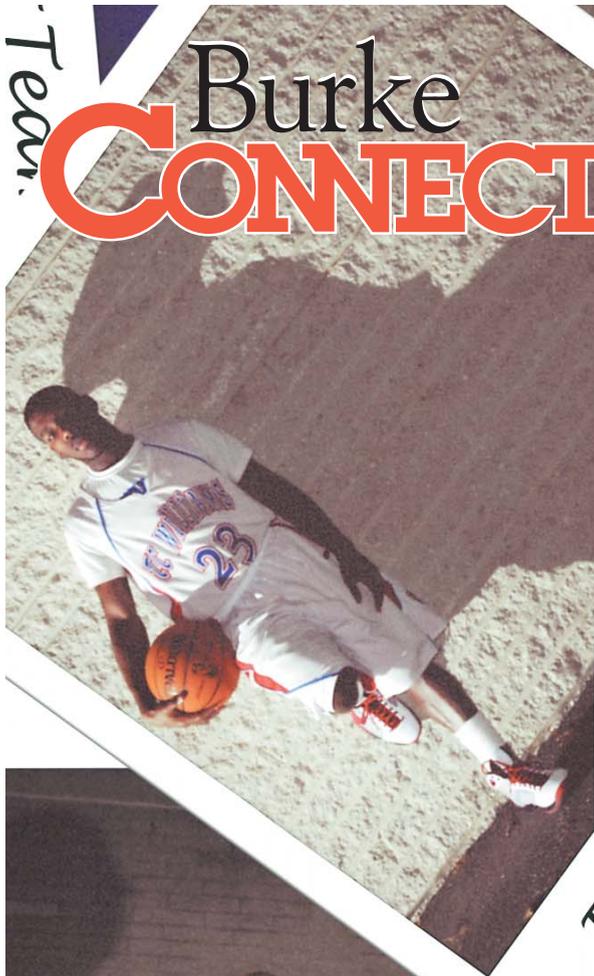
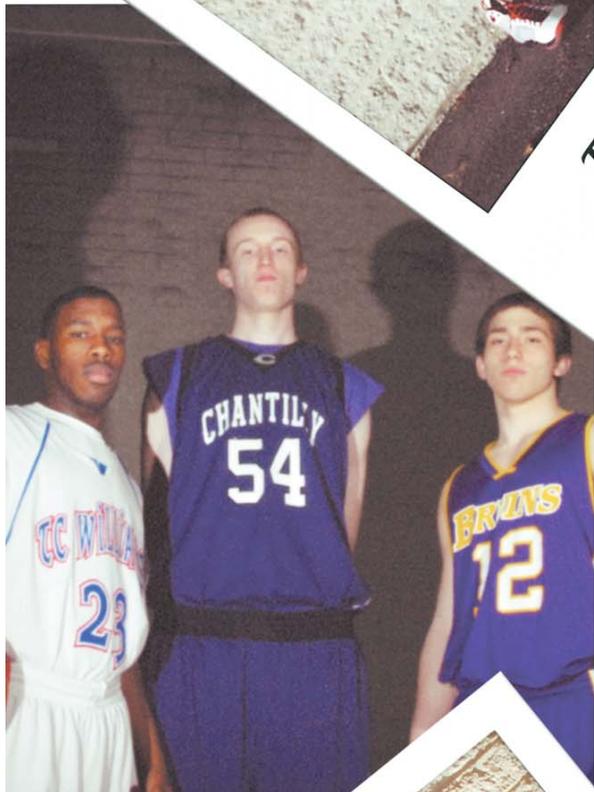


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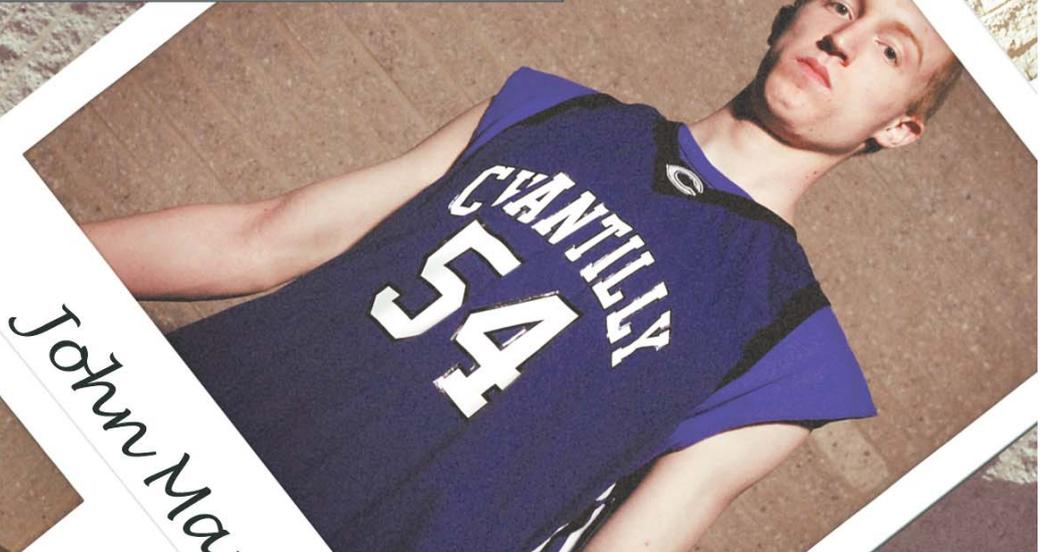
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SPORTS, PAGE 12



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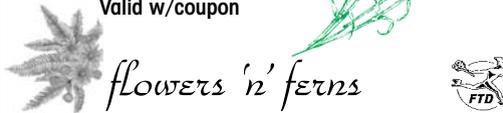
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A Moment in Time

Local painter transforms household walls into travel windows.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Sharon Sheehy was surrounded by white walls and needed an escape. After spending her days in a hospital caring for her father after he suffered a stroke, she'd return to her newly purchased home, distressed about the white walls and the garden she didn't have time or energy to nurture.

"I kept thinking, if someone could put me into the Secret Garden, like in the book, that was all I wanted," Sheehy said. "Everyone is healed in the Secret Garden."

Enter Kari Cannistraro.

Sheehy had picked up Cannistraro's card at the Rose Cottage in Great Falls and called her up. She explained what she was thinking about and wasn't sure if Cannistraro could make her dream a reality.

Cannistraro was patient, compassionate and easy to talk to, Sheehy said, and after a few conversations, she let Cannistraro go to work on her foyer and hallway.

Was Cannistraro able to make her dream come true?

"It's so beautiful," Sheehy said of the finished work. In fact, Sheehy said her husband now hired Cannistraro every year, as a Christmas present, to do more work on their Clifton-area home.

"I love coming home now."

For Cannistraro, transforming rooms into landscapes has become a career almost by accident. She started painting scenes onto furniture and moved to a much larger canvas when a woman fell in love with a waterfall scene she'd painted on a chair and asked Cannistraro to paint it on her bathroom wall.

"She wanted it to look like the waterfall was flowing into her bathtub," Cannistraro said. "That idea changed my life."

From there, Cannistraro started playing in her own house, combining her love of painting with her love of travel, especially to the dramatic images of Italy.

"I figure if I can't be in Italy, I want to feel like I'm there," she laughed.

FROM A DINING ROOM with columns looking out into the ruins of Pompeii to rooms for

"That idea changed my life."

— Kari Cannistraro

SEE MURAL, PAGE 15



DONATED PHOTO

Many of Kari Cannistraro's murals are Italian-themed, like this painting of the Amalfi Coast.

Cook Wins by 89 Votes, Recount Likely

Republican John Cook maintains slim lead after recount of Fairview precinct votes.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

and Campbell, 260

For most of Wednesday, March 11, the results of Tuesday's special election for Braddock District supervisor remained uncertain.

But after election officials performed a recount of two voting machines from the Fairview precinct, results showed that civic activist John Cook (R) had an 89-vote lead over at-large School Board member Ilryong Moon (D). Shortly after the recount, Cook declared victory.

The results of the March 10 race were in question Tuesday night because of a malfunctioning voting machine at the Fairview precinct in Fairfax Station. The election was initially prompted when former Braddock supervisor Sharon Bulova (D) won the county chairman's race last month.

With 24 of the 25 precincts reporting, Republican Cook was leading Democrat Moon by 69 votes on election night. Cook had received 5,937 votes to Moon's 5,868 and Independent candidate Carey Campbell's 244 at that time.

After the votes from the two Fairview machines were tallied, the final, unofficial numbers were Cook, 6,292; Moon, 6,203;

WHEN OFFICIALS could not count votes cast at Fairview on election night, they decided to "seal" the two machines and try to hand-count the ballots the morning following the election, said local political party officials.

According to election officials, on Tuesday night, one of the Fairview machines was working correctly. The other machine tallied each of the candidates' votes correctly, but when the machine totaled the number of votes cast, that number was incorrect. This led to the decision to seal the two machines.

Before the results for Fairview were determined, both campaigns said they expected a recount to take place.

"There will be an automatic recount," said Moon on election night.

"We decided to do the election really fast

so that we can spend a lot of time counting the votes," said Cook in jest during his victory party Tuesday night.

The state will pay for a recount if the margin of victory is under 0.5 percent. If it's under 1 percent, a candidate may request a recount, but the candidate would have to pay for the recount. As of Wednesday, at 4 p.m., the Moon campaign had not decided if it would request a recount.

"I know for a fact that Braddock is a swing district and that the people vote for the person they like best, not a political party."

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

VOTER TURN-OUT in the Braddock District special election was 17.6 percent, more than many people expected. In last month's special election for county chairman, voter turnout had only been 16.1 per-

cent overall.

"Voter turnout is definitely higher than I thought it would be, but we are thrilled with that," said Kathryn Martin, an election official overseeing voting at Robinson Secondary School.

