

Paul VI baseball coach Billy Emerson looks over his practice plan during a workout last Thursday, March 12. The Panthers started their season with a 17-0 win over the Hearts Lions over the weekend.

Listen Up

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Cook Sworn In

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A 'Can Do' Kind of Show

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When people do something they're especially pleased with, they sometimes stand back and proudly say, "Tada." However, TADA also stands for the Theatre Arts Directors Association, comprised of the middle- and high-school the-

ater teachers and directors in Fairfax County Public Schools.

On Sunday, March 29, at 7 p.m., this group will present its second annual TADA Cabaret, in the Russell Theatre at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax. Tickets are \$5 at the door or at www.fcpsdrama.com.

Directing this year's event is Robinson's theater director Chip Rome, and he said it's

School theater directors take the stage.

going to be a terrific and entertaining show, sure to please all ages.

"It's not true that those who can, do, and those who can't, teach," he said. "Because those of us who teach can do, too, and people should come see for themselves. It's also going to be lots of fun."

Besides that, the program is a fund raiser for TADA's "sunshine events" — births, deaths, illnesses, weddings and other important occasions within the theater community. "It helps us support our colleagues

at significant times in their lives," he said.

THE SHOW has eight acts signed up to perform, so far. "It grew to twice that number last year, so we'll see what happens as time goes on," Rome said. "There'll be skits, songs and dances. Some students will be in it as backup, or to accompany a performer, but the focus is on the teachers."

Fairfax High Theater Director Wendy

SEE THEATER, PAGE 9



Dr. Pamela Marzban

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Anyone who has ever had an impression taken at the dental office, with a tray of messy impression material in their mouth for several minutes, knows that it can be an uncomfortable experience. As a dentist, I'm always looking for new ways to improve the patient experience in my office. I recently purchased a new state-of-the-art technology, which can eliminate this unpleasant procedure. It's called the Lava™ Chairside Oral Scanner C.O.S. from 3M ESPE, and it works by taking a digital impression of a patient's mouth—no impression material necessary.

Using the Lava C.O.S., I can capture 3D video images by waving a small wand over my patients' teeth, which records their dental anatomy in precise detail and simultaneously displays it on a chairside monitor. This gives the patient a more comfortable and interactive experience. My patient and I can then review, rotate, enlarge and even use 3D glasses to view the impression on the touch screen monitor. With this 3D image, I have the opportunity to look at my work in any view I wish, as if I were standing inside the mouth with a giant magnifying lens! The image is then sent to a dental art lab, which uses it to create the patient's final restoration. This technique has allowed me to take my clinical expertise to a new level of precision that was impossible to attain before.

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John Cook Sworn In as Supervisor

Civic activist succeeds Bulova, becomes third Republican on Board of Supervisors.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Kings Park Civic Association president John Cook (R) was sworn into office as the new Braddock District supervisor during a ceremony at the Fairfax County Government Center March 17.

"You are quite an act to follow," said Cook to Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) during his remarks at the ceremony.

Bulova had served as Braddock supervisor for 21 years until winning the special election for chairman last month. Voters elected Cook March 10 to fill her vacancy in the local magisterial district seat.

After officially being sworn in, Cook pledged to help make the 187 neighborhoods of Braddock "the best they can be," and to pay attention to all issues, ranging from the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes project on the Capital Beltway to pot holes

on neighborhood streets.

But the newest member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors also signaled he would be active on countywide issues as well during his first speech as an elected official.

As president of his civic association, Cook said he accompanied Fairfax's zoning enforcement team into some of the Braddock District's most egregious examples of overcrowding, where too many people living in house at the same time.

"It is a moral outrage that in the middle of the wealthiest county in the country that we have blight of this sort."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

In the Ravensworth community, Cook saw a

three-bedroom 1950s rambler converted into a de facto motel. The house basement had been divided up into eight bedrooms, with a family living in each one for \$400 per month, he said.

"It is a moral outrage that in the middle of the wealthiest county in the country that we have blight of this sort," said Cook.

"To those landlords who run these houses, I have you in my sights and I am coming



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) speaks to the crowd at his swearing-in ceremony in Fairfax County Government Center March 17.

after you," he said.

The new supervisor also wants to put money for school resource officers, who provide public safety in Fairfax County Public Schools, into the county budget. Cook is also concerned about the cuts to mental health and senior programs the have been proposed by county executive Tony Griffin for next year.

On real estate property assessments, Cook

said he "would not vote for a budget that would increase property tax payments."

COOK IS opposed to the county's affordable housing program, in which the government has purchased housing itself. The county could best provide affordable housing by working with the private sector to

SEE JOHN COOK, PAGE 5

Trooper's Actions Earn National Acclaim

Despite broken neck, trooper rescues unconscious man from burning vehicle.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

When Virginia State Trooper Justin T. Mahalik pulled an unconscious man out of a burning vehicle last spring on Interstate 66 in Fair Oaks, uppermost in his mind was getting himself and the man to safety.

His actions have earned him the title of National 2008 Trooper of the Year. He was feted Friday, March 13, in Alexandria at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) annual conference of state and provincial police.

"It was a complete surprise to me to even be nominated for this," said Mahalik, 28, of Vienna. "To win the region was great, and to then find out I won the award for the whole nation was an honor, and I'm grateful."

The award's official name is 2008 IACP/Motorola Trooper of the Year, and Mahalik is the first trooper to achieve such an honor

since the Virginia State Police was established 77 years ago. He received his award before an audience of family and friends, plus State Police and Highway Patrol superintendents from around the nation.

In February, he was named the North-Atlantic Region's Trooper of the Year, one of only four troopers from the U.S. and Canada to earn such recognition. The national winner is then selected from them by a committee of superintendents.

