



# Sweet Treat

NEWS, PAGE 5

Ginny Jacobs, 6, of Annandale enjoys a marshmallow in an orange chocolate fountain at the City of Fairfax Chocolate Lover's Festival.

## Moon Tops Democrats

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Former Mayor Dies

NEWS, PAGE 4

CALENDAR, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 14 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 16

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY SHARON BULOVA/THE CONNECTION

Sharon Bulova addressed the crowd after her swearing in as Fairfax County chairman Feb. 6.

# Bulova Sworn In

Braddock District supervisor won special election by slim margin Feb. 3.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Former Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D) was sworn in as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's newest chairman at the county government center Feb. 6.

Bulova defeated Supervisor Patrick Herry (R-Springfield) by 1,217 votes, a margin of less than 2 percent, in a special election for the countywide seat three days earlier. She replaces now U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who left the office to join the U.S. Congress in early January.

A 21-year county board veteran, Bulova serves as chair of the board's budget committee and was a founder of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), a commuter train to Washington, D.C. with stations in southern and central Fairfax.

In opening remarks at the swearing in ceremony, Fairfax County public information officer Merni Fitzgerald also said Bulova had "championed the redevelopment of Tysons Corner as an environmental project," while serving as Braddock District supervisor.

**AS CHAIRMAN**, Bulova has her work cut out for her in 2009. Fairfax County must close a projected \$650 million budget hole in the annual budget that begins in July.

Approximately 75 percent of the local government's revenue comes from real estate taxes and the county's property values have fallen significantly. The supervisors would have to raise the real estate property tax rate 14 to 15 cents just to keep county revenue at the same level as last year.

According to Bulova, residents should brace themselves for some cuts to county services, though Fairfax will try to take care of its most vulnerable citizens.

"We will adopt changes that will bring our budget into equilibrium. ... [But we] need to take care of those among us who our help now more than ever," said the new chairman at the swearing in ceremony.

"Working together, we will come through these difficult financial times. ... The darkest hour is just before the

**"Working together, we will come through these difficult financial times."**

**— Fairfax Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large)**

dawn," she added.

**THOUGH FACING** a tough situation, Fairfax County's economy is also resilient, according to Bulova.

Hilton Hotels recently decided to move its headquarters to Fairfax over other local jurisdictions. The military's Base Realignment And Closure process will also bring new jobs and economic development to the southern part of the county, said Bulova.

As chairman, Bulova will also push

SEE BULOVA, PAGE 7

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## Moon Wins Braddock Primary

Voters overwhelm polling place in Democratic Party's 'firehouse primary.'

By JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**A**t-large School Board member Ilryong Moon won the Democratic nomination for Braddock District supervisor in a well-attended "firehouse" primary Feb. 10.

Moon took home 1,528 of the 2,701 votes, or approximately 56.5 percent of the ballots cast, according to the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

Candidate civic activist Janyce Hedetniemi was the runner up to Moon, with 1,073 ballots and approximately 39.7 percent of vote. Ron Christian, a third candidate who heads Fairfax County's Housing and Redevelopment Authority, earned 92 ballots and approximately 3.4 percent of the overall tally, said party officials.

"There was a much-higher-than-expected turnout. It is an indication that voters are taking this election very seriously," said Moon after winning.

The School Board member will face Republican and Kings Park Civic Association president John Cook in a special election for the Braddock

SEE MOON, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Democratic Party officials only expected about half of the voters that turned out to participate in their Feb. 10 'firehouse' primary for Braddock District supervisor.

## Dr. Chris Walters a Physician for Peace

Local doctor helps bring medical care to people in Eritrea.

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**D**r. Chris Walters has been a foot-and-ankle surgeon and podiatrist at Kaiser Permanente in Fair Oaks for 18 years. But his care for others extends far beyond the local area.

For the past three years, Walters has been a member of Physicians for Peace, a humanitarian, nonprofit organization that brings medical care, education, training and supplies to developing nations all over the world.

PPF wants to build peace and international friendships in those nations with unmet medical needs and scarce resources, and it regularly sends teams of medical volunteers to places where they can help the most. In September, Walters was on a team that went to Eritrea, in the northern horn of Africa, and he's sharing his experiences with the local community for a particular reason.

"I hope that, if someone reads this and it touches them, they'll contribute to Physicians for Peace through the Web site, [www.physiciansforpeace.org](http://www.physiciansforpeace.org), and that other physicians will volunteer to help, as well,"



DONATED PHOTO

Dr. Chris Walters had fun playing soccer with these children in Eritrea.

said Walters. "We pay our own expenses, so any money raised goes toward medical equipment, about 90 cents of every dollar goes toward the care."

**WALTERS AND** his wife Bonnie have lived in Centreville's Virginia Run community for two decades and have three children, daughter Lauren, 20, a junior at Clemson University; and sons Peter, 16, a Westfield High junior, and Erik, 14, a Stone Middle eighth-grader. Walters did his residency at

Inova Fairfax Hospital and coached SYA house and travel soccer for 12 years.

He became involved with Norfolk-based PFP after talking with one of his former Inova Fairfax resident, Dr. Keith Goss, now with Indian Health Service in Arizona. Goss had just returned from his first trip to Eritrea in spring 2006. "I said, 'I wish I'd known,'" said Walters, "and he said, 'You can come in October ['06],' and I've been going ever since."

Eritrea has nearly 4 million people, and

"My patients travel by foot, by camel and by bus to see us ... and it breaks your heart not to be able to see them all."

— Dr. Chris Walters, foot-and-ankle surgeon

at least 1 million of them are refugees displaced from other countries because of the 30-year civil war with Ethiopia.

"So many of the people I took care of were injured in the war, or as a result of land mines afterward," said Walters. "I operated on a boy from Somalia and another from the Sudan. We try to send someone to Eritrea every six months, and I go every year. This was my third time."

He uses his vacation time to do it and, most recently, he took two, third-year residents from Inova Fairfax, Grant Beck and Annie Xu, with him. They began their work in Eritrea by screening patients at the hospitals there.

"Some were pre-screened, to some degree, by doctors there to identify people we could help," said Walters. "They referred, easily, 200 people, and I examined each one, made plans for them and set up our sur

SEE DOCTOR, PAGE 18

## Koger Sentenced 5+ Years

Jeffrey Scott Koger, 39 of Oak Hill, was sentenced last week in federal court to more than five years in prison and ordered to pay more than \$2 million in restitution.

Koger embezzled more than \$3 million from many of the 400-plus Northern Virginia homeowners associations that contracted services from his family's company, Koger Management Group, located in Fairfax.

KMG collected homeowners association dues and provided a variety of financial and maintenance services for the HOAs.

Koger Management Group filed for bankruptcy in July 2007. Robert Koger, the defendant's father, reported to the Fairfax City Police in November 2006 that he believed his son had embezzled \$800,000, kicking off the investigation.

U.S. District Court Judge Leonie M. Brinkema sentenced Jeffrey Koger Friday, Feb. 6 to 66 months in prison and ordered that he pay more than \$1.2 million in restitution as well as \$775,272 to the IRS for tax evasion.

Koger pleaded guilty to wire fraud and tax evasion last November.

Koger also faces three counts of attempted capital murder of police officers, two counts of aggravated maiming and five counts of use of a firearm in the commission of felonies in Fairfax County courts after a shooting spree ended in a shootout with police on Feb. 2, 2008.

For more see [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com).

— KEN MOORE

## Two Men Sentenced for Thefts

In November, Fairfax County Police charged four men from Maryland with stealing items from a store at Fair Oaks Mall. Now two of them have been convicted of petit larceny.

The incident occurred Nov. 19, 2008, around 3:15 p.m. An employee of the Apple store alerted a police officer that two men just stole items from that business. The employee followed them as they left the mall in a car. The officer tried to stop the car outside the mall, but the driver and the vehicle's occupants fled.

Officers pursued the car for several miles until it stopped on Wakefield Chapel Road, just prior to Braddock Road. All four men were taken into custody and transported to the Adult Detention Center. The driver, Victor Jackson, 37, of 5600 block of Sergeant Road in Hyattsville, was charged with speeding to elude, grand larceny and grand larceny with the intent to sell.

