

Brambleton and ...downe

TJ Julia, left, was one of four Briar Woods wrestlers who earned third-place finishes at last week's Region II Championships. Park View's Stephen Penna, right, won the 112-weight region title. The postseason event took place at Park View High School. Five Falcons will represent their school at this weekend's state tournament.

## Heading To States

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Bridal  
Capers  
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Redefining  
Route 28

NEWS, PAGE 3

More  
Hospital Hijinks

NEWS, PAGE 3

Introducing...

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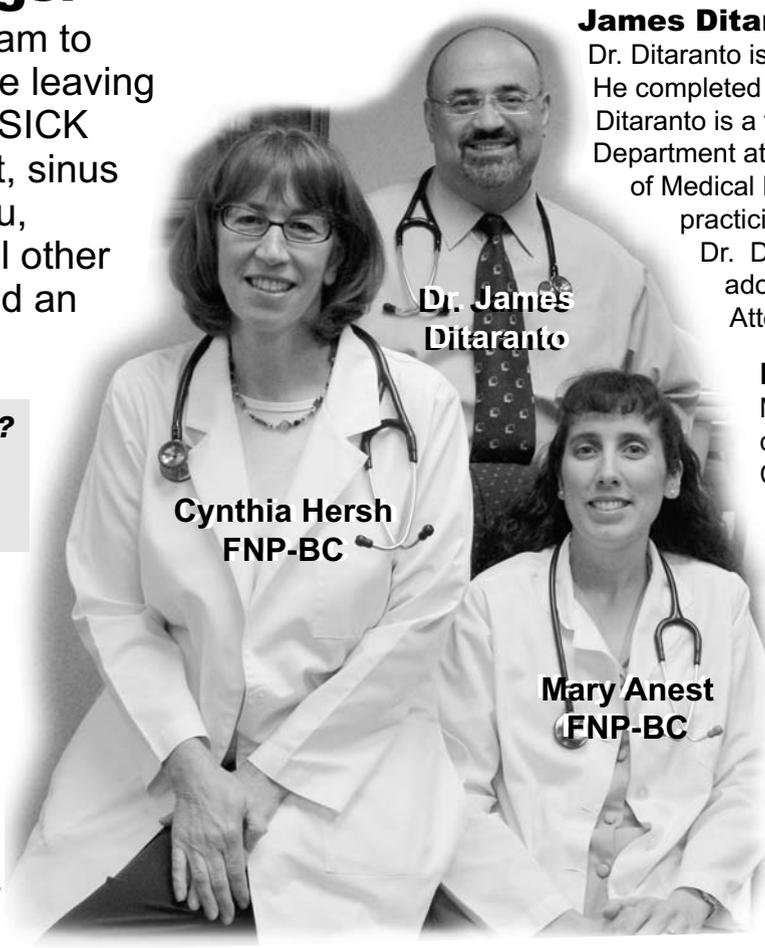
Now through February, from 9am to 10:15am every Monday, we are leaving our schedule open for walk-in SICK visits. If you have a sore throat, sinus infection, cough, cold, or the flu, walk-in during these hours. (All other conditions or routine visits need an appointment.)

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### James Ditaranto, D.O

Dr. Ditaranto is a Board Certified Family Medicine Physician. He completed his Family Practice Residency in 1986. Dr. Ditaranto is a former Chairman of the Family Medicine Department at Reston Hospital Center and served on the Board of Medical Planning for Loudoun County. He has been practicing in Loudoun county for over 13 years. Dr. Ditaranto's special interests include pediatric and adolescent health care. Other interests include Attention Deficit Disorders and Geriatrics.

Dr. James Ditaranto

Cynthia Hersh  
FNP-BC

Mary Anest  
FNP-BC

### Mary Anest, FNP-BC

Mary is a family nurse practitioner with board certification from the American Nurse Credentialing Center. She received her undergraduate nursing degree from Bob Jones University in Greenville, SC, in 2003. After working on an orthopedics unit and then a high-risk obstetrics unit, she attended Binghamton University in Binghamton, NY, for her graduate nursing degree.

### Cynthia Hersh, FNP-BC

Cynthia is a graduate of Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing. In 1999 she graduated from Creighton University magna cum laude with a Bachelor's of Science degree in nursing and in 2001 with a Master's of Science advanced practice nursing degree specializing in family medicine.

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# Reclassifying Route 28 Corridor

Developments could change nature of Route 28.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI  
THE CONNECTION

**R**esidential could be the new buzz word for the Route 28 corridor. Two recently filed applications seek to construct mixed-use developments along the mostly business-oriented corridor.

Dulles World Center, consisting of 75 acres in Loudoun County, along with four acres in Fairfax County, on Innovation Drive, along the northeast quadrant of routes 28 and 267, is proposed to have 3,394,600 square feet of nonresidential uses, including hotels, restaurants, retail and offices as well as 1,495 housing units consisting of 32 townhouses and 1,463 multifamily units.

Kincora Village Center, has 354 acres located on the southwest quadrant of routes 7 and 28, where the applicant hopes to build a minor league baseball stadium, a total of eight offices buildings, auxiliary uses consisting of restaurants, financial institutions and personal services and according to a zoning modification amendment application that was accepted by the county Planning Department last week, 1,400 multifamily dwelling units. Unlike the Dulles World property, the Kincora ownership filed a special exception covering the stadium, office buildings and auxiliary uses in December and the zoning amendment recently, which puts the two applications on different timetables. Typically, when the applications are filed together, they are merged and make



An artist's rendering of the Dulles World Center at build out.

their way through the approval process concurrently.

Kincora's special exception is expected to be a 90-day process while the zoning amendment could take up to a year, Judi Birkitt, the county planner assigned to the project, said.

The two developments have also prompted the Board of Supervisors to decide to take a holistic view of the corridor. At its Feb. 6 meeting, the board initiated a Comprehensive Plan Amendment, com-

monly called a CPAM, to look at properties designed as "keynote employment" along Route 28 from the Fairfax County border to Route 7 and between Atlantic Boulevard and Broad Run for possible reclassification of each parcel's designed land use. In addition, the board initiated a Route 28 business committee outreach project to gauge what stakeholders along the corridor envision for Route 28, to find out why many of the property owners decided to retain zoning under the 1972 ordinance rather than

convert to the revised 1993 zoning ordinance and what incentives could be considered to encourage property owners to convert to the newer zoning.

"The citizens in my district are very interested in this and are not happy with the 25 percent residential," said Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac), whose district includes portions of the corridor. "We already have large mixed-use communities

SEE APPLICATIONS, PAGE 7

## HCA Moving On to Reston

HCA accelerates plans to expand Reston Hospital in wake of BRMC denial.

BY JENNIFER LESINSKI  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he long battle over the best location for a second county hospital could finally be over and not in a way anyone had hoped.

Officials at Hospital Corporation of America announced plans to accelerate the expansion of its Reston hospital Friday, effectively taking any pursuit of a Loudoun facility off the table. The Board of Supervisors denied HCA's application for the 164-bed Broadlands Regional Medical Center (BRMC) for the second time Feb. 3.

The announcement comes days before Supervisor Stevens Miller (D-Dulles) plans

to ask the board to reconsider the decision and allow the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to provide information regarding competitiveness in the marketplace.

"We would certainly monitor any further action the board would take in Loudoun," Mark Foust, vice president of communication for HCA's capital division, said. "It's clear that once Reston Hospital is expanded, it would serve many of the same patients BRMC would have."

**AS OF FRIDAY** afternoon, Miller hadn't seen HCA's press release or talked to any officials associated with the hospital, but

SEE FOCUS, PAGE 4

### Counter Move

Inova Health System issued a press release Monday, Feb. 16, announcing it has filed a formal letter with the state to build an 80-bed hospital on Route 50 in Loudoun County. According to the release, Inova plans to "move immediately" to construct a "Healthplex" at the intersection of routes 659 and 50. The healthplex will be the cornerstone for a full-service hospital and, according to the release, does not require a certificate of public need to provide emergency care, new physician offices and outpatient services.

Inova's formal COPN application for a full-service hospital will include a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week emergency department, medical-surgical beds, intensive care unit beds, obstetric beds up to eight operating rooms, magnetic resonance imaging, computed tomographic scanning, a helipad and related hospital support services.

The press release states Inova plans to file the formal application for a COPN by June 1. The state review process generally takes nine to 12 months.

Inova officials have yet to respond to a request for comment.

## Fatal Crash

**A** single-vehicle crash early Tuesday morning near Broadlands killed an Ashburn man and left a passenger in critical condition, according to the Sheriff's Office.

Around 2:15 a.m., a 2004 Nissan Altima was traveling east on Broadlands Boulevard near Columbus Court where it appears to have lost control on a curve in the roadway. According to a preliminary investigation by the Loudoun Sheriff's Office Crash Reconstruction Unit the vehicle veered to the left, crossed the median and proceeded across the westbound lanes of Broadlands Boulevard before striking a tree.

The driver of the vehicle, Michael P. Howard, 23, died at the scene. A passenger in the vehicle, Elizabeth Kissinger, 21, of Herndon, was airlifted to Inova Fairfax Hospital where she was currently listed in critical condition.

According to the Sheriff's Office, speed is believed to be a factor in the crash.

## Fire Department Recognized

The Virginia Fire Chiefs Association will present the Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management with the Virginia Fire Chiefs Best Practices in Fire Service Health and Safety Award.