A local district supervisor is often the only elected official who responds to people's quality of life issues such as problems with potholes, parking and unwanted animals.

For some voters, this election almost seemed more important than the upcoming governor's race or last month's county chairman election.

"I always vote but this is so close. This is in my backyard and it will affect my neighborhood," said Sheila Coffin, as she left her polling station at Bonnie Brae Elementary School on Tuesday.

BOTH CANDIDATES said they had excited groups that may not normally be motivated to participate in a special election for local government.

Moon, a Korean American, is the only Asian elected official in Northern Virginia, though the Asian community, at 15.8 percent of the county's population, is Fairfax's largest racial minority group.

Several of the largest Korean communities in the entire United States overlap with the Braddock District, including Annandale, Burke and West Springfield.

At several polling stations, Moon's campaign had posted directions on how to use the voting machines in Korean, particularly to help people who might be showing up to vote for the first time ever.

As a member of the School Board for 10 years, Moon may also have motivated school advocates and activists to participate in the special election.

"I voted for Mr. Moon because I supported

SEE VICTORY, PAGE 7

Higher Tax Rate, Car Fee on Table

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors set an upper limit for the residential real estate tax rate March 9 that leaves the door open for an average property tax increase on homeowners of approximately \$60 this year.

The supervisors have also put an annual vehicle registration fee back on the table after abolishing it three years ago. For the average car, the old fee was \$25, though the county board has given itself the leeway charge as much as \$33 in the next fiscal cycle. The supervisors will finalize the tax rate and vote on the car fee next month as part of the county budget.

The current property tax rate is 92 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. With this vote, the supervisors have given themselves the ability to raise it to a higher rate of \$1.05 per \$100 of assessed property value. They would also consider an additional 1.5 cent rate increase per \$100 of assessed value that would go directly to storm water management. The owner of a median-priced home at \$459,228 would pay property taxes of \$4,776 under this proposal.

Fairfax County executive Tony Griffin, who presented his budget proposal earlier this month, recommended the supervisors raise the property tax rate to \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed property value, plus the 1.5 cent increase for storm water management. He has also suggested adding a \$20 vehicle registration fee to help close the gap in next year's budget of approximately \$650 million.

Supervisors chose to advertise a higher tax rate to give themselves flexibility. Griffin had suggested the board advertise a rate that was even higher, \$1.07 per \$100 of assessed property value.

"Between the time we advertised the tax rate and the budget mark up last year, we saw a \$40 million drop in the county. ... The economy is very volatile right now," said Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D.).

The board's two Republicans, supervisors Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) and Mike Frey (R-Sully), opposed both measures.

In an interview, Herrity said he would have been supportive of setting the tax rate at a level that would ensure the average real estate tax bill would not go up this year.

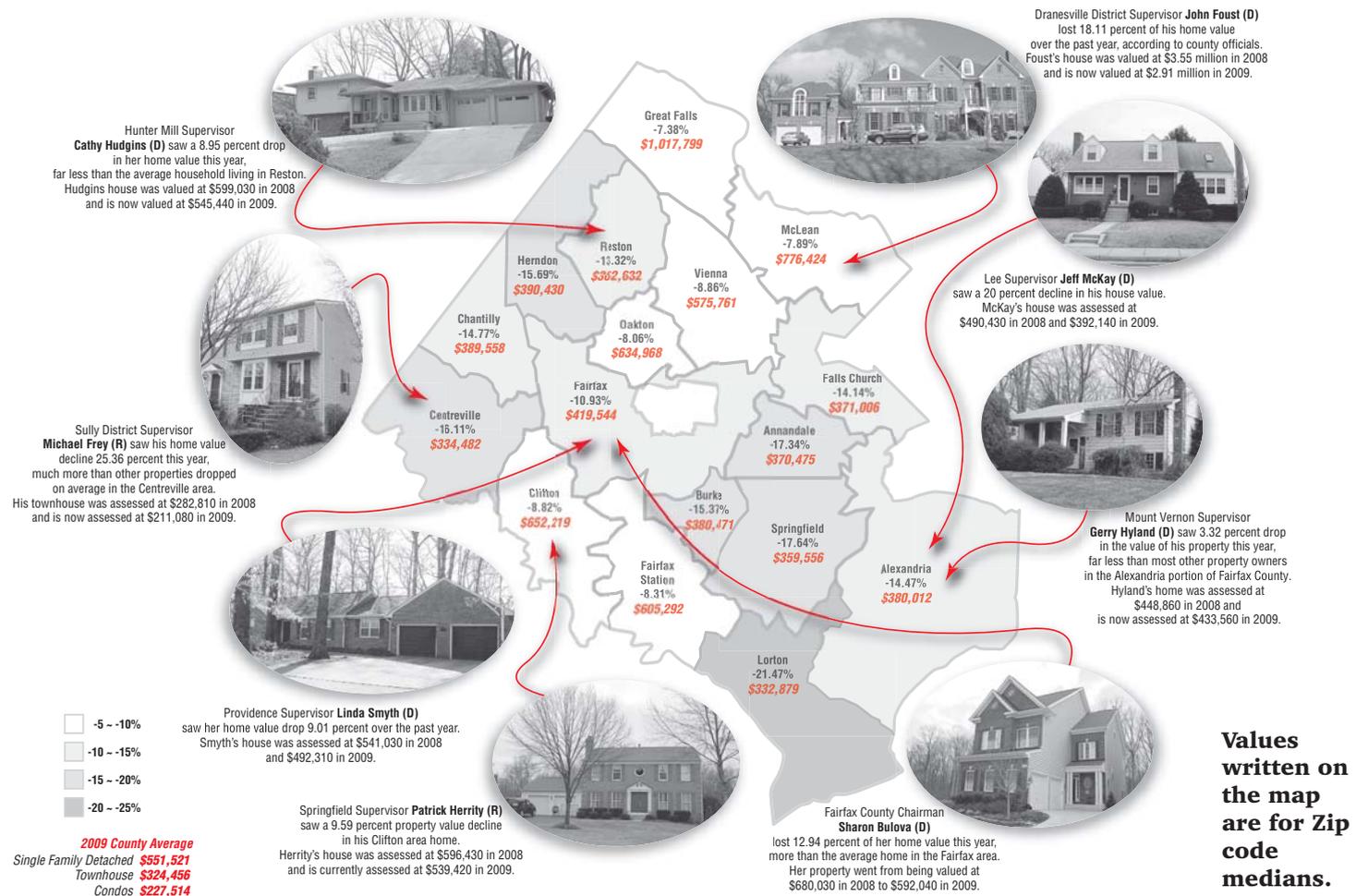
"We are in a critical time with our economy," said Herrity.

The Springfield supervisor added that many of the "revenue enhancements" Griffin has already proposed in his budget come in the form of increased fees, such as a higher price to participate in youth athletics.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

THE COUNTY LINE

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How Much Is It Worth?

Assessments in question as fewer home sales offer fewer properties for comparison.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Jeff McKay is very familiar with Groveton, his neighborhood off Richmond Highway near Huntley Meadows Park.

McKay's grandparents moved into his home when it was newly constructed in the 1940s and a member of the Lee District supervisor's extended family has always lived in the house. McKay bought the property himself 12 years ago after graduating from college.

So it came as a surprise to McKay when he looked up his real estate property assessment online and found many of the home sales used to determine his house's property value this year were located on unfamiliar streets.

Typically, Fairfax County tries to use home sales from a property's immediate neighborhood or subdivision to determine its value. In the case of McKay's home this year, they were factoring in home sales from Burgundy Village, a community several miles away in a different zip code, he said.

"Something different was done this year than we have done in the past," said McKay, a Democrat.

In 2009, 30 percent of Fairfax County's real estate assessments were calculated us-

ing home sales from "sister neighborhoods" as well as immediate communities, said Janet Coldsmith, director of the real estate division in Fairfax County's Department of Tax Administration.

County staff have always brought in home sales from other comparable neighborhoods to determine some property values but the practice was much more widespread this year, due to the downturn in the housing market, she said.

"We looked at similar neighborhoods and have looked at similar neighborhoods throughout the years but it has become more important this year. While there are still enough sales to value property, they are not as evenly distributed," said Coldsmith.

Fairfax County only incorporates "fair market" home sales into real estate property assessments. Foreclosures and other distressed sales are not supposed to factor into calculating property value for tax purposes. It can be difficult to determine home assessments in neighborhoods that have been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis and where few or no non-distressed sales have taken place, she said.

"It is standard appraisal practice to choose the best comparable properties that you have. If you don't have them in your immediate neighborhood, then you widen your search," said Coldsmith.

"When you start including other neighborhoods that are miles away in a different zip code, it becomes more difficult to try and figure out whether the properties included were fair or not," McKay said.

According to Coldsmith, the county does take geography into account when coming up with "sister neighborhoods" for assessment purposes. When looking for a comparison, they look for two neighborhoods of a similar price level and age as well as those with a similar housing stock, she said.

"We would be looking at what somebody going out to buy a house would be looking at. Someone looking to buy a house might be searching in two neighborhoods in same price range with the same type of housing," said Coldsmith. "Appraisal is a lot of judgment. It is not an exact science. There is a lot of judgment in there," she added.

But McKay differed. "There are not many homeowners who go out and say they want a rambler built in the 1950s. They go out and look for a house that is in a certain school district or on a certain transportation route. ... Is it better to base an assessment on a small number of sales or to really stretch and include properties that are a far distance away?" asked McKay.

The county has fielded fewer calls from angry property owners upset about their assessments, probably because most people saw a drop in their property value.

"So far, the call volume is down. We have gotten a few calls from some people who think their property value has fallen too far," said Coldsmith.

Values written on the map are for Zip code medians.



GMU opera students perform "Too Many Sopranos" at the NOA 54th Annual Convention. Pictured, from left, are Patricia Miller, Adrianna Sgarlata, Patricia Hussey, Darrick Speller, Gregory Hewitt, Jessica Buckman, Alia Waheed and Michael Crabill.