Edwen M. Primrose, 27, of 6400 block of L St. in Capitol Heights, and Corey E. Tilghman, 28, of 1000 block of Cypress Tree Drive in Capitol Heights, were each charged with grand larceny and grand larceny with the intent to sell. Anthony W. Cruso, 36, of 8500 block of Greenbelt Road in Greenbelt, was charged with grand larceny.

Primrose and Tilghman both appeared Jan. 13 in General District Court before Judge Ian O'Flaherty. At that time, the charges against each of them were reduced to petit larcenies. For one of Primrose's offenses, O'Flaherty sentenced him to 12 months in jail, suspending all but one month. For the other offense, the judge gave him 12 months, with all of that time suspended.

Regarding Tilghman, O'Flaherty sentenced him to 12 months in jail, with 10 months suspended, on one charge, and 12 months with 12 months suspended on the other charge. He also ordered both men to stay out of the Apple store.

Cruso also went before O'Flaherty on Jan. 13, but his grand-larceny charge was not reduced. Instead, the judge certified it to the grand jury for possible indictment. Jackson does not yet have a court date.

— BONNIE HOBBS

## Correction

In the story "Filling Empty Bowls, [Connection, Feb. 5-11, 2009], the woman in the photo was misidentified. The woman in the photo was Christina Garris.

## NEWS

# Former Fairfax Mayor Dies

## Frederick W. Silverthorne served on City Council, Planning Commission.

**F**rederick W. Silverthorne, 90, of Sun Lakes, Ariz., a retired U.S. Navy captain and former mayor of the City of Fairfax, died on Feb. 6.

Silverthorne was born July 9, 1918, in Buffalo, N.Y., and was raised in Chicago, Ill. After attending the University of Illinois, and completing advanced studies at the University of Pennsylvania, he attended the Navy General Line School and the Naval War College. Silverthorne served 27 years in the U.S. Navy as a naval aviator and Squadron and Air Group Commander earning several medals and commendations for his bravery, including the Distinguished Flying Cross; five air medals; two Navy Unit Citations; the National Defense Service Medal; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam); the Asiatic Campaign Medal; the Navy Occupation Service Medal; the Philippines Services Medal; the Pre-Pearl Harbor Service Medal; the American Defense Medal; and the Korean Service Medal.

Silverthorne's position as a naval aviator on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Coral Sea allowed him to fly multiple types of aircraft. His bravery and valor are demonstrated by his experiences while fighting in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. He retired from the Navy in 1968 and joined the National Security Industrial Association (NSIA) where he specialized in anti-submarine warfare for 20 years.

Silverthorne moved to the City of Fairfax in 1962 and, in the 1960s and 1970s, he volunteered his time to the city at a time when it was experiencing rapid growth as a suburb of Washington, D.C. Silverthorne was president of the Country Club Hills Recreation Corporation as well as a board member and presi-



Silverthorne

dent of the Old Lee Hills Civic Association. He served on the City of Fairfax's Planning Commission and as chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in the early 1970s.

Silverthorne was elected to the Fairfax City Council in 1974; elected mayor of the City of Fairfax in 1978; and re-elected in 1980. At the time, the 1978 may-

oral election had the largest municipal turnout in City history with well over 4,000 people voting. Silverthorne retired from the NSIA in 1988, but re-

retirement did not slow him down as he remained active in many facets of his community. As a former champion diver, he coached and taught diving at the Country Club Hills Pool for over

20 years. In 2000, Silverthorne and his wife, the former Bette Brackett, relocated to Sun Lakes, Ariz., where he remained an avid golfer.

On July 14, 1988, Mr. Silverthorne was honored in the "Congressional Record" by U.S. Rep. Tom Davis (R-11) in honor of his 80th birthday.

Silverthorne is survived by his wife of 65 years, Bette; children Craig (Mary) and Scott, both of Fairfax; Janet (Stan) of Boca Raton, Fla.; Nanci (Wayne) of Gilbert, Ariz.; six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

A memorial service will take place Friday, Feb. 13, 11 a.m., at Fairfax United Methodist Church. Internment will follow in the City of Fairfax cemetery with military honors. The family will receive friends at the home of Craig and Mary Silverthorne, 4872 Oakcrest Drive, Fairfax, immediately following the internment and through 7 p.m.

# Five More Locals Plead Guilty

## Fairfax teen among suspects in heroin ring based in Centreville

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**F**ive more local residents have pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Alexandria to distribution of heroin. This brings to 11, so far, the total number of people who've entered guilty pleas in federal court in connection with a Centreville-based, heroin-distribution ring.

Centreville's Tayler Gibson pleaded guilty Jan. 21 to conspiracy to distribute 100 grams or more of heroin, after admitting to a statement of facts in her case, filed Jan. 16. In addition, both Kevin Zuiker, 20, of Centreville, and Jessica Remington, 19, of Fairfax, pleaded guilty to the same charge, last Thursday, Feb. 5.

As a result, they each could receive as much as 40 years in prison as punishment. Gibson, of Virginia Run, is slated for sentencing on March 27. Zuiker and Remington are on the April 17 sentencing docket.

On Friday, Feb. 6, two more of the co-defendants,

Angela Aycock, 20, of Centreville, and Matthew Greenlee, 23, of Fair Lakes, also entered guilty pleas. In Greenlee's case, he pleaded guilty to giving what was ultimately a fatal dose of heroin to 20-year-old Carmen Somers of Falls Church.

According to court documents, she took the drug in his home, the night of Sept. 6, 2008, and died the next day. Greenlee is scheduled for sentencing, April 17, and Aycock, on April 24.

Also charged with heroin dealing in the local area is Centreville's Andrew Kacvinsky who, on Jan. 28, waived his right to a preliminary hearing. His case now goes to the grand jury for possible indictment.

After last week's guilty pleas, Centreville resident Greg Lannes, whose daughter Alicia, 19, was the first of four people to die in connection with heroin provided by members of the drug ring, praised both local and federal authorities for their diligence and hard work in these cases.

"Fairfax County and the FBI task force have made such an impact in the Centreville/Chantilly community," he said. "We have heard many positive things from the schools and law enforcement that kids in the community are afraid to use, sell or buy drugs. We hope that the community will continue to keep this issue a priority in the months and years to come. We can make a difference in our communities if we stand together as one."

# Moon, Cook To Face Off

FROM PAGE 3

seat March 10. Independent candidate Carey Campbell, who has run in several local elections, will also participate.

The Braddock supervisor race is the second in what might be a series of special elections for Fairfax County. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) triggered a string of political contests when he was elected to the U.S. Congress in November, only part way through his second term as Fairfax County chairman.

Sharon Bulova (D), who was serving her fifth term as Braddock District supervisor, was elected to replace Connolly Feb. 3.

If Moon wins the supervisor race, yet another special election will have to take place to replace him on the Fairfax County School Board.

**DESPITE SEVERAL ROUNDS** of political contests, voters in the Braddock District don't appear to be suffering from much from voter fatigue.

Walt Mika, the Braddock District Democratic Committee chair, said he was only expecting about 700 people to show up for the "firehouse" primary, an election run completely by the local political party in which normal polling stations are not open.

Instead, nearly four times that number of people participated over the two evenings and one afternoon voting was available. At several points, the line of voters stretched out into the parking lot of the

Braddock District government center, the only place where ballots were available.

"A lot of people are complaining about the lines. This more than doubled my expectations. The three candidates have all been out there working hard," said Mika.

"I am amazed at the turnout. I think people are really interested in who their supervisor is going to be," said Bulova, who was packing up her old office in the Braddock District building during the election.

"All the candidates have done a very good job of getting out there," she added.

The Moon campaign, in particular, brought out several Asian voters who probably would not have participated in a "firehouse" primary normally.

Moon, a Korean American, is the only Asian elected official in Northern Virginia, though the Asian community makes up 15.8 percent of Fairfax County's overall population and is the locality's largest racial minority group.