"TO HAVE the IACP present its highest state police honor to Trooper Mahalik for his heroic efforts is of tremendous pride for our department," said Col. W. Steven Flaherty, Virginia State Police superintendent. "Justin is most deserving of this esteemed award, and we are grateful for his full recovery and commitment to return to the road."

The incident occurred April 30, 2008, around 12:45 a.m., on Interstate 66 west, about a half mile east of Route 50. Mahalik



Trooper Justin Mahalik with his national award.

stopped a Toyota pickup truck for a window-tint violation and had the driver sit in the front seat of his marked, 2004 cruiser

"The car went up in flames immediately. You could feel the heat."

— Justin Mahalik, Virginia State Trooper

so he could do the paperwork. The cruiser was on the road's shoulder with its lights activated when a 2006 SAAB crashed into the back of it.

"The driver came up on my rear radar at 77 mph, and I saw him cross over the solid line onto the shoulder," said Mahalik. "He struck the cruiser on the left, almost dead-on in the back. It happened within seconds and there was minimal time to react. I tensed up and locked my arms."

Upon impact, the trooper's arms hit the steering wheel. "My momentum was forced up into the roof of the car, breaking my neck," said Mahalik. "The man next to me went forward into the dashboard. The back seat and undercarriage of the car went up in flames immediately — you could feel the

SEE AWARD, PAGE 8



Run for the Ridge

Laurel Ridge Elementary Principal Larry Burke poses for a photo with Gayla

Hime, the Grand Marshall of the school's crossing guard. They are the 'star pupils' in the school's first ever 5k Run for the Ridge on Saturday, March 21, at 8 a.m. They will be closing roads in the community for the children to run. The money raised will be used for new technology at Laurel Ridge Elementary.

Prostitution, Other Charges Alleged at Two Locations

Fairfax County Police officers and zoning inspectors received information on Friday, March 13, about two locations allegedly operating massage parlors without proper permits. Authorities went to 4208 Evergreen Lane, No. 231 and discovered that Sun Cocker, 61, of the 9007 block of Weatherly Way in Lorton, was reportedly operating one of the establishments. She was charged with operating a massage parlor without a license and with not having a massage permit. Cocker was released on a summons.



Main Chong

POLICE PHOTOS

The second massage parlor was discovered at 6201 Leesburg Pike, No. 400, and police arrested three women. Qi Yang, 38, of Flushing, N.Y., was charged with one count of prostitution, residing in or keeping a bawdy place and operating a massage parlor without a permit.



Jun Wang

Jun Wang, 39, of the 4100 block of Marble Lane in Fairfax, and Main Chong, 41, of Flushing, N.Y., were both charged with one count of prostitution, residing in or keeping a bawdy place, operating a massage parlor without a permit and not concealing an erogenous area. All three were taken to the Adult Detention Center.



Qi Yang

Whose Cannonball Is This?

City of Fairfax Police responded Monday, March 16, around 8:20 a. m, to 10600 Orchard St. in the Cobbdale neighbor

SEE NEWS, PAGE 7



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

When Blue Was Green

Local Democrats cast ballots at St. Patrick's Day Straw Poll.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

If U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's (D-11) annual Saint Patrick's Day fund raiser is any indication, the race to pick a Democratic nominee for governor has reached a fever pitch in Fairfax County a little less than two months before the June 9 primary .

Connolly's staff said about 500 people had indicated they would show up for the March 17 event at the Kena Temple in Fairfax.. In the end, more than 1,400 people, the largest crowd in the event's 14 years, came to the party, said Connolly.

Charlottesville area State Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25), Former Democratic National Committee chair Terry McAuliffe and former Alexandria Del. Brian Moran (D-46) are competing to be the Democrat's gubernatorial pick.

RUSSELL COUNTY supervisor John Bowerbank, Virginia Beach City School Board member Pat Edmondson, Democratic strategist Mike Signer and Virginia's former secretary of finance Jody Wagner are also facing each other in a primary for lieutenant governor on the same day.

Connolly allowed each of the candidates – including the Democrat's presumptive nominee for Attorney General, Vienna Del. Steve Shannon (D-35) – to speak in front of the large crowd of Democrats at the event.

But the real draw may have been the fund-raiser's straw poll, which some consider a bellwether for how Northern Virginia Democrats may feel about a race.

In 2006, Sen. Jim Webb defeated his primary opponent Harris Miller in the Connolly straw poll, an upset that many considered a turning point for the Webb campaign.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) is presented with a gift.



Bill Harrod of Fairfax casts his vote for Virginia governor and lieutenant governor during a straw poll.

McAuliffe won the 2009 straw poll with 544 votes (58 percent); Moran came in second with 276 votes (30 percent); Deeds – the only non-Northern Virginian – followed with 114 votes (12 percent.) McAuliffe had arranged for staffers and supporters to attend the event by having his donors purchase several hundred tickets.

On the lieutenant governor side, Wagner won the straw poll with 48 percent of the vote; Signer, an Arlington County resident, came in second with 28 percent; Bowerbank and Edmondson both garnered 12 percent.

NEWS

John Cook

FROM PAGE 3

include it in new development projects, he said.

The Braddock District supervisor said Fairfax County should set an example of how to transition from a traditional suburban community to a more urban locality. Like many other bedroom communities across the country, Fairfax was going through changes in how it is perceived and should be on the forefront of "suburban renewal."

Cook also said Fairfax should set an example of how to form a cohesive, multi-ethnic community, where people of all backgrounds work and live together in peace.

"We want people to look at Fairfax and say that is an example of how it ought to be done. That is an example of how people ought to live together," said Cook.