Mason Singers Soar to Top

GMU students win Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition in January.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Students from George Mason University's opera program are making their mark on the national scene. On Jan. 8-13, they competed in the Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition, a national competition of the National Opera Association's (NOA) 54th Annual Convention, and took first place for the first act finale of

"The vocal talent was really outstanding. I know the singers are receiving very good training at George Mason."

— Elizabeth Vrenios, president-elect of the National Opera Association

"Too Many Sopranos," a comic opera about a group of sopranos vying to get into Heaven.

"To win this award means we have been elevated to a national level because we were judged by a national team of stage directors," said Professor Patricia Miller, director of vocal studies at GMU.

"This was one of the best performances we've ever done," said Miller. "It was really electrify-

ing. They really rose to the level of professional artist for this particular scene." The National Opera Association is made up of national and international artists, educators and conductors from across the country.

"The vocal talent was really outstanding," said Elizabeth Vrenios, president-elect of the National Opera Association, which helped organize the competition. "I know the singers are receiving very good training at George Mason."

"There was a clear understanding of character, and it was a complicated scene they brought to that convention," Vrenios said. "It required seven singers on the stage (there had to be six), and so the traffic pattern or the control of what was happening on the stage was complicated."

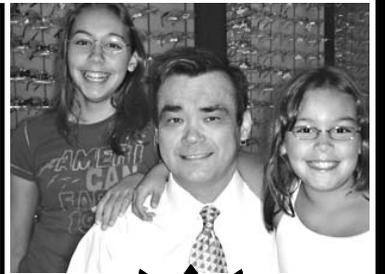
ACCORDING TO Bill Reeder, dean of GMU's College of Visual and Performing Arts, and former opera singer, "They are a reflection of a person who in my experience is a person who is truly a first class teacher of young voices, Patricia Miller." Reeder said that the school's partnership with the Virginia Opera is a bonus because the company gives master classes to GMU students and work with them four times a year when they do performances. "Students have models," Reeder said. "They have interactions with a very professional team," adds Reeder. The other bonus is Rick Davis, who Reeder calls a superb stage director with a tremendous affinity for the young artist.

"The piece was funny and engaging, so none of us were very surprised," he says.

Miller said the GMU opera program was started in 1995, and the group had performed "Too Many Sopranos" two years ago. After submitting a tape, GMU was selected as one of five schools to sing at the con-

SEE OPERA, PAGE 15

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PEOPLE

They Give Peace a Chance

Eight area students recognized for their peace, community service efforts.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Gathered in the Northern Virginia Mennonite Church, eight students from Fairfax County Public Schools were honored for their contributions to their communities and for their dedication to the promotion of peace at this year's installment of the Peace Awards.

This year's recipients were Emily Neal of Fairfax High, Binti Pathak of Robinson Secondary, Sarah Zaazhoa of West Springfield High, Lauren Martin of South County Secondary, Natalie Lubsen of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology, Madison Singer-Riske of Lake Braddock Secondary, Ji Young Choi of Woodson High and Freddy Parada of Herndon High.

"I was very surprised [when I found out I won the award], but it is nice to be recognized," Zaazhoa said. "Hopefully, it will encourage people my age to do things to help the community as well."

Zaazhoa, like her fellow recipients, has given a great deal of her time to be of service to her community. Zaazhoa volunteers at West Springfield High School as a peer mediator. Her work doesn't stop at school, she mediates disputes between her classmates outside of school. She sharpens her mediation skills by attending mediation conferences at George Mason University and has used the skills she learned there to teach peer mediation to elementary school students. She also works with the Northern Virginia AIDS Ministry, which promotes tolerance among different groups.

Lauren Martin of South County Secondary serves her community by utilizing her organization skills. Martin started a program called Santa's Helpers in which she and other Lorton residents buy toys and supplies for children living at shelters. Martin also organized a vocal talent show entitled "South County Idol," where students from South County Secondary sang before a panel of judges in an "American Idol" format.



The award recipients, front row, from left, Freddy Parada, Lauren Martin, Binti Pathak and Ji Young Choi; back row, Natalie Lubsen, Madison Singer-Riske, Emily Neal and Sarah Zaazhoa.

mat. The event raised \$800 for the Child's Life Foundation at Fairfax Inova Children's Hospital.

"I was so honored to receive this award," Martin said. "It was a great feeling to know that people will recognize someone like me for doing things for the community."

Binti Pathak received the award in recognition for her service efforts in several different areas. Pathak has helped soldiers with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, rallied against drunk driving and collected presents for senior citizens and homeless children for the holidays. One of her most notable service efforts was a community fun fair she helped create that raised \$4,444 for a local man to have a lung transplant.

"I think that it is very important to promote peace."

— Binti Pathak, award recipient

Emily Neal is president of the peer mediation program at Fairfax High School. She was also a team leader of a multiple sclerosis walk, a volunteer for the Special Olympics and a volunteer for the Christmas in April program.

"I think that it is very important to promote peace," Pathak said. "People my age can influence each other and are the ones that can make the biggest effort."

THE EVENT KICKS OFF each year with the nomination of the students for the award by their respective school's Career Center specialist. Then, a group of local churches and faith groups pool resources to fund the award and the ceremony. This

year, the sponsoring groups were three Quaker Meetings (Langley Hill, Alexandria, and Herndon), the host of the event, Northern Virginia Mennonite Church and the Accotink Unitarian-Universalist Church and the United Christian Parish of Reston.

At the ceremony, the students were given a certificate, a book and were treated to a speech by Chris Gilson, manager of the U.S. Peace Corps' Mid-Atlantic Regional Office. Gilson talked about his experiences in the Peace Corps and encouraged the students to keep pushing ahead with their service efforts.

"Everyone can be great because anybody can serve," Gilson said, paraphrasing his favorite quote from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "In your short careers, you have already served and become great," Gilson said. "I urge you to keep serving, keep believing in peace, and keep challenging yourselves to become even greater."

PEOPLE NOTES

Orthodontist **Dr. Rodney J. Klima** was recently installed as the secretary-treasurer of the Southern Association of Orthodontists, and will serve as the organization's president in 2014. He is also a member of the American Association of Orthodontists, the American Dental Association and the Virginia Dental Association. Klima is board certified by the American board of Orthodontics. He received his dental degree and orthodontics training from the Medical College of Virginia-Virginia Commonwealth University, and served as an

orthodontist in the Army before opening a private practice in Burke in 1978.

Air Force 2nd Lt. Patrick J. Leahy of Burke has graduated from Purdue University of West Lafayette, Ind. with a bachelor's degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering. He will be attending Air Force pilot training at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

Julian Curi, a 2008 graduate of Holy Family Academy in Manassas, will

perform in the spring production of *The Water Engine* at the Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio. Curi, son of Tomas and Emi Curi, will be part of the radio crew in *The Water Engine*. He has also performed in *Coriolanus*. Curi is a freshman communication arts and philosophy major.

Burke residents **Sarah Ball, Hayley Rushing, James Greevy, You-Jong Moon, Susan Sherwood, Elizabeth Bouton, Rachel Mason, Jillian Rouse, Ian Kraft, Charles Sniffin,**

Mirey Elias, Ashley Jordan, Alyssa Johnson, Kari Evans, Michael Ringwood and Michaela Sands have been named to the fall 2008 dean's list at the University of Mary Washington.

Army National Guard Pfc. Justin A. Clark participated in the 56th Presidential Inauguration Jan. 20 as part of the largest ever contingent of National Guard members to serve in Washington, D.C. Clark, a healthcare specialist (combat medic), is a member

of the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment based in Lynchburg. The guardsman has served in the military for one year. He is the son of Steven D. Clark and Karen A. Curry of Oakshore Court in Burke, and a 2006 graduate of Robinson Secondary School.

Stacie Margaret McCormick of Burke graduated from Radford University at the end of the fall semester. McCormick, daughter Matthew M. McCormick, was awarded a bachelor of arts in sociology.



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

John Cook thanks his family and his supporters in his bid for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors representing the Braddock District on Tuesday night. Due to problems at one precinct, results were unknown at press time.

Victory after Initial Uncertainty

FROM PAGE 3

him as a member of the board of education. He fought for full-day kindergarten and I have agreed with him on other big school issues," said Dawn Gunning, who voted at Robinson.

Cook also demonstrated that he could bring people to the polls that might have otherwise stayed home.

The candidate is president of the Kings Park Civic Association and his home polling station, Kings Park at Kings Park Elementary School, had the highest turnout of any precinct in Braddock at 28.9 percent and 883 votes overall.

In last month's county chairman race, the Kings Park precinct had only 27 percent turnout and 825 votes overall, even though county chairman Sharon Bulova (D) — Braddock's popular 21-year incumbent at the time — was in a tight race with Supervisor Patrick Herry (R-Springfield).

In Kings Park, Cook won with 533 votes to Moon's 307 ballots, though the precinct has voted for a Democrat in 11 of the 12 most recent political races. The one exception was Braddock District School Board member Tessie Wilson, an incumbent who beat her Democratically endorsed opponent by only 8 votes in the precinct in 2007.

"I voted for Mr. Cook. He takes an active role in our community. I don't know where he finds all the energy to do what he does," said Neil Burndt, a Kings Park resident.

Cook said he did try to woo Democratic-leaning voters who might be open to voting for him. He reached out to all of the civic of homeowner association leaders in Braddock as well as member of his church that he thought might find him appealing.

REPUBLICAN voters were also energized to come out and vote for Cook in this special election.

The political party controls only two of the 10 seats on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Herry, their candidate in last month's county chairman race, lost by fewer than 1,500 votes in an election where over a little under 108,000 were cast.

