

New Schools Chief

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Patrick K. Murphy
will succeed
Robert G. Smith as
superintendent of
Arlington Public
Schools.

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PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION

Emma Violand-Sanchez, Abby Raphael, Libby Garvey, Patrick K. Murphy and Sally Baird.

Full Steam Ahead on Recycling

County aims to save money and the environment.

BY ALEKSANDRA KULCZUGA
THE CONNECTION

Arlington's Solid Waste Management Bureau is six years ahead of schedule in achieving its goals for county-wide recycling. In 2004 the county adopted a 20-year Solid Waste Management Improvement Plan which set a recycling rate goal of 40 percent by 2014. In 2008 the county surpassed 42 percent. Next on the agenda for this overachieving sector of local government is a new "single-stream" curbside recycling program rolled out on April 1.

"The way you get people to change their behavior is by making it convenient,"
— Barbara Favola, chairman, Arlington County Board

In a nutshell, single-stream recycling means all recyclable materials can be dumped in one bin — no sorting, bundling, or cutting required — thanks to new recycling trucks which operate like the rear-loading compactor trucks familiar on garbage routes. High-tech sorting capabilities at recycling centers have enabled this type of streamlined operation. There is added convenience for both the collector and the consumer, including savings in both

SEE OVERACHIEVING, PAGE 6

New Schools Chief Chosen

Fairfax administrator to become new Arlington superintendent.

BY DAVID SCHULTZ
THE CONNECTION

The Arlington School Board selected Pat Murphy, a local educator with two decades of experience in Northern Virginia, to become the next superintendent of the county's public schools last week.

Murphy is an Arlington resident and currently works as an assistant superintendent in neighboring Fairfax County. He began his career in 1988 as a physical education teacher at Key Middle School in Springfield and worked his way up through a variety

of positions in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Arlington School Board Member Libby Garvey said she was drawn to the breadth of Murphy's experience in Fairfax. "What set him apart was he's done everything," she said. "He has the complete résumé."

Murphy said he was attracted to Arlington by the efforts of its current superintendent, Robert Smith, in closing the gap between the achievement levels of white and minority students. Arlington has "already put a lot of things in motion that demonstrate the high achievement of minority students," he said. "I see that as a front-burner

Pat Murphy

Birthplace: Fairfax County
Family: Wife, Barbara
Education: B.A. — James Madison University
M.A. and Ed.D. — Virginia Tech University
Salary: \$195,000 per year (four-year contract)

issue for me and we're going to be laser-like on that."

MURPHY does not come without baggage, however.

As Assistant Superintendent for Accountability in Fairfax County Public Schools, he

SEE MURPHY, PAGE 6

Four Mile Run Restoration Depends on Community

Arlington and Alexandria planning departments meet to review Four Mile Run.

BY EMMA GONZALEZ
THE CONNECTION

Arlington resident Nora Partlow hopes that her continuous efforts to support Four Mile Run's restoration project will matter. "I'm hoping that this project really does move forward. I'm here to find out. I have been coming to the annual meetings since the project has come under way and will continue to contribute."

Partlow said.

The Four Mile Run Restoration Project's mission is to restore 2.3 miles of Four Mile Run.

Partlow urges others in the community to get involved. "If we have something that is well taken care of, we are more likely to be proud of our commitment and take more care of our community," Partlow said.

Tables were set up in the room April 2 holding display boards and booklets that

detailed the project's vision for the public to review.

Valerie Peterson, principal planner of Alexandria, has high hopes for the project's success. "It is so great to see a significant amount of time and discipline put into all of the planning. It's also refreshing to see citizens working together. They are the ones planning the future here," she said.

While many walked around and browsed

"Our displays are guidelines that will hopefully be used in the future."

— Ron Kagawa, division chief of planning and design, Alexandria Parks and Recreation

at the display boards, others had the opportunity to talk to the architects.