Among the Asian subgroups in Fairfax, the Korean community is particularly robust, making up about 23 percent of all Asian people in the county. A few communities that overlap with the Braddock District, including Annandale, Burke and West Springfield, rank among the largest concentration of Korean people in the country, according to the Center for Korean American and Korean Studies at California State University in Los Angeles.

"I certainly brought in new voters," said Moon.

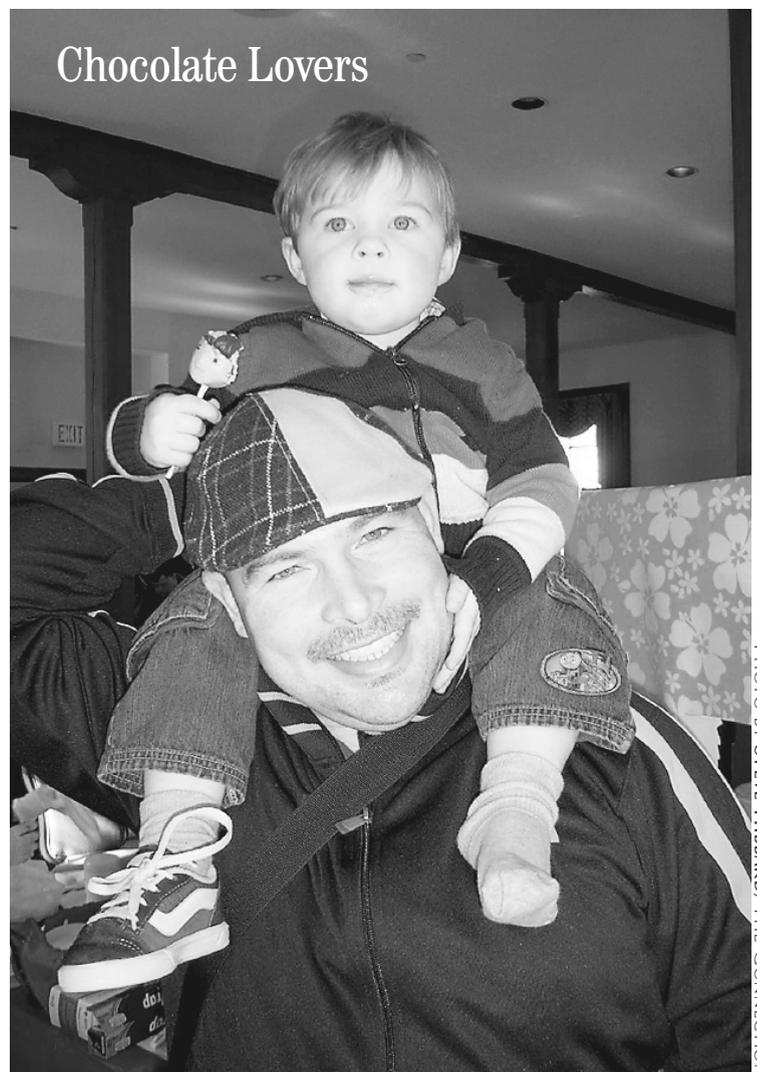


PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**Finn Dorrity, 2, eats a chocolate lollipop atop his father, Colin Dorrity of Fairfax. Crowds flocked to the City of Fairfax Saturday in hopes of tasting something sweet as the city hosted its annual Chocolate Lovers Festival.**



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## PEOPLE

# Getting To Know...

Scott A. Surovell, Fairfax County Democratic Committee chairman.

Since January 2008, Scott A. Surovell, a resident of the Mount Vernon District, has been the chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee. Surovell's interest in local politics is not something new. Democratic politics, at least according to his mother, has been motivating Surovell since the day he was born.

**How long have you been in the area?** I was born at G.W. Hospital in D.C. and grew up in Mount Vernon, so I guess 37 years. I lived in Arlington for four years after law school.

**Family.** Married to Erinn M. Madden nine years. I have four kids: Eva, 8; Leia, 6; Mara, 4; and Colin, 2.

**Education.** Tauxemont Preschool; Hollin Hall Elementary, K-3, Waynewood Elementary, 4-6, Stephen Foster Intermediate, 7-8; West Potomac High School, 9-12; JMU '93, UVA Law '96.

**What was your first job?** When I was 15, I got a job as a waiter at a brand new Bob's Big Boy at Beacon Mall on Richmond

Highway — which was recently torn down.

**Interests, hobbies, activities.** Public policy, biking, hiking, geology, music, Civil War, Virginia history and gardening.

**Favorite local restaurants.** Faccia Luna, Old Town Thai and Austin Grill

**Community concerns.** Traffic has become so bad that it has become a serious quality of life problem and an inhibition to business development in Northern Virginia. Energy consumption has changed our climate during my lifetime here in Fairfax County and desperately needs to be addressed. Northern Virginia has done little to address our

local housing and development practices that largely drive our traffic problems. I'm also concerned that we're not investing enough in education to develop our children into a globally competitive workforce.

**What's on the minds of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee?** The shock and disbelief of Barack Obama actually being our President is still wearing off. Our statewide primary in June and the last

House of Delegates elections before redistricting are also front and center.

**How did you get involved in Democratic Party politics?** It runs in the family. My paternal grandparents moved to a farmhouse on Gallows Road in Dunn Loring from Brooklyn in 1935. The Democratic Party in Fairfax County was not friendly to newcomers then much less two Jews from Brooklyn. My grandparents fought to change the Democratic Party, desegregate Fairfax County Public Schools and instilled a sense of community responsibility in my father which he passed on to me. My mother also fought desegregation in Prince Edward County and is very active in Democratic Party politics as well.

I was born in the midst of my father's House of Delegates campaign. My mother likes to say that her labor was induced by a Henry Howell speech she had heard that evening.

I've been volunteering on campaigns and attending events my entire life. After law school, getting married and having our first child, I moved into my grandparents former house in the Tauxemont community and



Scott A. Surovell

joined the FCDC.

**Why should people get involved with local politics?** Everyone loves to complain about problems in their community, state and in our country. Political activism is one of the best ways to meet new people in your community and make your community a better place. Civic activism shows children how to be good citizens. Everyone derives some measure of benefit from living in a soci-

ety. Getting involved in politics is one of the best ways to give back.

**What's the best way to get involved?** Contact your local Democratic or Republican Committee. Go to a meeting and join. Sign up to volunteer on a campaign. If there is a particular issue or set of issues that excites you, get involved with a local chapter of an organization that advocates that issue. If you can't give a lot of time, consider starting a blog.

**Personal goals.** To be the best husband, father, citizen and attorney I can be, and to leave my community a better place than I found it.

— MICHAEL O'CONNELL



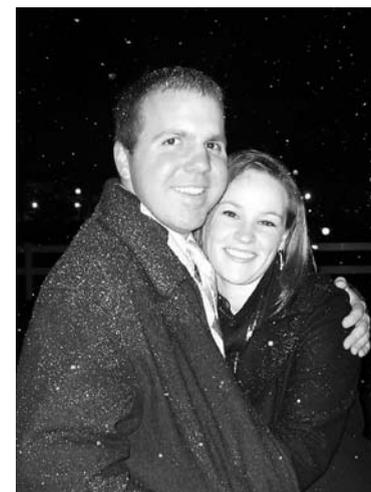
## Nonprofits Honored

The Giving Circle of HOPE recognized 11 nonprofits in Northern Virginia that help people in need at a Jan. 30 reception at the Reston Community Center. The Giving

Circle of HOPE presented \$5,000 grants to the nonprofits. Representing the award-winning groups were, front row: Wayne Amos, The Brain Foundation (Centreville); JoAnn Knox, NOVA Scripts Central (Reston); Susan Ungerer, Kids R First, (Reston); Jane Beddoe, Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry (Falls Church); Lynn O'Connell, Computer CORE (Alexandria); back row: Aaron Sawyer, Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic (Herndon); Sarah Newman, Floris UMC/Grace Ministries (Herndon); Darlene Williamson, Stroke Comeback Center (Oakton); Kari Galloway, Guest House (Alexandria); Vickie Coth, Good Shepherd Alliance (Ashburn); and Nancy Dezan, Alzheimer's Family Day Center (Fairfax).