FAITH NOTES

Rev. Mike Zello Jr. will speak Sunday, March 22, 6 p.m., at the Healing Service at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. He is the director of Teen Challenge of Fredericksburg, Va. 703-383-1170. www.jccag.org.



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OPINION

Fair Market Value?

Less than a month ago, Fairfax, Arlington and Loudoun counties, and the City of Alexandria, like other local governments, mailed each property owner a new assessment of the fair market value of the property.

What is your home's fair market value?

Most homeowners probably believe that the fair market value of their home is what they could sell it for in a reasonable period of time right now — say putting it on the market this week and allowing 30-60 days. How much would that be?

It's a tough question this year, with values dropping by more than 12 percent on average in Fairfax, nearly 15 percent in Loudoun, less than 5 percent in Alexandria and about 2 percent in Arlington.

The tax assessors base their decisions on the sales of "comparable" properties that sold in 2008, sometimes earlier. But with the number of sales down dramatically, there are sometimes very few "comparable" sales. In Fairfax County, the majority of sales are foreclosures.

But the assessors have decided that foreclosures should not be taken into consideration as a comparable sale.

This is questionable, and the exclusion of

foreclosure sales likely inflates the value of many, if not most, properties. If houses in your neighborhood have sold in foreclosure for dramatically reduced prices, does that affect the value of your house? You know it does.

The value on the piece of paper sent to your house will determine the amount of property tax you owe this year, based on the tax rate which in most places will not be precisely set until April.

Local governments' budgets, the amount of money they have to fund schools, public safety, libraries and many other services, depend directly on how much the homes in each jurisdiction are worth, based on the tax rate. This is more so in Virginia than in many other states where localities have more leeway in choosing sources of revenue. Localities in Virginia are more dependent on property taxes because the General Assembly has strictly limited their access to other taxes. In Virginia, because it is a "Dillon Rule" state, localities only have exactly the power that the General Assembly has bestowed on them.

YOU CAN APPEAL your assessment, but the deadlines are fast approaching and the bur-

Many concerns about assessing properties in Northern Virginia this year.

den of proof is entirely on the homeowner. You will need to be prepared to cite comparable sales from 2008 that justify your view of your home's fair market value. There are two possible steps to appeal, first to the local department of tax administration, then to each locality's Board of Equalization. The Board of Equalization is independent of the tax assessors office; it is made up of citizens appointed by the governing board.

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, the deadline to appeal to the Department of Tax Administration is April 3, and appeals to the next level must be postmarked no later than June 1. The second deadline could well roll around before a homeowner gets an answer to the administrative appeal, so it's important to engage in both processes at once.

See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/> for instructions and information.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Dispelling Myths

To the Editor:

There are serious questions about some of the assumptions and conclusions in The Washington Post editorial this morning.

Statement: Most people think the bell rings too early.

What could this assertion be based on? Results from the FCPS online survey show that over 37,000 parents are satisfied with the current schedule. That's three times more than the number who don't like the schedule, and more than four times more than the number of signatures on the SLEEP petition. (And, it should be noted, there are an unknown number of people who say that thought they signed the petition at one point, they no longer want later start times.) What is the basis for saying that most people want later start times?

Statement: People hate the schedule created by transportation officials.

It is not the "schedule" or flaws of iteration three that people don't like. It is the parameters put forth in the TTF proposal itself. Switching dismissal times for older and younger siblings; scheduling the last tier of schools to start well after 9 a.m. (9:20-9:40 a.m.) and to end after 4 p.m. (4:10-4:30 p.m.); and removing an hour of time from high-school students' schedules are all features of the Majority Report of the Transportation Task Force. These are the features

that Fairfax County residents do not like.

Statement: There are real and significant benefits to later start times on student performance and health.

The proven link is between "more sleep" and "learning and health." A critical look at the research on "late start times" and these factors shows a mixed bag of results. SAT scores in Edina actually went down; no

LETTERS

study shows a statistically significant effect on grades (except a negative effect on grades when after-school activities were moved before school in Minneapolis); there's a trade-off in terms of increased alertness in the morning classes but more absences and early dismissals from afternoon classes. The conclusion that students get more sleep is largely based on geographic studies done in the 1990s.

Advances in technology since the 1990s, such as Facebook, text messaging, twitter, have introduced factors that may be more influential on student bedtimes than just school start and end times. Results in South Burlington show that bedtimes moved later with a late start: "With the change in start time, students and parents saw a shift in the sleep patterns. In the evening, bedtime moved one hour later with the wake up time moving one hour later in the morning."

Sleep is one element of a healthy

lifestyle. The mixed results on some of the research for late start times supports the idea that sleep is only part of a healthy life. If late start times imply offsetting negative impacts, then the positive effects of more sleep are diluted. In addition, scientists point out not all teens experience the biological changes that shift sleep patterns, so not all teens will benefit from late start times.

The Post editorial concludes "A good night's sleep remains an important goal."

That is absolutely true. What is categorically not true, however, is that late start times are the only way — or even the best way — to achieve that goal. Let's work on changing bus schedules so that bus rides are a more reasonable length; and educating students on the importance of sleep and the many ways to improve sleep (reduced exposure to light and electronics in the evening; reduced caffeine consumption in afternoon and evening, and so on).

Let's also dispel once and for all the myth that changing school start times is "no-cost." The Task Force was charged with two tasks: (1) find ways to increase efficiencies, and (2) investigate a late-start schedule. Increasing efficiencies will save money; but implementing a late-bell schedule will cost money. When combined, the effects are offsetting, and the overall proposal is no-cost. However, the two pieces do not have to be combined. They are separate de-

isions. The School Board can choose to adopt the efficiency improvements and use those savings to help out with other parts of the budget. Implementing the late-bell proposal will cost money.