Ron Kagawa, division chief of planning and design of Alexandria Parks and Recreation, wanted to hear what the public has to say about the project's guidelines. "We all would really love to hear what people think. Both good and

bad is necessary. We have set architectural,

SEE FOUR MILE RUN, PAGE 6

Board Approves Jefferson Middle School Project

The Arlington School Board approved at its last meeting the Jefferson Middle School improvements and capital needs project which will include adding windows, indirect lighting, skylights, and other interior modifications. Construction is expected to begin in September and will be finished by August 2010.

Signer Begins Lt. Governor Campaign

Mike Signer of Arlington officially launched his campaign for Lt. Governor Campaign this week, at a news conference at Courthouse Plaza.

Signer also announced his first quarter fund-raising totals of nearly \$250,000, with a base of more than 800 donors.

Signer has worked in Democratic politics for over 15 years at the grassroots level. He has founded organizations seeking progress on race relations and electoral reform, was a deputy counselor to Gov. Mark Warner, and served as senior strategist in 2008 for U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello's victory over Republican Virgil Goode in Virginia's 5th Congressional District.

Signer directed the Homeland Security Presidential Transition initiative for the Center for American Progress and is currently a senior national security policy fellow at the think tank Third Way and a principal of the Truman National Security Project. He holds a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, a J.D. from the University of Virginia and a B.A. from Princeton University. His first book, "Demagogue: The Fight to Save Democracy from its Worst Enemies," was published in February, 2009.

For more information on Signer, see <http://www.mikesigner.com/>.

SCAN Honors Cifaloglio

Dr. Claire Cifaloglio of Arlington was one of five Northern Virginians honored last week for efforts to protect children and support families. The event was SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) of Northern Virginia's official kick-off for April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Over the past 30 years, Cifaloglio has been a pediatrician in West Virginia, New Jersey and New York. But it was in 1992 that she came to Virginia and joined Arlington Department of Human Services as its school health physician. In the 17 years since, she has worked to identify and prevent child abuse and neglect and treat child victims.

As school health physician, she provides clinical services for students and consultation for school nurses and aides, as well as consultation for all staff regarding child abuse and neglect concerns. Her work includes improving the delivery of mental health services to students; providing immediate, expert medical advice to Child Protective Services; partnering with Arlington Pediatric Center, Arlandria Clinic and other providers to ensure care for uninsured children; and volunteering at the Arlington Free Clinic to provide care for uninsured adults.

Cifaloglio was also instrumental in creating and staffing a teen health clinic in Arlington, as well as being a leading supporter in the creation of Arlington's Child Advocacy Center, where she now participates in all case staffings and routinely observes forensic interviews.

NVCC President Dr. Robert Templin was the event's keynote speaker, and NBC4's Julie Carey presented



Dr. Claire Cifaloglio of Arlington with NBC4's Julie Carey and SCAN Executive Director Diane Charles.

the awards. Verizon was the lead sponsor of the event.

More information on SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) of Northern Virginia can be found at www.scanva.org.

He fought to keep this the land of the free... it's time to build a home for the brave.

Marine Sgt. Steven Kiernan was deployed to Fallujah, Iraq when he lost both of his legs in May 2008. The leading foot patrol, Sgt. Kiernan and his team were hit by an IED, creating confusion in what had moments before been an ordinary day. Life saving measures were applied including tourniqueting both of Steven's legs, and he was loaded into a HUMVEE and transported to the Medivac and later transported to Germany, Bethesda Naval Hospital, and eventually to Walter Reed where he remains today receiving rehab and physical therapy.

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Robertson Named Principal of Year

Washington-Lee High School principal Gregg Robertson has been named the Arlington Public Schools 2009 Principal of the Year and will be recognized as The Washington Post's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award recipient for Arlington.

"Gregg is inspiring a generation of students to be thoughtful, sensitive, and responsible while he also helps them to grow, learn and achieve at school and in life," according to Superintendent Dr. Robert Smith in a statement.