Created to recognize the health and safety efforts of fire departments in Virginia, the award acknowledges creative, comprehensive and significant accomplishments and programs that provide for the health and safety of fire service members. One fire department within each of the categories of volunteer, career and combination departments is honored.

This year, Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management was recognized for its Respiratory Protection Program, which was implemented by the department through the Fire and Rescue Service Plan adopted by the Board of Supervisors to serve the combined fire and rescue system. The program, which was created to provide oversight and funding for self-contained breathing apparatus for the fire-rescue system, not only enables the department to provide system members with properly maintained breathing apparatus, but to insure that equipment is updated as industry standards change.

The award will be presented at the 2009 Mid-Atlantic Expo and Symposium in Virginia Beach Saturday, Feb. 21.

## Board Cancels Public Input Sessions

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has canceled its regular public input sessions in March, which had been scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Monday, March 2, and March 16. Instead, the board will use the time for work sessions on the fiscal year 2010 budget. One hour will be set aside for public input during the board's regular March business meetings, beginning at 9 a.m., Tuesday, March 3, and Tuesday, March 17.

Links to documents for board meetings, including packets for business meetings and the budget work session schedule, are online at [www.loudoun.gov/bosdocuments](http://www.loudoun.gov/bosdocuments).

## Preparing for Census

Loudoun County is taking steps to prepare for the 2010 Census by taking part in the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP). PSAP allows participants, following Census Bureau guidelines and criteria, to review, update and delineate new census tracts, block groups and census designated places.

Loudoun County will develop recommended changes to census tracts and block groups, along with recommended census designated places, based on the analysis of the criteria from the census, along with input from county agencies and others. This input can help guide these changes so that they best meet the different needs of census data users. Census results are used by decision makers at all levels of government when allocating resources to communities.

The deadline for the submission of the completed recommendations to the U.S. Census Bureau is March 27. The deadline for Loudoun County government departments to respond with input is Feb. 25. Other agencies, such as Loudoun County Public Schools, Loudoun Water and the incorporated Towns, and the general public should respond by March 5.

Comments may be sent by e-mail to [psap@loudoun.gov](mailto:psap@loudoun.gov) or to Jill Allmon, Department of Management & Financial Services, Mailstop 41, 1 Harrison St. S.E., Leesburg, VA 20177. More information is available on the Loudoun County Web site at [www.loudoun.gov/psap](http://www.loudoun.gov/psap).

## ESL Tutoring

The Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, is offering one-on-one English as a Second Language tutoring by appointment during March and April. Participants will be partnered with a trained volunteer for a one-hour session each week for six weeks.

Go to the library's information desk to sign up for the program, visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or call 703-737-8100.

## NEWS



**The proposal for the Broadlands Regional Medical Center could be dead with HCA's plans to expand Reston Hospital.**

# Focus Shifts to Reston

FROM PAGE 3

he indicated that he still believes the board should hear what the FTC has to say.

"It's the responsible thing to do," Miller said Friday, adding that part of the Countywide Health Care Facilities Plan calls for providing citizens a choice in health care.

Miller initially supported the application at the Feb. 3 meeting, then changed his vote when it was defeated by a 4-5 margin. The vote change was a parliamentary tactic that will allow Miller to ask the board to reconsider.

Miller said the comprehensive plan, while indicating a Route 50 site for a hospital should be given preference, also calls for consideration be given to whether the project provides residents choice and whether it provides desirable employment and expands the tax base. HCA officials have said BRMC would provide 600 jobs and \$4 million in tax revenue, as well as \$11 million in proffered road improvements.

"Several supervisors referred to the part [in the plan] that said Route 50 should get preference and ignored the parts above and below it," Miller said.

He said he hoped his fellow supervisors would want to hear what the FTC had to offer because it's an "objective, third-party ... whose job is to look out for consumers," Miller said.

Miller would be seeking to have the matter placed on the board's agenda for an April meeting. Miller said it would take the agency 45 days to generate a report.

A letter sent to Miller from James Cooper, acting director of the Office of Policy Planning for the FTC, said, "If the board were to decide to postpone its final vote, FTC staff would welcome the opportunity to provide the board with our analysis of the competitive issues surrounding this matter." The letter goes on to say the agency has "substantial experience" analyzing the health-care market and cites its suit to block Inova Health System's merger with Prince William Hospital in 2008.

The supervisors next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 17.

**REGARDLESS** of whether the supervisors decide to reconsider their decision, Foust said HCA is moving forward with its plans to expand its Reston campus. The project will enlarge the campus by 345,000 square feet and add 152 beds. Foust, however, would not say if that means the company will look to trans-

fer the certificate of public need (COPN) granted by the state health department for the Broadlands location to Reston.

"Reston could be its own application," he said.

The proposed Reston expansion would need approval from the state in the form of a COPN. The certificate granted for the Broadlands location is set to expire in March, at which time HCA could let it lapse and file an separate application for the Reston Hospital or seek a significant change, effectively transferring it to Reston.

**"Once Reston is expanded and we have additional capacity, it would limit any provider from adding new beds in Loudoun."**

**— Mark Foust,  
HCA, vice president of communications,  
capital division**

"We have not made an announcement about transferring Broadlands' COPN to Reston," Foust said, adding, "Once Reston is expanded and we have additional capacity, it would limit any provider from adding new beds in Loudoun."

This was the second time HCA's application for the full-service facility, located on 57.7 acres at the intersection of the Dulles Greenway and Belmont Ridge Road, was denied by the board. In 2005, the supervisors denied the special exception and zoning modification needed. HCA sued on the basis of being the only application denied that year. When the currently board took office in 2008, it agreed to revisit the application prompting HCA to drop its suit. HCA was granted the COPN for the Broadlands location in 2004 and has renewed every year while its proposal made its way through the planning process and faced legal challenges from Inova Health System, which operates Inova Loudoun Hospital, located 5 miles from the Broadlands location. The possibility of a HCA locating hospital on the site was first discussed in 2002.

# Concern for Libraries Grows

**Proposed county budget calls for cuts of library programs and services.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

In other years, the budget proposed Feb. 9 by County Administrator Kirby Bowers would seem like nothing more than a packet full of numbers, statistics and graphs. This year, however, in the midst of an economic downturn, no single group of numbers could be more important.

Facing a \$200 million shortfall, the Board of Supervisors instructed Bowers to propose a budget that had tiered cuts to reduce spending by 5, 10 and 15 percent on top of the base budget reductions. On the cutting

room floor sits many programs and services that the county has come to depend on, especially in times of economic hardship.

The library system is one of these services on the front lines of the budget battle. Though the library comprises only 1 percent of the total budget, according to Scott Stewart, chairman of the Loudoun County Library Board of Trustees, it is facing cuts that will have a significant impact on the community.

"There is no cut that does not do irreparable damage to this model of service to the Loudoun County citizenry," Stewart wrote in a letter to library supporters. "When there is nothing extra to cut, the core functions must be gutted. Every library in the system is affected, not just your local branch."

At the base budget cut level, which would give no increase in tax funding, the library sys-



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

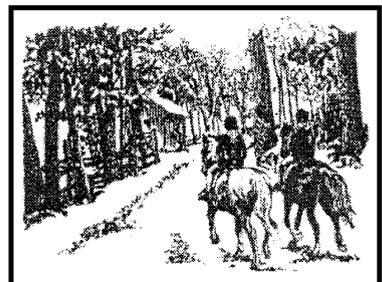
**A customer checks out books from the Sterling Library.**

tem would be facing a 7.5 percent decrease in its funding overall. At this initial level, the libraries would be forced to lay off nine staff members and the After Hours Teen Center and Outreach Services to the elderly would be eliminated. Also, all library branches would be closed Sundays.

**AT THE FIRST TIER** of cuts, which reduce  
SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 10

## Show Your Support

Show support for Loudoun's libraries by attending one of the Board of Supervisors' public input meetings scheduled for Feb. 25 and 26, both at 6 p.m., in the Supervisors' boardroom at the County Government Center and Feb. 28, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., and 12:30-2:30 p.m., in the School Administration Building in Broad Run or write an e-mail to your district supervisor at Eugene.Delgaudio@loudoun.gov or Andrea.McGimsey@loudoun.gov.



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## Preserve Library Funding (Especially Now)

To the Editor:

I strongly urge the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to keep FY 2010 funding for libraries at the same absolute-dollar level as FY 2009. The proposed service cuts required under the current budget scenarios (ranging from \$900,000 or 7.5 percent to roughly \$2.5 million or over 20 percent) will be devastating for county residents at a time when the need for library services has never been higher. The cuts will damage the long-term economic health of the county, yet do little, if anything, to address the current budget crisis. Key reasons to preserve funding include:

❖ Libraries are a safety net: Our public libraries have experienced a 25 percent increase in usage since the economic crisis began. Libraries provide struggling families with access to reading materials, the Internet and educational programming, indispensable resources for those facing financial hardship.

❖ Libraries promote economic recovery: Libraries help those who have lost their jobs find new professional and/or educational opportunities, helping them get back on their feet and promoting economic recovery and growth in the tax base.

❖ Libraries complement our schools: Students regularly rely on the library as a place to study, conduct research and access reading and resource materials. Cutting library hours undermines the quality of education they are receiving.

❖ Libraries are a bargain: The total FY 2009 budget for our award-winning library services is under \$12 million, less than 1 percent of the county budget. Our library system is well run, with little or no "fat." The requested flat-funding budget maintains existing core services, with no new "nice-to-have" programs.