Given that Bulova was well liked as Braddock's supervisor of over 20 years, Herry had also performed better than expected in Cook's home magisterial district. The Springfield supervisor garnered 5,849 ballots to Bulova's 8,750.

"There is lots of enthusiasm among Republicans who want to win. Pat Herry started that," said Cook.

"We have been talking about what the Republican Party ought to be locally. We have been working on a strategy for a long time," he said.

IN THE financial arena, the Moon and Cook campaigns were a bit of David and Goliath match up.

As of Feb. 27, the Moon campaign had \$177,139 to the Cook campaign's \$38,443, according to the Virginia Public Access Project, a non-profit organization that tracks campaign finance information in Virginia elections.

While Moon hosted his post-election campaign party with complimentary food, beer and wine at Kilroy's, a local bar near Interstate 495 on Braddock Road, Cook threw his party in a local Republican activist's home.

"If you want food at the party, you are going to have to bring it yourself. I have proudly told people that I am not spending any of the money they donated on food," said Cook.

On more serious note, Cook said his campaign and supporters should be proud of what they have accomplished, win or lose.

"We were outspent five to one. My opponent had the backing of the local congressman and Braddock's 21-year incumbent who is now the county chairman," he said.

But several political activists on both side of the aisle said no one should be surprised the race was close. Next to Sully and Springfield, which are both represented by Republicans, Braddock is the most politically conservative district in Fairfax County, they said.

"I know for a fact that Braddock is a swing district and that the people vote for the person they like best, not a political party," said Bulova.

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Tim Piper: A Day in his Life. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$30. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Natty Beaux, 8-10 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Complimentary swing lesson at 7:30 p.m. \$10 per person. 703-424-1745 or www.headoverheelsdance.com.

Booz Allen Hamilton Nonprofit Conference on Fund-raising Development Speaker Series, a five-part speaker series in partnership with Volunteer Fairfax, from 8 a.m.-12 p.m. at 8283 Greensboro Drive in McLean. Participate in person or via live webcam feed. \$25 per session. Register at www.signup4.net/Public/ap.aspx?EID=NONP10E. Contact Samantha Watson at Volunteer Fairfax, 703-246-3826 or www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Steve Moakler (full band), Gabe Vitech and the Ivory, 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. 10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Tying the Knot: A Pre-Marriage Workshop for Couples, 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays through April 2, at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. \$75 per couple. To register visit www.jccnv.org.

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

Financial Planning for Separation and Divorce, 7 p.m. at Investment & Resource Planning Associates, 10600 Arrowhead Drive, Suite 310, Fairfax. \$55 non-members, \$45 members. All financial components of the property settlement agreement from preparing documents for an attorney to the signing of an agreement. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

Acoustic Night, Rana Mansour and Jake From Redshift, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

FRIDAY/MARCH 13

Barbara Fitzgerald, with double bass and piano. 8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Free. 703-352-ARTS.

Martin Vidnovic: What Matters to Me. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

The Independent and Charlie Duda, 6 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Lunch Bunnies, 12 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Bring lunch and listen to stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-978-5600.

Numa, Irresponsible, 20/20 Vizion and The Viscious Martinis, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

Jubilee Christian Center Family Fun Boot Camp, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the church Life Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Games, obstacle relay races, rope climbing, Wii sports, ping pong and more, plus snacks and

refreshments. Free. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

The Fairfax Symphony, Gregory Vajda conducting. 7 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. \$35-\$55. 1-888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

Tom Rush. Folk singer/songwriter. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$30. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

The Harlem Globetrotters, 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets at www.ticketmaster.com. or www.harlemglobetrotters.com.

Landscaping with Exotics, 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Community Hall, 8104 Lee Highway, Merrifield. Learn to plant, grow and care for palm trees, bananas, hibiscus and more. 703-560-6222.

Spring Lawn Care, 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Improve the health and appearance of your lawn in one growing season. 703-968-9600.

Indoor Spring Flea Market at Green Acres, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Senior Center, Green Acres Center Cafeteria, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Free. The Young at Heart Café will serve lunch. Spaces are available for those interested in selling items. Proceeds from rental fees will benefit the City of Fairfax Senior Center. 703-359-2487.

National Trumpet Competition: United States Army Band, 2 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4373



Laura Baron performs jazz/blues on Sunday, March 15 at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia.

Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Free, non-ticketed. www.gmu.edu/cfa.
Retire-in-Place Seminar, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Woodlands, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Free seminar on informed decisions about how and where to retire. Home care services, modifying a home to make it senior-safe, financial planning and more presented by HomeWell Senior Care, Schaffer Construction, Pegasus

Financial and the Evan Farr Law Firm. 703-230-5555 or e-mail retire@homewellva.com.
Ras Lidj and Deep Band, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.
TD Bank Grand Opening, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bevan Drive and Fairfax Boulevard in Fairfax City. Free

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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Sunday 12:00 pm ~ 9:30 pm

IN MEMORIUM



Capt. Michael Kahn

On Feb. 23, Capt. Michael Kahn of Burke, Virginia, passed away at age 90.

He is survived by his loving wife Jane, children Paul, Tim, Lynn and Sandra, and 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. A memorial service will be held on Sat., March 14, 2009, at 1 pm at Fairfax Memorial Park, 9902 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032, internment will follow. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Michael Kahn's name may be made to The Inova Heath System Foundation, Blood Donor Service, 8110 Gatehouse Rd, Suite 200E, Falls Church, VA 22042, or http://www.inova.org/get-involved/foundation/donat-e-now/index.jsp.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

refreshments and giveaways, stilt walker, balloon artist, free photos with leprechaun, games and a chance to win a \$1,500 shopping spree. \$500 cash drawing at 2 p.m. Free. www.tdbank.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 15

Hawaiian Treasures Celebration Tour 2009, with Richard Ho'opi'i, Dennis Kamakahi and George Kahumoku. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$22. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Pete Francis (from Dispatch) featuring Barefoot Truth and Ammar Malik. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

N-Scale Model Trains at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 1-4 p.m. The Northern Virginia NTRAK model railroad club will be running trains in the community room and the caboose at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Admission is \$2 adult and \$1 child. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

Jazz/Blues Concert with Laura Baron. 7:30 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. \$20 JCCNV members, \$24 non-members. www.jccnv.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Mishka and The Dirty Heads. Reggae/roots. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10

Fat Tuesday's St. Patrick's Day Bash will feature Melodime Live on Tuesday, March 17.

in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Crafty Kids, 3:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Crafty fun. Age 6-12. 703-978-5600.

Mother Goose on the Loose, 10:30 a.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Storyteller Miss Cathy shares classic tales. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

Josh Hoge, Curtis Peoples and Ernie Halter, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Book Discussion Group, 11 a.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "The Painted Veil" by W. Somerset Maugham. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Tales for Twos: Our Feathered Friends, 10:15 a.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, music and activities about birds. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

Amazing Escapes, 7 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Join award-winning storyteller Gary Lloyd for edge-of-the-seat survival stories. Age 12 and up. 703-249-1520.



Going Green, on Thursday, March 19 at Burke Centre Library, will feature stories, songs, and activities highlighting Ireland.

Book Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "Year of Wonders" by Geraldine Brooks. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Book Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. "Things Fall Apart" by Chinua Achebe. Adults. 703-978-5600.

Evening Book Discussion Group, 7:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. "Prime of Miss Jean Brodie" by Muriel Spark. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Computer Tutoring, 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Get one-on-one help with computers. Call to sign up. Adults. 703-249-1520.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

St. Patrick's Day Bash with Melodime Live, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Sonia & disapear fear. Eclectic world music. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$18. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Dave Barnes and Gabe Dixon Band, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 advance, \$18 at the door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Writer's Roundtable, 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Discuss your work with other writers. Adults. 703-644-7333.

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

George Mason University Jazz Ensemble, 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Free, non-ticketed. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

Lunch N' Life, 12-2 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. The program will be presented by Patrick Creed & Rick Newman, authors of "Firefight: Inside the Battle to Save the Pentagon on 9/11." Seating is limited. The cost is \$8. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry at 703-620-0161.

Battlefield Band, 8 p.m. at The Barns. Traditional and contemporary Scottish music. \$22. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Old School Freight Train CD Release, 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Bedtime Stories: Windy Days and PJs, 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories and activities about wind. Pajamas optional. Age 3-6 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.

Afternoon Reading Group, 1 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Going Green, 10:30 a.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs, and activities highlight Ireland. For ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Reading Across the Centuries, 7 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Writer and university instructor Wendi Kaufman facilitates the discussion of Henrik Ibsen's "The Doll's House" and "Hedda Gabler." 703-644-7333.

Dan Levine Teaches the Business of Voice-Over, 7-9 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3500 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. "You're On The Air...How to Really Make it In Voice-Overs" is designed to help students gain awareness and knowledge of the growing industry. Pre-registration



Battlefield Band will bring traditional and contemporary Scottish music to the Barns at Wolf Trap on Thursday, March 19.

required at 703-658-1201 or visit www.fcps.edu/aclassess.

Poorman's Lobster, American Groove and Fairgrounds Urban Scientific, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Lara St. John, violinist, 8 p.m. at The Barns. \$35. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-

WOLFTRAP.

The Russian National Ballet Theatre in "Cinderella", 8 p.m. at the George Mason Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$27-\$54. Age 12 and under, half price Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Kosher Café and Laura Baron Jazz & Blues Concert, at the Northern

Virginia Jewish Community Center, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. 6 p.m. Chinese dinner \$20 for JCCNV members, \$24 non-members. 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets: \$15 for members, \$18 non-members. At the door: \$18 for members, \$21 non-members. www.jccnv.org.

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Washington, D.C. Hunks With Heart, 7-9 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. A women-only auction and scavenger hunt, with fine food and jazz. www.rmhc.greaterdc.org.