Robertson has been an Arlington Public Schools administrator for 11 years. From 1999-2002 he served as assistant principal and then principal of Swanson Middle School before assuming the leadership as principal of Washington-Lee High School in 2002.

In 1990, he began his teaching career at Staunton River Middle and High School in Moneta, Va., where he spent five years as a teacher and three years as an assistant principal. He also served as assistant principal of Floyd County High School in Floyd, Va., before moving to Arlington.



Gregg Robertson

Robertson graduated from East Tennessee State University with a Bachelor of Science in middle and secondary education. He received a Master of Science in adult and continuing education and an Ed.S. in educational leadership from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

He has created several forums

for students, parents, and other concerned community members to share their views. Students are able to participate in the Student Senate or Student Advisory Committee. He meets regularly with each group to discuss issues that affect student lives.

Robertson also created a parent advisory committee.

Three years ago, Robertson created the Freshman Connection, a process designed to help ninth graders become part of the school community, raise their achievement and improve attendance.

Washington-Lee has been consistently ranked among the top high schools in the country according to Newsweek's Challenge Index. Robertson will be honored at The Washington Post on April 29 as one of 19 principals in the metropolitan area who will receive The Post's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award. He will also be recognized by the Arlington School Board at its meeting on Thursday, April 30.

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Murphy To Be New Schools Chief

FROM PAGE 3

played a key role in the school system's recent changes to its grading policy.

Last year, Murphy's office issued a report that favored the retention of Fairfax's six-point grading scale, despite fervent objection on the part of many parents who wanted a more common 10-point scale.

His report led Fairfax County Superintendent Jack Dale to recommend keeping the six-point scale. The Fairfax County School Board rejected his recommendation earlier this year and opted for the 10-point scale.

Megan McLaughlin is a co-founder of Fairgrade, a parent activism group in Fairfax County that lobbied for the ten-point scale. Some of the members of her group were angered by Murphy's research on grading scales, but McLaughlin praised his handling of the issue. She said she believes

Get Involved

A reception to welcome Pat Murphy as the new superintendent of Arlington Public Schools is scheduled for Thursday, April 16 at 6:30 p.m. The reception will be held at the Arlington Education Center, located at 1426 North Quincy St.

Murphy was pressured by Dale to write the controversial report.

"When Pat would speak publicly about the research findings, he was more accurate and objective than what the written report said," McLaughlin said. "I think [he] was put in a very difficult situation.

"For someone like Pat," McLaughlin added, "When your boss has a certain perspective, there's only so much you can do without jeopardizing your career."

THE SELECTION of Murphy puts an end to the six-month long, nationwide search to replace Smith. Shortly after Smith an-

nounced his retirement last fall, the School Board hired a private headhunting firm to solicit applicants.

According to Board Member Sally Baird, applications came in from as far away as Texas and Arizona. But the board opted to hire Murphy, a native Northern Virginian who attended W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax.

Garvey said Murphy's familiarity with the Northern Virginia region played no role in his selection as superintendent. No one on the School Board knew of Murphy before he applied for the position, but several senior Arlington Public Schools staffers had been aware of his work in Fairfax, Garvey said.

Smith will be stepping down in June after 12 years of leading the county's public school system. A transition plan is in place and can be viewed on the Arlington Public Schools Web site, www.apsva.us/superintendent/new.**Patrick K. Murphy will succeed Robert G. Smith as superintendent of Arlington Public Schools.**

David Schultz can also be heard on WAMU 88.5 FM.

Working on Four Mile Run's Future

FROM PAGE 3

landscape and renovating guidelines that are economically friendly," Kawaga said. "These are guidelines, not prescriptions. These are here to guide future developers not prescribe in any sense."

In the crowd, Walter Tejada, an Arlington County Board member, listened to the questions being asked and comments on the restoration project. "I'm here to learn more about the project and to support this mission. It is excellent to see two jurisdictions working together to make a community that can be accessible by anyone," Tejada said, "We must continue to enhance our publicity and outreach. Someone may have a funding opportunity or a creative idea to share."