FAIRFAX CONNECTION ♦ FEBRUARY 12-18, 2009

## Wolfe, Simon Plan June Wedding



Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wolfe, Jr. of Centreville announce the engagement of their daughter, Jamie Marie, to Christopher Simon, son of Frank and Paige Simon of Leechburg, Pa. Wolfe graduated magna cum laude from Liberty University and works for Fairfax County in the Department of Family Services. Simon is a graduate of Penn State University and a civil engineer at Dewberry and Davis in Fairfax. A June wedding is planned.

## COLLEGE NOTES

**Batul Alzubeidy** of Fairfax has been named to the spring 2008 dean's list at American University. Alzubeidy is majoring in chemistry.

**Nabila Chami** of Fairfax has been admitted as a first year student at American University.

**Lakeithia D. Wilkes** of Fairfax has been awarded a bachelor of science degree in nursing from William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo.

**Elizabeth Mandler** of Fairfax has been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at Old Dominion University. Mandler is the daughter of Wes and Linda Mandler of Fairfax.

Nine Fairfax residents, Kathryn Barela, Brian Giordano, David Hagemeyer, Courtney Hyde, Sarah

**Lott, Caitlin Lugo, Dan Rowson, Joshua Sodee and Daniel Takane**, were part of the 474-member Marching Royal Dukes, representing James Madison University in the 82nd Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

**Jessica Bajkowski** of Fairfax was awarded a bachelor of science degree summa cum laude in chemistry from Wagner College on Staten Island.

**Kyle Nalls** of Fairfax was honored as a university scholar at Susquehanna University. Nalls, a senior majoring in graphic design, is the son of Russ and Linda Nalls of Fairfax.

**Mary McGee** of Fairfax has graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree from Coastal Carolina University in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

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# Bulova

FROM PAGE 2

for the extension of Metro rail west in the Interstate 66 corridor and the expansion of VRE services, she said.

Herrity, whose father served as board chairman in the 1970s and 1980s, attended Bulova's swearing-in ceremony.

His race with Bulova is the closest high-profile countywide contest between a Democrat and Republican in several years.

Herrity said the election results proved that not all residents are pleased the direction of the county's leadership in recent years.

"I am going to continue to stand up for what I believe in. ... Clearly, there is a difference of opinion in the county," he said.

**"There is a difference of opinion in the county."**

— **Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield)**

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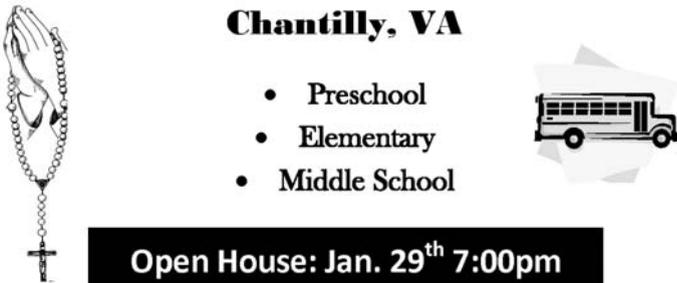
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## THE COUNTY LINE

# Getting Started on Start Times

## School Board asks for answers on impact to athletics.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County School Board members pushed staff to answer questions about the impacts of changing school start times as they launched a community outreach effort this week.

The School Board is considering moving back start times for older students, in part because research suggests it is beneficial for teenagers to start school later so they don't need to rise so early. With current start times, high school and secondary school buses pick students up shortly after 6 a.m.

The proposal would also affect the start times for several elementary schools since Fairfax County Public Schools uses the same buses in three different shifts to carry the entire student population to school.

Currently, Fairfax schools start between 7:20 a.m. and 9:25 a.m., with most high schools in the "first tier" of school start times, beginning before 8 a.m. Under the new proposal, which could go into effect next year, all schools would start between 7:50 a.m. and 9:40 a.m., with no high school classes getting under way earlier than 8:30 a.m.

The school system hopes to get feedback from the public on the proposal at seven community dialogues scheduled for Feb. 24, 25 and 26.

They are also encouraging residents to fill out a new survey about the bell schedule change, which can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start>.

The School Board expects vote on the bell schedule proposal in early March.

**FOR YEARS**, a group of citizens have been advocating for the later high school start times, attending nearly every school board meeting and signing up to provide public testimony on a regular basis. They formed the organization SLEEP, which stands for Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal, and collected thousands of signatures in support of their cause.

But recently, community members wary

## Community Dialogues on Bell Schedule Changes

The School Board will hold public meetings about proposed changes to school start times. Note multiple locations on each night.

**FEB. 24, 7 P.M. – 9 P.M.**

Annandale High School, Longfellow Middle School, Oak View Elementary School

**FEB. 25, 7 P.M. – 9 P.M.**

Herndon High School, Rocky Run Middle School

**FEB. 26, 7 P.M. – 9 P.M.**

Providence Elementary School, Whitman Middle School

of the initiative, particularly those who have concerns about its impact on high school activities like sports, have started to organize in opposition to later start times.

They formed advocacy organizations like WAKE (Worried About Keeping Extracurriculars) and SOS (Save Our Sport). Many are particularly concerned how later start times might impact the high school swim program.

**DURING A WORK SESSION** Feb. 9, some School Board members pressed staff for answers regarding the later high school start times' effect on "late buses," which provide transportation for students participating in sports and other programs after school.

## Get Involved

Fill out a new survey about proposed bell schedule changes at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start.htm>. A list of current start times and proposed start times for every school in the county is available at the same site.

The school system's transportation department was unable to give specifics on the later high school start times impact on "late bus runs." But transportation official Linda Farby said the buses would need roughly 30 more minutes to come back to the high schools after their traditional afternoon drop-offs.

Instead of elementary schools, several middle schools would be among the last dismissals in the school system each day and buses would have to complete longer routes before coming back to pick up students at high school late for sports events or other activities, said Farby.

"The answer is yes it will delay late bus service," she said of the proposal to change the bell schedule.

**THE SCHOOL SYSTEM** could also face a shortage of bus drivers if the high school start times — and therefore the high school "late buses" — were pushed back since some employees are not willing to work the later hours, according to Farby.

Farby also left open the possibility that the school system could be forced to lease or rent more vehicles to help with "late bus" transportation if the existing fleet was not able to accommodate the later transportation schedule by itself in a timely manner.

Under the current proposal, the school system would save money if it switched to later school start times, though the need to rent or lease more buses could affect the estimates of the proposal's cost savings, according to staff.

School Board member Kathy Smith (Sully), who has been skeptical of the proposal to change the bell schedule, said officials also have no way of modeling how the new bell schedule would interact with traffic patterns.

"This model does not and cannot tell you the effect of being in traffic," said Smith.

Some school staff said it is also difficult to judge the impact a bell schedule change could have on high school sports travel, given that team schedules are likely to

change if the proposal takes effect next year.

For example, in order to accommodate the later high school start times, more games and sporting events are likely to take place on Saturday, said school officials.

But School Board members generally supportive of the bell schedule change said staff should provide more specific information, not just speculation, about the impact the later high school start times would have on after-school activities like sports.

"I think it is a mistake to go into town hall meetings without any more information. ... [The information on late buses] should be made available to the public," said School Board member Kaye Kory (Mason).

"I would say if we don't have the facts together, then we don't do the public meetings," said School Board member Tina Hone [At-large] of the community dialogues scheduled for later this month.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION** of the public meeting format revealed how touchy the issue of a bell schedule change has become for the school system and School Board members.

Officials are taking pains to record an introduction to the issue of bell schedule changes that will be played at all public meetings on the topic, so that there is no differentiation between the staff presentations at each session.

"We have tried to do so that it is not biased in any way," said School Board member Liz Bradsher (Springfield).

"That is why we are taping the introduction, so everything can be the same across the board," said School Board member Tessie Wilson (Braddock).

Yet there was some question at the School Board's work session about what type of role the "science of teenage sleep" should play in the recorded presentation.

In general, School Board members who support the bell schedule change thought studies linking later high school start times to better teenage health and academic performance should play a larger role in the video. But others, who are skeptical of the proposal, said they had not seen any evidence that there was link between high school start times and academic performance.