❖ Budget cuts don't help short-term finances: The county gains little if anything financially from cutting library funding, even under the most aggressive scenarios. While cuts will have a devastating impact on the 72 percent of residents who use our libraries, they will — at most — reduce county expenditures by a virtually meaningless 0.25 percent.

I recognize that the BOS faces a daunting task in setting the current budget and associated tax rate. The board should demand that departments eliminate wasteful spending and delay expensive new technologies or programs that we can't afford right now. But we need to fund essential services, and cutting library funding is the wrong answer — for the county and its residents.

**Larry Stepnick**  
Ashburn

## Relevant Information Needed

To the Editor:

We are very concerned that the recent denial of BRMC will have a detrimental effect on health-care services in Loudoun County for years to come. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has offered to provide an unbiased professional opinion on the merits of the BRMC application. We are confident that the Board of Supervisors does not want to make a decision of this magnitude without considering all relevant information.

We urge all residents of Loudoun County to contact the Board of Supervisors and ask them to vote on Feb. 17 to postpone a final decision on HCA for 60 days to allow the FTC time to evaluate the BRMC application and prepare written remarks for the board to consider. A decision of this magnitude would clearly benefit from

an independent agency such as the FTC that, unlike HCA or Inova, has no commercial interest in health-care services in Loudoun County. The FTC's mission is to protect consumers and a large part of their efforts and expertise are devoted exclusively to health-care issues.

We are not asking the Board of Supervisors to change their vote on BRMC on Feb. 17. We are asking them to allow the FTC to submit comments and to consider those comments before casting a final vote. This application has been in the works for seven years; we will gladly wait another couple of months for an independent analysis. Residents of Loudoun County concerned with this decision should contact the Board of Supervisors both via written letters and e-mail: Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, 1 Harrison St., S.E., fifth floor, P.O. Box 7000, Mailstop #01, Leesburg, VA 20177-7000 or bos@loudoun.gov.

Please ask them to allow the FTC to weigh in on this decision. Failure to consider the expert opinion of the FTC would be a failure to give a full and fair hearing to the BRMC application.

We thank Supervisor Miller for his efforts to ensure that the board has all the relevant information needed to make this important decision.

**Broadlands Residents for BRMC**  
**Leesburg Residents for BRMC**  
**Sterling Area Residents for BRMC**

## Create Bicycle Coordinator

To the Editor:

The Board of Supervisors has just voted to impose a vehicle tax on hybrid autos. While the tax will be less than on regular vehicles, it will generate an estimated \$629,000 new funds for the county annually.

Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac) has suggested that these new revenues be applied to environmental projects that mitigate pollution and enhance energy efficiency. One suggestion that makes sense is to create a bicycle and pedestrian coordinator position in the county. Loudoun County is one of the last jurisdictions in the metropolitan area that lacks a bike coordinator. In 2003 the county adopted the Bicycle and Pedestrian Mobility Master Plan, but to date, few of its recommendations have been implemented. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides designated funding to assist local governments to create such amenities as bike lanes, wide paved shoulders and/or paved trails beside roads. However, the jurisdictions must include specific language in their transportation plans and work closely with VDOT in order to have these bike facilities built on their roads. So far, Loudoun County has not been proactive in securing bike facilities. A new group, BikeLoudoun, is advocating to make bicycling and walking safe throughout the county. A primary goal of BikeLoudoun is the creation of a bicycle coordinator, which is sorely needed to move the county forward on this issue.

**Patricia Turner**  
Sterling



**Jay Sine RN, BSN, CPEN; Gina Harrison RN, BS, CEN, CPEN; and Barb DaCardona RN, BSN, CPEN.**

## National Certification Achieved

Inova Loudoun Hospital announces that four Pediatric Emergency Department employees, Victoria Bamsey, Barbara DaCardona, Gina Harrison and Jacquelyn Sine, have earned the "Certified Pediatric Emergency Nurses" designation. This is a newly created national certification from the Emergency Nurses Association and the Pediatric Board of Nursing.

## 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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**Submissions are due Friday.**

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Special Assistant for Operations

# Applications Trigger Corridor CPAM

FROM PAGE 3

approved ... if they start building out, I'll believe there is a market for that."

**ANTONIO J. CALABRESE**, an attorney with Cooley, Godward, Kronish LLP, representing the Dulles World project, said there is a market for what his client is proposing and the location near the airport and a proposed Metrorail station makes it even more ideal.

"It's a unique property at the confluence of crucial roads," Calabrese said. "It's a fabulous opportunity for Loudoun County to create a mixed-use, transit-oriented community."

The center would be walking distance to a proposed Metrorail station at the Center for Innovative Technology, located in Fairfax County, and close to Dulles International Airport. Currently the property is zoned for business community. The zoning amendment seeks to change the designation to town center. A separate special exception seeks to permit up to three hotels with a total of 708 rooms. If approved, the property could include up to 25 percent residential, which would be made up of townhouses and multi-family units. Calabrese compares the housing to Midtown towers in Reston and the overall project to be like Reston Town Center.

Besides the housing and hotels, the application said the project will include pedestrian-friendly grid network of streets, a large central park, public plaza and the developer proposed to obtain LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, certification.

It's a multiyear, multiphase project, Calabrese said. In fact, they are looking at a 15- to 20-year build out because some of the components are rail dependent. How the phasing will work and what will be in the first phase has yet to be worked out, however, Calabrese said it would be a bal-

anced phasing, meaning a combination of the commercial and residential would be constructed together. The application is still in the early stages as far as planning review, so no dates have been set for when it will be handed over the Planning Commission for vetting and a public hearing. The four acres of the property located in Fairfax County is subject to approval for increased density by that county's Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

**BY CONTRAST**, the Kincora project, at least the special exception anyway, skips the Planning Commission because the property is governed by the 1972 ordinance. Instead it will go straight the Board of Supervisors. The zoning amendment, however, will be subject to scrutiny by both boards.

**"It's a fabulous opportunity for Loudoun County to create a mixed-use, transit-oriented community."**

**— Antonio J. Calabrese, attorney representing Dulles World Center**

The special exception, which covers 60 acres, seeks to permit the stadium, offices and auxiliary uses on land designated for industrial park. The recently filed zoning modification, for 364 acres, includes the residential aspect of the project, would permit the development of up to 28 percent residential on the property. Birkitt said the two applications would not be merged.

She further said the application calls for residential, commercial, employment, parks and open space and public and civic uses. In all, the project includes 50 percent parks and open space and the commercial includes a 700-room hotel and retail uses. By county code, mixed-use developments must



**An aerial view of the proposed Dulles World Center property. The eastern most four acres are in Fairfax County, while the remaining land is in Loudoun County.**

also have a minimum of 5 percent of the project used for public and civic uses.

The special exception application, the non-residential portions of the proposal, calls for the construction to take part in two phases: phase one includes the stadium, four office building totaling 200,000 square feet and 65,000 square feet of auxiliary uses; phase two is four office buildings totaling 701,211 square feet and 9,000 square

feet of auxiliary uses. Since the rezoning application had just been accepted that week, it was not yet available to the public last Thursday. A previous rezoning application filed for Kincora was denied in 2007.

Like its counterpart at the opposite end of the corridor, the special exception is still in the early stages of the approval process and has not been scheduled for a hearing before the supervisors.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

**VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT TRAINING.** 3-7 p.m., Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services, 215 Depot Court, first floor, Leesburg. Volunteer Loudoun will present a volunteer management training series designed for volunteer managers of community organizations. The series will continue for five consecutive Wednesdays. \$25 each class; \$100 for all six. Visit [www.loudoun.gov/](http://www.loudoun.gov/) volunteer or call 703-737-8424 to register.

**WALLET WATCHER.** 7:30 p.m., Daily Grind Coffee House, 42020 Village Center Plaza, Stone Ridge. Wallet Watcher, a local financial support group, will meet. The topic is "Are you and your family ready to navigate today's financial

challenges?" Free coffee. Call Pam at 703-542-5151 to RSVP.

**PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE.** 10 p.m. and 7 p.m., Ashburn Presbyterian Church, 20962 Ashburn Road, Ashburn. Celebration Preschool, will be holding an open house for parents who are interested in learning more about the preschool. Contact Brenda Shapbell at 703-729-1224.

**INTERNET SAFETY 101.** 7 p.m., Briar Woods High School, 22525 Belmont Ridge Road, Ashburn. The PTA for Sanders Corner Elementary School is hosting a presentation for parents called "Internet Safety 101: Empowering Parents." Representatives from the group Enough is Enough and the Loudoun County Sheriff's Department will be present to answer questions. Visit [www.sanderscornerpta.org](http://www.sanderscornerpta.org).

### THURSDAY/FEB. 19

**GRANT WORKSHOPS.** 10-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m., George Washington University Virginia Campus Library, 44983 Knoll Square, Ashburn. Two free grant workshops, "Proposal

Writing for Grants" and "Proposal Budgeting for Grants" will be held. Preregistration is required; contact [virginia@gwu.edu](mailto:virginia@gwu.edu) or 703-726-8230.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 20

**HEART CHECK SCREENING.** 3-7:30 p.m., Inova Loudoun Hospital, front entrance, 44045 Riverside Parkway, Leesburg, onboard mobile unit. Inova Loudoun Hospital Mobile Health Services will provide blood pressure check, body mass index check, cholesterol screening which will include both total cholesterol and high density lipids and glucose screenings. Cost: \$20 for all four screenings, cash or check will be accepted. Ages 18 and older. Call 703-771-2907.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 21

**SAFE SITTER BABYSITTING COURSE.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Inova Loudoun Hospital, Lansdowne Campus, 44045 Riverside Parkway in Leesburg. The class is for students, ages 11-13, wishing to learn

effective babysitting strategies. Cost: \$55 per student, which covers manual and snacks. Students should bring lunch. Register by calling 703-858-6360 or visit [www.thebirthinginn.org](http://www.thebirthinginn.org).

**ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR.** 11 a.m., ING Financial Partners, 44084 Riverside Parkway, Suite 120, Lansdowne. Free estate planning seminar presented by American Family Services, includes refreshments.

**TOUR GUIDE TRAINING.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Thomas Balch Library, 208 W. Market St., Leesburg. The Ball's Bluff Battlefield Guide Group is holding a training session for those interested in becoming a Ball's Bluff guide. Training consists of a morning lecture session followed by an afternoon walking tour of the battlefield with expert tour guides. Call 703-779-9372 or e-mail [templehallfarm@nvrpa.org](mailto:templehallfarm@nvrpa.org).

### MONDAY/FEB. 23

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATION SUMMIT.** 6-8 p.m., Rehau, 1503 Edwards Ferry Road N.E., Leesburg. The Loudoun

County Department of Economic Development is hosting a Business Association Summit for existing business associations in Loudoun to share about the benefits they offer members, greatest successes and lessons learned. Registration is free; preregistration is requested. Contact Philip Denino at the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development, 703-777-0585 or [philip.denino@loudoun.gov](mailto:philip.denino@loudoun.gov).

**PRIMARY BOOK CLUB.** 7 p.m., the Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. The Virginia Readers' Choice primary book club will meet. Children ages 5-8 will learn about an author and illustrator and do a fun activity. February's book is "Library Lion" by Barbara Knudsen. Registration required; call 703-737-8100 or visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

**SEMINAR PREVIEW.** 7:30 p.m., Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, 43115 Waxpool Road, Ashburn. Our Savior's Way is hosting Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University that teaches students how to make the right financial decisions. Visit [www.daveramsey.com](http://www.daveramsey.com).



ARTS ❖ ENTERTAINMENT ❖ LEISURE

## FOOD & DRINK

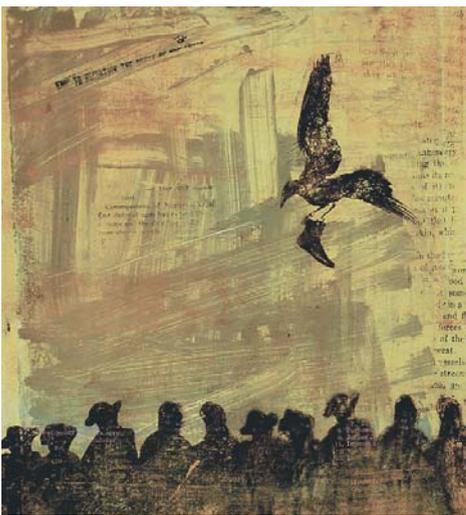
Send announcements to [loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday, two weeks prior to event; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

**Wild game wine dinner**, Wednesday, **Feb. 18**, 7 p.m., at The Wine Kitchen, 7 South King St., Leesburg. Alligator, barracuda and boar are just some of the features on the five-course menu. Each course will be paired with a hand selected wine. Seating is limited, call for reservations. Cost: \$75 per person plus tax and gratuity. Call 703-777-9463 or visit

<http://www.thewinekitchen.com/going-ons.html>.

**Willowcroft Farm Vineyards**, 38906 Mount Gilead Road, Leesburg, is showing "Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" Saturday, **Feb. 22**, at 2 p.m. Cost: \$8 person, free for children. Admission includes wine tasting, movie and popcorn. Call 703-777-8161 for reservations.

## THE ARTS



**Monotype and relief prints by Heather Self will be on exhibit from Feb. 23-March 27 in the Waddell Art Gallery at the Loudoun Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, Sterling.**

Send announcements to [loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday, two weeks prior to event; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

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

# 'Five Women Wearing the Same Dress'

**CCT and 2nd Flight Theatre stage comedy Feb. 20-March 1.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**A**lan Ball, the man who scripted HBO's "Six Feet Under," "True Blood," and "American Beauty," wrote "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" — the play that CCT with 2nd Flight Theatre Company is staging Feb. 20-March 1, at the Waddell Theater, Northern Virginia Community College, Loudoun campus.

The comedy is set in an upstairs bedroom of an opulent Tennessee mansion during the wedding reception of the oldest daughter of the house. The five bridesmaids retreat to the bedroom to escape the reception and their own demons. Throughout the play, the audience learns why each woman wants to be anywhere but at the party.

"Five bridesmaids of Bridezilla hide out in an upstairs bedroom and as they spend time together, they let down their guards a little and secrets are revealed and comedy ensues," director Susan Devine said. She chose the play because "there's some good comedy around weddings and Southern women." Fifty women auditioned for the five women roles, she adds.

**ERIN ANDERSON KING**, 26, of Brambleton, plays the self-centered Georgeanne who is in her own little world. She's been friends with the bride since high school but they've fallen out of touch.

"Pretty much everything that comes out of her mouth is ridiculous. She spends a good portion of her time drunk and/or crying," she said.

The role is a shift for her in that she's never played the funny girl. "It's something out of my element," she said. To help her prepare, she watched reruns of "Golden Girls." And prior to going on stage, she literally spins around. "I discovered the best way to feel drunk on stage is to spin in circles backstage — so the next time I go on stage, I'm good and loopy," she added.

The technical writer by day has been with 2nd Flight since 2005, which she calls an "extremely welcoming group of people."

Betsy Eames, 25, of Reston, plays Frances, a sweet and sheltered girl who wants to be accepted by the others. She meets a bartender and slowly comes out of her shell. "I like her because she's so dorky and I'm pretty dorky so it's a good fit," said Eames. She said she based her character on the



**Clockwise from top center, Melissa McConnell, Brittany Washington, Betsy Eames, Lauren Feliz, Erin King and Zachary Lanouette-Opheim.**

said. Her challenge was learning all the lines after she came into the show a month late due to conflicts.

This is the second production with 2nd Flight for the human resources administrator by day, who added she's not much like her character because "I shy away from confrontation."

Melissa McConnell, 25, of Fairfax, plays Trisha, who she based on Samantha from "Sex and the City." She describes her role as "a bit of a slut but she makes no apologies for it."

She gets labeled as being promiscuous. "She does what she wants and she doesn't care what anybody else thinks," she added. "She's sexually explosive."

The fun part of the role? "I really enjoyed delving into this character who is seriously my complete opposite," she said. "And doing a Southern accent is what makes it fun."

## To Go

**"Five Women Wearing the Same Dress"**  
Feb. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and March 1  
Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m.  
Tickets are \$10/students and seniors; \$15/adults.  
Waddell Theater, NOVA Loudoun  
[www.cct2ft.com](http://www.cct2ft.com)  
Call 703-948-7701

Darryl Hannah character in "Steel Magnolias."

Her challenge is that she doesn't always agree with everything she says, "She has some pretty strong opinions." Eames works in software development by day and said she feels "like a princess" working on her first show with CCT. "Everything is so organized and so professional," she added.

**LAUREN FELIZ**, 26, of Fairfax, plays the bride's little sister Meredith, a rebel who is trying to gain independence from her family. "I get to do all the bad stuff, pretend to smoke pot and curse a lot, which I don't do in my normal life," she said.

The fun part is "It's kind of revisiting what you were like in high school," she added. And the challenge for her is "she's experimented with some rough stuff in her life and she doesn't want to be seen as a victim."

The government contractor and new mom said this is her second show with 2nd Flight Productions. "I've made some lifelong friends and that's awesome."

Brittany Washington, 21, of Herndon, plays Mindy, the lesbian sister of the groom who hates the bride. "She's very matter of fact and likes to tell things as they are," she

**"Five bridesmaids of Bridezilla hide out in an upstairs bedroom and as they spend time together, they let down their guards a little and secrets are revealed and comedy ensues."**

— Susan Devine, director

Her challenge: "She is Miss Cool. She is Miss Sophisticated. She's my opposite." For her day job, McConnell works as a processor at Wachovia Mortgage.

Zachary Lanouette-Opheim, 20, of Sterling, plays Trip Davenport, the friend of the groom and usher who is the only male in the cast. His Atlanta playboy-slut character falls for Trisha who ends up being just like him.

"I've never acted before," he said. "I'm basing him on myself a little bit, that's the easiest way ... if I were in his situation, what would I do?"

Being surrounded by girls is a refreshing change, he said. He calls his cast mates "Really helpful. They're all really fun ... a lot of my best friends are females." A full-time student at NOVA, he plans to transfer to VCU to study premed.

# CALENDAR

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## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

**SENIOR MOVIE.** 1:30 p.m., Senior Center at Cascade Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, Sterling. See "Changeling," starring Angelina Jolie and John Malkovich, directed by Clint Eastwood, rated R, running time 141 minutes. Cost: \$2, includes popcorn and soda. Call 703-430-2397.

**TEEN FUN.** 4 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Melt, pour, mold and taste chocolates. Recommended for teens. Registration required; visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or call 703-430-9500.