Lorraine Monaco
E-mail Submission

No Loophole

To the Editor:

Referring to your editorial, "Gun Show Loop Hole Stays Open," it is sad to see that only Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37) voted correctly, while all the other Northern Virginia senators don't understand the real issue or they have let political correctness blind them to the truth.

First, there is no gun show loophole. For there to be such a thing, there would have to be something that you can do at a gun show that you can't do anywhere else.

There isn't.

A miniscule number of guns used in crime come from gun shows according to the U.S. Department of Justice. Private sellers usually only have one or two guns to sell and often they are not the kind of gun that would interest criminals. Cuccinelli doubtlessly realizes that encumbering private sales will result in a virtual 0 percent change in crime.

Philip Van Cleave
Virginia Citizens Defense League

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NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

hood for a report of an explosive device found at a new-home construction site. Police say a construction worker found a cannonball of unknown origin in a shed on the property. The Fairfax County Police Department Explosive Ordinance Disposal unit also responded to assist.

The cannonball was determined to be live and was safely disposed of on the site. Traffic was rerouted on several streets and citizens kept out of the immediate area while the investigation was conducted.

Connolly Hosts Open House

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) is hosting an open house at his Annandale office on Saturday, March 21, from 1-3 p.m. Everyone is invited to meet Connolly and his staff and learn about the services offered to the residents of the 11th Congressional District. Connolly's District Office is located at 4115 Annandale Road, Suite 103, in Annandale. The Annandale District Office number is 703-256-3071. A second District Office is

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 8



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NEWS

Award for Local Trooper

FROM PAGE 2

heat.”

So Mahalik exited through the driver’s side, made his way around to the passenger side, opened the door and removed the unconscious man. “I pulled him in front of the car,” said Mahalik. “A passerby stopped and I asked him to help me move the man farther away. I knew something was wrong with me because I felt pain in my back and neck. I got about 50 feet away and laid down on the shoulder.”

Another trooper responded within minutes and found the cruiser fully engulfed in flames. “The valiant action Trooper Mahalik took — in spite of his own injuries and how quickly the fire spread — is incredible,” said Capt. Tracy Russillo, Fairfax Division VII commander. “His quick thinking and response ultimately saved his life and the person inside his car.”

Mahalik sustained fractured ribs, a broken neck and minor burns and spent the next four or five days at Inova Fairfax Hospital. “I was in bad shape, about a month,” he said. “But when the neck collar came off, after six weeks, I could go to physical therapy.”

His fiancé, whom he married in October 2008, also helped nurse him back to health and, after three months, he was healed completely. The man he rescued refused medical treatment, and the SAAB driver was charged with DUI.

Mahalik was assigned to the State Police’s Fairfax office then, but is now one of two dog-handlers on a special, five-person, counter-terrorism/criminal interdiction unit. He’s been a trooper since 2005, deciding on a law-enforcement career while in college. “I wanted something interesting that allowed me to do different things, so that nothing’s ever the same or routine,” he said.

When he returned to work after the accident, he continued as a patrol officer for a few months, before attending K-9 school for his new position. His close brush with death, he said, made him “that much more observant” of his surroundings. You pay attention to what’s going on; traffic is constantly on your mind.”

But that’s not all. “It changes how you live life,” said Mahalik. “You appreciate friends and loved ones more, the folks who care about you, and you don’t harp on the little things.”

NEWS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 7

scheduled to open soon in Prince William County. The Prince William District Office number is 703-670-4989. Connolly’s District Office

staff is available Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to assist the public in handling matters relating to the federal government. Light refreshments will be served at Saturday’s open house in Annandale.

OPEN HOUSES SAT./SUN. MARCH 21 & 22



12638 Water Street • \$949,900 • Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click the Real Estate links on the right side.

 **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.** 

Centreville/Clifton

12638 WATER ST.....	\$949,900	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Long & Foster.....	Lynda Kay.....	703-915-0574
13750 CABELLS MILL DR.....	\$549,900	..... Mar 29th, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Long & Foster.....	Kimberlee House.....	703-201-8660
6535 ROCKLAND DR.....	\$599,000	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Samson Realty LLC.....	Don Samson.....	703-864-4894
5529 CLIFTON RD.....	\$830,000	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Samson Realty LLC.....	Felicia Tsoa.....	(571) 214-0105
12601 CLIFTON HUNT LANE.....	\$834,900	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Keller Williams Realty.....	Diane Lenahan.....	703-283-7328
7701 ROSE GATE CT.....	\$1,150,000	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Keller Williams Realty.....	Diane Lenahan.....	703-283-7328
14920 JASLOW ST.....	\$365,900	..... Mar 22nd, 12:00 AM to 3:00 PM.....	Long & Foster.....	Linda Blakemore.....	703-368-1146
6316 Barnesdale Path.....	\$997,000	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	ERA Champion Realty.....	Nancy Foltz.....	703-772-021

Chantilly/Oak Hill

12713 OX MEADOW DR.....	\$1,145,000 Mar 22nd, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM.....	Jobin Realty.....	Thanh Luong.....	(703)365-9090
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Fairfax

3805 MILLARD WAY.....	\$1,550,000 Mar 21st, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Long & Foster.....	Margaret Earnest.....	703-873-3500
3455 Briargate Ct.....	\$624,900	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Samson Realty LLC.....	Keith Harris.....	703-395-6601
4107 Berritt St.....	\$399,000	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Samson Realty LLC.....	DeSarno Team.....	571-212-7770
10706 Orchard St.....	\$499,000	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Weichert.....	Ron Fowler.....	703-598-0511
3114 Plantation Pkwy.....	\$479,900	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Weichert.....	Ron Fowler.....	703-598-0511
3453 INDALE CT.....	\$586,000	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Weichert.....	Rosemary Graham.....	703-850-2943
12165 Penderview Square #1006	\$189,000	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Keller Williams Fairfax.....	Bret Bohannon.....	703-408-1805
5406 RUBY DR.....	\$750,000 Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	RE/MAX Preferred.....	Jennifer O'Brien.....	703-255-9700