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BULLETIN

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Park and Recreation Advisory Board, 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7858.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Northern Virginia Community College Board Meeting, 4-6 p.m. in Room 307 at NOVA's Reston Center, 1831 Wiehle Ave. in Reston. An update on the Reston Center by Provost Anthony Tardd, a briefing on the recent General Assembly session by Del. Chuck Caputo (D-67), NOVA President Robert G. Templin Jr. on the College's Achieving the Dream initiative and more. Board meetings are open to the public. 703-323-3101 or churst@nvcc.edu.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

Commission for Women, 7 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7894.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Board of Architectural Review, 7:30 p.m. at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. 703-385-7820.

Open and Transparent Government Panel, 7:30 p.m. at George Mason University Johnson Center, Third Floor, Room C, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area and the Department of Leadership and Community Engagement of George Mason University. Sen. George Barker (D-37), Del. Thomas Rust (R-86) and others discuss the Freedom of Information Act. www.lwv-fairfax.org.

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Contact Pam Wiener (703) 537-3061 • PamW@jccnv.org



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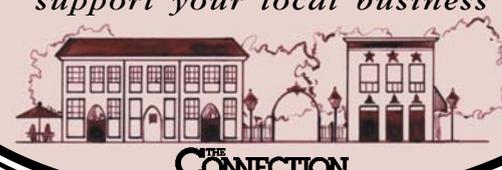
St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Tuesday, March 17

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7701 ROSE GATE CT.....\$1,150,000 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Keller Williams Diane Lenahan 703-283-7328

Springfield

9028 SCOTT ST.....\$624,950 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Weichert Kathleen Quintarelli 703-862-8808
7011 LEESVILLE BLVD.....\$570,000 Mar 15, 12-4 PM Global GMAC Karina Torres-Ferrer 703-534-3500
7222 HANSFORD CT.....\$695,000 Mar 15, 2-4 PM Long & Foster Carol Greco 703-658-1600

Burke

9519 RETRIEVER ROAD.....\$599,950 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Weichert Kathleen Quintarelli 703-862-8808
9813 PULHAM RD.....\$484,900 Mar 15, 1-4 PM RE/MAX Barbara White-Adkins 571-339-6014

Fairfax Station

11451 QUAILWOOD DRIVE...\$1,325,000 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Keller Williams Diane Lenahan 703-283-7328
8309 CRESTRIDGE ROAD...\$1,824,000 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Long & Foster Ann Grainger 703-503-1870
6104 ARRINGTON DRIVE.....\$749,000 Mar 15, 1-5 PM Weichert Lena Restivo 703-855-7341
7009 SYLVAN GLEN LA.....\$924,900 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Long & Foster Marcia Wolber 703-618-4397

Kingstowne/Alexandria

5306 SANDYFORD ST.....\$549,900 Mar 15, 1-4 PM Keller Williams Joe Davis 571-338-4989
3308 FALLEN TREE CT.....\$645,000 Apr 26, 1-4 PM Arcadia Harriet Johnson 703-823-9541

Annandale

4000 ANCIENT OAK CT.....\$789,000 Mar 15, 12-5 PM Weichert Barbara Chandler 703-760-8880
3635 KING ARTHUR RD.....\$533,370 Mar 14, 12-2 Tranzon Fox Jeffrey Stein 703-539-8111

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SPORTS

All-Connection Basketball Teams



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

First-team All-Connection boys' selections include: (from left to right) Skylar Jones (Mount Vernon), Edward Jenkins (T.C. Williams), John Manning (Chantilly), Dominic Morra (Lake Braddock) and Kendall Marshall (O'Connell).

First-team All-Connection girls' selections include: (from left to right) Shelby Romine (Westfield), Myisha Goodwin (Edison), Tracy King (Mount Vernon), Tierra Ruffin-Pratt (T.C. Williams) and Erin McGartland (Oakton).

Boys' First Team

SKYLAR JONES — MOUNT VERNON	19 PPG	9 RPG	1 BPG
KENDALL MARSHALL — O'CONNELL	16 PPG	8 APG	7 RPG
DOMINIC MORRA — LAKE BRADDOCK	30 PPG	7 RPG	3 SPG
EDWARD JENKINS — T.C. WILLIAMS	21 PPG	5 APG	3 RPG
JOHN MANNING — CHANTILLY	13 PPG	10 RPG	3.5 BPG

Girls' First Team

TIERRA-RUFFIN PRATT — T.C. WILLIAMS	18.5 PPG	14.5 RPG	4.5 BPG
SHELBY ROMINE — WESTFIELD	16.5 PPG	4.5 RPG	4 APG
TRACY KING — MOUNT VERNON	19.1 PPG	8.3 RPG	3.4 SPG
MYISHA GOODWIN — EDISON	25 PPG	5 APG	7 SPG
ERIN MCGARTLAND — OAKTON	11.7 PPG	8.2 RPG	2 APG

Boys' Coach of the Year

JULIAN KING
T.C. WILLIAMS

Boys' Player of the Year

EDWARD JENKINS
T.C. WILLIAMS

Girls' Player of the Year

TIERRA RUFFIN-PRATT
T.C. WILLIAMS

Girls' Coach of the Year

FRED PRIESTER
OAKTON

Second Team

T.J. WILSON — HAYFIELD
GIVEN KALIPINDE — EPISCOPAL
FRANK HOLLOWAY JR. — LEE
STEPHEN STEPKA — W.T. WOODSON
CHRIS KEARNEY — WESTFIELD

Honorable Mention
Warren Denny (Centreville)
Simon Kilday (Yorktown)
Derek Baker (Langley)
Will Clarkson (Madison)
Isaac Johnson (Herndon)
Erick Green (Paul VI)
Justin May (Chantilly)
Travis Williams (South Lakes)

Second Team

SIMONE ANTWI — SOUTH COUNTY
SAM LANDERS — WEST SPRINGFIELD
JALINDA VENABLE — MOUNT VERNON
PRISCILLA MOSEH — LEE
LAUREN BURFORD — FAIRFAX

Honorable Mention
Melissa Gallo (W.T. Woodson)
LaNia Charity (Yorktown)
Danielle Williams (St. Stephen's/St. Agnes)
Khalia Boston (T.C. Williams)
Audrey Dotson (Langley)
Sam Partonen (Robinson)
Danielle Landry (Madison)
Kelcyn Manurs (South Lakes)

Welcome to the 2008-09 All-Connection basketball issue. In this special section, the Connection's sports department honors the best and brightest on this year's Northern Virginia hoops scene. For a complete look at this year's basketball landscape, check out www.connectionnewspapers.com. Special thanks to Lawrence Foong, Robbie Hammer, Louise Krafft and Craig Sterbutzel.

Morra Falls Just Short

Lake Braddock senior guard nearly breaks scoring record.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

So why is Hubert Davis, a former NBA player and current ESPN analyst, a fan of the Lee boys' basketball team? It kept his career scoring record at Lake Braddock Secondary School intact.

In his four years as a Bruin (1984-88), Davis totaled 1,604 career points. Dominic Morra, a senior guard and a four-year starter on this year's team, ended a Patriot District quarterfinal game against Lee on Feb. 17 with 1,561 career points.

With Lake Braddock on the unwanted side of a 50-48 outcome against the Lancers, Morra would subsequently lose out on two additional opportunities to break Davis' record, which would've included the district semifinal round and at least one regional tilt.

"I'd turn on ESPN on Saturday or Sunday and it's Hubert Davis, I was just like, 'Oh, man,'" Morra said.

As it stands, Morra averaged 30 points per game this season to go along with seven rebounds and three steals per contest, while all three numbers were tops on Lake Braddock's 14-8 team. All three numbers also warranted Morra's selection as a first team All-Connection choice.

WITH ABOUT a month to go in the season, Morra remembered asking Lake Braddock director of student activities Mark Martino how close he was to matching or breaking the school record. Martino responded with a quick, "I'm not gonna tell you that."

Martino explained that his answer wasn't intended to deny Morra the truth, but more so because he felt it was the coaching staff's responsibility to let the player know. Because with a player knowing something like that, obviously, there may be a tendency to alter a game plan or two.

Regardless, Morra never found out.

"I kind of knew what I needed," Morra said, "so I'm in class doing the math and thinking, 'What if I do that or what if I do this?'"

While Morra and Davis might sit next to each other in the Lake Braddock record book for quite a few years, their respective styles aren't nearly as similar. Davis was known primarily as a three-point shooter — he leads the Dallas Mavericks in all-time three-point percentage at .460 (249-for-541) — and Morra, despite being only 5-foot-10, has made more of a name for himself as a distributor and a slashing, drive-to-the-basket-type player.

"He has a very high IQ for basketball and he knows where everybody on the court is supposed to be," said South County boys' basketball coach Wendell Johnson. "He's able to put the ball anywhere he wants to on a pass.

"He's real court-savvy, a smart player. He didn't do the same move two or three times in a row. He'd do a different move the next time, so it was always some-



Lake Braddock senior Dominic Morra, first team All-Connection pick, averaged 30 points, seven rebounds and three steals per contest for the Bruins (14-8) this season.

thing different."

"I'd turn on ESPN on Saturday or Sunday and it's Hubert Davis, I was just like, 'Oh, man.'"

— Senior Dominic Morra,
Lake Braddock Secondary

has embraced the recruiting situation — or lack of it — as a challenge.

Morra knows that he could likely make the team as a walk-on at some Division-I schools but that just may not suit his style. Ever since he has arrived at Lake Braddock, the bench has been about the only place on the basketball court where Morra hasn't been.

"A lot of people have sat for two years and maybe made it into the lineup the third year," Morra said. "I know at some of the Division II and Division III schools I'd get more playing time, and be less of a role player and more of a major player. Starting all four years, that's one of my main concerns just because I've never been on the bench."

"I grew up playing against [O'Connell's] Kendall Marshall and [Gonzaga College's] Tyler Thornton my whole life and they're going to North Carolina and Duke," Morra said. "So I was growing up against the competition that is going to the best and I think I can play against them."

