off the bench. In

Park View's 86-82 home loss to Loudoun County Jan. 24, McCarter broke out for 19 points.

This week, Park View was scheduled to host Dominion (12-5, 8-1) on Tuesday before going to Broad Run (14-3, 6-3) this Friday night. Earlier in the season, Park View played both Dominion and Broad Run tough, defeating Broad Run in double overtime, 88-84, and falling to the Titans, 58-53. The Patriots turned the ball over 27 times in the loss to Dominion.

There really does not appear to be a dominant team in the district. First-place Dominion's lone district loss came to Briar Woods (6-9) a few weeks ago. The upcoming district tournament, set to begin Feb. 17, will be wide open. Koscinski believes his team will be ready to play in the eight-team tournament.

"At this time of year, we have to step it up and play at our best," Koscinski said. "It will be exciting."

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The **Park View** girls gymnastics team and Park View High would like to thank all who assisted with the Glory Days Grill/Park View High Girls Gymnastics Invitational, which took place Jan. 10. The invitational was a tremendous success. The event's title sponsor, Glory Days Grill, played a big role in the success of the annual invitational. Along with the support of Glory Days Grill, many local businesses provided assistance. They were Joe's Pizzeria of Sterling, Safeway of Sterling, Giant of Sterling, Shoppers Food Warehouse of Sterling, Chic-fil-A of Sterling, Buffalo Wing Factory of Sterling, Baja Fresh of Cascades, Don Pablo of Sterling, Famous Dave's of Cascades, Applebee's of Cascades, Red Lobster of Dulles Town Center, Subway of Sterling

and Jimmy's New York Pizza of Sterling. Park View would also like to thank all of the team parents, past and present, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the meet a success, as well as the NHS Students, cheerleaders and Patriots club members who volunteered their time. Thanks also go out to Mario Vines, the disc jockey of the day, and Jack Schultz, the meet announcer.

Members of the **Northern Virginia Senior Olympic** (NVSO) committee announces that the 2009 Senior Olympics will be held Sept. 12-24. Participants must be 50 years of age as of Dec. 31, 2009. More than 25 different competitive events are planned for the 10-day event. The NVSO committee also announces its new leader-

ship for 2009, which includes Jack Hobbs, Alexandria, chairman; Betsy Bailey, Culpeper, vice chairman; Carol Mackela, Arlington, secretary; and Mike Marrone, Alexandria, treasurer. Judy Massabny of the Arlington County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources and Brian Johnson from the Fairfax County Parks Authority serve as co-coordinators on the committee. For further information, go to novaseniorolympics.com or call 703-228-4721.

Virginia Elite Volleyball Club (VA Elite), in partnership with Northern Virginia Volleyball Association (NVVA), will host an **open volleyball clinic** and presentation for players and parents Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 7 and 8. Open clinics will be led

by 2008 Olympic women's volleyball assistant coach Tom Hogan, Olympic silver-medalist Stacy Sykora and USA Volleyball's top clinician, five-time Olympic staffer and team leader, John Kessel. All player clinics will be held Saturday, Feb. 7, at The Madeira School and Oakton High School with additional player clinics held Sunday, at Lifetime Fitness in Ashburn. To register for the player events or for more information, go to www.vaelite.com. For questions contact Lily Richardson at 703-234-1753 or Lisa Baldwin at 703-737-3094. Cost of the clinic for players and coaches is \$55.

The Loudoun Freedom basketball
SEE SPORTS, PAGE 15

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Vitamin Efficiency



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Partially due to doctor's orders, partially due to advancing age and partially due to friends', relatives' and educated opinions I've heard on radio and seen on television, I have begun, over the last year, to gradually supplement my vitamin- and nutrient-challenged diet with an assortment of pills, capsules, geltabs, liquid gels and soft gels to provide healthy sustenance that so far has escaped me. Since I cannot beat them on my own, I have decided to join them. If I've learned anything in life, it is that!

Surely exercise would help, as would dropping another 20 pounds (only 20?). Completely changing my eating habits, and I mean, 180 degrees, likely would contribute as well to a healthier and more fit me. But it's rather difficult to turn an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea, and so far as I can see, the horizon is in my rear view window.

However, I imagine a few unexpected and discouraging results in my next quarterly blood test would most assuredly get the captain of my ship to turn tail and return to port. And even though my current and birth-to-date eating habits would seem to indicate that I don't yet know port from starboard, if I was unfortunate enough to receive "the talk" from my primary care physician and/or his nutritionist, I'm sure my interest and predilection to focus on the inside aisles at the supermarket (pre-packaged, bottled, canned; generally speaking, manufactured foods) would change rather quickly to a more concerted re-focus on the outside aisles at the supermarket (fresh and prepared foods, produce, dairy, meat, poultry, fish, etc.).

In lieu thereof, I have been pill-popping in one form or another going on 18 months. And for all I know, and for all my lab results seem to indicate, there may actually have been some benefit to the 10 to 12 pills a day regimen that I've maintained and even added to recently: multivitamin, a few prescriptions, baby aspirin, fish oil, Resveratrol of late, and possibly COQ-10 in the future, all in an attempt to stem the biochemical tide and imbalance caused no doubt by the life, liberty and happiness that I pursue.