**NEEDLECRAFT NIGHT.** 7 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Bring your knitting, needlepoint or other project and get to know your neighbors, sewing-circle style. Recommended for adults. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 19

**FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT.** 7 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Bring the family to watch "Tinkerbell," rated G, on the big screen at the library. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

**ERIC CARLE PARTY.** 4 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Stories, activities and games celebrating Eric Carle, author of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." Recommended for ages 3-10. Registration begins two weeks before the program; visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or call 703-430-9500.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 20

**'80S HAIR METAL.** 7 p.m., Ned Devine's Irish Village, 21800 Town Center Plaza, Sterling. The Paul Green School of Rock Music presents the '80s Hair Metal Show, a tribute to Spandex, long hair, guitar shredding and power chords. Cost: \$10. Call 703-444-7873 or visit [www.irishvillage.neddevines.com](http://www.irishvillage.neddevines.com).

**CHOCOLATES GALORE.** 7-11 p.m., West Belmont Place at National Conference Center, 18980 Upper Belmont Place, Leesburg. Sample chocolate, dessert and hors d'oeuvre creations and vote for Best Taste and Best Presentation. Proceeds benefit YMCA Loudoun County. Cost: \$60 per person advance; \$65 per person at the door. Call 703-777-9622 or visit [www.chocolatesgalore.org](http://www.chocolatesgalore.org).

**TALENT SHOW.** 2 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. All ages can take part in this talent show. Register at the information desk by Feb. 20. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

**MARDI GRAS CARNIVAL.** 5:30-8:30 p.m., Claude Moore Community Center, 46111 Loudoun Park Lane, Sterling. All ages. Celebrate Mardi Gras with carnival games, crafts, magic, prizes for children and a raffle and silent auction for adults. Food will be available from local retailers. Register in person at Claude Moore CC. Call 571-258-3500 or visit [mardigrascarnival.org](http://mardigrascarnival.org). Snow date Feb. 27. Cost: \$1 for adults, \$5 for child play all night.

**GUITAR HERO JAM SESSION.** 6-9 p.m., Douglass Community Center, 405 E. Market St., Leesburg. Ages 6-14. Rock out with friends on the Wii version of Guitar Hero. Snacks and drinks provided. Parents do not need to stay. Call 703-771-5913. Cost: \$5.

**SOMEBUNNY TO LOVE.** 5-7 p.m., Sterling Community Center, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. The Loudoun County Animal Shelter and

RabbitWise are teaming up to help shelter rabbits find new homes. Visit [www.loudoun.gov/animals](http://www.loudoun.gov/animals) to see rabbits currently available for adoption.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 21

**'80S HAIR METAL.** 7 p.m., Ned Devine's Irish Village, 21800 Town Center Plaza, Sterling. The Paul Green School of Rock Music presents the '80s Hair Metal Show, a tribute to Spandex, long hair, guitar shredding and power chords. Cost: \$10. Call 703-444-7873 or visit See Feb. 20 item for details.

**BIRD WALKS.** 8-9 a.m., Rust Nature Sanctuary, 802 Childrens Center Road, Leesburg. Learn about bird watching. Free. Call 703-737-0021.

**FILM SERIES.** 2 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Bring friends and family to watch great books on film, features "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," rated PG. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov> or call 703-430-9500.

**HISTORY TOUR.** The Mosby Heritage Area Association is offering "Surrounded by Soldiers," a trip to examine the Atoka and Goose Creek battlefields from the perspective of the significant pre-Gettysburg cavalry battles of June 1863 at Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville. Trip will be of general and human interest rather than from that of just the Civil War buff. Visit the Web site [www.mosbyheritagearea.org](http://www.mosbyheritagearea.org) for more information.

**MAGDRI MEET AND GREET.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m., PetSmart, 46220 Potomac Run Plaza, Sterling. The Mid-Atlantic Great Dane Rescue League is hosting a meet and greet to support Great Dane adoption. Call the Sterling PetSmart at 703-444-6500.

**FAMILY CONCERT.** 4 p.m., at Stone Bridge High School, 43100 Hay Road, Ashburn. The Loudoun Symphony Orchestra's annual family concert "Pirates and Princesses" and the Loudoun Ballet Company will perform to the music.

**SHIVER ME TIMBERS** Treasure Hunt. 2-3:30 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. All ages. "Pirates" are welcome to enjoy the crisp air as they search for hidden treasure. Clues will lead to a secret location and a fun surprise. Then warm up with hot chocolate. Call 571-258-3700 to register. An adult must accompany children. Cost: \$4 per child.

**MASTER SINGERS OF VIRGINIA.** 4 p.m., Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, 43115 Waxpool Road, Ashburn. The Master Singers present Francis Poulenc's three best-known works, the "Mass in G Major," "Prayers of St. Francis" and the "Petites Voix." Cost: \$15 adults, \$12 seniors or students in advance, \$2 more at the door. Call 703-655-7809 or visit [www.msva.org](http://www.msva.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 22

**BLUEGRASS JAM.** Time TBA, Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, 21668 Heritage Farm Lane, Sterling. Join musicians from the region in an afternoon of music. Refreshments provided. Cost: free for visitors who bring a musical instrument; \$5 per adult, \$4 per senior, \$3 per child age 2-12. Call 571-258-3800.

**SUNDAY IN THE PRESERVE.** 1 p.m., Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, The Woods Road, Leesburg. Join the Friends of Banshee Reeks and Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy for a free informal, family walk around the preserve. Call the Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve at 703-669-0316.

**DAVID GRIFFITHS.** 2 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Celebrate Black History month with singer David

Griffiths. Recommended for all ages. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov), 703-444-3228.

**TALENT SHOW.** 2 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. An afternoon talent show hosted by Ashburn Library's Teen Council. Recommended for all ages. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov), 703-737-8100.

**BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM.** 3:30-5:30 p.m., Stone Bridge High School, 43100 Hay Road, Ashburn. The Loudoun County Virginia Chapter of Jack and Jill of America Inc. and Minority Student Achievement Advisory Council of Loudoun County is holding the 6th Annual Black History Program featuring members of the Duke Ellington School of the Performing Arts Show Choir. Del Walters will facilitate a tribute to Jerry L. Hill. Free.

## MONDAY/FEB. 23

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

**WOOLGATHERING.** 6 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Recommended for ages 12 and up. All knitting levels are welcome. Bring needles and yarn. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

**FRENCH STORY TIME.** 10:45 a.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Introduce children ages 3 and up to the French language through stories and songs. Registration required; visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or call 703-737-8100.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 24

**FILM FESTIVAL.** 7 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. "In the Heat of the Night" will be shown in the fourth and final installment of the Sidney Poitier film festival. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov).

**POETRY READING.** 6-8:30 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Sterling. The Humanity Institute for Children and Families will hold a poetry reading in honor of Black History Month with the theme Virginia's Finest. Free admission; reception follows. Call 703-507-6023 to register.

**INFORMAL TEA.** 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Sterling. The Humanity Institute for Children and Families' monthly series: Tea with Me featuring the executive director, Nina Fields-Pourvaranttee. Call 703-507-6023 to register.

**MARDI GRAS PARTY.** 4 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Celebrate Mardi Gras with books, games, food and fun activities. Recommended for ages 6-10. Register at [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or 703-430-9500.

**KALEIDOSCOPE SERIES.** 10 a.m., Ida Lee Park Recreation Center, 60 Ida Lee Drive N.W., Leesburg. "Flumpa and Friends LIVE!," starring Wendy Whitten "The Singing Scientist" and Flumpa the famous tree frog provide entertainment for the whole family with music, science, fitness and fun. Cost: \$6 advance, \$8 door, adults free with paying child. Call 703-777-1368 or visit [www.idalee.org](http://www.idalee.org).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 25

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



Loudoun Ballet Company members Therese Spaseff, Grace Manser and Liv Hutton. The company performs with the Loudoun Symphony Orchestra Feb. 21.

and locations. **SENIOR JEOPARDY.** 11 a.m., Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place. Teams of four compete for prizes. Open to all seniors, free. Call 703-430-2397.

**FRACTURED FAIRYTALES.** 4 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Classic fairytales told with a twist. Recommended for ages 8-12. Register at [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or 703-430-9500.

**N.Y.C. BUS TRIP.** 6:30 a.m., Douglass Community Center, 405 E. Market St., Leesburg. Travel by luxury motor coach to New York City. Bus will depart from the Douglass Community at 6:30 a.m. Cost: \$60 person. Individuals under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Register at the Douglass Community Center or call 703-771-5913 starting Feb. 19.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 26

**SENIOR TRIP.** The Senior Center at Cascades Marketplace, 21060 Whitfield Place, will take a trip to Bingo World, Baltimore, Md. Purchase bingo cards at the door, purchase or bring lunch. Cost: \$11 for members, \$13 for nonmembers, includes transportation. Minimum walking. Call 703-430-2397 for departure and return times and locations.

**ANIMAL TEA PARTY.** 9:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-2 p.m., Claude Moore Park, 21544 Old Vestal's Gap Road, Sterling. Ages 3-6. Bring a favorite (stuffed) animal friend, play games, take a hike, make a craft and enjoy cookies and juice at the tea party. Cost: \$10.50 per child. Call 571-258-3700.

**SCRATCHBOARD ART.** 4 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Learn about artist Brian Pinkney and create artwork using his scratchboard technique. Ages 9 and up. Call 703-430-9500.