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6202 ERMAN CT.....	\$515,000 Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Coldwell Banker.....	Amy Goodman.....	(703) 477-9306
9519 Retriever Road.....	\$599,950	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Weichert.....	Kathleen Quintarelli.....	703-862-8808

Fairfax Station

7101 PARK POINT CT.....	\$724,950	..... Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Weichert.....	Kathleen Quintarelli.....	703-862-8808
11715 WINTERWAY LANE.....	\$1,250,000 Mar 22nd, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.....	Keller Williams Realty.....	Diane Lenahan.....	703-283-7328

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Theater Directors To Perform

FROM PAGE 2

Knight is the producer, and Westfield High Theater Director Scott Pafumi, assistant producer. The stage manager is Woodson High Theater Director Terri Hobson.

This year's participants include Tim King, a Washington Irving Middle School teacher, accompanied by musicians from the school, performing the song, "The Origin of Love," from "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." The high-school theater director at Lake

Braddock Secondary, R.L. Mirabal, will entertain with Miraband, a band of two students, an alumnus and Mirabal himself playing bass, guitar, piano and drums.

"We have a good time," said Rome. "It's a very talented group of people, and the opportunity to see them demonstrate their skills for entertainment, and not just education, is certain to be worth one's time and money. Parking is free — and where else can you go to be entertained for five bucks? And the more, the merrier."

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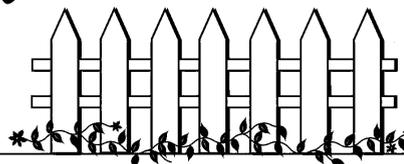
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If you are interested in participating in a lawsuit seeking to recover these lost overtime wages, plus an equal amount as liquidated damages, please contact:

Douglas L. Steele or Heidi Burakiewicz
at Woodley & McGillivray

1125 15th St., NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20005

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ADVERTISING MATERIAL

CALENDAR

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

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

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 costs \$20 for JCCNV members, \$24 non-members. 7:30 p.m. concert tickets in advance: \$15 for members, \$18 non-members; at the door: \$18 for members, \$21 non-members. Reserve at 703-323-0880 or 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. 703-698-7080 or www.rmhc.greaterdc.org.

Once, Okay Twice, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

Theater Performance. The Providence Players of Fairfax will perform the mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" by Richard Levinson and William Link, 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. Tickets are \$15 for adults \$12 for children and seniors and can be reserved by phone at 703-425-6782, e-mail at providenceplayers@cox.net. For more, visit www.providenceplayers.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Civil War Interpretive Center Lecture Series: Researching Civil War Soldiers 2 p.m., at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. C.K. Gailey, a full-time archaeology volunteer with the Fairfax County Park Authority, will



The Russian National Ballet Theatre will perform twice at the George Mason Center for the Arts, dancing 'Cinderella' on Friday, March 20 and 'Sleeping Beauty' on Saturday, March 21.

discuss the resources and methods used to research people who lived in the mid-1800s. Suzanne Levy, a librarian in the Virginia Room in the City of Fairfax Regional Library, will provide insight on the numerous resource available. The presentation will be followed by a tour of Historic Blenheim and the Interpretive Center gallery. This is part of a monthly series that contributes to the commemoration of the Virginia sesquicentennial of the American Civil War. For more, call 703-591-0560.

The Russian National Ballet Theatre in "Sleeping Beauty", 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.

Four Season Gardening, 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Community Hall, 8104 Lee Highway, Merrifield. Make the most of each season. Learn to design a landscape to look beautiful throughout the year. 703-560-6222.

Gardening: Make it a Family Affair, 10 a.m. at Merrifield Gardens Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Fun and interesting ways to grow vegetables, herbs, cutting flowers and plants that attract butterflies and birds. 703-968-9600.

Gunston Hall Kite Festival, 12-5 p.m. at Gunston Hall Plantation, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Hands-on colonial activities for children, an 18th-century puppet show, hearth cooking demonstrations, and exploration of a modern fire truck. Food service available for picnics. Bring a kite or

purchase one from the Museum Shop. The Garden Club of Fort Belvoir will offer spring plants for sale. \$10 adults, \$6 ages 6-18, \$2 ages 2-5 years. \$25 Family Admission for up to 2 adults and 3 children. 703-550-9220 or www.gunstonhall.org.

HAPA, contemporary Hawaiian duo, 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Murder at Gooseneck Lake, 7 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Gather evidence and figure out whodunit. Cosponsored by the Friends of City of Fairfax Regional Library. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Make It Up As You Go, 1 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Have some laughs and develop your creative side by playing theater games at this improvisational comedy event. Ages 12-18. 703-249-1520.

Summer Rain CD Release Party, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays in University Mall, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Age 21 and up only. 703-385-5717.

Fallback Plan, Summer Rain CD Release Party, 10 p.m. at Fat Tuesdays, 10673 Braddock Road, Fairfax. 703-385-5717.

Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association St. Patrick's Day Dance, 7:30 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls church. \$10 for NVCWDA members, \$12 non-members. 703-860-4941 or www.nvcwda.org.

Theater Performance. The Providence Players of Fairfax will perform the mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" by Richard Levinson and William Link, 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. Tickets are \$15 for adults \$12 for children and seniors and can be reserved by phone at 703-425-6782, e-mail at providenceplayers@cox.net.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

HAPA, contemporary Hawaiian duo, 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. \$25.

Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Todesbonden, Ephemeral Sun and Origin Theory, 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

The Academy of Ancient Music, 4 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, on the Fairfax campus of George Mason University at the intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123. Hear all six of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos. Tickets are \$24-\$48. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Mason Select Women's Chorale, 7 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Harris Theater, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Free, non-ticketed. www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Theater Performance. The Providence Players of Fairfax will perform the mystery "Rehearsal for Murder" by Richard Levinson and William Link, 2 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater 2855 Annandale Road, Fall Church. Tickets are \$15 for adults \$12 for children and seniors and can be reserved by phone at 703-425-6782, e-mail at providenceplayers@cox.net. For more, visit www.providenceplayers.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Open Mic Showcase Hosted by Ron Goad, 7-10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Fairy Fantasy, 2:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Enter a magical world with fairy-related activities and crafts. Fairy costume optional. Age 6-12. 703-644-7333.

TUESDAY/MARCH 24

That 1 Guy: unlike anything you have heard before, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance, \$12 at the

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

EDITOR'S PICK



Summer Rain is having a CD Release Party at Fat Tuesday's in University Mall on Saturday, March 21.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

door. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Gan Israel Preschool Open House,

Tuesday, March 24 at 7:30 p.m. Gan Israel Academy is a Montessori-influenced kindergarten and first grade that emphasizes Jewish elementary learning, located at Chabad of Fairfax, 3939 Prince William Drive, Fairfax. 703-426-1980 or ganisraelpreschool@gmail.com.

Genealogy Databases, 7 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Search for ancestors using the library's genealogy databases and other free Internet databases. Age 13 and up. 703-293-6227.

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, common software applications and navigating the Internet. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Awaken Your Intuition and Connect with Your Angels, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at the Comfort Inn University Center, 11180 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. \$10. Register at 540-854-4841 or www.ipmers.org/nova.html.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Taylor Carson, Matt York and Andrew Hoover, 7:30 p.m. at

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. For more, call 703-255-1566 or visit online at jamminjava.com.

Shepherd's Centers of Northern Virginia Volunteer Fair, 3-4:30 p.m. at the Fairfax City Regional Library, North Street and Old Lee Highway. Volunteer to help older people continue to live independently in their homes by providing transportation to medical appointments, enrichment programs, friendly caller/visitor services, minor home repairs, accompanied shopping, etc. For more, call the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke office at 703-323-4788.

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Senior catcher Chad Morgan, a Virginia Tech recruit, hit .408 last season for the Paul VI baseball team with 28 RBIs, 22 runs scored and a team-best 24 walks.

PHOTOS BY JASON MACKEY/THE CONNECTION



Right-hander Tyler Costello is Paul VI's top returner on the mound. He went 8-1 last spring with a 1.81 ERA and 48 strikeouts in 46 1/3 innings of work.

A Place by Themselves

Paul VI Panthers, 27-3 last spring, alone atop area baseball conversation.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Billy Emerson walked through the door, made a right turn near the leaf rakes and unused cans of white spray paint and ducked into a musty-smelling locker room, complete with a TV/DVD combo in the upper left-hand corner of the room and a worn out couch stashed in back.

Emerson unlocked a second door, which led to his office and a momentary reprieve from the smell. There, between a bigger couch, a recliner and another outdated TV set with VCR tapes stacked next to it, Paul VI's baseball coach sat with his arms folded, backward, in his desk chair.

This source of comfortability exists behind home plate of Paul VI's baseball field, where Emerson, upon arriving at the school in the fall of 2002, realized that the team did not have sufficient locker room space inside the school. So he led an effort to construct a facility from scratch in the fall of 2003 through the winter of the upcoming 2004 season.

The Panther players love it. The building provides them with a little slice of him, only without having to deal with any of the occasional annoyances of occasionally being there. When two players want to arrive early to take some extra swings, there's even a key hidden.

"You can never be satisfied with what you have."

— Chad Morgan, senior,
Paul VI Catholic

"It helps a lot, having a place to go with just the team," pitcher Tyler Costello said. "Nobody else is allowed in here. It's just ours. And no other team really has that in our conference, and it's a huge advantage."

IN ADDITION to the locker room construction, Emerson has built Paul VI's baseball program into one of the area's finest. In the past four years, Paul VI has won 104 games. In the past six, 33 Panthers have moved on to play college baseball, including all nine seniors from last year's 27-3 team, which won a Virginia Independent School Athletic Association state title.

This year, Paul VI finds itself at the beginning of another cycle of talented players.

"This is kind of a new group," Emerson



In his seventh year at Paul VI, head coach Billy Emerson has a record of 138-44, including a 27-3 mark last season when the Panthers won a Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA) state championship.

said. "And I see in this group now ... here comes another fantastic young group that we get to have for the next three or four years, which is cool. It's kind of like starting over."

With those nine gone, senior Chad Morgan, one of the top catching prospects in all of Virginia and a Virginia Tech signee,

will assume primary leadership duties. A season ago, Morgan hit .408 (31 for 76) with 28 RBIs, 22 runs scored and a team-best 24 walks.

"We have a young team this year, so it will be good to go out there and see how some of these different guys perform in game situations," said Morgan, who has also garnered significant professional interest. "I expect to have a better year than I had last year. ... You can never be satisfied with what you have."

Costello, a righty, was 8-1 with a 1.81 ERA last season, posting team-highs in innings (46 1/3) and strikeouts (48). In a 17-0 win over the Hearts Lions this past Saturday, Costello tossed four innings and struck out eight to get the win in a combined perfect game with Koji Marks, the first such feat in school history.

