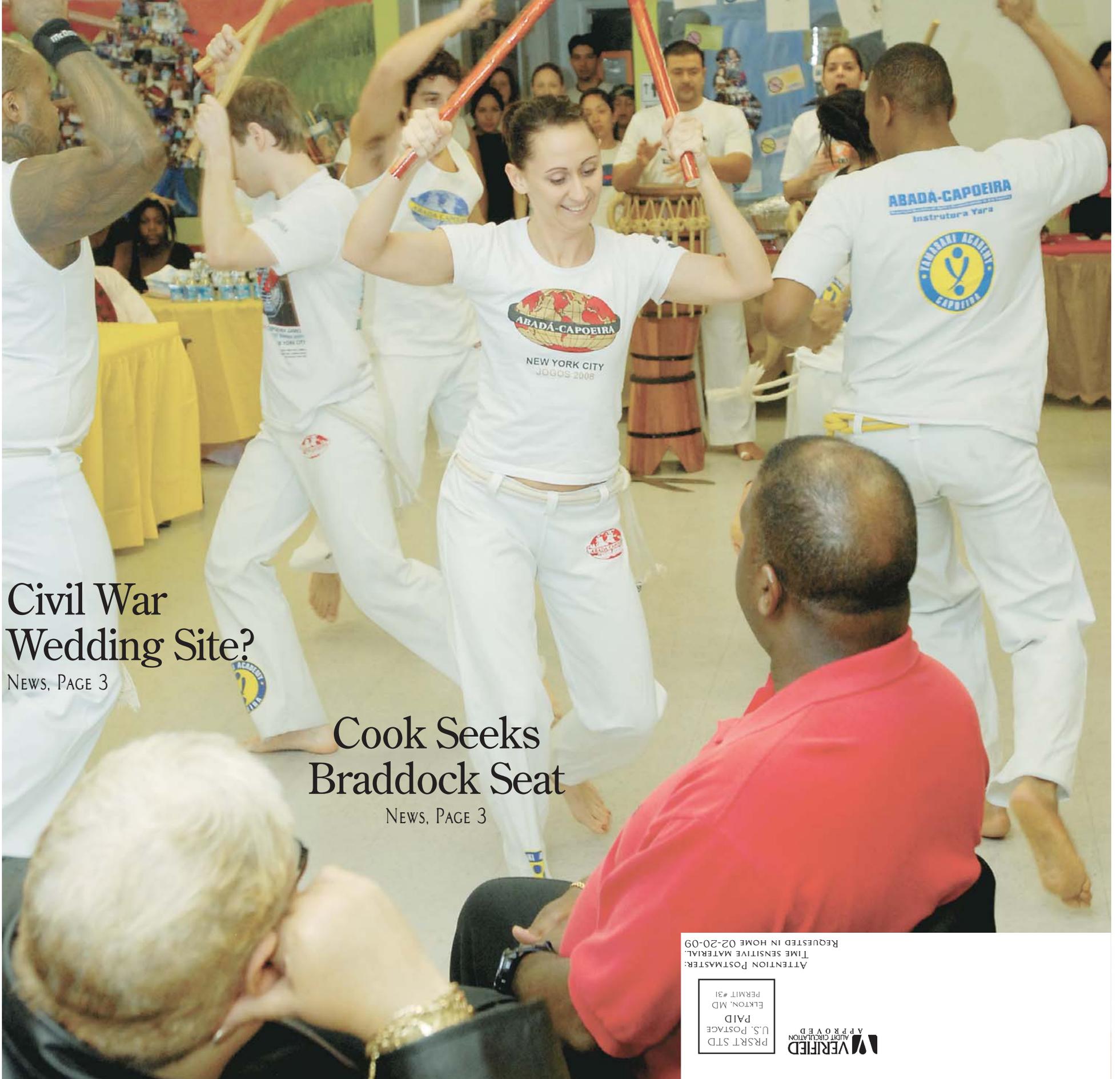


Abada Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian dance and martial arts group, performs a traditional Brazilian martial-arts style dance during the Black History Month program at the Pinn Community Center on Feb. 14.

History Together

COMMUNITY, PAGE 9



**Civil War
Wedding Site?**
NEWS, PAGE 3

**Cook Seeks
Braddock Seat**
NEWS, PAGE 3

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

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

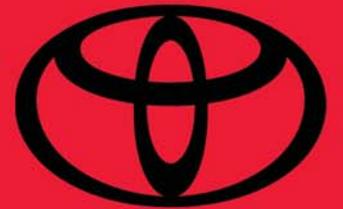
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ISO Wedding Rental? Graffiti Included?

City Council OKs use of Blenheim for weddings, business functions.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

On Tuesday, Feb. 10, the Fairfax City Council unanimously approved that Historic Blenheim (Willcoxon) Civil War Interpretive Center on Old Lee Highway be used for private rentals.

Like Mount Vernon or Woodlawn or Cabell's Mill in Centreville, this means the 12-acre Blenheim museum built in 1859 and purchased by the city in 1999 can be used for teas, weddings, business functions and community gatherings. The Civil War Interpretive Center was officially opened on Nov. 1, 2008.

"I just feel that our location is very unique."

— Hildie Carney

The \$2.2 million antebellum house built by Resin Willcoxon sits on 12 acres on Old Lee Highway near Fairfax High School. The house is significant for the more than 120 Union

soldiers' inscriptions throughout its rooms and in the attic.

During 1862 and 1863, hundreds of Union soldiers entered Albert and Mary Willcoxon's home, leaving their marks of charcoal, graphite or crayon in the attic and the walls of the first and

SEE HISTORIC, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Andrea Loewenwarter gives a tour of Historic Blenheim House on Old Lee Highway, which can now be used for rentals.

Cook Runs in Braddock

Kings Park civic leader tries to make jump to county board.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

During a small gathering at Braddock District School Board member Tessie Wilson's house Feb. 15, John Cook seemed at home fielding questions about everything from parking problems around George Mason University to illegal immigration.

If elected, Cook, the Republican nominee for Braddock District supervisor, hopes to have similar informal meetings with his constituents regularly.

The candidate enjoys the town hall meetings that Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) and other supervisors use to gain input from residents but thinks a more relaxed setting for meeting with citizens would be helpful for him as a county board member.

"The police say the communities with the most block parties have the least crime."

— John Cook



FILE PHOTO

John Cook
(R)

Age: 45

Neighborhood: Kings Park, 10 year resident

Hometown: Delhi, N.Y.

Family: Wife and four children (19, 8, 6 and 3)

Education: Gettysburg College, graduated magna cum laude with a degree in political science (1985); The George Washington University, law degree

Community Activism: Kings Park Civic Association president, softball coach, active in the Virginia Bar Association

"People will be able to come in and talk about what they want to talk about. It will give people an opportunity to come in without a structured program," said Cook.

The Republican faces at-large School Board member and Democratic candidate Ilryong Moon in a special election March 10. Bulova, the former Braddock District supervisor, triggered the contest when she won the county chairman race Feb. 3.

As Braddock supervisor, Cook said constituent services and

SEE CIVIC ACTIVIST, PAGE 6

\$15,000 in Clothes Lifted from Mall

Rios-Leon pleads guilty to thefts.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In July 2008, Fairfax County Police charged three people from College Point, N.Y., with stealing merchandise from the Hollister store in Fair Oaks Mall. Now one of them, Daniel Esteban Rios-Leon, 27, has pleaded guilty in court to grand larceny, possession of burglary tools and larceny with intent to sell stolen property.

Before accepting his plea, last Tuesday, Feb. 3, Circuit Court Judge Jane Roush made sure he understood its ramifications. A Spanish-language interpreter translated the proceedings to him.

Roush noted that Rios-Leon's case did not have a sentencing agreement and that other, related charges against him had been dropped at his preliminary hearing. She also advised him that, by pleading guilty, he gave up his right to a jury trial and to cross examine witnesses against him.

In addition, she warned him that he could receive as much as 20 years in prison for each offense. Then Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Dylan Gallagher explained what the case against Rios-Leon would have been, had it gone to trial.