"I have never seen a correlation between later start times and student achievement," said Smith.

"If there is not an impact on learning, then why are we even looking at this?" replied School Board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence) to Smith's statement.



Some Fairfax County residents feel high school students have to be on school buses too early in the morning.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

## COUNTY NOTEBOOK

### County Tax Rate Over The Years

Fairfax County faces a projected deficit of approximately \$650 million next year and several supervisors had admitted the county will probably have to increase the real estate property tax rate to close the budget gap.

If the supervisors wanted to hold county revenue — and the average residents' real estate tax bill — to its 2008 level, they would have to increase the tax rate approximately 14 to 15 cents per \$100 of assessed value, the highest single real estate tax rate increase of the last 30 years.

But even with a 14 to 15 cent increase, the real estate tax rate would still only be \$1.03, significantly lower than any rate approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1978 to 2005.

Still, most residents have seen their actual real estate tax bill nearly double since 2000, even as the tax rate has continued to go down every year. The tax rate — at its lowest in 2007 and 2008 — did not provide much tax relief, given that most residents were still paying much more to the local government for their home or commercial property than they had in years past.

The following is a chart of the Fairfax County real estate tax rate and the amount it has fluctuated annually since 1978:

#### FAIRFAX COUNTY REAL ESTATE

Tax Rates per \$100 of Assessed Value

Year	Tax Rate	Annual Fluctuation
1978	\$1.74	
1979	\$1.64	(\$0.10)
1980	\$1.54	(\$0.10)
1981	\$1.54	\$0.00
1982	\$1.51	(\$0.03)
1983	\$1.47	(\$0.04)
1984	\$1.47	(\$0.00)
1985	\$1.46	(\$0.01)
1986	\$1.39	(\$0.07)
1987	\$1.35	(\$0.04)
1988	\$1.32	(\$0.03)
1989	\$1.30	(\$0.02)
1990	\$1.19	(\$0.11)
1991	\$1.11	(\$0.08)
1992	\$1.11	\$0.00
1993	\$1.16	\$0.05
1994	\$1.16	\$0.00
1995	\$1.16	\$0.00
1996	\$1.16	\$0.00
1997	\$1.23	\$0.07
1998	\$1.23	\$0.00
1999	\$1.23	\$0.00
2000	\$1.23	\$0.00
2001	\$1.23	\$0.00
2002	\$1.23	\$0.00
2003	\$1.21	(\$0.02)
2004	\$1.16	(\$0.05)
2005	\$1.13	(\$0.03)
2006	\$1.00	(\$0.13)
2007	\$0.89	(\$0.11)
2008	\$0.89	\$0.00
2009	\$0.92	\$0.03



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

**Charity Gala** Linda and Richard Moniuszko of Fairfax attend the annual Valentine Pops Gala Friday, Feb. 6, at the McLean Hilton. The event was a fund raiser for the Fairfax Symphony.

## Fire Causes Minimal Damage

A small, Monday morning fire caused no injuries and minimal damage to the Sweet Life Café on Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax. Someone apparently threw a cigarette butt in the mulch at the corner the historic building around 7:30 a.m. The cafe occupies the 200-year-old Moore House.

The damage was confined to the outside trim and plaster on the exterior and dining room at the corner of Chain Bridge Road and North Street, said Mayor Robert Lederer, speaking for his wife and owner Maureen Lederer.

"It was very minimal," he said. "We got very lucky — especially being a 200-year-old home."

He said that most of the damage was part of the fire suppression effort. With the exception of a fire smell, the restaurant was able to resume lunch that same day.

The Sweet Life Café is best known for its ice cream and serves lunch and dinner, with added breakfast on weekends.

The restaurant is located in the Moore House which dates back to 1840 and can be found on the National Historic Registry. It was a private home until 1987, when it became a commercial property. Favorite guests of the house have included President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his wife Eleanor, and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

## Vote for Field Repairs

The City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation needs residents to vote in the Kellogg's Frosted Flakes Plant a Seed Challenge. Mike McCarty, director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Fairfax, has added three local ballfield/parks to the contest that rebuilds and restores ballfields across the U.S. The winners with the most online votes will be rewarded with seedlings and repairs. Now local residents need to go online and vote for their favorite parks/fields. Parks with the most nominees will be selected for field repairs and restoration by the Kellogg's Company. Go online to [www.frostedflakes.com](http://www.frostedflakes.com) and search and vote for these three local parks/fields: Van Dyck Park, Thaiss Park and Kutner Park. For details, call 703-385-7858.

## Home Care NEWS

Presented by  
Laura & Michael  
Pierce, CSA



### WRITE ON

Should you be considering the services of a home healthcare provider, take a moment to assess the individual needs of your loved one. What are the specific limitations that must be addressed? What medications are required, and when should they be administered? Is there a need for special devices such as a wheelchair, walker, or cane? Are there specific exercises that have been recommended? Make a note of dietary requirements, nutritional needs, and allergies. Compile a list of contact information, including family members and who to call in case of an emergency. Also, indicate where to locate items of importance in the home, such as medications. Include instructions for how to find supplies and use household appliances, as well.

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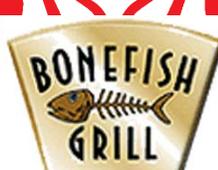


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# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/FEB. 12

**Joker's Wild**, 8-10 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free swing lesson, 7:30 p.m. \$10 per person. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

**Rokia Traore**, Progressive West African music. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Independent Living Exercise Class**, 12 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Build strength and improve balance. 703-644-7333.

**Teen Book Chat**, 7:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Mother-daughter book discussion group. Call branch to register and for book title. Age 12-16 with adult. 703-978-5600.

**Chess Club**, 3:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Learn the rules and play the game. Age 6-12. 703-644-7333.

**Taarka, Roman Candle and Whiskey Rebellion**, Acoustic/world music. 8 p.m. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

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

**Financial Planning for Separation and Divorce**, 7 p.m. at Investment & Resource Planning Associates, 10600 Arrowhead Drive, Suite 310, Fairfax. \$55 non members, \$45 members. 703-281-2657 or

www.thewomenscenter.org.  
**"Thoroughly Modern Millie,"** 7:30 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Little Theatre, Lake Braddock Secondary, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. \$10. www.freewebs/lbmusical.com

## FRIDAY/FEB. 13

**Beau Soir Ensemble: music for flute, harp and cello**. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-352-ARTS.

**Julie Murphy Wells, Sophisticated Lady**. Jazz and Broadway tunes. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Crash Boom Bang. Pop/rock**. 6 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**K-Beta, Bo Jankans and D II. Rock**. 10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**Sneak Preview of "The Secrets of Jonathan Sperry,"** 7:30 p.m. at the Northern Virginia Community College Annandale, in the Ernst Community Cultural Center. The family-oriented Christian-themed movie stars Gavin Macleod and Robert Guillaume. Contact movies2009@ymail.com for free ticket reservations.

**Plastic Sky, Vox Pop and Brothers Pony**, 7 p.m. at CoffiHOUSE, 8433 Lee Highway, Merrifield. info@COFFIHOUSE.com.

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

**Be My Anti-Valentine**, 6 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Protest everything

lame about Valentine's Day while partying with other teens. Food, prizes and a complete lack of cheesy sentimentality. Age 12-18. 703-249-1520.

**"Thoroughly Modern Millie,"** 7:30 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Little Theatre, Lake Braddock Secondary, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. \$10. www.freewebs/lbmusical.com

## SATURDAY/FEB. 14

**Pinn Community Center's Third Annual Black History Celebration**, 12-3 p.m. at the David R. Pinn Community Center, 10225 Zion Drive, Fairfax. Lunch, cultural performances and more. Zurii Conroy, 703-250-9181 or Zurii.Conroy@fairfaxcounty.gov.

**Shemekia Copeland, blues vocals**. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Crash Boom Bang, Boys Will Be Boys, Sunset Shootout and Surprise Attack**. Pop/rock. 5:30 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566.