Tejada also encouraged people to get involved and stressed that it was also important for the planning members of the project to reach out to the community in languages other than English.

"This area has neighbors of multi-cultural backgrounds," he said.

**Display boards show guidelines to help shape Four Mile Run's restoration.**

Overachieving Speeds County's Recycling Rate

FROM PAGE 3

time and expense.

The approximately 32,000 residences that are customers of the county Department of Environmental Services will be receiving wheeled, blue, 60-gallon drums over the next eight weeks. The bins also contain an electronic RFID tags so that the county can monitor participation in the program.

Single-stream recycling includes

an expanded ability to accommodate a large number of materials previously relegated to the trash. One of the most significant additions is the ability to handle plastic numbers 1 through 7, which includes hard plastics like flower pots, garbage bins, and toys. Milk cartons, tin foil, aluminum trays, plastic bags, and books have also been added to the list. In addition, the county is experimenting with a by-request electronics service which can handle things like

car batteries, cell phones, DVD players and larger items such as TV's and monitors for a small fee.

Arlington's Chief of Solid Waste Management Erik Grabowsky spoke with enthusiasm about the initiatives the county is taking on. "The key is integration and convenience," he stressed, citing the county's dedication to continuous improvement. "We are constantly evaluating ourselves, and currently have a 90 percent customer satisfaction rate. We cherish our cus-

tomers," said Grabowsky, who was born and raised in Arlington and has been working for the county since 1993. "Our main goal is to provide at a reasonable cost, a comprehensive and convenient recycling program to our residents." Grabowsky pointed out that one of the biggest wins he sees is that cardboard no longer has to be broken down. "A customer could even leave a cardboard box from a refrigerator out SEE OVERACHIEVING, PAGE 19

CALENDAR

Know of something missing from our community entertainment Calendar? Send it to The Arlington Connection, e-mail announcements@arlingtonconnection.com to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions. Photos are welcome.

ART LISTINGS:

David Hagen is exhibiting art at Century 21 Exhibit Space, 1711 Wilson Blvd through April. "Identified & Unidentified" features 39 paintings that range from robots to Elvis to Mona Lisa.

Marymount University's Barry Art Gallery will showcase the **Annual Student Art and Design Exhibition through April 24** in the Reinsch Library, 2807 N. Glebe Road. The exhibition is a juried show, and the works on display will have been judged in a number of disciplines. For more information, call Judy Bass, the Barry Gallery curator, at 703-284-1561 or judy.bass@marymount.edu

There will be a "Recycled Art Show" through April 30 at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Free. 703-228-5996.

Arlington artist **Frederick Markham** will have a graphite and charcoal exhibit on display at NOVA-Manassas, 6901 Sudley Road. See landscape drawings. Free. 703-257-6532.

ONGOING:

The **Arlington Farmers' Market** takes place on Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon year round. Located at the intersection of N. Courthouse Road and N. 14th Street. Visit www.arlingtonfarmersmarket.com for more on the market and vendors.

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) has scheduled a series of free **Confident City Cycling Classes** for 2009. The Virginia classes, which are free and open to all, regardless of residency, are designed to provide cyclists with the skills they need incorporate bicycling into their daily routines, on city streets for errands, commuting, and fun. For more information and on-line registration, visit <http://www.waba.org/events/education.php#ccc>

Take pictures with the **Easter Bunny and Despereaux**, the little mouse with the big heart, March 28 through April 11 at Fashion Centre at Pentagon City. Visit www.simon.com for more.



Darren J will play at Bangkok Blues on Wednesday, April 15. Visit www.bangkokblues.com for more.

Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium, 1426 N. Quincy St, presents "The **Cowboy Astronomer**" beginning Friday, **April 17 through Sunday, June 7**. Showtimes are Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 1:30 & 3 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and children 12 & younger. Doors open 15 minutes prior to show time. 703-228-6070.