He said that, on July 18, Rios-Leon participated with another man and a woman in the theft of more than \$1,000 worth of clothing from the Hollister store in Fair Oaks Mall.

"The female stacked shirts inside the store while the other man kept a lookout outside the store," said Gallagher. "Then the

SEE GUILTY, PAGE 7

GMU Grad Wins Pageant

Fair Lakes resident Ashley Dixon, 23, was crowned the new Miss Virginia International 2009 (for ages 19-29) on Sunday, Feb. 15 in Chester, Va., at the Cultural Center of India facility. The competition took place in conjunction with the 2009 Mrs. Virginia International (ages 21-56) and Miss Teen Virginia International (ages 13-18) and Little Miss Virginia International (ages 7-12).

"It was kind a surprise because they were great girls," said Dixon of her competitors. "They each had great platforms. They were very accomplished. I was surprised that I was the winner."



Ashley Dixon

The daughter of John and Debbie Dixon of Longwood Knolls in Burke ran with an environmental awareness platform. She plans to shed light on how to prevent negative impacts on the environment, such as purchasing eco-friendly cleaning products and turning off lights.

Dixon was inspired to enter her first pageant after her friend Tina Montgomery of Arlington won last year's Miss Virginia International title. She competed in an onstage interview, fitness wear, fun fashion wear and evening gown competitions.

The winners from all 50 states win an all-expense paid trip to compete in the national competition on July 20-26 in Chicago.

Ashley is a 2004 graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary and graduated from GMU with an English major last December.

Her hobbies include music and she plays flute, piccolo, tenor sax and piano. She plans on pursuing a degree in law.

— STEVE HIBBARD

Correction

In the Feb. 12-18, 2009 edition of the Fairfax Connection, a Robinson freshman gymnast was incorrectly identified. The correct name is Amanda Famiglietti.



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

From left, George Willis, Jon Roberts, Andrew Ennis, Christina Kidd and Joseph LeBlanc rehearse a scene from 'The Fantasticks.'

'Fantasticks' at New School

Springfield Community Theater celebrates 50th year with a musical.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

The Springfield Community Theatre is staging a stylized version of the play, "The Fantasticks." The musical originally opened off-Broadway in 1960 with a 25-year-old Jerry Orbach (think "Law and Order") as El Gallo.

The musical has a small cast, sparse scenery and realistic people. The intention is an open stage surrounded on three sides by audience members. Characters speak to the audience upon entrance to the stage. Actors never leave the stage, but sit in the unlit area or turn their backs to the audience.

"EVER SINCE it came out, 'The Fantasticks' has been playing somewhere in the world every day all these years," said Donald Neal, director, who has been in community theater for 60 years. Depending on one's frame of reference, he said the musical is either a fable or a fantasy.

The play is about two fathers who have a son and daughter who are young teenagers who fall in love. The fathers forbid the relationship which makes the two lovers want to see each other even more.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the Springfield Community Theater has rehearsed for three years at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Annandale and this is its first season at its new performance venue — The New School in Fairfax.

"It's kind of been a moveable feast with an uncertain season," said Neal. "We have performed in churches, in schools, even the parochial schools. We have a new board and we are pulling the theatre

back together.

"This season, we're doing three family shows to bring our audiences back to let them know we're alive and kicking."

Performances are set for Feb. 27, 28; March 6, 7, 13, 14 at 8 p.m. and Matinees on March 1, 8, 15 at 3 p.m. at The John Swazy Theatre at The New School of Northern Virginia in Fairfax.

Ticket prices are \$15, \$13 for students and seniors; \$10 for groups of 10 or more. For reservations, call 703-866-6238.

Christina Kidd, 15, of Fairfax Station plays Luisa who's in love with Matt, the boy next door. "She's romantic and dreamy and she kind of loses her mind," Christina said of her character. "She has these crazy daydreams about how the boy she loves in a hero."

The fun part, Christina said is that "She wants to be a princess to have her happy ending. ... She imagines her life in a more romantic way than it really is."

This is Christina's first show with the Springfield Community Theatre and her first comedy. She's been dancing since she was 4 and taking voice lessons since age 10. Christina is homeschooled and plans to study musical theater in college.

Andrew Ennis, 20, of Annandale plays Luisa's love interest Matt. "This is the first time he fell in love," said Ennis, who works in retail. "It hit him really hard."

His biggest challenge, Ennis said, are the two big

SEE 'FANTASTICKS', PAGE 6

More

"The Fantasticks" runs Feb. 27, 28; March 6, 7, 13, 14 at 8 p.m., with matinees on March 1, 8, 15 at 3 p.m. Performances are at The John Swazy Theatre at The New School of Northern Virginia, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. Tickets: \$15, \$13 for students and seniors; \$10 for groups of 10 or more. For reservations, call 703-866-6238. For information, call 703-978-7650.

CRIME

Activities reported by the City of Fairfax police department through Feb. 13.

LARCENY

9622 Main St. / Shoppers Food Warehouse. On Feb. 7, at 1:30 p.m., the loss prevention officer for the business reported that between 1:1-1:29 p.m. he observed a woman conceal merchandise in a backpack and leave the store without paying. The woman was arrested and charged with grand larceny. She was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Bond was set at \$2,000.

9622 Main St. / Shoppers Food Warehouse. On Feb. 7, at 3:01 p.m., the loss prevention officer for the business reported that between 2:45-3 p.m., he observed a woman conceal merchandise and leave the store without paying. Bambi Coates, 39, of no fixed address, was arrested and charged with larceny. She was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Bond was set at \$100.

3251 Old Lee Highway / Rene's Supper Club. On Feb. 8, at 1:20 a.m., the victim reported that between 12-12:30 a.m., unknown person(s) stole her purse that was left unattended.

3500 Block of Queen Anne St. Sometime between Feb. 6, at 7 a.m. and Feb. 8, at 1 p.m., unknown person(s) stole a ladder that was left in the yard of the residence.

3320 Plantation Parkway / 7-Eleven Store. On Feb. 11, at 12:30 p.m., the victim reported that on Feb. 10, at 6 p.m., he left his wallet unattended in the store. When he returned for the wallet, he discovered it missing.

3195 Old Lee Highway / McDonalds. On Feb. 11, at 4:41 p.m., the victim reported that between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., unknown person(s) stole her cellular phone.

3501 Rebel Run / Fairfax High School. On Feb. 12, at 7:41 p.m., the victim reported that sometime between 6:45-7 p.m., unknown person(s) had removed his wrestling bag from a locker and stolen his wallet containing cash and identification.

9400 Block of Fairfax Blvd. / Foxcroft Colony. On Feb. 12, at 11:33 p.m., the victim reported that sometime after Feb. 9, at 8 p.m., unknown person(s) had stolen his hockey gym bag containing uniforms and equipment that he had left outside his apartment.

ROBBERY

10008 Main St. / 7-Eleven Store. On Feb. 8, at 5:41 a.m., the clerk reported that an unknown man entered the store and asked him for change. When the clerk opened the cash register, the suspect grabbed cash from the drawer and ran out of the store. Investigation revealed that there was a small struggle between the suspect and the clerk. There were no injuries and no weapon was displayed. The suspect is described only as a black male, 25-30, weighing about 145 pounds and wearing a beige hat, a brown shirt and a silver vest. The Criminal Investigations Division is investigating the case.

VANDALISM

9860 Fairfax Blvd. / Fairfax Racquet Club. Sometime between Jan. 17, at 12 p.m., and Feb. 6, at 12 p.m., unknown person(s) spray painted graffiti on the side wall of the business.

10000 Block of Main St. On Feb. 8, between 1-4 p.m., unknown person(s) knocked over a gas lamp causing damage to the lamp.

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Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

Name of Event:

Day of the Week, Date and Time:

Name of the Place Event will Be Held:

Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:

Name and Phone Number for More Information:

Three Sentences Describing the Event:

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. Send listings to:

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PEOPLE

Civic Activist Pursues Supervisor's Seat

FROM PAGE 3

strengthening neighborhoods would be his top priorities.

"The police say the communities with the most block parties have the least crime," said Cook.