**Mambo Sauce**. Hip-hop. 10 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

**Saint Valentine's Day Concert with Natasha Bogachek and Dasha Gabay on violin and piano**, 7:30 p.m. at Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Concert is free, donations welcome 703-764-9414.

**Fairfax Jubilaires Barbershop Harmony Chorus Singing Valentines**, at a location of your choosing. Contact Ron at 703-978-7691 or order online at www.fairfaxjubilaires.org.



C. J. Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band will headline a general admission dance at The Barns at Wolf Trap on Wednesday, Feb. 1.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

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

**Seed Starting,** 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Community Hall, 8104 Lee Highway, Merrifield. 703-560-6222.

**Creating a Habitat for Birds, Butterflies and Other Wildlife,** 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. How to create a garden to attract these creatures. 703-968-9600.

**Jeff Kinney, author "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw,"** 1 p.m. at Borders Books, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-359-8420

**"Thoroughly Modern Millie,"** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Little Theatre, Lake Braddock Secondary, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. \$10. www.freewebs/lbmusical.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.

**Rock 'n Roll Songwriters Circle featuring Anthony Fiocco, Shane Hines and Todd Wright.** Acoustic 7 p.m. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

**The Virginia Opera and "Tosca,"** 2 p.m. George Mason University Concert Hall on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University, at the

intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 1:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$44-\$98. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**"Hay Fever,"** 2 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.

**"Thoroughly Modern Millie,"** 7:30 p.m. in the Lake Braddock Little Theatre, Lake Braddock Secondary, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. \$10. www.freewebs/lbmusical.com

## MONDAY/FEB. 16

**Old Town Hall Children's Series: Oh Susannah!** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-352-ARTS or www.fairfaxarts.org.

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

## TUESDAY/FEB. 17

**Frank Fuerst,** Author of "Alzheimer's Care with Dignity," discusses his personal experience caring for his wife and offers practical tips for caregivers, 7 p.m. at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book signing will follow. Free, registration required at 703-249-1520.

**Book Discussion Group,** 11 a.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Turnaround" by George Pelecanos. Adults. 703-978-5600.

**Evening Book Discussion Group,**

7:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "The House of Spirits" by Isabelle Allende. Adult. 703-644-7333.

**Book Discussion Group,** 7:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court" by Jeffrey Toobin. Adults. 703-978-5600.

**Book Discussion Group,** 7:30 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "On Beauty" by Zadie Smith. Adults. 703-293-6227.

**The Von Bondies and Nico Vega.** Rock. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**Care With Dignity,** 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Author Frank Fuerst discusses his personal experience caring for his wife for 17 years and offers practical tips for caregivers. Book signing to follow. Adults. 703-249-1520.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

**Sonya Kitchell, Residency and Naia Kete.** Acoustic/indie. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. jamminjava.com.

**C. J. Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana Band.** General admission dance. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Early Literacy Storytime for Parent and Preschooler,** 10:30 a.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. 703-978-5600.

**Count with Me,** 10:30 a.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360



The Virginia Opera performs "Tosca" on Sunday, Feb. 15 at the George Mason University Concert Hall on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University.

North St., Fairfax. Stories and activities. Age 3-5. 703-293-6227.

**Needlework Group,** 10:30 a.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Bring a project to work on in the company of other needlecrafters. 703-249-1520.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 19

**Friday Morning Music Club,** 11 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-352-ARTS or www.fairfaxarts.org.

**Young Dubliners.** Rock and Irish music. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

**Mae, Shirock and The Daylights.** Rock. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

**Marvelous Mittens,** 10:15 a.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Snow time stories. Age 3-5 years with adult. 703-644-7333.

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# Loop Hole Stays Open

It's a common sense measure that wouldn't stop a single qualified Virginian from buying a gun. We have the technology to implement it without massive expense or additional bureaucracy.

Right now, some of the guns sold at gun shows in Virginia are sold without the background check required of gun sales in any other official setting. This allows even convicted felons, stalkers with restraining orders against them, and people with documented mental health problems that could make them a danger to themselves or others a clear path to purchasing a firearm. There is no reason for this.

In November, at the "Nation's Gun Show" the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly was the scene of record gun sales. It was an ebullient gathering of people with shared interests, and no doubt all but the tiniest percentage of participants were law-abiding, responsible people, fully qualified to own the guns they were buying. The record sales were motivated in part

## Affront to families of Virginia Tech victims leaves option open for felons and people with documented mental illness to buy guns.

because of concern by some gun enthusiasts about new restrictions on some firearms that could come with Democratic control of Congress and the White House, and in part because of the recession.

**EDITORIAL** Why would those people want to run the risk that a tragedy like the one at Virginia Tech nearly two years ago that claimed the lives of 33 people would involve a gun purchased without a proper background check at the Nation's Gun Show?

**FOR THE RECORD**, the Virginia Tech shooter was able to buy his guns legally because his

name was mistakenly not included on the list of those excluded from gun ownership; he was previously ruled a danger to himself or others and should not have been able to buy from a licensed gun dealer. But if he had been excluded through normal means, he could have traveled a few miles from his home to the gun show in Chantilly in search of weapons he could buy without a background check.

**IN ANY EVENT**, legislation in the General Assembly that would have closed the gun show loophole is dead for this year. Only one Northern Virginia senator, Ken Cuccinelli, voted against closing the loophole.

# State Budget Remains In Flux

## Agencies face 10-15 percent cuts in budgets.

BY SEN. CHAP PETERSEN  
D-34

The days lengthen as the Senate moves towards "cross-over" — the midpoint of session. We're working hard, Republican and Democrat, to find solutions in Virginia that will hold us together. Early days and late nights are the rule.

While we debate legislation, the state budget remains in flux. Last week, the governor's proposed increase to the cigarette tax was defeated in the Senate Finance committee. As a result, there is no significant source of new revenue in our state budget. Meanwhile, declining job statistics indicate that state income will be down and unemployment claims up. All agencies are facing 10 percent-15 percent cuts in their budgets.

The only saving grace is the proposed federal stimulus bill that will transfer funds to the struggling states. It is hard to be enthused about federal deficit spending propping up our state. However, we are not in a position to turn down the help. Early projections show over \$3

billion in anticipated proceeds from the stimulus bill to come to Virginia, particularly for Medicaid needs and transportation projects. However, those amounts are not yet finally determined.

While the budget situation simmers, the action continues on the Senate floor.

On Monday, Feb. 10, I had five bills pass "third read," which means they have now passed the Senate and will be transmitted to the House. The most critical was SB 1252, the Green Buildings Act, which codifies the state's current practice of only building energy-efficient buildings and requires localities to adopt that same practice by 2010. This bill will save taxpayers in the long run by eliminating unnecessary use of electricity and other resources.

On Monday, the Senate also took up SB 1145 of Sen. Mary Margaret Whipple (D-31), which provides for the mandatory reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by Virginia's largest emitters. By capturing this info, the Commonwealth would be in a position to assess rising carbon

output. It is important to note that bill says "reporting." It does not limit, eliminate or even regulate these emissions. Notwithstanding that fact, we had a lengthy debate on the floor as to whether the law was an administrative burden on Virginia manufacturers. The bill ended up passing 22-18 on a largely party-line vote.

**FINALLY**, we had a long debate on Monday regarding the "restoration of rights" for felons who have served their time. Currently, the Virginia Constitution bars a former felon from voting. A move is afoot to at least modify that strict prohibition. Monday, the Senate voted 27-13 to pass SJR 273 sponsored by Sen. Yvonne Miller (D-5), which would begin the process of allowing voting rights for ex-felons. I voted "yes." However, any constitutional change can only be granted by the voters.

That's the update for now. Thank you for the many of you who have contacted our office with questions and comments. You can continue to reach us in Richmond at [www.fairfaxsenator.com](http://www.fairfaxsenator.com) or 804-698-7534. Or review my Assembly blog at [www.oxroadsouth.com](http://www.oxroadsouth.com) for the latest information. Let us know how we can represent you better.

## Swim over SLEEP

To the Editor:

I do not support the SLEEP proposal because it would eliminate all FCPS swim/dive teams, as well as numerous other after-school activities. My children have been members of the swim/dive team throughout their high school career. Being a member of the swim/dive team has been the highlight

of their high school years. My children work hard on year-round swim teams to be competitive for the high school team.