So all of these qualities should have Division-I colleges and universities stumbling all over themselves to sign Morra for the 2009-10 season, right? Not quite. Though he has a standing offer to walk on at The Citadel, interest by other Division-I schools for Morra could be described as mild at best.

But Morra isn't complaining. Like many of the challenges he has encountered at Lake Braddock, including leading a team this season on which he was the only senior and the Bruins' tallest player was 6-3, Morra

WEEK IN SPORTS

Now Serving, Robinson

Drew Courtney, a Robinson Secondary School graduate and currently a freshman on the University of Virginia men's tennis team, is 18-5 this season in singles play while his doubles teams are a combined 14-6. Perhaps most impressive, the Cavaliers are ranked No. 1 in the country. The Cavaliers improved to 17-0 overall (3-0 in the Atlantic Coast Conference) with two wins on Tuesday. On the girls side at Virginia, fellow Robinson graduate Lindsey Hardenbergh, who graduated with Courtney, has a record of 14-4 this season, with her doubles team amassing an 11-4 combined mark. The No. 20 Virginia women's tennis team is 9-2 this season, 2-0 against ACC competition.

Morley a Hit at VMI

Nearly three weeks into his collegiate baseball career, W.T. Woodson graduate Jacob Morley has surged to the top of VMI's hitting statistics. With a .311 batting average (14-for-45), Morley had the third-best such mark on the team, while his nine RBIs are good enough for third. In 25 chances from his center field position, Morley has yet to make an error. As of Tuesday morning, the Keydets were 6-7, with a 4-3 win Tuesday over Norfolk State. At W.T. Woodson last spring, Morley was named the Liberty District's Player of the Year while hitting .439 with a .621 slugging percentage and a .519 on-base percentage. He also scored 17 runs and drove in 12. Morley, who split Liberty District Player of the Year honors as a junior, has been named All-Northern Region twice.

Nereids Shine at Have-A-Heart

The novice, intermediate and 12-and-under age group teams of the Northern Virginia Nereids synchronized swimming club opened their competition season on Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Have-A-Heart Invitational in Laurel. Top performances by the Nereids propelled them past other teams from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. The Nereids are the oldest and largest competitive swimming club in Northern Virginia. The team is comprised of swimmers between the ages of 7 and 18 from all over the Washington, D.C. area. For more information on the Nereids, visit the organization's Web site at <http://www.nvnsynchro.com>. And for more information on the Have-A-Heart Invitational, visit the Connection's Web site at www.connectionnewspapers.com.

Hoops Team Seeks Players

The BRYC Tar Heel AAU basketball program is seeking players and coaches for the upcoming spring-through-summer season. For more information, visit www.brychoops.org or www.tarheelsbasketball.org for tryout dates and program information. Contact Jim Watson at 571-243-4142, Parker Roach at 703-627-0380 or Rocky Carter at 703 855-7614 for additional information.

Football Summer Camp

The NOVA "NFE" Youth Flag Football League will conduct its 12th annual Flag Football Summer Camp in Ashburn the week of June 22-26, with a second week Aug. 3-7. Both camps run from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., for children ages 6 to 12. The camps, aimed at teaching football in a fun environment, will feature experienced adult head coaches as instructors, local high school and college football players as camp counselors and visits by current and former Washington Redskins and other guest speakers. The camps will conclude with end-of-the-week flag football games and a speed, power and agility training session performed by certified fitness instructors from Dynamic Sports Performance. The camp will include visits by current and former Washington Redskins players and other guest speakers. To register, visit www.novaflag.com.

OPINION

A Million Trees?

If you've driven on the Beltway lately between McLean and Springfield, you might find some understatement in this week's announcement that VDOT wants "to help mitigate concerns with the tree canopy loss."

Along the 14-mile path of planned HOT-lanes, Fairfax County communities appear to have lost more than two square miles of tree canopy and a million or more trees.

The approval of the construction of "high occupancy toll" lanes along the Beltway via a public private partnership came swiftly, and with little fresh consideration of the impact on local communities. Most local residents became aware of the project as they watched the clear-cutting of mature trees and stands of forests that have sheltered birds and wildlife along the Beltway for decades. Elected officials were also caught by surprise at the extent of the tree clearing and other work.

The project will add two lanes in each direction on 495 between Springfield and McLean, available free for vehicles with three or more

occupants, and by a variable toll for the rest. The contractor, Fluor-Transurban, will keep the toll revenue for 50 years or more to pay for the construction.

VDOT, we're told, will hire a landscape architect to develop landscaping plans in coordination with adjacent communities, "to help mitigate concerns with the tree canopy loss and to take advantage of available green space as the project develops."

The work of the landscape architect and coordinating with local communities should have come before the project began. But better late than never. See VirginiaHOTLanes.com for more.

Local Culture

This weekend, the Fairfax Symphony will audition Gregory Vajda, 35, as its fifth of six prospective music directors. It's an audition anyone can attend, and offer feedback. The Fairfax Symphony is a local treasure, remark-

Landscape architect, sound walls are small consolation for loss of leafy canopy.

able in quality and well worth seeing, hearing and supporting.

The Fairfax Symphony is in search of its first new music director in 37 years, choosing six finalists, selected from a pool of 249 applicants.

Vajda will serve as guest conductor this Saturday, March 14, and will speak at a free talk at 7 p.m. before the 8 p.m. concert, with guest soloist Andre Armstrong on piano. The concert will include Liszt, Les Préludes; Bartok, Piano Concerto No. 3; and Schumann, Symphony No. 2 in C Major.

George Mason University's Center for the Arts,

4373 Mason Pond Drive in Fairfax. See www.FairfaxSymphony.org. Tickets are available at the door, just come by.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIALS

45 Days and Out

BY DEL. DAVID MARSDEN
D-41

On Feb. 28, at about 9 p.m., the 2009 legislative session for the House of Delegates came to a close. In odd numbered years, we spend 45 days in Richmond, introducing legislation and voting on bills. This year we passed smoke-free legislation for all restaurants in the Commonwealth, made provisions to increase energy efficiency and limited the state's response to the Federal Real-ID Act.

While I travel this district, a number of constituents ask me about what I spend my time doing in Richmond. This is my fourth session representing the people of the 41st House District, and trying to turn legislation, mine and other delegates, into law is what I spend the most time on each day. It is the most important part of being a delegate and it is a very complicated process. My good friend, Del. Kris Amundsen (D-44), once compared the bills that delegates sponsor to goldfish. Like goldfish, it is not good to name or become attached to bills as they may meet a sudden and untimely demise.

This year, the House of Delegates decided to restrict each member to introducing 15 bills. However, not all of these bills make it to the House floor for a full vote. Before a bill goes to the floor, each bill goes through a committee process. Members of the committee discuss and debate the bills while experts and members of the community are welcome to come and tes-

tify before these elected officials. Some bills never make it out of sub-committee and others are left in full committee. This can happen because the committee does not agree with the bill or the political climate is not ready for this type of legislation. Sometimes a bill that makes sense in one region of the state is killed so it does not spread to other regions where it may be more controversial. It takes a majority of members voting yes to get a bill out of committee.

COMMENTARY

There are bills that are passed out of committee and diverted to the Appropriations Committees, who decides on how State money is spend, where they are often left because even though they are good ideas, we can't pay for them. Any bill with a financial impact is referred to the Appropriations Committee before going to the full house for a voice vote. With our current economic environment, tough decisions need to be made, and not all bills are able to get the funding they would need. Eventually, about half of the bills make it to a vote in the full House of Delegates.

There are cases when two or more delegates introduce legislation that has similar language or similar effects. When this happens, committees usually conform one bill to the other, roll the bills together and the two bills are presented as a single piece of legislation.

Halfway through Session, we come to Cross-over. This means that bills that pass the House go over to the Senate for a vote and vice versa. Both houses can make amendments to each other's bills. If similar bills pass both houses, a conference committee is formed to work out

Delegate reviews the legislative process.

differences in policy and language and represent the final bills to both chambers for a final vote.

Every day, hundreds of e-mails, phone calls and faxes come into the General Assembly building. These come from constituents like you, telling me how you feel about bills, and what issues are important to you, your families and community. I value this feedback from constituents and it often dictates how I vote when going to the floor. There are very knowledgeable people in the district who are experts in many areas wherein we are considering legislation.

This year, the House of Delegates introduced 1,096 bills, 598 of which were passed.

Although a lot of great bills passed both houses and are on their way to the governor's desk, there is still work to be done. The governor will then sign a bill, amend it or veto it. The bill is then returned to the General Assembly in April for what is called the "veto session" to accept the amendments or vote to override the governor's veto which takes 67 out of 100 votes in the House or 27 out of 40 votes in the Senate.

In my next column, I will share with you the story of two of my bills that I felt were important to Fairfax County and that met unexpected deaths in the Committee of Militia and Police. A very interesting story.

I am honored to represent you. If there is anything I can do to help you, please don't hesitate to contact my office: deldmarsden@house.state.va.us or 703-323-4733.

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Mural Artist Transforms Homes

FROM PAGE 3

children inspired by the “Lord of the Rings” books and movies, Cannistraro said there’s not much she won’t try to tackle in her painting.

In her home, it’s Italy that surrounds her. “I lived there for five years, I studied at Temple University in Rome, I’m half Italian, I met my husband, there,” she said. “Every room in our house, except the living room, has a mural.”

People might not always be able to travel to the place they love, but Cannistraro’s work can bring those places to them.

While she’s partial to Italian scenes, Cannistraro is willing to try anything, including re-creating a famous hole from one of the nation’s most famous golf courses.

Becky Zieller called Cannistraro to recreate the 12th hole from the Augusta National course, home of the Masters Golf Tournament. She was a little apprehensive because the hole is among the most recognizable for golf lovers, like Zieller’s husband.