Emerson also praised the work of Lance Veeder, a sophomore utility player who's starting his second year on the varsity squad. In 84 at-bats last season, Veeder hit .333 with three homers. Mike Murakami, a junior, leads all returners with a .479 average (46 for 96) last season, with five homers, 27 RBIs and 39 runs scored.

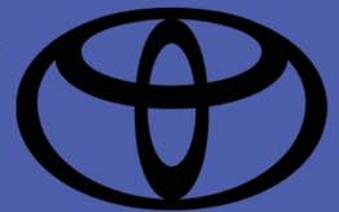
W.T. WOODSON loses seven seniors from last year's 11-10 team, which lost to McLean in the second round of the Liberty District tournament.

Senior outfielder Max Waizenegger hit .283 last year with 14 runs scored, 14 RBIs

SEE FAIRFAX BASEBALL. PAGE 15

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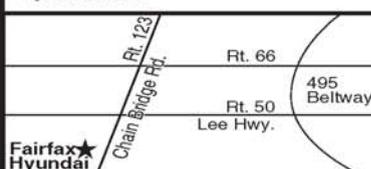
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Paul VI All-Nighter
 Students at Paul VI Catholic High School recently raised over \$24,000 during an all-night event called Marathon Madness on March 6-7. Organized by the Student Government Association, the event's charity was designated as Special Olympics, chosen to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the PVI Options program for students with intellectual disabilities. During the night, students participated in hours of dancing, followed by performances by student bands, inflatable laser tag and other games, raffle prizes, movies and a popular Family Feud game show in the school auditorium. Ending at 6 a.m., students and chaperones left exhausted from all the fun, knowing they had contributed to an extremely worthwhile organization.

Panther English, Music Depts. Unite

The Choirs and Creative Writing Classes at Paul VI Catholic High School recently teamed up for an interdisciplinary project that culminated in a performance at the choral spring concert. Under the direction of Eileen Yaworsky of the English Department and Mae Trimble of the Music Department, students in Creative Writing I participated in a poetry contest during the fall semester. Students wrote a pair of metered quatrains using concrete imagery relating to spring. The in-

structors chose the three best poems and Trimble then set the poems to original music she composed especially for those winning pieces. Sophomore Elizabeth Donahue, junior Alexandra Dent and sophomore D.J. La Velle were the winning poets. The finished product is called "Three Miniature Songs of Spring." Both the Chamber and Concert Choirs performed these original pieces along with a number of other selections at the Tuesday, March 10, Choral Concert at Paul VI.



Year of the Ox Local families and community leaders converged on Fair Oaks Mall the weekend of Jan. 24-25 to welcome in the Lunar New Year 4707, the Year of the Ox. More than 200 people from 11 different countries participated in the celebration, which included music, dance, kung fu demonstrations and a lantern festival.

SPORTS

Fairfax Baseball

FROM PAGE 12

and three homers, while middle infielder Dylan Robeson had a .305 on-base percentage last spring with seven runs scored and nine RBIs.

The McGillicuddy twins, sophomores Joe and John, will anchor the Cavaliers' rotation. The brothers combined for a 3-3 record in 43 innings as freshmen for eighth-year coach Chris Warren last season.

At Fairfax, sophomore left-hander Joseph Vanderplas could have a breakout season. According to second-year coach Kevin Simonds, he has "tremendous movement on his fastball and a tremendous drop in velocity with his breaking ball and changeup."

In addition to first baseman/pitcher Danny Broyles and third baseman Joey Garon, pitcher Jordan Kuchel, who started six games last year and posted 18 strikeouts with a 4.35 ERA, will return to lead the Rebels, who finished 4-19-1 overall, 2-10 against 2008 Concorde District opponents.

Paul VI Hoopsters Honored

Five boys' basketball players from Paul VI Catholic High School were selected to the All-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference teams. Senior Dominic Sanders and sophomore Deon Jones were honorable mention picks, while senior Raven Barber and junior Eugene McCrory were selected to the third team. Senior Erick Green was voted to the first team. Four players were honored on the girls' side with junior Jessica Escorza and sophomore Meredith Mesaris named as honorable mentions selections, while senior Jasmine Murray was a third team pick and junior Blair Koniszewski was named to the All-WCAC second team.

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Big Questions about Voting

Glitch in special election, but budget crunch causes Fairfax to go without voting paper trail until 2010.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

After the polls closed last week, one voting machine reported that 724 people had used it, even though officials at the precinct had recorded only 707 people walking through the door. There was also another voting machine at Fairview, which had already tallied 348 of the 707 votes.

Fairfax County election officials ultimately concluded that supervisor-elect John Cook (R) defeated at-large school board member Ilyong Moon (D) by a slim margin of 89 votes in the Braddock District's special election March 10.

But for almost 24 hours, officials could not call the race's outcome or even determine the number of ballots cast in the election because of the malfunctioning machine at the Fairview precinct in Fairfax Station.

When the machine was cracked open a day after the election, a more appropriate number of votes, 359, showed up on a roll of tape in the "ballot log" and among the "ballot images," or digital photographs taken of each vote cast on the machine. So far, no one is disputing the results.

Election officials are still unsure of what caused the voting machine to report the wrong number of votes in the first place.

"Once we ran the ballot log and the ballot images, we saw that there were 359 actual votes on the machine. We just don't know why the machine tallied up 724. ... We have one machine with an anomaly and we don't know what caused it," said Rokey Suleman, Fairfax County registrar.

"Nothing like this has ever occurred before. We don't know if the machine malfunctioned or if we did something wrong," said Suleman.