It is the job of the district supervisor to cater to the smaller aspects of community life, like potholes. If residents are complaining about a dangerous intersection in their neighborhood, Cook, as Braddock supervisor, would be the first person out there looking at morning traffic to see what could be done, he said.

"It is very important that a supervisor be responsive. That is the job of the individual supervisor. The only person we have in our government system who responds to problems like that is the county supervisor," said Cook.

As president of the Kings Park Civic Association for the past three years, Cook approaches problems and the supervisor position from a community-oriented perspective. A leader in his community, the Republican already handles a lot of questions about the "small stuff."

If a problem occurs with ivy growing over the sidewalk in his neighborhood, Cook is the person his neighbors contact to deal with the problem, he said.

"I field those calls now that the supervisor fields," said Cook.

IN HIS ROLE as civic association president, Cook has proved to be a man of action.

His neighborhood organization has grown from 380 members to up over 600 since he took over as leader. Cook has also helped find workable solutions to many of his community's problems and irritations over the past few years.

When the Royal pool closed in his neighborhood, Cook was able to arrange for the Fairfax County Park Authority to buy the property, so that it would not sit vacant and unused like another empty pool in Kings Park West, he said.

Cook was also pro-active about combating overcrowding and illegal boarding houses that started to crop up in Kings Park.

He volunteered Kings Park for a county pilot program to revitalize older neighborhoods. Cook also brought residents together

to draw up a neighborhood vision statement, in which they outlined what they wanted to see happen on their community streets.

The candidate reached out to members of his community from different ethnic

backgrounds to make sure they were involved in local activities. He helped make households aware of county zoning and property regulations.

"The number of illegal boarding houses in

the county has doubled over the last two years but, in Kings Park, it has gone down," said Cook.

For the most part, people who are in violation of the zoning code want to come into compliance and keep up their property. Instead of calling the county authorities, neighborhoods should take matters into their own hands and contact their neighbors about a potential problem, said Cook.

Other cases exist in which people are willingly engaged in illegal activity and the county needs to act. While shadowing a

county zoning enforcement team, Cook said he saw a house where the property owner had divided a basement into seven or eight units and was charging \$400 per room per month.

"There were 21 people living in this ramblar and none of them knew each other. ... That is appalling. It is unacceptable," said Cook.

"You have one of these houses on your block and it ruins the whole street," said Cook, who wants to see the number of zoning enforcement officers doubled.

EVEN with his focus on neighborhood problems, Cook has given a lot of thought to countywide issues as well.

Cook said he would not vote for a budget in which citizens, on average, would have to pay more in residential real estate taxes than they did last year. He also wants to focus on increasing the county's commercial tax base so that less of a financial burden falls to homeowners in general, he said.

"You have to keep your residential property taxes down so that people want to live here," said Cook.

On affordable housing, Cook said he does not think the county should be buying up foreclosed properties. Instead, that money

SEE JOHN COOK, PAGE 16

"The number of illegal boarding houses in the county has doubled over the last two years but, in Kings Park, it has gone down."

— John Cook



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



With Voices Raised

Above, the Fairfax High School Black History Choir performs during a Black History Month event at Fairfax High School on Feb. 7. The event was sponsored and organized by the Emmett R. Anderson Scholarship Committee of Mount Calvary Baptist Church. At left, Carol Smith was the first African-American to graduate from the original Fairfax High School. The committee invited Smith to speak during the Feb. 7 program.

'Fantasticks'

FROM PAGE 4

monologues that he has by himself. He says he loves community theater, having performed in about 20 plays counting high school. He aspires to be a professional actor on Broadway. "They're good people and very supportive," he said of his colleagues.

Fred Lash, 64, of West Springfield plays the aging actor Henry who is part of a Shakespearean travelling troupe.

"He's an optimist. He sees everything in a grand and glorious way," says Lash, who works at the U.S. Department of State, office of press relations.

His biggest challenge the Indiana native said is "keeping my Shakespearean accent and not slipping into my 'Hoosier-ese.'"

Lash describes the Springfield group as vibrant. "Community theater should be fun because you don't get paid for it."

Jon Roberts, 60, of Great Falls plays the role of Hucklebee, Matt's father who's obsessed with gardening. He's plotting to have his son marry his next door neighbor's daughter.

Roberts' biggest challenge is making sure the dance numbers are as absurd as they need to be. "It's a total change from my day job, which is why the whole thing is fun," said Roberts, who works as a patent lawyer in Reston. "In this show, you're permitted to be somebody totally different."

He particularly likes Springfield Community Theatre because "You get an opportunity to do many different things which is fun," he adds.

Joseph LeBlanc, 65, of Arlington plays the girl's father Bellomy, who's trying to arrange his daughter's life. "So as fools, they make foolish plans, which, of course, turn out disastrously at first, but this being a romantic comedy, eventually works out."

George Willis, 46, of Springfield plays El Gallo, the narrator/bandit and catalyst in the show. "He plays the closest thing to a villain. He's manipulative and mysterious and helps facilitate the whole ruse," said Willis, who works as an engineering consultant.

The fun part for him is "I'm the guy who knows what's going on in everything. With lots of stage direction, I stand there and look good."

Guilty Plea in Mall Thefts

FROM PAGE 3

defendant removed a white bag from under his shirt, placed the shirts inside it and left the store.”

After their arrest, continued the prosecutor, “The defendant told police the three had come from New York to steal clothing, and he showed police the vehicle he’d driven. Three hundred pieces of clothing worth \$15,000 — with price tags and security sensors affixed — were found in laundry bags in the car.”

Gallagher said 200 additional security sensors that had been removed from clothing were also in the vehicle, a Dodge Caravan. He said Rios-Leon told police that he stole for someone named Carlos and was paid \$100-\$150/day to do so. “He also told police that, on March 27, 2008, he had helped steal more than \$200 worth of clothing from the Hollister store,” said Gallagher.

Also charged in connection with this incident were Rafael Steven Rodriguez, 35, and Geraldine Henao-Gaviria, 19. In July 28, 2008 affidavits for warrants to search the trio’s cell phones, plus the Garmin GPS in Rios-Leon’s vehicle, police Det. Samuel S. Song of the Fair Oaks District Station presented further details of the crimes.

He wrote that police and mall security officers viewed the July 18 thefts on the

store’s surveillance video. He also noted that Henao-Gaviria entered the Hollister store and was observed stacking shirts in the store.

“While Rios-Leon was loading the shirts into the bag, Henao-Gaviria was [allegedly] holding up a shirt in an attempt to obstruct the view of sales associates and anybody else who may have been looking in Rios-Leon’s direction.”

He wrote that the pair reportedly left the store with the concealed merchandise, and then they and Rodriguez left the area. But the next day, July 19, around 2:45 p.m., via closed-circuit TV, mall security observed the same, three people in the mall.

They were seen walking in and out of the Abercrombie Fitch store. Mall security then notified police, and all three New Yorkers were arrested. Rodriguez was charged with two counts of grand larceny and one count of possession of burglary tools.

Henao-Gaviria was charged with one count each of grand larceny, intent to sell stolen property and receiving stolen goods. Rios-Leon was charged with two counts each of grand larceny, possession of burglary tools and intent to sell stolen property. Following Rios-Leon’s guilty pleas in court, Roush ordered a pre-sentencing report be made and then set his sentencing for March 20.



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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.

Let's Hear It for the Girls, 7 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Mother-daughter book discussion group. Age 9-11 with adult. 703-978-5600.

Reading Across the Centuries, 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Writer and university instructor Wendi Kaufman facilitates discussion of "The Natural" by Bernard Malamud. 703-644-7333.

Afternoon Reading Group, 1 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "Reading Lolita in Tehran" by Azar Nafisi. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Make New Friends, 10:30 a.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about friendship. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/FEB. 20

"A Raisin in the Sun," 7 p.m. at James Lee Community Theatre, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Angela Hansberry's 1959 play about a family's experiences in Washington Park. For tickets, contact Nomikka Hunter at 703-324-555. Admission \$5. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec.