THURSDAY/APRIL 9

Baby-Ready Pet Help. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington, 2650 S. Arlington Mill Drive. Parents can learn how to prepare a home and pet for the arrival of a new baby. Suggested donation of \$25. Reservations required, jnewman@awla.org or 703-931-9241 ext. 213.

Earth Day Silent Auction. 5:30 p.m. at Hendry House in Fort C.F. Smith Park. Presented by the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust. \$50/person. For reservations, 703-354-5093.

FRIDAY/APRIL 10

Art Display. 8 p.m. at Jazirock Studio, 3213 Columbia Pike. Kevin Irvin will show his graffiti work. Free.

Harpers Ferry 1859. 10 a.m.-noon at Aurora Hills Senior Center, 735 S. 18th St. Hear Bob O'Connor discuss "The Perfect Steel Trap Harpers Ferry

1859." Free. 703-228-5722.

Choral Music. 1 p.m. at Culpepper Garden Senior Center. Listen to classical music. Free for adults 55 and older. 703-228-4403.

SATURDAY/APRIL 11

Home Show and Expo. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 S. 16th St. Learn how to grow a bonsai tree and other home items. Free. 703-228-3765, or CPPO at 703-892-2776.

Storytime. 11 a.m. at Aladdin's Lamp Children's Books, 2499 N. Harrison St., Suite 10. Ages 2-6. Free. 703-241-8281.

April Showers & Flower Power. 11 a.m. at Aladdin's Lamp Children's Books, 2499 N. Harrison St., Suite 10. Ages 2-6. Celebrate with Marlena Thompson and stories about spring. Free. 703-241-8281.

Talk. 3 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Listen to a talk on "Cut Through the Glare, Discover that God Alone Governs." Free. Hosted by First Church of Christ. Visit christiansciencedc.org or 703-532-2396.

Second Saturdays at Lecey Woods. 10 a.m. at Lacey Woods. Remove intruders from the park. Free. 703-228-7636.

Slimy Times. 1 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Children ages 6 and up can

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8



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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7
learn about animals that use slime. \$3/child. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

SUNDAY/APRIL 12

Take Action - Adopt an Area. Noon at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Become a trained volunteer. Free. 703-228-3403.

Second Sundays. Noon at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Become a volunteer and help the park out. Free. 703-228-7636.

Nature for Beginners. 3 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Adults can learn about nests and eggs. Free. Registration required, 703-228-3403.

MONDAY/APRIL 13

Mondays at the Movies. 6 p.m. at The Dome Theatre, 1101 Wilson Blvd. Free.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. "The Nine" will be discussed. Free. 703-228-6321.

Musical Story Time. 11 a.m. at Aladdin's Lamp Children's Books, 2499 N. Harrison St., Suite 10. Enjoy stories and music with Don Bridges. Ages 2-6. Free. 703-241-8281.

TUESDAY/APRIL 14

Donate Old Bikes. 10 a.m.-noon at Langston-Brown Rec Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St. Everything related to bikes including manuals, spare parts, tools and more are accepted. Suggested donation of \$10/bike. Visit www.bikesfortheworld.org or 703-525-0931.

Craft Project: Egg Painting. 5:30 p.m. at Chick-fil-A at Ballston Mall. Enjoy food, crafts and more. Free. 703-358-9735.

Birding Trip. 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., meet at Lubber Run Center, 300 N. Park Drive. Adults can search for early migrants at Chestnut Land Trust. \$25/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

Author Event. 7 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. "The Man Who Pushed America to War: The Extraordinary Life, Adventures and Obsessions of Ahmad Chalabi" by Aram Roston. Free.

Storytime. 11 a.m. at Aladdin's Lamp Children's Books, 2499 N. Harrison St., Suite 10. Ages 2-6. Free. 703-241-8281.