**STUFFED ANIMAL DOG SHOW.** 4 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. Children ages 5-7 can bring a stuffed animal dog toy to participate. Register at [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or call 703-737-

8100.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 27

**PIGEON PARTY.** 10:30 a.m., Cascades Library, 21030 Whitfield Place, Potomac Falls. Sing, dance and listen to stories by children's author Mo Willems. Recommended for ages 3-6. Register at [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or 703-444-3228.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 28

**BLUEBIRD NESTBOX MONITORING.** 1-3 p.m., Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve, The Woods Road, Leesburg. Registration required. Orientation at Banshee Reeks on nestbox monitoring and the protocol used in Loudoun for collecting and reporting data. Sign up online, [www.loudounwildlife.org](http://www.loudounwildlife.org), or call 540-822-5438.

**FILM SERIES.** 2 p.m., Sterling Library, 120 Enterprise St., Sterling. Bring friends and family to watch great books on film, features "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events," rated PG. Visit <http://library.loudoun.gov> or call 703-430-9500.

**HEROES OF HOPE.** Lansdowne Resort, 44050 Woodbridge Parkway, Lansdowne. "Heroes of Hope Monte Carlo Night" to support The Brad Kaminsky Foundation for Brain Tumor Research. Dinner, drinks, gaming and a silent auction will all benefit brain tumor research. Visit [www.tbkf.org](http://www.tbkf.org) or call 703-729-9897.

**CHILI COOK-OFF.** 5-8 p.m., Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, 43315, Waxpool Road, Ashburn. Our Savior's Way is hosting the "Chillin' at the Church Chili Cook-Off," includes raffle and silent auction. Free. Call 703-858-9254 or visit [www.oswlc.org](http://www.oswlc.org).

**GOING THE DISTANCE.** 2 p.m., Ashburn Library, 43316 Hay Road, Ashburn. A performance highlighting African-American 20th century history and heroes including Jesse Owens and Wilma Rudolph. Recommended for all ages. Visit [library.loudoun.gov](http://library.loudoun.gov) or call 703-737-8100.

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## NEWS

# Library Cuts Looming

FROM PAGE 5

the budget an additional 5 percent, the libraries' hours of operation would be reduced Mondays through Thursdays to eight hours per day instead of 11 and summer reading and early literacy programs will be eliminated. Also, 29 more staff members would be laid off, bringing the total to 35.

With a 10 percent reduction in local tax funding, all branches would close on Fridays in top of the base and 5 percent cuts. Further cuts would bring the total number of laid-off employees to at least 53 and collection acquisitions would be reduced by 45 percent. Total closure for the Sterling Library is also a possibility.

According to Nancy Nuell, who represents the Potomac District on the Library Board of Trustees, the library system is on the chopping block even though it is just a sliver of the budget pie because there is little "pork" in the system's budget. As a result, any cuts in the system's funding will have a tremendous impact, as all the money that the system receives is for necessities.

"The impact of even a small reduction is hard on the libraries," Nuell said. "The [library] budget is so small that consequently, there is not a lot of fat to be cut. They run a very lean organization."

Nuell contends the "lean" system needs all the funding it can get, especially in a lean economy. Nuell said that in the past year, there has been a 15 percent increase in library usage. She said that more people are choosing to borrow books and DVDs instead of purchasing them and that more people are using the libraries for computers to type resumes and the Internet to search for job postings.

"I feel strongly that our libraries are a source of enrichment and a safe haven to people during these

[tough] economic times," Nuell said. "Our libraries provide a safe environment."

Sterling District Trustee Suzanne Volpe echoed Nuell's sentiment about the libraries becoming more useful in difficult times. She said that the libraries have become a place for the community to gather, especially as the libraries are needed more often for organizational meetings for entities like HOAs who do not have a meeting room and for reading and language classes for groups from all reaches of the community.

Volpe noted that the Sterling school cluster has the highest percentage of students needing English as a Second Language classes and is worried that some people in the county may not even be aware that they may be losing these services because they do not speak English. In addition, she said that more low-income families who need to use school computers to do school work are using the library, as well as a high number of homeschooled students using them for textbooks.

"In reality, the Sterling Library is like a town

SEE ON CHOPPING, PAGE 15

**"There is no cut that does not do irreparable damage to this model of service to the Loudoun County citizenry."**

— Scott Stewart,  
Loudoun County Library  
Board of Trustees,  
chairman

## FAITH NOTES

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

Each 10:30 a.m. Sunday service at **Unitarian Universalists of Sterling**, 22135 Davis Drive, Sterling, has a different topic. The **Feb. 22** service is "Agape, on the Rocks." Call 703-406-3068.

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**, 201 E. Frederick Ave., Sterling, is holding its annual **Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner** Tuesday, **Feb. 24**, with three seatings at 5:30 p.m., 6:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

A good will donation is requested; all proceeds will benefit the St. Matthew's Mission Team. Call 703-421-1978.

**Galilee United Methodist Church**, 45425 Winding Road, Sterling, is holding a service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness, Friday, **Feb. 27**, 7:30 p.m. Call 703-430-2203, e-mail GalileeUMC@GalileeUMC.net or visit www.GalileeUMC.org.

**Sterling United Methodist Church**, 304 East Church Road, Sterling, is collecting items for the Marshall Islands. Donated items must be in new or gently used condition. Monetary donations are also welcome to help purchase items and offset general mission costs. Contributions may be dropped off at the church between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on weekdays or on Sunday mornings from 8 a.m.-noon. Contact Phil Mohr, youth director, by calling 703-430-6455 or by e-mailing youth@sterlingumc.org. A complete list of suggested items can be found on the Web site at www.sterlingumc.org.

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# Keeping an Eye Out

The Potomac Terrace neighborhood bands together to combat crime in Cascades.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

The residents of Potomac Terrace in Cascades have a simple message to any criminals in the area: you are being watched. Since its re-emergence about a year ago, the Neighborhood Watch Program in Potomac Terrace has never been stronger. In a coverage area comprised of 127 townhouses and a fairly significant transient population, the residents have organized to utilize technology and the advantage of multiple sets of eyes to ensure their safety and improve the neighborhood's quality of life.

"[The program] is a very effective way to keep the community safe and it sends a strong message to criminals," Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac) said. "The citizens really are the eyes and ears of the community."

ACCORDING TO Donna Taglieri, co-coordinator of the Potomac Terrace Neighborhood Watch, the original Potomac Terrace program began about 12 or 13 years ago when the community first started. Over time, she said, the program grew dormant for several reasons, most prominently the county's bullish home market in recent years, which created a decent amount of resident turnover. With many of the original residents no longer living in Potomac Terrace, the program slowly fizzled.

However, given the area's location, which is the southeast corner of Cascades, there was a surge of walk-through traffic and increase in the transient population recently, which according to Taglieri's fellow co-coordinator, Ed Levine, stoked the interest within the community to restart the program.

Levine said that the increase in foot traffic through Potomac Terrace is a product "of two environments." First, there is no sidewalk on Palisades Parkway, which Levine said forces pedestrians to walk through Potomac Terrace. Second, since the neighborhood backs up against Northern Virginia Community College, Levine said many students park in Potomac Terrace to avoid the 75 cent meter charge on campus. Another possible reason Levine cites is when there are multiple people sharing a single home and they have multiple cars and all cannot be parked in the driveway due to the area's strict parking enforcement, those people park their cars in the Terrace as well.

"There is a lot of walk-through traffic and a lot of our crimes are a product of that," Levine said. "I had a neighbor who left his cell phone on the front steps while washing his car. He left for a minute and when

PHOTO BY  
JUSTIN FANIZZI/  
THE CONNECTION  
New signs with updated Neighborhood Watch information are now being posted around the area.



he came back, the phone was gone. You want to be able to leave your stuff on your own property without it being taken. I want to be able to leave my house to go on a walk and not have to close my garage door."

ACCORDING TO TAGLIERI, the group polices crime in the neighborhood by maintaining a partnership with the Sheriff's Office and by maintaining a close-knit community. When something suspicious occurs in the neighborhood, it is brought to the attention of the group immediately, who then use all of the technology at their disposal to inform every resident of the issue and what to do about it. Taglieri said that the group's methods of communication include a Google group where residents can post information, e-mail blasts, flyers, so when something does happen, typically, residents know about it quickly. If the issue demands further attention, then Sheriff's deputies are notified.

Taglieri also asserted that even though the group does not patrol the streets to proactively police crime and relies on communication and awareness to prevent crime, there is certainly no lack of Neighborhood Watch participants "on the beat."

"Since the Sheriff's department does not advocate the use of patrols with regard to neighborhood watch groups, we do not officially patrol our neighborhood," Taglieri said. "That being said, we have plenty of members who are joggers and dog walkers, so informal patrolling is constantly taking place."

In addition to monitoring the neighborhood, the group also ensures that they are as informed and educated as possible when it comes to new crime trends and prevention measures by holding meetings and classes throughout the year. Deputies James Spurlock and Jason Leydig, of the Sheriff's Office's Adult Crime Prevention Unit are the police contacts for the group and meet with the group sporadically to hold meetings and input sessions. A

Neighborhood Watch newsletter distributed by the county via e-mail is yet another useful tool that the group employs.

"What is certain, however, is that a close-knit community will be more likely to notice when something is not quite right. A close-knit community is less attractive to crime," Taglieri said.

## Get Involved

Anyone who lives in the Potomac Terrace neighborhood and wants to become involved in the Neighborhood Watch program, e-mail Ed Levine at EdMLevine@gmail.com to be put on the group's mailing list. Anyone who wants to join a program in their neighborhood area, call Deputy Specialists Nathan Payne and James Spurlock at 703-777-0477 or 703-771-5749, respectively. They can also be reached via e-mail at nathaniel.payne@loudoun.gov or james.spurlock@loudoun.gov.