Luke Brindley. Acoustic/rock. 8 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave.

N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Jonathan Edwards, folk singer. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$24. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

L.A. Theatre Works and "The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial," 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University, at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Tickets are \$19-\$38. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

"Making Connections Arts Marathon," a 24-hour festival of theater, art, music, film and dance activities starting 8 a.m. at George Mason University's Fine Arts Building, Performing Arts Building and the Johnson Center, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Free. 703-993-8898. Visit www.gmu.edu/cfa for a schedule of specific events.

"A Hill of Magic Beans or Here's Looking At You Jack," presented by Lake Braddock Storybook Theatre, 7 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Storybook favorites Humpty Dumpty, Pinocchio, Rapunzel and Rumpelstiltskin join Jack to fight the giant. Tickets \$3. 703-426-1070.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

Second City National Touring Company. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Luke Brindley. Acoustic/rock. 8 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Robbert Bobbert and the Bubble Machine, powerpop for little boys and girls. 11 a.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Microsoft Access, 2:30 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Introduction to creating, modifying and mastering databases using Microsoft's Access program. Age 13 and up. 703-293-6227.

Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra, 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, 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 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$19-\$38. Age 12 and under, half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

The Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association, 7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Dancing lessons begin at 7:30 p.m. with open dancing from 8:30-11 p.m. \$12 per person. 703-860-4941 or www.nvcwda.org.

Author Jessica James will sign copies of "Shades of Gray: A Novel of the Civil War in Virginia" 12-4 p.m. at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 1-800-545-7950.

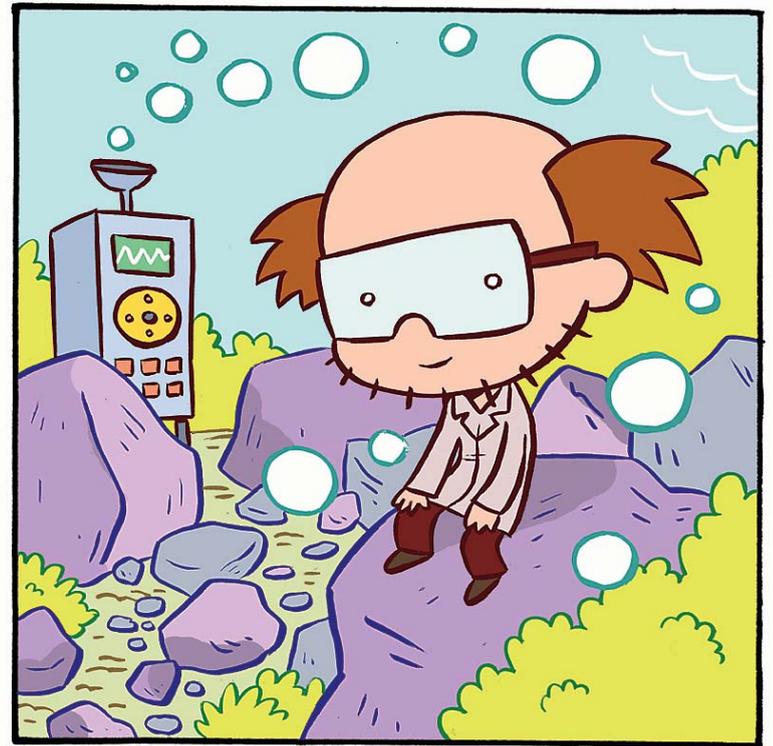
Spring Flowering Trees and Shrubs, 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Community Hall, 8104 Lee Highway, Merrifield. Wayne Boyland, Plant Specialist, on different types of trees and shrubs available to brighten a landscape. 703-560-6222.

Bonsai, 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn about the ancient art of bonsai. Using specialized techniques, bonsai can be formed and sculpted into miniature versions of their full-sized counterparts. 703-968-9600.

Luke Mitchem CD Release Party, 7 p.m. at Coffihouse, 8433 Lee Highway, Merrifield. info@COFFIHOUSE.com.

3-on-3 Adult Basketball Tournament, 6-10 p.m. at the Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Single or double elimination tournament depending on the number of teams entered. Open to adult basketball teams, co-ed teams encouraged. This is a 3-point competition. Prizes will be awarded. \$25 entry fee per team. Dept. of Community and Recreation Services, 703-278-8605.

Jazz & Tap Dance Festival, 8 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$20 adults, \$17 students



Robbert Bobbert and the Bubble Machine will bring powerpop for little boys and girls to Jammin' Java in Vienna on Saturday, Feb. 21.

and seniors in advance; \$23 adults, \$20 students and seniors at the door. www.jatdf.org or 1-800-595-4TIX.

"A Hill of Magic Beans or Here's Looking At You Jack," presented by Lake Braddock Storybook Theatre, 1 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets \$3. 703-426-1070.

SUNDAY/FEB. 22

Second City National Touring Company. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Drumline Live, 7 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A free pre-performance discussion begins at 6:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$22-\$44. Age 12 and under half price. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

An Evening with Fred Eaglesmith. Roots rock. 7:30 p.m. \$20. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Local Matinee with Thomas and Black Bird Lewis, 2 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$8. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Jazz & Tap Dance Festival, 4 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$20 adults, \$17 students and seniors in advance; \$23 adults, \$20 students and seniors at the door. www.jatdf.org or 1-800-595-4TIX.

Jubilee Christian Center will show "Fireproof" at 6 p.m. A PG movie with Kirk Cameron about a firefighter fighting to save lives and his marriage. The movie is free, and refreshments will be served afterwards. Nursery, Youth and Children's activities will be available. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

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.

Monday Movies, 3:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road,

Burke. Watch a movie based on a book and say which was better. Age 6-18. 703-978-5600.

Inova Blood Drive, 2 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred, call 1-866-256-6372. Adults. 703-293-6227.

TUESDAY/FEB. 24

Inova Blood Drive, 1:30-7:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred; call 1-866-256-6372. 703-644-7333.

Book Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Victory Red, Ringleader, Tami D'mar and Rana Mansour, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25

Ian McLagan and the Bump Band. 7:30 p.m. \$17 advance, \$20 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Tales for Two's: Color Craze, 10:15 a.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Explore the world of color. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

Mother-Daughter Book Club, 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Book club for girls age 9-11 and their mothers. Call for title. 703-249-1520.

THURSDAY/FEBRUARY 26

Our Daily Bread's Empty Bowls Fund-Raising Dinner, a soup and bread dinner to raise funds to feed the hungry in Fairfax County, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. \$25 donation includes a handcrafted ceramic bowl; \$10 for children. Reserve at 703-273-8829 or info@ODBfairfax.org.

Griffin House and Charlie Mars. Rock/folk. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

George Winston, folk pianist. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.



Folk singer Jonathan Edwards will perform on Friday, Feb. 20 at The Barns at Wolf Trap.

Historic Property Available for Rental

FROM PAGE 3

second floors. Since 1998, 110 soldiers' names have been positively identified, along with their regiments, companies and hometowns.

Six slaves worked on the land, and from 1862-63 the home became part of the 11th Army Corps Reserve Hospital system that utilized other houses, buildings and land. During that time, some 1,700 soldiers fell ill with typhoid fever, diarrhea, fevers and various ailments.

AFTER THE Civil War, the property was used as a dairy farm with 50 stanchions for milking Holstein and Guernsey dairy cows, said Andrea Loewenwarter, historic resources specialist.

A new museum and interpretive center houses exhibits that recreate and interpret the historic graffiti. The rooms are filled with scribbling on the walls from the Civil War: names, dates, hometowns, pictographs and thoughts of Union soldiers.

"Blenheim is nationally important on the National Register of Historic Places and has some of the best preserved soldier inscriptions in the country," said Dr. Chris Martin, Historic Resources Director for the City of Fairfax. "It's the culmination of many years of hard work and planning and it's won-

derful to finally be where we are and share this amazing site with the public."

"I just feel that our location is very unique," said Hildie Carney, chair of the Blenheim Committee and a member of the Historic Fairfax City Inc. Board. "I think a bride who would choose the location is someone who would be interested in history and know that the site would enhance her wedding celebration."