### LETTERS

Please do not take this opportunity away from the children who love this sport. I feel that the bell schedules for FCPS high schools, as well as middle and elementary, should be left as they are unless other accommodations can be made to avoid

cutting extracurricular activities such as swim/dive.

**Vicki Johnson**  
Parent of Fairfax High and Lanier Middle students

## Shocked at Vote

To the Editor:

I am concerned about the influence of money in politics, especially over the last few years. It

seems that an alarming number of civil servants are becoming fixated on the Benjamin's and quickly losing site of what they were elected to do.

According to the current Virginia law as I understand it, no member of the Virginia General Assembly can legally raise money or accept campaign contributions during the six to nine weeks that the

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 13

# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 12

General Assembly is in session. I think this is a perfectly reasonable law as it is clearly intended to create an environment for assembly members to focus on relevant issues during their session, without having to worry about fund raising.

I was shocked when I learned that Del. Dave Marsden (D-41) voted with only 13 other legislators to allow himself to keep raising campaign cash while the General Assembly is in session [HB 1634]. I don't think it's too much to ask that Marsden and the other delegates dedicate a few weeks out of the year towards solving real problems, instead of trying to figure out how they are going to get more dough in their wallets.

**Jonathan Phillippe**  
Fairfax

## More Harm

To the Editor:

The Fairfax County School Board is currently assessing a proposal to let high school students sleep-in and permanently start the school day at a later hour. I am a parent of a Fairfax County Public School student, who in general supports efforts to improve the sleep schedule of students however, after looking more carefully at the facts, I am concerned that the negative effects of the current proposal to start later far outweigh the benefits, and that changing the schedule would do more harm than good.

With later start times come later dismissal times. The potential disruption to normal after-school activities and athletics is significant. There would be less time for after school teacher-student meetings, clubs, music lessons, drama, band, etc. There would be less sunlight for outdoor athletic practices. Early afternoon freshmen games could be eliminated. Swim teams could lose the use of public pools for practice and meets. Youth sports and rec leagues would not be able to use the high school gyms and fields because the high school teams would be practicing later. Other negative impact areas include afternoon childcare needs, putting our inexperienced teen drivers on the roads during morning and afternoon rush hours, student work opportunities, availability of older siblings for after-school care of younger siblings, and altered work schedules for teachers, coaches, administrative, cafeteria and custodial staff.

**Michele Schnitzer**  
Concerned Parent  
Oakton High School

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# Late Fall Doesn't Hurt Rams

**Robinson boys indoor track and field team wins first-Concorde title.**

BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

It's a good thing the outcome was not in doubt. When Robinson senior John Ro, the first leg of the indoor track and field team's 4x400-meter relay team, became tangled with another runner and eventually tripped, fell and hurled the baton into the middle of the infield last week at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, the Rams had already clinched the Concorde District title.

Minutes before, Marty Riddle, the school's director of student activities, approached head coach Mark Gleason to offer his congratulations.

"That doesn't change the outcome, does it?" Riddle asked as Ro tumbled.

Gleason assured Riddle that it didn't and Ro, following team orders to always finish a race, went on a reconnaissance mission for the lost piece of equipment.

"Every kid that we put on the track performed," said Gleason, whose boys team held of Chantilly, 122-115, to win its first-ever district title. "We stayed the course in the events that we needed to, and I think that's why when we got to the last event, the team title was already wrapped up."

Robinson's girls team finished second to Oakton, 111-102.50, and both squads will advance to the Northern Region championship meet, on Saturday, Feb. 21 at George



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK TAITANO

**The Robinson indoor track and field team poses with the Concorde District banner. Despite a late stumble, the boys team won its first-ever Concorde District title.**

Mason University's Field House.

the district title, Robinson's boys team benefited from the contributions of senior Fabian Bailey, who won the long jump with a leap of 20 feet, 5 1/4 inches and the triple jump with a personal-best mark of 42-01 1/2.

"I felt really good that whole week, and I

was confident going into it," Bailey said. "It was just a good day."

Junior Audrey Barry and senior Kelly Kavanaugh led the Robinson girls team. Barry, who played on Robinson's Virginia AAA state champion girls soccer team this past spring, won both the 55 (7.39) and 300 dashes (41.28, tied district record).

Kavanaugh won the 1,600 and 1,000, with marks of 5:07.90 and 3:03.36, respectively, while the girls 4x400 and 4x800 relay teams posted first-place finishes.

Senior Jared Berman helped out on the boys side with 1,000 (2:34.61) and 1,600

SEE OVERCOMING FALL, PAGE 15

# Cavaliers Fulfill Coach's Expectations

**W.T. Woodson girls indoor track and field team takes Liberty title.**

BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

At the beginning of this indoor track and field season, W.T. Woodson coach Mike Fronckel felt that his girls team had the depth necessary to compete for a Liberty District championship.

That's why when the Cavaliers accomplished that goal last Thursday, Feb. 5, at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md., Fronckel wasn't all that surprised.

"It was something that we were definitely looking forward to all season," said Fronckel, whose girls held off second-place Jefferson, 127-100. "That was our goal at

the beginning of the season. On the girls side, we felt we had the depth to compete for a championship."

Fronckel also felt the boys team, though lacking some of the girls' depth at certain spots, should finish third or fourth. The coach was correct again, as the boys team took third-place honors, finishing with 67 points to trail only Jefferson (102) and South Lakes (137.5).

Both squads will now look ahead to the Northern Region champion meet, on Saturday, Feb. 21 at George Mason University's Field House.

**JUNIOR ERICA HOWES** won two events for the girls team, claiming the 1,000-meter

run with a time of 3 minutes, 5.87 seconds and the 1,600 with a mark of 5:13.14. Sophomore Tiffany Reed (55 hurdles, 9.24) and senior Jaime Pritchard (500, 1:19.61) were also single-event winners.

The girls 4x200 (Samantha Park, Carrie Pritchard, Olivia Green, Lindsey Ottavio) took first, clocking in at 1:50.46, and the girls 4x400 relay team (Carrie Pritchard, Liz Gaski, Tiffany Walters, Jaime Pritchard) was victorious as well, running a 4:09.66.

According to Fronckel, senior Kirk Lewis stepped up for the boys team with a third place finish in the 55 dash (6.83), and he also kick-started W.T. Woodson's first-place 4x400 relay squad (3:35.01), which con-

sisted of Lewis, Jon Steenberg, Charles Basil and Sean Strang.

"We're still hungry," Fronckel said. "It's kind of like in football, where you have 24 hours of celebration and then it's back to the grind. Now we're going to try and work toward the rest of our goals this season."

**"We felt we had the depth to compete for a championship."**

— Mike Fronckel, Woodson coach

**IN OTHER MEET ACTION**, both the Jefferson boys and girls team earned second-place finishes. Timmy Galvin won the 1,000 (2:39.03) and

1,600 runs (4:33.73), while Sheila Bushman (8 feet) and Dan Markwalter (12-06) posted pole vault wins. In the girls 3,200, Sarah Stites clocked a 11:14.65 — a Liberty District record.

## SPORTS

# Overcoming Late Fall

FROM PAGE 14

(4:21.43) wins, and sprinter Jae Son Shim, also a senior, won the 300 with a time of 37.22. The boys 4x200 took first as well.

"Having that ability to jog around the track with that banner was pretty cool because we had not done that before," Gleason said. "The thing about Robinson is that pretty much everybody thinks of Robinson as just a cross-country and distance school.

"In recent years, we've been able to find a better balance of not just those cross-country and distance kids, but also we're starting to put in our sprints and emphasize those and get our jumpers going."

**IN OTHER MEET ACTION**, the Fairfax boys team finished seventh with 19 points, led by junior David Ladd's first-place finish in the 55 dash (6.52) and classmate Brian Hallahan's third-place leap in the high jump (5-08). The girls, led by freshman Elizabeth Nguyen's fourth-place times of 7.64 in the 55 dash and 43.02 in the 300, garnered 12 points — good enough for sixth place.