LAST WEEK'S voting machine problems are a sign of bigger problems ahead, said cyber-security expert Jeremy Epstein and other computer scientists. Fairfax County's electronic voting machines produce no ballots or paper trail and it would be impossible to verify the number votes or what they were cast for if an

electronic voting machine malfunctioned and voting information could not be retrieved. There is no hard copy or paper "back up" system if something goes wrong.

"We are entirely reliant on the software that is in the electronic voting machines to function correctly. ... When you have been writing software for 25 years, you know that is not a good thing to do," said Epstein, senior computer scientist with the Cyber Security Research and Development Center at

"We are only using the electronic voting machines right now because of costs."

— Rokey Suleman,
Fairfax County registrar



PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County's electronic voting machines do not produce a paper trail and are susceptible to program glitches, according to computer scientists who have studied the issue.

SRI International in Arlington.

Epstein, a Braddock District resident, said an overwhelming majority of computer scientists believe there should be a paper trail that can be independently verified.

"There have been many many bugs in election software over the years and, one day we may not be able to recover from it. This bug may have affected past elections and nobody ever noticed it before. It could have given the wrong number of votes to the wrong candidate and nobody noticed," said Epstein, who advocates for voting machine security both nationally and locally.

Epstein and other advocates prefer optical scan voting machines, which require people to fill out a paper ballot with a pencil before running it through a scanning tallying system. The optical scan machines leave a verifiable paper trail.

DURING LAST November's presidential and congressional elections, Fairfax County equipped each polling station with at least one optical scan machine, and gave people

the choice of using either an electronic device or the optical scan to record their votes. But the current county budget crunch led election officials to forego using optical scan machines and to rely entirely on electronic voting machines during the three special elections that have taken place in Fairfax County in 2009. Suleman said he also intends to

only use electronic voting machines with no paper options or backup during the Democratic primary for statewide races in June and the general elections, including the Governor's race, in November.

"We are only using the electronic voting machines right now because of costs. We don't have money right now for paper ballots. ... The issue is the cost of paper. You have to understand that paper is expensive," said Suleman.

ACCORDING TO

Fairfax County budget documents, the three 2009 special elections – including a House of Delegates race that affected one precinct, a countywide chairman's race in February and the Braddock election – have cost the locality an extra \$300,000 this year. Printing paper ballots for the county chairman's race alone could have driven up the price tag another \$200,000, said Suleman.

If the county is offering paper ballots to voters, it is prudent to have enough to cover a voter turnout of 100 percent, plus a little, even though that number of people is very unlikely to turn up at the polls, said Suleman. According to county records, the voter turnout in November's presidential election, which was regarded as high, was 78.7 percent. In last month's special election for county chairman, it was 16.1 percent. "That is a tremendous amount of waste in paper but you have to be prepared for every voter to show up at the polls," said Suleman.

Still there are people who said they would be more comfortable with some wasted paper ballots than electronic voting machines. "I am not surprised that it is a little bit more expensive if you consider how many people in Fairfax County are going to cast votes in the governor's race. ... It is a little surprising to me that it costs \$200,000 for 400,000 sheets of paper," said Scott Surovell, chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

Following the Braddock District election, he now expects the organization to look at a resolution calling for Fairfax County to do away with using its electronic voting machines altogether. "It is the only way to ensure that there is paper trail that reflects the voters' intent. ... The biggest concern is

that the voting machines can have malfunctions as they get older and may not reflect the voters' intent or record the votes correctly," said Surovell.

Epstein, who talks to people from all over the country about issues regarding voting machines, the voting machine malfunction in the Braddock district election could be the most serious malfunction noticed in the country so far.

"Nobody in the United States has seen anything like this. It is screaming and shouting that something is definitely wrong. ... I wasn't surprised that [the malfunction happened] but I was surprised how egregiously wrong it was," he said.

"We are entirely reliant on the software that is in the electronic voting machines to function correctly. When you have been writing software for 25 years, you know that is not a good thing to do."

— Jeremy Epstein, computer security expert

AS A SECONDARY issue, Surovell said he is also concerned about going through next fall's elections with only electronic voting machines because they take longer for voters to use than optical scan machines.

In November 2008, both Surovell and Suleman credited some of the success of the Presidential Election Day and its huge turnout to the fact that voters were given the option to use optical scan machines, allowing lines to move more quickly. Widespread

absentee voting at nearly a dozen locations helped as well, but that is unlikely to be available this November, also due to budget constraints.

"I am worried about moving people through the line on Election Day [in November 2009]. The registrar's office has proposed cutting out all satellite absentee voting which will make the lines on election day horrific," said Surovell.

Eventually, Fairfax will have to move away from electronic voting machines and toward an entirely optical scan system.

In 2007, Clifton Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) moved a bill through the Virginia General Assembly that prohibited localities from purchasing new electronic voting machines, requiring them to buy optical scan equipment when the electronic devices break down. Following the 2000 presidential election problems in Florida, Hugo chaired a bipartisan commission in Virginia that investigated the risks of electronic voting machine equipment.

"As someone who has both won and lost an election, it is OK to lose but you need to know that you truly lost. ... It will ensure the integrity of the voting system and the integrity of each vote to have a paper ballot," said Hugo.

"If the voter is not sure and doesn't feel confident that his vote was counted, then he will lose confidence in the entire system," he added.



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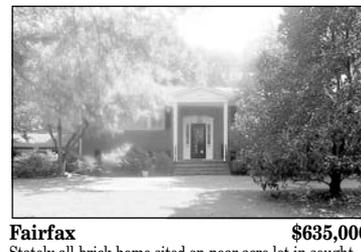
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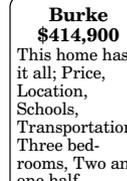


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