In 2001, Carney obtained permission to have her daughter's wedding reception at Blenheim. "It was an absolutely beautiful setting for a September wedding," she said. "We used the space in the front lawn for hors d'oeuvres with a combo band on the front porch and a large tent in the back. ... It was absolutely gorgeous."

The interpretive center spills out to a large porch, covered patio and an outdoor space that could accommodate a tent for wedding reception of 190 people comfortably, she says.

The site will be available for events during the times that it is not opened for regular viewing and tours. Events could take place Sundays 10-10, Saturdays 3-10, and weekdays from 4-10 p.m.

Business groups can rent out the site for, say a breakfast, then take a tour and learn about the city's history.

"We do have a lot of Civil War history



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

"We do have a lot of Civil War history here."
— Hildie Carney

Hildie Carney stands outside of the room at Historic Blenheim that can be rented out for weddings.

here," said Carney. "This site was built with a kitchen and bathrooms and a beautiful [multipurpose] room that could accommodate 70 people for small gatherings."

Every two years, Blenheim is used for Civil War Days, a re-enactment where the 17th Virginia Infantry Regiment camps out for two days. Using horses and people dressed in costume, the event tells the story of the capture of Union Gen. Stoughton.

"The staff will offer special tours during the events by appointment, so that the guests that come to these functions will have the opportunity to take the tour and view the exhibit center," said Carney, who

helped save the building from being demolished.

Carney said the process took about eight years to finish writing the guidelines for Blenheim's use. Rental rates vary between \$1,000 and \$1,500 for five hours, and go up to \$1,800 on holidays. City residents receive a \$250 discount. Historic tours of the site are available to rental users for an additional fee. Business meetings and commercial usage is between \$80 and \$180/hour. Historic Blenheim is located at 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Open Tuesday-Saturday, 12-4 p.m.; guided site tours at 1 p.m. Call 703-591-0560.



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Visit vendors that are offering discounted pricing for their services at the expo.

Visit: www.internationalbridalexpo.com

COMMUNITY

Celebrating Black History at Pinn

Program brings together members of African American community.



Vera Slaughter, a former director of the Pinn Community Center, gives the opening prayer during the Third Annual Black History Month program at the community center in Fairfax on Feb. 14.



George Martinez, Chairman of the Global Block Foundation, was the guest speaker of the annual Black History Month program at the Pinn Community Center on Feb. 14.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Abada Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian dance and martial arts group, performs a traditional Brazilian martial-arts style dance during the Black History Month program, Celebrating the Dream, The African Diaspora, at the Pinn Community Center in Fairfax on Feb. 14.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/FEB. 19

Independence Day Celebration Committee, 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7858.

City of Fairfax Republican Committee Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-3273-2824.

Western Fairfax Republican Women's Club, 6:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

Guest speaker will be Del. Tim Hugo (R-40). www.wfrwc.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

Congress on Your Corner with U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), 1-3 p.m. at the Oakton Library's Meeting Room No. 1 at 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Connolly will meet one-on-one with area residents about legislative and community issues. He will be accompanied by constituent service representatives from his congressional staff who will assist residents on matters involving federal agencies. 703-256-3071.

MONDAY/FEB. 23

Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m. at

City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7930.
School Board Work Session, 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3500 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. 703-385-7910.

TUESDAY/FEB. 24

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7935.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Panel Discussion on Reforming the Redistricting Process in Virginia, 10 a.m. at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Panelists will include Dr. Michael McDonald from George Mason

University and State Del. Kenneth Plum (D-36). Also invited are State Sen. Kenneth Cuccinelli (R-37) and a representative from the Virginia Redistricting Coalition. 703-658-9150 or www.lwv-fairfax.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 26

Community Appearance Committee, 7:30 p.m. at City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7995.

Destination Fairfax Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7850.

MONDAY/MARCH 2

School Board Meeting and Work

Session, 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7935.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County, 8 p.m. at Fairfax County Economic Development Authority headquarters, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. County licenses and permits, state workforce service and training programs and federal financing and certification resources. Register at www.FairfaxCountyEDA.org/sb_seminar.htm.

City Council Work Session, 7 p.m. at City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7935.



REBUILDING A BRIDGE

I-495 HOT LANES PROJECT UPDATE: MAJOR CONSTRUCTION COMING TO BRADDOCK ROAD

As part of Virginia's five-year-long I-495 HOT lanes construction project, the Braddock Road (Route 620) bridge—which passes over the I-495 Capital Beltway—will be demolished and completely rebuilt.

Although Braddock Road will remain open throughout the entire project, motorists traveling through the area should expect delays when construction begins in late February.

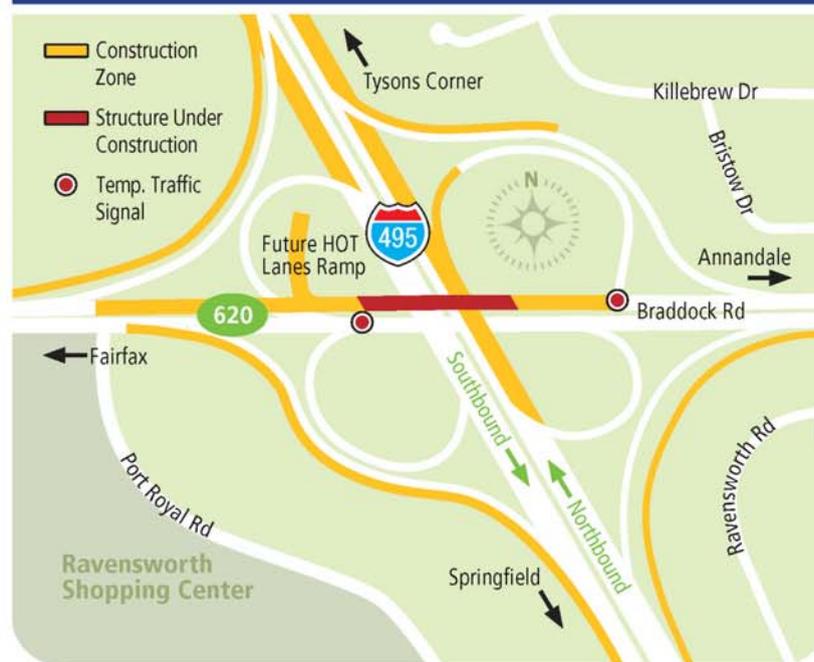
Drivers—what to look for now:

- All traffic will shift onto the eastbound Braddock Road bridge, which will be modified to provide two lanes of traffic in each direction during construction, so be prepared for lane shifts
- Temporary traffic signals will be installed for I-495 south traffic exiting to Braddock Road east, and for I-495 north traffic exiting to Braddock Road west
- The westbound Braddock Road bridge will be completely demolished and replaced, a process expected to take about one year
- Demolition work will take place from 9:30 p.m.–5:00 a.m. for about six weeks, so expect multiple Beltway lane closures in both directions near the Braddock Road interchange during overnight work hours
- Expect eastbound delays of about 6–8 minutes in the a.m. peak hours, and westbound delays of about 10–20 minutes in the p.m. peak hours

The I-495 HOT lanes construction is part of the Virginia Megaprojects—a series of large-scale transportation improvements designed to ease congestion and provide you with new choices and better ways to get where you need to go.



BRIDGE DEMOLITION / TRAFFIC SHIFT AT BRADDOCK ROAD AND I-495 CAPITAL BELTWAY Phase 1: Winter 2009 – Spring 2010



For more project information, go to VAmegaprojects.com



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax senior Ellyn Baumgardner swam on two Northern Region record-setting relay teams this past weekend. She also won the 100-yard breaststroke.

Going Away Party

Fairfax five takes second at Northern Region swim and dive finals.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Meredith Harris, the Fairfax swim and dive team's second-year head coach, laughed as she said it, but she still couldn't help herself from delivering the line.

"They're our babies, and they're leaving the nest," said Harris, referencing the Rebels' top five female swimmers: Ellyn Baumgardner, Frances Dowd, Jean DeOrnellas, Theresa Harvey and Lauren Gehrke.