**"The citizens really are the eyes and ears of the community."**  
— Supervisor Andrea McGimsey (D-Potomac)

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# Murray Reaches Regional Finals

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Briar Woods, meanwhile, earns four, third-place finishes at regionals.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**road Run High wrestler Denis Murray made quite a run at last weekend's Region II wrestling championships. The Spartan junior reached the finals of the 103-weight-class division before losing to Loudoun County High's Tyler Anthony in a close 7-4 decision.

Murray (46-14), who two weeks ago finished third at the Dulles District Championships, will next move on to this weekend's Virginia State Championships, set to take place in Salem.

Murray won three matches to make it to the finals round at regionals. Those wins came over Luke Anderson (Millbrook), 3-0; Quentin Goodbar (Western Albemarle), 6-0; and, in the semifinals, local opponent Nick Rea (Potomac Falls), 2-0.

In the finals match against Anthony (37-6), a sophomore, Murray scored a two-point takedown less than a minute into the first period to break a scoreless tie. Anthony, moments later, tied things up at 2-2. But Murray earned reversal points with 20 seconds left in the period to take a 4-2 lead. He held a 4-3 advantage going into the second period.

The two Dulles District rivals both worked hard in a scoreless second period. Then, 20 seconds into the third period, Anthony scored a reversal to take his first lead at 5-

4. From that point on, he was able to stay on top of Murray, who could not make a move over the final minute-plus.

"He knows what he's doing and he's good on top," said Murray, who said Anthony and he are friends. "I'll probably face him again at states."

A year ago, Murray was a fifth-place finisher at regionals, barely missing the top-four state cut. But last week, he earned his first state trip with his run to the region finals.

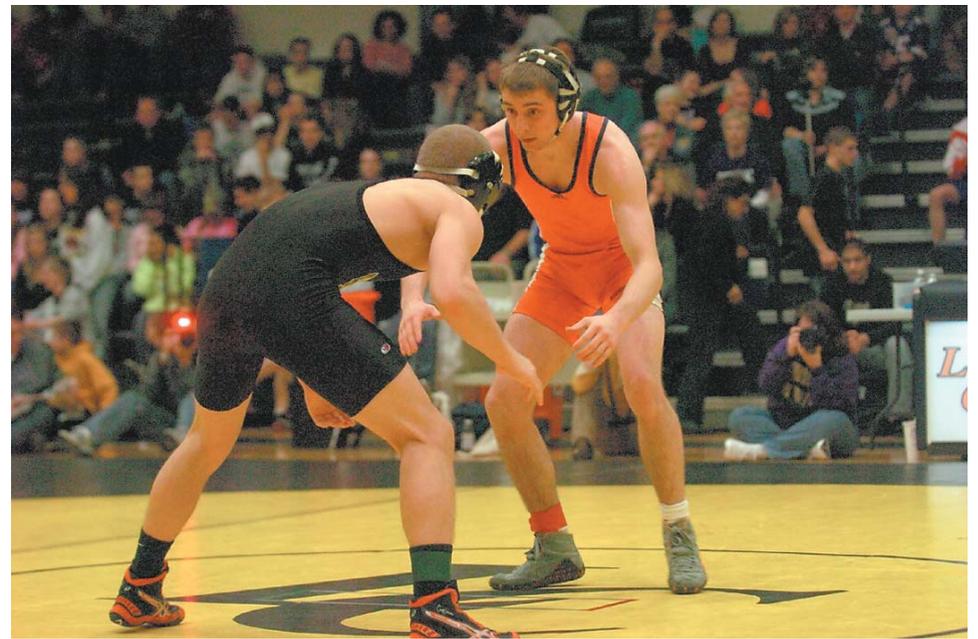
"This has been my goal since last year when I finished fifth," said Murray of qualifying for states. "It feels amazing. My next goal is to stand on the medal stand at states."

**"This has been my goal since last year when I finished fifth at regionals. It feels amazing. My next goal is to stand on the medal stand at states."**

—Denis Murray, Broad Run wrestler

Also qualifying for states from Broad Run was Vincent DiRenzo, who finished third in the 135 division with a 6-0 win over Michael Oswald of Potomac Falls.

DiRenzo, after a first-round bye, defeated Jeremy Robinson (Warren County), 7-0. Then, in the semifinals, he lost to Randy Fisher (Louisa County), 6-2 in overtime. That put him in the loser's bracket where he defeated Rodney Twigg (Sherando), 5-0, to advance him into the third-place match



**Briar Woods' Thomas Hulcher, right, finished fourth in the 130-weight class at regionals. He will compete at states this weekend.**

against Oswald.

In the region team standings, Broad Run finished 16th out of 23 teams. The team champion was Millbrook (156.50) of Winchester, followed by second-place James Wood (155), third-place Sherando (140) and fourth-place Louisa County (110) of Mineral. Potomac Falls finished fifth with 103 points. Other Loudoun County teams — Briar Woods, Heritage (Leesburg) and Freedom — finished sixth through eighth, respectively.

**BRIAR WOODS** advanced five wrestlers to states. Although the Falcons did not have a wrestler reach the region finals, they did earn four third-place finishes. Those four to earn third place and advance to upcoming states were Ethan Ochs (heavyweight),

Mike Girolami (215), Mike Flemming (160) and TJ Julia.

Ochs defeated Mike Carlson (Millbrook), 2-1 in overtime in the heavyweight match for third place. He earned an escape point during the extra session to win the match.

"It was definitely a relief because the difference in third and fourth place is important for state tournament [seedings]," said Ochs, who will be making his first trip to states. "I definitely had to pull it off."

Ochs (47-9), who two weeks ago won the Dulles District title, assured himself of qualifying for states with a third-period pin win over Shawn Branham (Sherando) in a loser's bracket match.

"When I won that match to lock a posi

SEE NEXT, PAGE 13

## Athlete of the Week

**Haley Johnson, a senior guard for the Broad Run High girls basketball team, tries to get past a Stone Bridge defender during a regular season game between the Ashburn schools. Broad Run finished the regular season with a solid 13-9 overall record (9-5 in the Dulles District). The Spartans were scheduled to open the district playoffs earlier this week with a home game against Potomac Falls.**



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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## SPORTS NOTES

Three boys and one girl, ages 8-13, won the first round of competition in the **Elks "Hoop Shoot"** free-throw contest competition, earning them recognition as Sterling Champions. The contests took place at Potomac Falls High School on Dec. 13. The four champions — who each advanced to the District Finals in Front Royal on Jan. 25 — were Collin Williams (boys 8-9) of Lowes Island Elementary; Blair Johnson (boys 10-11) of Rolling Ridge Elementary; Brenden Johnson (boys 12-13) of Sterling Middle School; and Emily Ferguson (girls 10-11) of Meadowland Elementary. The Elks "Hoop Shoot," which began as a local program in 1946, is in its 37th year of national competition. Over three million boys and girls were expected to participate this year.

Dominion High School's **Athlete-to-Athlete Program** will hold a basketball clinic for athletes with special needs this Sunday, Feb. 22, from 9-11 a.m. Athletes of all ages and ability levels are welcome to participate in the program that will pair

athletes with special needs alongside Dominion High athletes for instruction, competition and camaraderie. The clinic will take place indoors. Athletes will meet in Dominion High's main gymnasium, located at 21326 Augusta Drive in Sterling. To register, athletes or their representatives should e-mail [athletetoathlete@yahoo.com](mailto:athletetoathlete@yahoo.com) until Feb. 21.

After a nationwide search and a four-day selection process, 19-year-old Ashburn resident **Ryan Ellis** has been selected as one of only 30 drivers to participate in the 2009 Volkswagen Jetta TDI Cup racing series, designed to find up-and-coming racing talent between the ages of 16 and 26.

Ellis, a student at George Mason University, has been racing cars since he was 5. He started in quarter midget race cars in Hagerstown, Md. Over the years, he has driven and won in Legends race cars and Late Models at tracks all over the country.

SEE NOTES, PAGE 13

# SPORTS

## Next Stop: State Finals

FROM PAGE 12

tion at states, it definitely was the best feeling in the world," said Ochs. "I wanted to take first [at regionals] and I'm capable of it. But third [place] is fine. I'm going to the state tournament."

Ochs is looking forward to experiencing the electric atmosphere of the state tournament.

"It's going to be a lot to take in wrestling at Salem," he said. "I'll work hard this week."

At 215, Girolami defeated opponent Hunter Taylor (Sherando) in the third-place match. That match also went into overtime with Girolami getting a standing takedown for the winning points.

Girolami won his first two matches of the tournament before falling into the loser's bracket. There, he defeated Ben Pattyson (James Wood) by pin to advance to the third-place match against Taylor.

Fleming, meanwhile, took third place at 160 with a third-period win over Thomas Cooper (Central Woodstock). In that match, Fleming took a 2-0 lead on a takedown with 35 seconds remaining in the first period. Fifty seconds into the second period, Fleming turned Cooper onto his back for a 4-0 lead. Early in the third, ahead 4-1, Fleming again turned Cooper over and got the pin with 1 minute, 40 seconds left on the clock.

"I pretty much knew I had the guy at that point," said Fleming of turning Cooper over early in the third.

Fleming, who won the recent district title at 215, finished fourth at regionals last year. So, earning third at the postseason tournament last week was another step forward.