Praise For Poetry. 11 a.m. at Aladdin's Lamp Children's Books, 2499 N. Harrison St., Suite 10. Celebrate with books such as "Silly Street" by Jeff Foxworthy. Ages 2-6. Free. 703-241-8281.

Arlington Farmer. 4 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Children ages 7-11 can do chores such as gathering water and working with wool. \$5/child. Registration required, 703-243-4342.

THURSDAY/APRIL 16

Cross Cultural Cinema. 6:30 p.m. at Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Watch "Sisters in Law." Free. 703-228-6321.

Flower Show. 1-4 p.m. at Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road. Enjoy "Cinderella's Ball." Visit www.rockspringgardenclub.com for more.

Tiny Tot. 10 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 18-35 months can enjoy learning about nature. \$5/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Goodnight Nature Tales. 6:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

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Home Show & Expo Offers One-Stop Shopping

On Saturday, April 11 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. more than 50 exhibitors will be on hand to offer valuable information, products and services to local homeowners who will benefit from the convenience of one-stop shopping for a wide variety of home improvement solutions.

The 3rd annual Arlington Home Show & Expo is being presented by the Columbia Pike Revitalization Organization (CPRO) in partnership with Arlington County's Housing Division.

"We are organizing this event as a service to local residents because so many of them are interested in improving their homes," said Jim Whittaker, CPRO's Executive Director. "Plus, this is a great way for some of our local businesses to offer their services to new customers."

The Arlington Home Show is a convenient way to learn about remodeling kitchens and baths, finishing or waterproofing basements, replacing windows and doors, as well as flooring, roofing, gutter, paint, and paving solutions.

The show will also include professionals who can assist with decks and patios, home security systems, and more. In addition, several area banks with especially

attractive rates will be on hand to help finance remodeling projects.

"Today's market offers many excellent opportunities for area residents to save money on home improvements," said Jorge Laura of the County's Housing Division. "Plus, I like to think we are helping to save and create jobs," he said.

In addition, with high energy costs and growing environmental

consciousness people here are especially interested in finding ways to use sustainable building materials and make their homes more energy efficient. "We're especially pleased to have so many exhibitors this year that can provide green remodeling solutions," Whittaker said.

As a bonus, representatives from Arlington County's Fresh

AIRE initiative, which is working in a variety of ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, will distribute free compact fluorescent light bulbs to the first 200 attendees to stop by their booth.

Many other exhibitors will offer giveaways, and many will be offering special discounts to Home Show attendees. There will also

be free raffle prizes at 11 a.m. and noon.

The show will also include a variety of classes/seminars on subjects of interest to residents and landlords.

Exhibitors from Arlington County and area non-profits will also be available to offer valuable advice and assistance to those who attend.

A Variety of Free Classes Will be Offered

Room "A"

10:15-10:55am Planning Tips for Green Remodeling Projects
Doug Horgan, Certified Graduate Remodeler/
Green Professional, Virginia Sustainable
Building Network (VSNB)

11:00-11:55am Solar-powered Hot Water Heaters?!
Hrrmph!... Get the Real Low-down on
Green Remodeling from The Grumpy
Green Guy

12:00-12:55pm Smart Remodeling in a Down Economy
Rarco Contracting Company

1:00-1:55pm How to Finance Your Home Improvement
Project, BB&T Bank

2:00-2:55pm Planning a Renovation? How to Prepare
Your Garden for the Onslaught

3:00-3:55pm Myth Buster: Tips to Dispel Common Myths
about Remodeling
The Fisher Group

Home Show attendees will also have an opportunity to learn about a variety of important topics by participating in any of these free classes. Only the Landlord-Tenant Law class requires registration. All other classes will be handled on a walk-in basis.