“I called to see if she could do this, and I was nervous because it’s very specific. Everything had to be right,” Zieller said. To make matters even more difficult, Cannistraro only had three days to complete the mural, while Zieller’s husband was away on business.

The mural was a combined Father’s Day and anniversary gift, Zieller said, and when he came home, he was impressed.

“He just loved it,” she said. With one exception — the flag on the hole was supposed to be a square, but the picture Zieller gave Cannistraro had shown a triangular flag. One quick phone call to Cannistraro, and the image was corrected. It was perfect.

“We get lots of compliments on the mural,” Zieller said. “If you’re a golfer, you recognize it immediately.”

She later had Cannistraro come back and



Kari Cannistraro of Burke paints a Greek-inspired mural.

paint a tile pattern on her hardwood floors and use some picket fencing installed in her daughter’s room to create a butterfly garden scene.

“I like that she comes in and done the project all at once,” Zieller said. “She’s very artistic and creative. She does great work.”

Zieller had initially heard about Cannistraro’s work from a friend, and Cannistraro says most of her work comes from word-of-mouth referrals.

It all begins with an idea and a series of conversations to make sure artist and homeowner are on the same page of drawing paper. Sometimes Cannistraro will leave her sketches with the client to ensure they can “live with” the concept, and then she gets to work. Typically the project can be completed in as little as a week or as long as

three weeks, but any changes that need to be made are done without problem.

Cannistraro remembers a time when a mother had asked her to paint a jungle-like scene with a lion on her son’s wall. When the son returned from school, he was less than pleased.

“There was some kind of miscommunication, or the son had an idea the mom didn’t agree with,” she SAID. Turns out, the son had wanted a lion enjoying a tasty deer carcass for dinner and wasn’t happy with the picture of the proud animal.

If a client requests something Cannistraro feels is inappropriate or won’t stand the test of time, she’ll make suggestions. Some parents have asked for trendy themes, like a wall full of Pokémon during that craze a few years ago, and she’ll gently nudge them to a more general theme. One girl’s request for a room honoring the lead fairy princess in the “Lord of the Rings” was slightly adjusted into a fairyland with the character in a more supporting role.

But when a client like Lawanda Swope comes along, artist and client get the chance to play together a little. Take, for example, the bats, lizard and monkeys in Swope’s kitchen.

“My house is very eclectic,” said Swope, who lives near the Fairfax County Parkway in Springfield on a 6-acre parcel of property surrounded by fields and water. She wanted to bring the outdoors in, and has found a kind of kindred spirit in Cannistraro, inviting her into her personal resort time and again for new projects.

Cannistraro said she’s very careful with her work in people’s homes, because when the paintbrushes are set aside, her clients have to make her art a piece of their lives.

“It’s so rewarding,” she said. “There have been people I didn’t know before I started working on their house who have hugged me when I’ve finished.”



DONATED PHOTOS

Becky Zieller called Cannistraro to paint this mural of the 12th hole from the Augusta National course, home of the Masters Golf Tourna

Opera

FROM PAGE 5

vention. The GMU students were evaluated by judges for vocal ability, staging of the scene and convincing portrayal of the characters. They wore costumes borrowed from the Washington National Opera.

“It validates the exciting work that’s getting done here by our students,” said Miller. “We’re kind of the ‘Little Engine That Could.’”

Students who made up the scene were Adrianna Sgarlata, former Miss Virginia from Fairfax Station; Alia Waheed of Washington, D.C. who graduated from the Duke Ellington School; Patricia Hussey of Falls Church, a graduate student and member of the Washington National Opera Chorus at The Kennedy Center; Jessica Buckman of Norfolk, a junior in vocal performance; graduate student Chip Hewitt of Fairfax; and Darrick Speller of Washington, D.C., and graduate of the Duke Ellington School. Their head opera coach was Michael Crabill, on piano, who collaborated with Miller as stage director.

Four of these singers also participated in the Amalfi Coast Music Festival in Italy last summer in an opera called “Gianni Schicchi” by Puccini. They have been invited back in July to do “The Marriage of Figaro” with Joseph Walsh conducting.

“And all these students are training for careers in vocal performance, so I think they’re off to an excellent start,” said Miller.

GMU’s Opera program will next perform “Street Scene” on March 27-28 at 8 p.m. at the Harris Theater on GMU’s Fairfax campus. It was written by Court Weill, a German-American composer with lyrics by Langston Hughes. With a cast of 25 performers, the six people who won the competition will play the main roles.

After that, they’ll perform “Scenes and Solo Arias” in April 18 at 7 p.m., a fund raiser at the Country Club of Fairfax with fine dining and opera music. This event is not open to the public.

Icebirds Hockey Teams Seek Players

The American Icebirds, a AAA ice hockey team, are looking for players ages 14 to 18 in all positions for spring and summer competitive tournament play that runs from May to July. Interested players should call 703-400-2343 and ask for coach Kulla or send an e-mail to icebirds@inbox.com.

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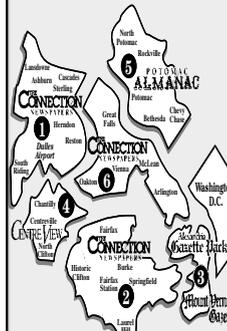
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Do It Smart, Not Do It Yourself

New show helps homeowners make educated purchases, hire qualified contractors.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Reggie Marston knows a thing or two about homes. For more than 20 years, he's been working in the housing industry, first as a builder, then a contractor and now as a housing inspector. As a result, he knows the tricks of the trade, both good and bad, and now he wants to use his knowledge to help prepare homeowners and new buyers alike.

Marston, a Springfield resident, was the original "House Detective" on cable's HGTV, a program that showed him leading prospective buyers through an inspection in the home of their dreams. Sometimes, the dream house was just as it seemed; other times, it was more like a nightmare.

Now, Marston is using his expertise to help homeowners, both new and old, through a "radio on TV" show on Fairfax County Public Access cable. The show, "The House P.I.," airs on Fairfax Public Access on Wednesday afternoons from 2-3 p.m. on Cox Digital Cable and Verizon FiOS channel 37 and Comcast channel 27 in Reston. The show is also broadcast on the cable channels' Web site, www.fcac.org/webr.

"We started the show in January," said Marston. Initially, he planned to put the show on TV and then have a radio call-in show, in which viewers could phone in questions about what had been presented during the TV show earlier in the week. Instead, he's been broadcasting on the local public access network with the hopes of starting the call-in show soon.

Unlike most housing related shows, Marston wants his to be more informational than instructional. To that end, his guests have been a range of professionals, including a fellow inspector, a professional plumber and someone who specializes in finding lead, asbestos and other harmful materials in houses.

"In my experience, homeowners typically have very little concept of the house itself" when they're looking to purchase, Marston said. "Most purchasers don't understand inspections at all, and during the housing boom a few years ago, so many realtors were getting multiple bids, so told the prospective buyers an inspection wasn't necessary."

Newer homes can have just as many faults and weaknesses as older homes, he said. When the market was hot, homes were be-

ing built so quickly, it's possible that contractors may have taken some shortcuts in order to meet their orders.

"Since I know both sides, as a builder and an inspector, I know all the tricks," Marston said. "I probably tried to get away with a few of them when I was a builder, so I know what to look for."

ANYONE LOOKING to buy a home now, whether it's a new or old home, their first purchase or their third, would benefit from having a Realtor, an insurance company and an inspector in their corner, Marston advises, in order to get the full checklist of possible problems before their dreams become nightmares.

For example, a good plumber would know to look for polybutylene plumbing, a kind of piping that was popular in the 1970s through early 1990s but was problematic

and easily caused leaks. A class-action lawsuit replaced pipes in some homes, but as of earlier this year, any pipes that leak now are solely the responsibility of the homeowner and most insurance companies won't cover damages because polybutylene pipes are a "known problem," Marston

said.

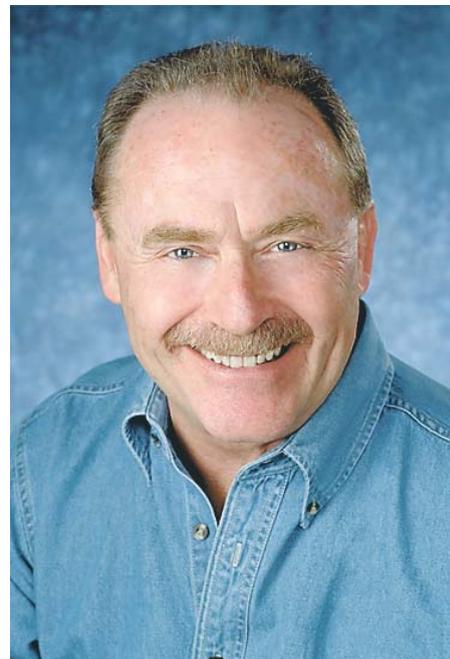
"Most Realtors and home inspectors would agree that polybutylene plumbing is something that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later simply because eventually the system will indeed have problems," said John Griffith of Plumbing Express.

The bad pipes "aren't necessarily a deal killer, because in fact there is a quick and simple way to replace the piping such that the home actually improves in overall value," he said. "A motivated seller will, in most cases, work with qualified buyers to negotiate some, if not all, of the associated costs out of the sale price."

The homeowner can replace the pipes if he or she has the necessary experience or training, but Griffith suggests using a contractor to ensure the job is done — and paid for — once.

"The toughest things about repairing polybutylene is that when you temporarily repair one section of piping, you take the risk of agitating a completely different section of the system, which simply means more time and money will be spent repairing more leaks," he said.

When looking for a professional plumber, Griffith recommends some basic tips, in-



Reggie Marston

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cluding telling the homeowners to trust their instincts. He also recommends the homeowner look into the background of the company they're considering to see if there are any criminal complaints against the company; asking for references and realizing if a company seems too good to be true, it probably is.