### SPORTS NOTES

FROM PAGE 12

Most of his nearby racing has taken place at Old Dominion Speedway in Manassas and Shenandoah Speedway.

Last year, Ellis was voted by his fellow drivers as the National Auto Sport Association (NASA) driver of the year for the Spec Miata class.

**Leesburg Flag Football**, a sister league to Cascades Flag Football, is a youth flag football league open to boys and girls grades kindergarten through eighth. Practices and games will be held at Morven Park in Leesburg. The spring season will run from late March through mid-June. Learn more and register online at [www.youthflag.com/leesburg](http://www.youthflag.com/leesburg). Early bird rates apply through Feb. 20. For more information, call 703-444-8805, Ext. 112 or e-mail [leesburg@youthflag.com](mailto:leesburg@youthflag.com).

Summer camp registration is open. Register online at [www.dmbports.com](http://www.dmbports.com). **DMB Sports Camp** will hold an open house, Saturday, March 14, from 5-8 p.m., at NCC, Lansdowne. Come meet the camp directors, take a tour of the facility, check out pictures

He clinched a state berth for the second straight year when he defeated Jared Broughear (James Wood), 3-0, in a loser's bracket match. That took the pressure off for his next match against Cooper.

"I had already made it to states, so I had nothing to lose," said Flemming of his mindset for the third-place match.

**HE SAID THE** atmosphere at states last year was a little overwhelming.

"At first when you get down there, you are shocked at how big the place is," said Flemming of the Salem Civic Center facility.

This time, he will be better focused. "Now, I know the size of it and how many people will be there," he said.

At 112, Briar Woods' Julia, who won his third straight district title two weeks ago, was disappointed when he lost his second-round region match to Ryan Bono (Millbrook), 7-3. He earned the first points of that match with a takedown in the first period, but Bono came back to win.

The setback ended Julia's hopes of a region title chance. But he got his focus back and won his next four matches in the loser's bracket to finish third. Julia won his third-place match over Brandon Fletcher (Sherando) by major decision, 12-4.

"I was kind of angry because I was expecting to be in the finals," said Julia (54-7), who did not practice in the week leading up to regionals because he had strep throat. "[Getting third] is good, but I could have done a lot better."

He's looking for a nice run at states. "My goal is to place in the top four," he said. "That's my dream."

Also qualifying for states for Briar Woods was Thomas Hulcher, who finished fourth at 130.

from past summers and get all of your camp questions answered. RSVP at [mdudek@dmbports.com](mailto:mdudek@dmbports.com). For more information visit [www.dmbportscamp.com](http://www.dmbportscamp.com) or contact Meg at 703-444-8805, Ext. 104.

On Feb. 7-8, Olympic volleyball came to Northern Virginia. **Virginia Elite and NVVA** brought 2008 Olympic silver-medalist Stacy Sykora, Olympic silver medal-winning assistant coach Tom Hogan and five-time Olympic staffer John Kessel to town for two days of volleyball training. Sykora, Hogan and Kessel worked with middle-school and high-school-aged volleyball players, sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for the game in fun-filled, two-hour training sessions. Sykora also gave a presentation, highlighting some of her favorite Olympic moments. She also shared some of her personal insight into being an Olympic player. Kessel answered questions throughout the clinic, offering insight about sports parenting, the competitive world of women's volleyball and life in general. About 160 players and 100 parents attended the two days of clinics in three different locations in Northern Virginia.

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# Money Matters



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How to get by on one income while really trying? That will not only be the question but the strategy as my wife, Dina, and I, attempt to adjust to the new unemployment paradigm: she's out of work for the first time in our 30-plus years of marriage. Her long-time employer, Tivoli's Restaurant in Rosslyn (the deli and pastry shop remain open, however) closed after nearly 27 years serving the public (25 years during which Dina worked in the second floor lounge as a waitress and bartender).

To say she made friends over all those years would be an understatement of prodigious proportions. To say she networked an entire new family including the owners and their families, employees and their families, and, of course, the thousands of Tivoli customers and their families, together creating a fabric of associations and activities spanning the globe and lasting an entire generation, and then some, would be more accurate.

To characterize Dina's status as out of work is way to simple; disconnected from the only lifestyle she's really ever known and cared about her entire adult life would be more appropriate. And though the loss of Dina's income is significant (and matters more to me since I'm the business end of the relationship; she's the social director), I can certainly appreciate and understand how the loss of a lifestyle can be equally distressing. The joke among our friends has been that Dina doesn't need a new job, she needs a new lifestyle that pays.

Moving forward, the choices we have to make need to be a balance between substance and style, between money and quality of life, between fact and fiction, quite frankly. Having 25 percent fewer dollars to do it with is likely to be a challenge unlike any we, as a couple, have ever endured.

Moreover, given the middle age that we are, with the skill sets we possess, and further considering the inheritances that at present are unknown and unexpected, what we do, how we survive, what money we spend, seem unlikely to be replenished anytime soon by some financial savior riding in on a cash cow. It seems that we will have to make do riding the horse on which we rode in on.

All of which we can manage, I think. It's more that neither one of us expected to be horse-less at our present age, the age at which, accumulating for retirement becomes not only an extremely serious family business but maybe the most important, to the exclusion of all other, family business. And being left to fend more for ourselves than we had expected or anticipated was hardly the plan I had intended. Still, it's not over yet. My father made more money between age 55 and 70 than he had ever made previously, enough to fund my parent's retirement for the 15 years or so they had together before retiring for good.

If I am indeed my father's son, then I will succeed just as he did. It may not be easy but if I've inherited anything from my father (aside from his sense of humor), I've inherited his positive attitude. Dina's being out of work presents us with an opportunity. It's up to us to make the most of it.

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

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# On Chopping Block

FROM PAGE 10

square for the community," Volpe said. "So, we are talking about taking services away from the town square."

**IN RESPONSE** to the proposed cutbacks, both Volpe and Nuell said that they have seen an outpouring of support and concern for the future of the library system. Nuell, who also serves on the Cascades Library Advisory Board said that the group, along with Friends of the Middleburg Library and other organizations that provide aid to the

libraries are planning to distribute fliers detailing the specifics of the tiered cuts and what they, as citizens, will be losing. The groups are also encouraging people to attend the Board of Supervisors' budget in-pu meetings to voice their support.

"I've gotten many comments via e-mail, personal letters and more," Nuell said. "The community is very concerned. I'm hearing a lot [of concern] and it is touching every age group and every ethnic group. I think we will see a large presence at the Board of Supervisors meetings."

## PEOPLE NOTES



**Air Force Airman Christopher M. Flemming graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization, core values, and military customs and courtesies; performed drill and ceremony marches, and received physical training, rifle marksmanship, field training exercises and special training in human relations. Flemming is the son of Sarah Gautier of Calais Terrace, Ashburn, and is a 2005 graduate of Broad Run High School.**

Send announcements to [loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

**Charles Henry** of Ashburn, a Verizon Information Technology vice president, has been named the recipient of a Special Recognition Award for career achievement at the upcoming 2009 Black Engineer of the Year Award ceremony. BEYA awards will be presented at the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Global Competitiveness Conference Feb. 19-22 in Baltimore.

CNOCM **David A. Orso**, USN, retired, of Loudoun County, has been appointed as the executive assistant in the Office of Policy at the Department of Veterans Affairs of the Veteran Services Foundation.

The Loudoun Free Clinic in Leesburg named Loudoun residents, **Sharon R. Meyers** and **John H. Cook III**, M.D., to its 15-member board of directors. Meyers, director of catering for the National Conference Center at Lansdowne, brings

extensive experience in management, marketing and new business development to the board. Cook, founder of Loudoun Internal Medical Associates, is a specialist in geriatric care.

Author **Erin K. Grzeda** of Leesburg has written her first children's book, "In Search of Another," published by Tate Publishing and Enterprises. The story is about a little girl trying to see her new sibling. The book is available at any bookstore nationwide or can be ordered at [www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore](http://www.tatepublishing.com/bookstore), or at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com), [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or [target.com](http://target.com). The book is an eLIVE book, meaning each copy contains a special code redeemable for the free download of the audio version from the publisher's Web site.

Army Pvt. **Keaton M. Williams**, son of Steve Williams of Ashburn, has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the nine weeks of training, the soldier studied the Army mission, history, tradition and core values, physical fitness and received instruction and practice in basic combat skills, military weapons and more.

## REAL ESTATE NOTES

Send announcements to [loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:loudoun@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday; photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

The Virginia Housing Development Authority is offering a free **homeownership education** class Tuesday, **Feb. 24** and Thursday, **Feb. 26**, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at the Leesburg Safety Center, 65 Plaza St., Leesburg.

Topics include credit issues, personal finances, home inspections and the role of lenders and real estate agents. Call Chris Vogel at 703-777-0353 in advance to ensure homeownership classes have not been cancelled.

**Bruce Lipson** of Weichert Realtors' corporate headquarters residential sales office in Ashburn

was named Manager of the Year for the region in 2008. The award is designed to recognize and honor individuals who have demonstrated exceptional management skills and led their office to achieve outstanding results in 2008. The region consists of 17 offices in Northern Virginia.

The **Brambleton Group LLC**, developers of the master-planned residential and retail development of Brambleton in the Dulles area of southeastern Loudoun, is the recipient of a silver award from the National Sales and Marketing Council's The NationalsSM 2009 competition. Brambleton's silver award was based on winning the categories of Master-planned Community of the Year, Best Web site for a Community (suburban), and Best Landscape Design for a Detached Community.

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