The first four will graduate this spring and Gehrke's family is moving to Asia. On Saturday night, Feb. 14 at Oak Marr RECenter for the Northern Region swim and dive finals, the "babies" gave their "mom" something to smile about, finishing second to Robinson, 301-222.

The 200-yard medley relay team (Gehrke,

Baumgardner, DeOrnellas and Harvey) set a region record in 1 minute, 46.80 seconds, while the 200 freestyle relay team (Baumgardner, Dowd, DeOrnellas and Harvey) set another region record with a time of 1:36.61. Baumgardner took first place in the 100 breaststroke with a mark of 1:02.21.

"It's our last year together at regionals, and we really wanted to get the record and get first and we did," Baumgardner said of the 200 freestyle squad. "We spent all week getting pumped up."

On the boys side, Fairfax finished fourth with 186 points, led by Joey Kelly's team-best 27. The 200 freestyle relay team, which consisted of Ryan Larson, Travis Lauri, Kelly and Alex Price, finished second in 1:27.19.

"Our boys getting fourth this year was unbelievable," Harris said. "They had the drive. They had the 'want to' this year, and they proved it."

"They're our babies, and they're leaving the nest."

— Coach Meredith Harris,
Fairfax High

IN OTHER MEET ACTION, W.T. Woodson's Kevin Vest finished second in the 50 freestyle, posting a time of 21.38. W.T. Woodson's boys team was sixth with 161 points. The girls team, led by Jill King's 18 points, totaled 99 points to finish 11th. The Cavaliers' 200 freestyle relay team (Betty Fan, Kristen Lewan, Caitlin Rider and King) took fourth.

Moody Makes Major Adjustments

Fairfax senior Kabel Moody's career went from bottom to top in four years.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax boys basketball coach P.J. Kelly remembers the moments all too well. Sitting in the stands and watching his program's junior varsity team, he felt defenseless observing Kabel Moody.

During his freshman and a sophomore years, Moody's play could be described as anything from a hot headed to passive. Kelly, as the varsity coach, couldn't do much. He knew that Moody had the physical tools to be a star but was doing little with them.

"He had so much potential, but I think sometimes, as a sophomore, he wasn't really sure of his abilities," said the seventh-year coach. "He was one of those guys who passes the 'looks test,' but he wasn't very confident."

After earning honorable mention All-Concorde District honors as a junior and making the first team All-District squad this year as a senior, Moody has passed a few more tests. Entering Tuesday's game at Westfield, Moody was averaging a team-best 16.1 points and nine rebounds per game.

"I used to have a very bad attitude," said Moody, who has shot 47.2 percent from the field this season. "When something would happen, I would just flip out. But my attitude has helped me grow up and become a better basketball player."

Kelly had the opposite assessment. "It's almost like he wasn't aggressive enough," Kelly said. "He was just letting things happen without saying, 'OK, I could've made a difference there.' And now he's doing that more and more."

THOUGH HIS TEAM suffered a 67-57 loss to Westfield Tuesday night in the first round of the district tournament, Moody has finally fulfilled that potential that Kelly saw during junior varsity action.

Now a 6-foot-3, 200-pound senior, Moody was born and raised in Gaston, N.C. A life-long fan of Michael Jordan and the North Carolina Tar Heels, the soft-spoken star laughs at the notion that he'd ever root for

"This is the way we wanted him to end his career."

— Coach P.J. Kelly, Fairfax High

another college basketball team.

Moody's father used to take his son to community parks around Gaston, telling a young Kabel to be patient, stay focused, listen to coaches and be respectful. None of it clicked until Moody reached the eighth grade.

A year after contributing on Gaston Middle School's seventh-grade team primarily as a role player, Moody became a starter the next year and averaged around 12 points per game. His team finished in second place and Moody was named the team's co-MVP.

Following that turnaround season, a new job for his father brought Moody's family moved to Northern Virginia. At Fairfax, Moody started for two years on the football team but gave up the sport after his sophomore season.

Moody also plays for the Fairfax Stars AAU basketball team and hopes to continue his basketball career in college. While he admits that the recruiting process is in its earliest stages, he has received some heavy Division III and modest Division I interest.

"This is the way we wanted him to end

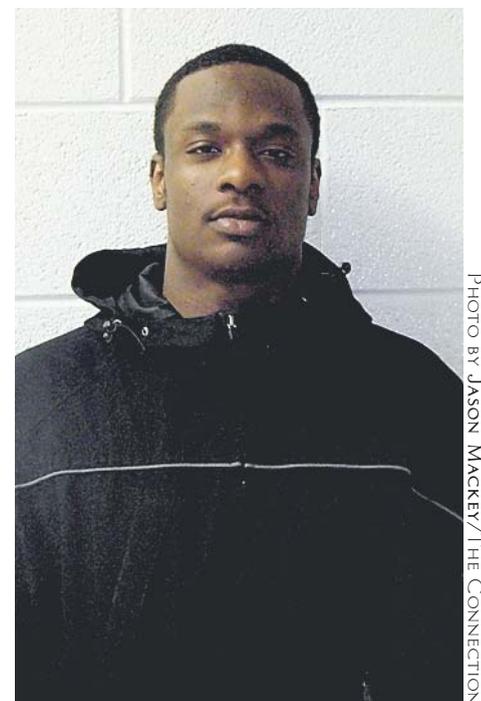


PHOTO BY JASON MACKEY/THE CONNECTION

Kabel Moody, a senior on the Fairfax boys basketball team, was averaging 16.1 points and nine rebounds per game before Tuesday's loss to Westfield.

his career," Kelly said. "He's really matured, and for him to put up these numbers as a senior says a lot about him and how far he's come."

SPORTS

Perryman a Coach, Too

During the final round of the Northern Region wrestling tournament this past Saturday at Fairfax High School, Robinson junior Roman Perryman became a part-time coach.

Following his 4-0 win over Westfield's Kyle Arnold, the 135-pound Perryman knelt near the corner of the mat and shouted instructions to his friend and former training partner, 140-pound Ross Renzi of Lake Braddock.

Renzi eventually suffered a 3-2 loss to Jefferson's Mike Howard but not before Perryman did his best impersonation of Bryan Hazard, the Rams' actual head coach.

"I always like cheering on my friends," said Perryman, whose team finished second to Westfield, 220.5-198. "I feel like I can help them ... if they can hear me."

Robinson's other first-place finisher Saturday was 103-pound Jake Smith, who kick-started the final set of matches with a 1-0 victory of Anthony Kotoriy of Langley. Next up for Robinson is the Virginia AAA state meet at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake.

"I thought I wrestled well, almost to the best of my ability," said Smith, who won district and regional titles as a freshman. "It's just another stepping stone to where I really want to be, winning states next week."

Yost a Winner, Wants More

Fairfax senior Jordan Yost was unhappy with his performance in the final round of this past weekend's Northern Region wrestling championships. It's not as if Yost wrestled poorly, it's just that the outcome wasn't what he was looking for.

And he won, too.

Yost cruised to a 7-0 victory over Centreville's Emilio Garcia, but, in his own gymnasium, wanted to pin his opponent. Instead, the 171-pound Yost had to settle for accomplishing his pre-season goal.

"Obviously, this is what I've been aiming for the whole season, and it didn't happen quite the way I wanted it," Yost said. "I really wanted to pin him in the finals."

Yost will advance to this weekend's Virginia AAA state finals at Oscar Smith High School in Chesapeake, hoping to accomplish yet another pre-season goal.

"Before the season, my goals were to win regionals and finish top five at states," said Yost, whose team finished fifth with 89 points. "It looks like that could happen."