Room "B"

10:15-10:45 How and Why To Test Your Garden Soil
Virginia Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners
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11:00-1:55pm The Nuts and Bolts of Landlord-Tenant Law
Jerome P. Friedlander II
(registration required; call 703-228-3765)

2:00- 2:55pm Fast Track to Obtaining a Building Permit
Arlington County Inspection and Zoning Divisions

3:00-3:55pm Appliance Energy Use Demonstration:
Identifying Energy Vampires
Arlington County Green Home Choice Program

Top Quality and Award Winning Home Improvement Professionals are Participating in the Arlington Home Show

The Home Show & Expo is pleased to be bringing a large group of top-notch contractors to Arlington for this 3rd annual home improvement showcase. As a service to area homeowners, Arlington County's Housing Division has checked to ensure each company is in good standing with the Better Business Bureau and/or is licensed in Virginia.

Exhibitors include:

American Cabinet Refacers
Ameritech/Superwindows.com
Arbour Realty
Blue Army Handyman
Brinks Home Security
Buck & Associates
Built In Style
C&M Companies
Case Design & Remodeling
Ceramic in USA
Cook Bros. Design/Build
Remodeling

Continuum Energy Solutions
Dixie Home Crafters/Gutter Guard
Driveway Impressions
Faux and Fleur
The Fisher Group
Foster Remodeling Solutions, Inc.
Globe Bath and Kitchen
Gutter Helmet Systems
Leafaffiler North, Inc
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Marblex Natural Stone, Naturally
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RARCO Contracting, Inc.
REICO Kitchen & Bath
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Organization (CPRO)
Earthcraft Virginia

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia
The ReBuild Warehouse
Robert Pierre Johnson (RPJ) Housing
US Green Building Council LEED for Homes Committee
Virginia Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners
Virginia Sustainable Building Network (VSNB)

Parking & Shuttle Information

Limited free parking is available at the Walter Reed Community Center. In addition, FREE satellite parking & shuttle will be available at the Arlington Career Center located at 816 S. Walter Reed Dr., Arlington, VA 22204 (only a 5 minute shuttle ride to the Home Show at the Walter Reed Community Center).

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 2-6 can enjoy crafts, animals visitors and more. Pajamas welcome. \$2/child. Registration required, 703-228-6535.
Book Club. 7:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Adults can discuss three essays on Spring. Free. 703-228-3403.

FRIDAY/APRIL 17

Signs of Spring. 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., meet at Lubber Run, 300 N. Park Drive. Adults can walk along the C&O Canal looking at plants, birds and more. \$20/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

Bike Tour. Meet at 9:15 a.m. at East Falls Church Metro. Bike up to 35 miles visiting boundary stones and parks. Leisure pace, many stops. Bring lunch, water and any bike. \$2/person. Visit www.centerhikingclub.org for more.

Library Bike Tour. 9:30 a.m. at Arlington Central library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Take a tour of six of the county's branches. Free. 703-228-5993.

Storytime. 11 a.m. at Aladdin's Lamp Children's Books, 2499 N. Harrison St., Suite 10. Ages 2-6. Free. 703-241-8281.

Spring Fever. 11 a.m. at Aladdin's Lamp Children's Books, 2499 N. Harrison St., Suite 10. Enjoy books about spring. Ages 2-6. Free. 703-241-8281.

Van Trip. 8 a.m.-3 p.m., meet at Lubber Run, 300 N. Park Drive. Adults can take a tour of Confederate General Jubal Early's battles. \$20/person. Registration required, 703-243-4342.

5k Walk for Diabetes. Families can join in a 5k walk at Barcroft School, 625 S. Wakefield St. with proceeds benefiting the American Diabetes. Registration at 7:45 a.m. 703-920-2116 to register.

Wildflower Primer. 10:30 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Adults and children 12 and up can learn how to identify these flowers. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Spring Bees. 1 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children ages 8 and up can learn about the different species of bees in the area. Free. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Cooking with Clay. 3 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Children 7-12 can learn how to make a clay oven. \$5/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Night Calls Campfire. 7 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. All ages can enjoy campfire activities, treats and more. \$5/person. Registration required, 703-228-6535.