And even though I've never characterized these pursuits as any kind of declaration of my independence, in effect, they were, and continue to be so. Now whether this pursuit has caused irreparable harm or in fact created an internal environment in which these manufactured and presumably concentrated supplements have no counter-balancing effect, I certainly don't know. Nor do I imagine that even the health care professionals who speak so knowledgeably and eloquently on the subject know exactly how the human body will ultimately respond for sure. One thing I know for sure, however, I'm not getting any younger. Nor am I, unfortunately, able to go back in time and start all over. Therefore, I have to make the best of the hand — and the health — I've been given. From my perspective, it's certainly nothing to complain about, it's just a dozen pills a day — or more eventually, I'm sure — likely for the rest of my life. A life that, because of, in spite of, all these supplements, will last longer and maybe even be healthier than I have a right to expect.

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

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Writers Instructional Workshops

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

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Improved by the premises known as

13430 Elevation Lane, Herndon, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Joel C. Amundsen and Sarah E. Amundsen, dated July 21, 2005, and recorded July 22, 2005, in Deed Book 17544 at page 6 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 140, Section 10E, Franklin Farm, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 5822 at page 1686, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 13430 Elevation Lane, Herndon, Virginia 20171.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$35,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.875 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part or of the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyancing will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prensky
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality to limit air pollution emitted by a facility in Sterling, Virginia.

Public comment period: February 5, 2009 to March 6, 2009

Permit name: State Operating Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the Air Pollution Control Board

APPLICANT Name, address and registration number: Sterling Park Parcel 12, LLC, 11501 Huff Court, North Bethesda, Maryland, Registration Number-73725

Project description: Sterling Park Parcel 12, LLC has applied for a new permit for operation at Sterling Park Technology Center located at 22400 Shaw Road, Sterling Park, Virginia. The permit would allow the source to operate three diesel engine driven generator sets.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. DEQ may hold a public hearing, including another comment period, if public response is significant and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: Howard Beeson; Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193 Phone: (703) 583-3969; E-mail: hgbeeson@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (703) 583-3821. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above (by appointment).

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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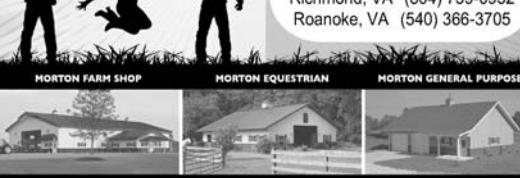
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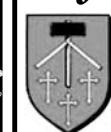
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SPORTS ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 12

organization will hold spring tryouts to form girls AAU teams. The following teams will be formed: U9/U10, U11, U12, U13, U14 and high school. The tryout dates are Feb. 21, Feb. 22 and Feb. 28. Visit www.loudounfreedom.com for specific dates and times for each age group. All tryouts will be held at the Hoops Magic facility.

In addition, skills clinics will be offered through the Loudoun County

Department of Parks and Recreation. For more information, contact Michael Turner at michaelturner@aol.com or at 703-303-0808, cell.

The **Sterling Park Seahawks** begin summer swim team registration Saturday, Feb. 7. Take advantage of the \$199 family or individual junior \$69 special pool memberships being offered by the Sterling Golf, Swim and Tennis Club. Swim team registration is separate. The Sterling Park Seahawks is a developmental, competitive swim team that has been in existence for more than 30 years. The team's objective is to develop a love for the sport, advanced

HEALTH & FITNESS

Learn free **relaxation techniques**, Thursday, **Feb. 5**, 10:45 a.m., Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Includes video about depression. Call 703-430-2397.

Support group for **tinnitus and hearing problems** meets Friday, **Feb. 6**, 2 p.m., at the Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Call 703-430-2397.

aquatic skills, teamwork and principles of good sportsmanship among the children and all adults participating in the program. Children ages 4-18 are welcome to join the Seahawks Swim Team. Registration is at the club, 333 S. Sterling Blvd., from 1-3 p.m. Call 703-430-1400 for more information.

The Freedom and Briar Woods High School communities came together Dec. 19

in a **Coaches vs. Cancer event** to raise cancer awareness and money on behalf of the American Cancer Society. On the special evening, the two rival Dulles District boys basketball teams — the Eagles and the Falcons — went head-to-head on the court. The night's theme was, "Beat Cancer Black and Blue!"

The evening consisted of a pregame benefit dinner, silent auction and several halftime fund-raising events.

The total donations on behalf of the two schools to the American Cancer Society was just under \$1,800.

Freedom and Briar Woods would like to thank everyone who supported the special night.

The man-to-man **prostate cancer support group** will meet Tuesday, **Feb. 10**, 6:30-8 p.m., Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. Call 703-430-2397.

The **Inova Health Van** will be at the Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling, Tuesday, **Feb. 10**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Call 703-430-2397.

Herndon Optimist Youth Baseball's Spring Registration is Now Open!



The HOYB program offers a baseball program that fits children from ages 4 to 12.

Our leagues are safe, fun and very instructional. No experience necessary! If your child has never played before or if your child is a "seasoned vet", baseball in Herndon has lots to offer. From T-Ball to the Majors to Buddy Ball, there is a league to suit every level.

HOYB is in our second year of offering a **50/70 League** for ages 10 through 12 who are preparing to play ball on the larger diamond. The 50/70 experience helps develop new skills, while making a graduated step to the next level. In addition to house league play, the 50/70 League participates in Inter-league games, providing our players and families additional ball playing opportunities.

If you are interested in learning more about HOYB or registering your child to play, please visit www.herndonbaseball.com.

If you have additional questions on HOYB or regarding scholarship opportunities, please call 703-481-1132

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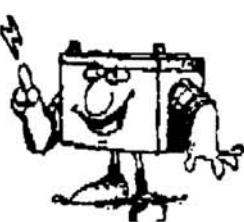
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