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14920 JASLOW ST	\$379,900	March 15th, 12-3pm	Long & Foster	Linda Blakemore	571-265-9555
13220 MAPLE MOUNTAIN DR	\$735,000	Sat. Feb. 21st, 1-4pm	RE/MAX Allegiance	Gayle Yates	703-568-1153
13926 Stonefield DR	\$549,950	Sun. Feb. 22nd, 12-3pm	Long & Foster	Lisa Clayborne	703-675-5461

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13233 Wrenn House Lane	\$575,000	Sun. Feb. 22nd, 1-4pm	Samson Realty	Bernie Kagan,	703-216-0985
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12897 GRAYS POINTE RD #12897B	\$250,000	Sat. Feb. 21st, 2-4pm	Avery-Hess	Sharon Nilsen	703-403-5504
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9262 Sprucewood Rd	\$274,950	Sun. Feb. 22nd, 1-4pm	Weichert Realtors	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808

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11451 Quailwood Drive	\$1,325,000	Sun. Feb. 22nd, 1-4pm	Keller Williams	Diane Lenahan	703-283-7328
7101 Park Point	\$724,950	Sun. Feb. 22nd, 1-4pm	Weichert Realtors	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808

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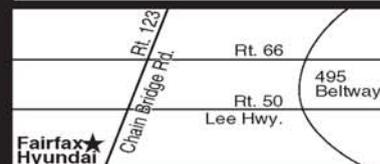
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OPINION

No to Gatehouse II

Superintendent of Schools Jack Dale and other Fairfax County Public school administrators persist in pressing for the purchase of a new, additional building next to its current headquarters.

School Board members and Board of Supervisors members should push back against this proposal.

So far, proponents of buying the 275,000-square-foot building next door to the 210,000 square foot existing headquarters say that this is the only way they can vacate 15 properties.

Vacating those buildings will save millions of dollars they say by terminating leases and avoiding renovations; plus some are needed for new schools. These savings lead proponents to call this program "self funded."

But now that we are in a different economy, local government will have to learn to think differently about such problems.

Leaders will have to find a way to vacate 15 buildings without spending nearly \$100 million, thereby reaping the savings without going into debt for part two of a school Taj Mahal.

There are some 600 employees in Gatehouse I, and plans to move some 700 more to Gatehouse II. That's nearly half a million square feet of top quality office space for administration. There will be no teachers or students in these buildings.

We should note that this proposal comes from good intentions. We hear that camaraderie, synergy and communication have all improved from having a critical mass of administration and services located in a single place. It's a benefit Dale, Dean Tisdadt and others rightly would like to expand.

But administrators of the Fairfax County Public School system do not need office space fit for a top-flight law firm. Space inside Gatehouse I could be reconfigured so that almost all employees had their own cubicles — not offices. A few small conference rooms could make room for private conversations and phone calls as needed.

Many employees already telecommute, or could, on some days, and others spend most of their time in a variety of schools. These employees should share space; a cart for their files and a laptop should enable them to use modular space, greatly increasing the number of workers who could be accommodated inside the existing building.

FCPS also purchased three acres next to Gatehouse I where the original proposal was to build Gatehouse II. Now the proposal is to purchase an adjacent existing building.

EDITORIAL

Patronizing and Laughable

To the Editor:

I certainly wish your reporter would get her facts straight before finalizing her story ["Bulova New Board Chairman," Connection, Feb. 5-11, 2009]. Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-Braddock) won by "approximately 2,000 votes?" If you can't get the numbers right, leave 'em out!

Further, her characterization of the Braddock District as "sleepy residential communities" is positively laughable. I would like to invite the reporter to join me on Braddock Road at just about any hour of any day of the week to discuss her patronizing description.

Sylvia Kely
Braddock District

No Quick Fix

To the Editor:

On Feb. 16, the governor informed the General Assembly about the latest decline in tax revenues in January 2009, which will add another \$800 million to the state deficit (which is now \$3.7 billion).

This broad-based deterioration is caused by declining revenue in three specific tax categories: payroll withholding tax, individual

estimated income tax and retail sales tax. Each one is important as a barometer for economic activity. The sharp decline for each in January indicates that a state recession could last years, not months. Here are the details:

LETTERS

❖ **Payroll Withholding:** Payroll withholding contracted 16 percent in the second half of this January (compared to December). Why the collapse? Probably because employers kept workers on through the Christmas holiday, then let them go in January with two weeks of severance. That would explain the sudden drop starting Jan. 15. Fewer payroll withholdings means less state revenue. Fewer jobs means less money for consumers to spend. Meanwhile, unemployment claims will rise in 2009 which places extra stress on surviving businesses.

❖ **Estimated income tax payments:** Self-employed Virginians pay income tax via quarterly assessments based on projected income. The projections are reconciled to actual income at the end of the year. When estimated tax payments start dropping it's an indication that small business owners are either (i) showing lower-than-expected profits or (ii) predicting that their income will drop in the coming year. Each is happening. Based on the January

data, the self-employed are projected to pay 18 percent less in taxes in 2009 than originally projected. That is huge. In fact, that alone is causing a \$560 million additional hole in the budget.

❖ **Retail Sales Tax:** Although declining retail sales gets the most attention, it actually has the least impact on the state budget. In the holiday shopping season of December-January, Virginia sales receipts declined 9 percent. While a critical indicator of our recession, the total impact on the budget through June 30, 2010 from declining retail sales is only \$100 million. This is because our state income tax, not sales tax, is the primary revenue driver for the Virginia budget. Regardless, the drop in retail sales reflects an underlying lack of confidence from consumers which is inextricably tied to the above income statistics.

My purpose in reciting these most-recent statistics is not to alarm anyone. Virginia is still a stable economy with one of the lowest unemployment rates in the U.S. We have a great portfolio of business leaders and technology innovators who create opportunities. Our citizens wake up early and work hard. Nobody in this economy is asking for "extra sleep time."

However, the economic situation we face today will last beyond the short-term future, beyond the next

Almost \$100 million for second school HQ building is pre-meltdown thinking.

Instead, the schools should install modulars (trailers) on the three acres to accommodate any employees who need to vacate the 15 buildings but don't fit inside a reconfigured Gatehouse I.

There are also problems with the process being used in this decision. There have been no public hearings on the subject. And the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to consider this next week. When we modernize or build schools here, voters get to weigh in by means of a referendum, and Fairfax voters have overwhelming supported school projects. Why don't voters have a say on this, which has been in the works for years?

This way, the schools can save \$100 million twice.

These are just some general suggestions; there are many different ways to do more with less space. And in some cases, it's appropriate to do less with less.

Don't just take our word for it, read the school system's arguments in favor of buying Gatehouse II at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/office.htm>.

— MARY KIMM
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

election cycle. It cannot be "fixed" by any stimulus package, no matter how large or well-intended.

The only real solution is for Virginians to rebuild, revitalize and retrofit our state economy with a focus on "next-generation" technologies that maximize employment in long-term sustainable jobs. It won't be easy. And in light of January's economic figures, it's not going to be quick. But it's the challenge we must overcome together. In the meantime, all our public servants, whether in Richmond or in Fairfax, must react accordingly in setting their budgets.

Sen. Chap Petersen
D-34

Write

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

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COMMUNITY

John Cook

FROM PAGE 6

should be used to assist high performing county employees to buy homes in Fairfax County. If a county employee with excellent work reviews for five years and wants to buy a home locally, Fairfax should provide some money for the down payment, said Cook.

"Having a police officer or firefighter in your neighborhood is one of the best things that can happen to a community," he said.

Cook also wants the county to use more of its bonding authority to deal with the backlog of street and transportation projects. He said that the Fairfax government couldn't wait for the General Assembly in Richmond to come up with a solution to local traffic problems.

"I would love nothing more than for Richmond to fix the transportation problems, but it keeps going the wrong way. I don't have a whole lot of confidence in Richmond, and I am really not prepared to wait five years for them to do something," said Cook.

One of the candidate's transportation priorities is building interchanges on Fairfax

"I have independents and Democrats who are supporting me."

— John Cook

County Parkway where stoplights currently are. Without the lights, traffic would be able to move nonstop on the thoroughfare, he said.

BULOVA, a Democrat, was the Braddock District supervisor for 21 years. But Cook is optimistic that a Republican who is willing to work across the aisle could win the local supervisor election next month.

"I have independents and Democrats who are supporting me. I think it is important to work with people from the other party. Sharon Bulova and [former U.S. Rep.] Tom Davis (R) always worked with people from the other party," said Cook.