Robinson freshman Gena McCant, following a second-place in the 500 dash (1:14.83) at the Virginia Tech Invitational on Jan. 24, sprained her ankle after being bumped at the finish line and has yet to return. But Gleason hopes to have McCant available at the region meet.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK TAITANO

**Robinson senior Fabian Bailey placed first in the long jump and triple jump.**

### WEEK IN SPORTS

## Famiglletti, Robinson Take Second

Fortunately for the Robinson girls gymnastics team, freshman Emily Famiglletti is much more comfortable during a gymnastics competition than she is after it — especially when a tape recorder is in front of her face.

"I'm so bad at [interviews]," said Famiglletti, on Thursday night, Feb. 5, at Centreville High School following the Concorde District championship meet.

After suffering a knee injury nearly three weeks ago, Famiglletti was able to battle through the pain, totaling 36.050 points to finish second behind Chantilly's Elly Taura (37.250) in the all-around competition. Famiglletti finished sixth on vault (9.300), second on bars (8.975), second on the balance beam (9.050) and seventh on floor (9.400).

Her second-place finish also helped the Rams advance to Thursday afternoon's Northern Region finals for the first time since joining the Concorde District for the 2005-06 season; they finished second behind Chantilly, 143.325-133.550. The region meet starts at 3:30 p.m., at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

"We hit our routines, and everyone made almost everything," said Rams coach Megan Smiley.

Freshman Sarah Paul finished 11th with a total of 32.850 points, while sophomore Jessi Marco took 13th and freshman Alex Ffield was 19th.

Alexa Kopach of Fairfax placed eighth in the all-around competition, while placing seventh on the vault, 20th on bars, fifth on the beam and third on floor. As a team, Fairfax took fourth.

"I'm so lucky to be around such a supportive

team," Kopach said. "I'm just excited about what's to come and how the team has come together."

## Fairfax Swim and Dive Roundup

The Fairfax boys swim and dive team finished second and the girls took fourth at this past weekend's Concorde District swim and dive championships, at the Cub Run RECenter. Individual first-place finishes from Ellyn Baumgardner (200-yard individual medley, 100 breaststroke), Kelli Stockton (1-meter diving) and Jean DeOrnellas (100 free) aided the girls' team. The 200-medley relay team (Lauren Gehrke, Baumgardner, DeOrnellas and Theresa Harvey) and the 200-freestyle relay team (Baumgardner, Frances Dowd, DeOrnellas and Harvey) finished first as well. On the boys' side, the Rebels had second-place performances from Alex Price (50 free) and Zach Patteson (1-meter diving), while the 200-free relay team (Ryan Larson, Travis Lauri, Joey Kelly and Price) took second also.

## Jefferson Roundup

Jefferson's girls gymnastics team finished second to Stone Bridge at last week's Liberty District championships, 135.55-133.85. W.T. Woodson finished fifth with 117.550 points. Senior Chrissy Franzel (Burke) placed third on floor and vault and fourth on bars and the beam. She was third in the all-around competition. The boys and girls swim and dive teams finished fourth and fifth, respectively, at the Liberty District championship meet. Burke native Lauren Laffosse (Burke) was sixth in the 500-yard freestyle.

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## COMMUNITY

# Doctor Brings Help to Africa

FROM PAGE 3

gery schedule for the next two weeks. But there are always more patients to treat than they have time for in their two-week visit, so they place them on the next doctors' schedule.

"The first time I went there was really daunting, getting used to the heat, lack of sanitary conditions, flies, dust and Third World hospitals," said Walters. "But you get used to it very quickly. And there were hundreds of patients lined up, with an entourage of family members with them. I thought they were there to see other team members, some 35 different doctors and nurses, but they were all there for foot and ankle problems."

"My patients travel by foot, by camel and by bus, the length of the country, to see us because their level of expectation is so high," he said. "A couple years ago, a guy walked 600 miles to get his arm straightened. And it breaks your heart not to be able to see them all. Despite our willingness to work from sunup to sundown, it would have been too much of a strain on the small, local hospital, which is a regional hospital and a trauma center, as well."

**WALTERS SAID** patients there have good outcomes and a low infection rate. "We expect to see deformed limbs as a result of injuries sustained in the recent civil war, as well as nerve damage, muscle atrophy and soft-tissue loss," he said. "We also see a lot of malformed, short limbs from polio in both adults and children."

The first 60 patients that Walters screened were all children, the youngest, age 2. He also worked closely with an Eritrean orthopedic surgeon, Dr. Semere (doctors just use first names there), one of only three such surgeons for the entire nation of 4 million people.

Walters asked him where all the adults were, and Semere replied, "I know you love children, so we sent them all to you." Among them were stage four polio deformities, plus conditions that had gone untreated for years, leaving their young victims severely deformed.

"For example, a 4-year-old boy from Somalia had untreated clubfeet and couldn't stand," said Walters. "In the U.S., this is treated either as a newborn or at 1 year."

He speaks some tigrinye — Eritrea's official language — so he was able to talk to the parents via a few interpreters. "The parents were optimistic because we were their only hope," Walters said.

Besides doing relief work, he said, "Physicians for Peace is interested in the education and training of doctors, nurses and medical students for sustainable efforts in their own countries." But sometimes, overwhelming circumstances adversely affect what's actually possible.

They have been bringing medical supplies and teaching sophisticated foot-and-ankle surgery to Dr. Semere. But one of Walters' most sobering moments came during his second trip when he asked an orthopedic staff member if Dr. Semere could use the new techniques and materials when the visiting doctors weren't there. Said Walters: "Nurse Hanouk looked at me sadly and said Dr. Semere was too busy dealing with trauma patients."

For instance, a 12-year-old boy was playing on a water wheel when it cycled around and crushed his legs. One had to be amputated and, after six surgeries, doctors were trying to save his other one.

**STILL, PFP** keeps trying. Each visit,

Walters brings three bags of donated medical supplies and leaves it all there. Between himself and Goss, said Walters, "We've probably taken \$1 million worth of American medical equipment generously donated by its manufacturers."

He said the only pain relief for patients after surgeries is Tylenol. "I went over there with a jar of Tylenol from Costco, and you would have thought it was manna from heaven," said Walters. "I also take several cases of antibiotics and anesthetics donated by Americares and Medical Bridges, non-profit organizations that I count on."

Walters was in the capital city of Asmara at Halibet Hospital, and he called the situation challenging. "The need is overwhelming and the resources are extremely limited," he said. "If you need it, you'd better bring it. You also

need patience, flexibility and cultural awareness, understanding that people there are ecstatic to have us and are doing the best they can with what they have."

**MOST SATISFYING**, he said, is "if we've restored a child's ability to walk, or walk without pain. For some girls, we've made them marriageable; and for the boys, we've made them employable."

"Keith Goss and I hope to eventually establish a permanent, limb-deformity center in Asmara that he and I would staff," said Walters. "And we hope the medical residents we'd take there would feel inspired to come back and serve. But all this would be made possible through generous donations of medical equipment, supplies and funds and prayer."

For more information or to help, see [www.physiciansforpeace.org](http://www.physiciansforpeace.org).

**"The parents were optimistic because we were their only hope."**

— Dr. Chris Walters, foot-and-ankle surgeon

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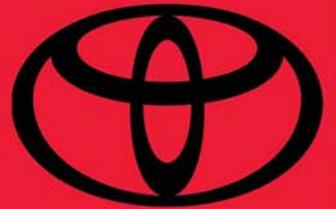
PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

## 50-Year Partners

To mark the 50-year partnership between the City of Fairfax and George Mason University, a sculpture by GMU graduate student, Mark Sistek was unveiled in front of the City Hall Annex on Feb. 11. The piece is entitled Fenwick's Farsite. GMU President Alan Merten, left, and Fairfax Mayor Robert Lederer shake hands during Tuesday's ceremony.

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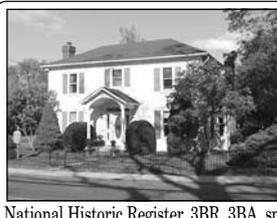


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**Be a Part of History!**  
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