As for taking the time to appear on Marston's show, Griffith said it's a service for the community.

"I truly think that the premise of providing information instead of instruction is the best way to present a show dedicated to issues surrounding the home inspection process," he said. "By providing information rather than instruction, the show can remain a third party, a true private inspector for the people rather than a promoter of products or services. Listeners can be at ease in knowing that they're only going to get a full range of information that they can then act on in whatever way they feel is appropriate. ... I agreed to be on the show because I saw a genuine opportunity to help people faced with the troubling issues of defective plumbing (and) I'd gladly be a guest in the future."

While lead paint and asbestos were outlawed after they were found to be hazardous to people's health, some older homes might still have those materials in their walls, ceilings and cabinets.

Older homes are still more likely to have these products, but as a parent himself, Fred Heppner of Heppner and Associates and chair of the Virginia Board of Asbestos, Lead and Home Inspectors, would still be wary of painted toys or household products that are imported, especially for young children, and some newer homes still use products that contain asbestos.

"There are over 600 products made today with asbestos-containing materials but they are not easily released into the environment," Heppner said. "Older homes had many products that contained asbestos fi-

bers that would be released and were used in vinyl floor backings, drywall mud and flooring adhesives as well as insulating products like paper duct wrap, pipe insulation and attic insulation."

The best, and possibly only way, to successfully remove asbestos is to hire a professional, Heppner said.

"Most of my work as a home inspector is working with buyers of new or existing houses and condos," he said. "Occasionally, a seller will contact me to inspect their house before they put it on the market. They are not necessarily planning to fix things, they just want to know what is wrong, what another home inspector might say and approximately how much the repairs might cost. Standards language in a real estate contract has the seller agreeing to have all electric, plumbing, heating, air conditioning and appliances delivered in 'normal working order.'"

While Heppner mostly finds suspected materials in older homes, he admits that he can find problems in newer homes, especially "if the buyer did not have a home inspection when the house was built. As good as our local building inspectors are — and they are some of the best around — they are not spending the three or more hours in the house that a home inspector would."

While some potential buyers might be tempted by offers of a free evaluation by the contractor building the home, that evaluation might end up costing a lot more in the long run, said Jim Funkhouser, president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Home Inspectors and president of the board of directors for the Examination Board of Professional Home Inspectors.

"The downside to that way of thinking is that the home inspector isn't trying to sell the homeowner anything and can prioritize repairs and be available to help the homeowner sort through work proposals," Funkhouser said.

Like the other experts, Funkhouser applauds Marston for his intentions with the show. "The more aware you are about the needs of a house and the potential pitfalls of home buying, the better off you are to have a satisfying, safe outcome with your home."

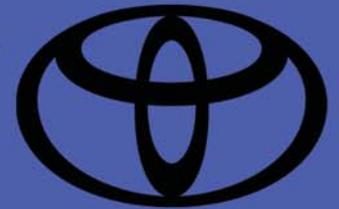
Marston hopes people will begin to watch the show and take the advice given to heart. "Based on the information I provide, it's up to the potential buyer to make the rational decision to go through with the purchase or find another house."

More

"The House P.I." radio show can be heard every Wednesday from 2-3 p.m. on the Fairfax Public Access Web site, www.fcac.org/webr. The radio show is simulcast on Cox Digital and Verizon FiOS, television channel 37, Comcast television channel 27. To ask questions, call 703 560-8255 or send an e-mail to the House P. I. at pi@thehousepi.com.

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OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
 e-mail: betty@bettybarthle.com
 website: www.bettybarthle.com



Waterford, VA \$799,000
 Stunning colonial 4 yrs old- 4 bdrms - 3 1/2 baths - 3 car garage - 2 story FR & foyer - den - sunrm - MBR sitting room. Gorgeous mountain & wooded views!

Ron & Susan Associates

Ron Kowalski & Susan Borrelli
 Make the Right Move
1-888-495-6207
 ronandsusanonline.com



Woodbridge \$949,900
Absolutely Stunning!
 4BR, 4.5BA home on 5-acre cul-de-sac lot! Gourmet kitchen, bonus sunroom, new screened-in porch, finished rec room, and much more!
 For 24-hour recorded information, call 1-888-495-6207 x 233



CALL JUDY SEMLER

703-503-1885

judys@longandfoster.com
 www.JudysHomeTeam.com



Springfield \$544,777
 Gorgeous colonial backing to parkland. 3 finished levels, wood floors, updated kitchen & baths, walkout rec room with wet bar, large deck with hot tub. Outstanding location near shopping, restaurants & schools.
 Call Judy to visit 703-503-1885.



Springfield \$385,000
 Colonial with 3 finished levels backing to woods. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, hardwood floors, deck, 2 car garage.
 Call Judy to visit at 703-503-1885.



Kinder Saund
 Bilingual Realtor & Green Ambassador
 GreenRealtor@cox.net
703-278-8885

Pat Rehill
 Associate Broker, Certified Appraiser
703-503-1993



Fairfax Station \$640,000
COMING SOON!
 Updated Colonial on 1/2 acre. New kitchen with granite, new paint throughout, updated carpeting makes this a wonderful choice.

The Holleman Team

Specializing in Bryce Mountain Resort
(703) 503-1813



PRICE REDUCED!! \$159,000
 3 BR/3 BA condo at BRYCE RESORT perfect for vacation or rental home. Open floor plan leads to large deck with beautiful year round views. Immediate occupancy! LESS THAN A 2 HOUR DRIVE FROM METRO D.C. Call the Holleman Team today to view this great community in the heart of Shenandoah County!!



David Billups & Virginia Clark-Billups
 Associate Brokers, Lifetime NVAR Top Producers
703-690-1795
 BillupsTeam.com



Alexandria \$519,900
Lake Devereux
 Lakefront Community! Close to Metro! Remodeled home on large fenced yard! New kit with rich cherry cabinets, granite & SS! Huge 2 car garage! BR, 3 updated BAs!
 David Billups 703-690-1795

Laura Baranek
703-380-8993
 Working For You!



Burke Centre \$1600
 Beautiful 3BR/2BA with one car garage. Recently replaced carpet and fresh paint. Living room/dining room on main level. Fully finished basement with fireplace, walk out to deck and wooded backyard. Washer and dryer in property.
 Call Laura for a private showing. 703-380-8993



Buzz & Courtney Jordan
 Your Local Father/Daughter Team!
703-503-1866 or 703-503-1835
 TheJordanTeam@longandfoster.com
 www.TheJordanTeam.com



Fairfax City \$399,900
LOCATION
 4 fin levels/4 bedrooms/1.5 baths
 New windows & doors/new carpet/
 Refinished Hrdwd floors/gas heat & Water
 *Close to GMU & Fairfax City
 * Nice corner lot*Vacant and ready to go
 Call for an appointment to see

Buzz Jordan 703-503-1866

Steve Childress
 "Experience...with Innovation!"

Life Member NVAR Top Producer
 Buyer Broker since 1973!
703-981-3277



BURKE CENTRE \$324,850
BEAUTIFULLY RE-MODELED!
LEASE/PURCHASE PLAN AVAILABLE
 Shows like a model home! 4 BRs, 2.5 BAs! Contemporary style TH style home w/ NEW Dishwasher, NEW HARDWOOD FLOORS on main level, NEW w/w carpet on upper level, NEW paint throughout! LARGE WOOD DECK w/ Storage shed, ICEMAKER Refrigerator, NEW dishwasher, window treatments, washer/dryer, and MORE! Robinson HS District. Close to all amenities. Quick Possession is OK & OWC Rental!
 Call Steve Childress NOW at 703-981-3277.



ANN & HAL GRAINGER, CRS
 Assoc. Broker, 31+ Years of RE Experience
 Top 1% Nationwide - Lifetime Member NVAR Top Producer
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 ann.grainger@longandfoster.com



Clifton/Frosty Meadows \$899,900
Great New Price!
 Charming Colonial with Swimming Pool in serene setting on 5 acres! Total privacy yet very close to Historic town of Clifton. 5BR, 4BA, 3 fireplaces. All new Kitchen with Granite counters and upgraded appliances. Fully finished walkout lower level with 5th bedroom/den, full bath, & rec. room.
 See this property at www.CliftonMLS.com.



Fairfax Station \$1,824,000
Timeless Elegance!
 Quality custom home built in Jeffersonian architectural style & design, on beautiful 5 acre parcel. 5 BR, 5.5 BA, 3 car gar. Heated pool w/flagstone patio. Australian cypress hwd flrs., Italian granite kitchen counters, Kolbe windows, Schoenbek chandeliers. Everything top of the line!
 See this property at www.GraingerTeam.com.



Barbara Nowak & Gerry Staudte
 "My Virginia Home Team"
703-503-1802, 703-503-1894
 gerry.staudte@longandfoster.com
 www.MyVirginiaHomeTeam.com



Springfield \$639,500
Convenient to Metro
 This 4 BR, 2.5 BA Colonial features gourmet Kit w/ Work Island, 5-burner gas cook top, dbl wall oven & granite counters. First floor hardwoods, large MBR w/luxury MBA & 2 W/I closets, and much more!

Catie & Steve

Direct: **703-278-9313**
 Cell: **703-362-2591**
 NVAR Top Producers
 Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club



Springfield mid \$300K's
 This 5 bd/3ba house in Monticello Woods is HUGE and ideal for a large family. Two large additions, plus a garage, with a country kitchen, beamed ceilings, rec room and family room and a den. Also has a large covered patio and deck. Walk to Springboard pool, park, schools and just a 3 minute drive to the metro station. A great home, at a great price in a great community.
 Call Catie, Steve & Associates today to see. 703-278-9313

LISTING YOUR HOME? CALL LONG AND FOSTER'S #1 OFFICE!
 Call Dale Gabardy at 703-425-8000 • Email: gabardy@longandfoster.com