Bulova may also have been a Democrat but Wilson, the Braddock District School Board member, is active in the Republican Party and chair of Cook's campaign.

"I think John would make a wonderful supervisor," said Wilson.

Supervisor Patrick Herry (R-Springfield) performed well in the Braddock District during the recent special election for county chairman. Herry said he is optimistic Cook could take the open supervisor's seat.

"He is a good candidate with deep roots in the community. I did very well in Braddock, even though Sharon had 20 years of experience there. Braddock used to be a swing district and, with the right candidate, it could be a swing district again," said Herry.

"I would absolutely be excited about having another Republican on the board but, more importantly, I would be excited about having someone who understands common sense solutions," Herry said.

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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LEGAL NOTICE
AT&T Corporation intends to file an application to construct a cellular telecommunications tower at 4904 Mattie Moore Court in Fairfax, Fairfax County, Virginia 22030. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as Boulevard Estates will consist of the construction of a 50-foot by 50-foot fenced compound that will enclose a 125-foot tall monopole with a four-foot tall lightning rod. A strong-well box and CSC cabinet, and an electric meter and telco board will be installed in the southern corner of the compound. Additionally an 11-foot by 11-foot concrete pad will be installed in the northern corner of the compound. Equipment cabinets and associated equipment will be installed on the concrete pad and an icebridge will extend from the equipment to the monopole. AT&T antennas will be installed on the monopole at a height of 120 feet. Underground power and telco lines will extend southwest and then southeast from the electric meter and telco board located in the southern corner of the compound to an existing utility pole located along Mattie Moore Court. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Carolyn Mitchell, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o markos9@atcassociates.com

21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Senior Madison Rupp scored 32 points to help the Robinson girls swim and dive team to a Northern Region title Saturday night, Feb. 14 at Oak Marr RECenter.

Robinson Girls Steal Show

Girls swim and dive glides past Fairfax; Robinson boys fall to upstart Oakton.

BY JASON MACKAY
THE CONNECTION

Winner of the past six Virginia AAA state titles, the Robinson boys swim and dive team has garnered its share of attention. On Saturday night, Feb. 14, at Oak Marr RECenter, members of the Robinson girls team turned the spotlight on themselves.

Despite having won district titles in 10 of the past 12 years, as well as splitting last year's Northern Region crown with Fairfax, the Robinson girls are often overlooked because of the boys team's perennial success.

But when the boys finished second to Oakton (232-230.5) and the girls cruised to a 301-222 win over Fairfax to claim the 2009 region crown, it was the girls team that celebrated its region championship by swaying to Queen's "We Are The Champions."

"We've been in their shadow for a couple years, so it feels good to come out on top this year," said senior Amanda Kendall, who scored a meet-best 40 points for her team. "But we are really upset [the boys team] got second place."

"Over the years, I feel like they have gotten all the attention because they've won states," said junior Laura Finelli. "But I feel like this year we have a lot of the attention, which is pretty exciting."

Both teams will advance to this weekend's Virginia AAA state finals, which will take place at George Mason University's Freedom Center, with the diving finals scheduled for Saturday, at 9 a.m. and the swimming finals the same day at 4:30 p.m.

Kendall was the Rams' top performer, taking first-place honors in both the 50-yard (23.51 seconds) and 100 freestyle (50.98) events. Both times set Northern Region records.

"She's just an amazing racer," said first-

year coach Tom Koucheravy. "You ask her to do something, and she doesn't back down from the challenge. She's just amazing in whatever event you put her in."

In addition to Kendall, the Robinson girls were bolstered by the performance of its 400 freestyle relay team (Madison Rupp, Tori Baker, Finelli and Hannah Walden), which touched the wall in 3:37.27 to take first.

Rachel Canty (200 individual medley, 2:09.46), Rupp (500 freestyle, 5:08.60) and Finelli (100 backstroke, 1:00.14) posted third-place finishes, while the girls team also had the second-place 200 medley and third-place 200 freestyle relay teams.

"All these girls just did a great job, stepping up and going above and beyond," Koucheravy said.

When asked about the boys team's performance, Koucheravy had no complaints. Oakton, which scored a dual-meet win over Robinson on Jan. 9, simply out-swam his team, despite several outstanding performances from Robinson swimmers.

The boys 400 freestyle relay team took second, while the 200 freestyle and 200 medley relay teams each took third. Furthermore, East Carolina-bound senior Geoff Bobsin finished second in the 100 freestyle (46.49) and third in the 50 freestyle (21.45). Cory Bowersox took second on the 1-meter dive (487.10).

"The boys team did great. There's no arguing that," Koucheravy said. "I told every boy that no one can falter, no one can back down. Everybody has to go above and beyond what they can do, and just about everybody did."

But even on a night when the Robinson boys led Oakton by 4.5 points entering the final relay, it was the Robinson girls team that won its first solo region title since 2005 and 11th overall.

"It was really exciting, especially to win by that much," Finelli said, and especially because the boys didn't win and we won."

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-Abraham Lincoln

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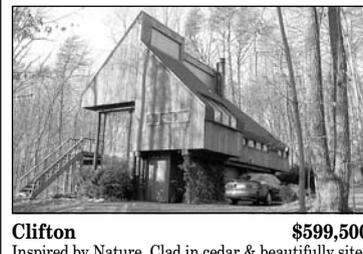
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Price	Burke	Fairfax Station	Clifton
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400-699,000	42(37)	11(8)	21(7)
700-999,000	3(1)	28(8)	18(6)
1,000,000+	2(0)	14(1)	23(5)

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Ann Witherspoon
703-503-1836



FAIRFAX STATION \$659,900 CREAM OF THE CROP!

Just unpack & settle into this like new home! Updated from top to bottom including windows, kitchen, baths & much more - 4 BR - 3 1/2 BA - HW throughout main level - Skylights - Finished LL w/walk-out to trees - Not far from Mercer Lake - This one is a 10+ + Call or email ANN WITHERSPOON for your private showing! 703-503-1836 & ann@annwitherspoon.com

Sheila Adams
703-503-1895

Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million
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Fairfax \$514,900
Gorgeous 4 Level Split in popular Kings Park West, a quiet neighborhood with lots of charm. The lovely tree-lined street gives you the feel of country living close in. This beauty features 4 BRs, 3 Full Baths, located on a quiet cul-de-sac. Remodeled Kitchen & Baths, Hardwood floors, Gas Fireplace & much more. Call Sheila Adams for a private showing 703.503.1895



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703-798-2899
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Fairfax Station \$649,000
Immaculate Crosspointe home on quiet lot, backing to huge wooded common area. New windows, updated kitchen w/ accent lighting, Silstone countertops & additional cabinets. Fantastic addition of sun room & mudroom/laundry room adds plenty of living area & walks out to tiered composite deck. Fully finished walk-up basement with built-in office area.



Fairfax Station \$925,000
Private circular driveway leads to meticulously maintained brick & stone colonial on 5 acres. Level yard, stunning deck w/hot tub, serene setting. 2 story family room, large office, well designed kitchen, sunroom, formal living & dining rooms. Walk-out basement ready to finish the way you'd like.



Richard Esposito
703-503-4035
Richard@LNF.com
Service is the difference I provide



Springfield \$835,000
Brand new brick front home! Three levels, 4 bedrooms, 3 car garage, gourmet kitchen, 2-story foyer & family room, separate dining room, formal living room, library, master suite with a luxurious master bathroom. The lower level has walk-up stairs.

ELLIE WESTER

703-503-1880
L&F Founder's Club
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer
Life Member, NVAR Million
Dollar Sales Club
ellie.wester@longandfoster.com



Springfield West \$509,900
Almost 1/2 acre
Imagine your own peaceful sanctuary in the heart of West Springfield featuring 5 bedrooms and three full baths. Easy living in this spacious Rambler with a full finished walkout basement, hardwood floors, 1 car garage on a cul de sac. Available for 6 months rental at \$2,395.

LISTING YOUR HOME? CALL LONG AND FOSTER'S #1 OFFICE!
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