Dance Performance. 7 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School. Bowen McCauley Dance will perform "The Unicorn, the Gorgon and the Manticore." 703-228-0896.

SUNDAY/APRIL 19

Poetry Workshop. 2 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave. Workshop is led by Tim Lewis. Free.

Open House. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Bethel Church, 4347 Arlington Blvd. Enjoy an open house of Buckingham Neighborhood. Free. 202-686-4216.

Plant Invasion Removal. 2-5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Age 9 to adult can help keep the park clear. Free. Registration required, 703-228-7636.

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World Wide Web of Recruiting?

High school athletes, college coaches take recruiting to the Internet.

BY MARK GIANNOTTO
THE CONNECTION

Even before they became two of the top runners in the Mount Vernon High School track and field program, seniors Shaquille Thomas and Johnathon McMillon did everything together.

Friends since early childhood, the pair was nearly inseparable according to Thomas's mother, Susan Crawford.

Thomas, who lived on Fort Belvoir military base between 1999 and 2005 began running in 2000 in a program on base that his mother helped coach. He convinced McMillon to join him two years ago.

So now as they chase dreams of running track in college, the pair has decided to go through the recruitment process together.

The two don't look to be the prototypical recruits who make a college coach salivate. Neither has finished better than third at the Northern Region championships during the outdoor or indoor track seasons and both have thus far qualified for the state championships just once.

"I didn't really start track seriously until last year, so I didn't really have any expectations about recruiting," McMillon said.

That's why last year towards the end of indoor track season, McMillon's father, Ron, took his son's recruitment in a direction many in this area and around the country have — to the Internet.

One day while surfing the web checking out track results, Ron McMillon stumbled upon a service called beRecruited.com, one of several online services that, for a fee, helps connect high school athletes with college coaches.

Almost immediately, Ron McMillon set up accounts for both his son and Thomas, posting video he had taken from meets to the web. A year and a half later, Thomas has received interest from more than 20 colleges, while Johnathan McMillon is slated to attend Virginia State University on a track scholarship next fall.

"Usually, they wouldn't get this kind of attention unless they were some one-of-a-kind talent," said Crawford. "The kids who don't make the newspapers need something like this."

PART OF THE REASON Avi Stopper got out of coaching college soccer at the University of Chicago was the misconception he perceived from recruits and their parents about how to get noticed on the recruiting trail. A co-founder of captainU.com — similar to beRecruited.com — and the author of an e-book on recruiting called "Make the Team," Stopper thinks parents



Alternative Views

"I would rather have my daughter go into the guidance office and say this is what I want to do the rest of my life," said Bill Finney, athletic director at Marymount University, who had one daughter play basketball at Georgia Tech and another play for him at Marymount. ...

"Instead of throwing away all this money, put the responsibility on your kids. Families can do all this on their own. All they have to do is research what colleges match both their academic and athletic needs and reach out to them. A lot of people are expecting someone to call them up and say we want you, but that's just not how it works."

— Bill Finney, athletic director, Marymount University, Arlington

the site for free, but for \$39.95 a month, captainU advertises access to 15,000 college coaches, one-on-one counseling and a personal recruiting coach. Stopper said 90 percent of captainU's class of 2009 has signed with a college for next year.

The Web site beRecruited was started back in 2000 now has more than 150,000 athletes nationwide using its service, including 190 from Alexandria, 107 from Fairfax, 53 from Arlington, 31 from Reston, and 27 from McLean.

Jeff Cravens, the president of beRecruited, thinks the best evidence of just how many people need help with recruiting is seen in the site's newest service that allows parents to register to the site. In less than a year, more than 11,000 adults have signed up.

IT HAS BEEN A LONG process for Bishop Ireton shortstop Frankie Zare as he pursues a Division-I baseball scholarship. An all-WCAC second team selection as a junior last

SEE WORLD WIDE WEB, PAGE 16

After an impressive showing at a recruiting showcase, Bishop Ireton senior Frankie Zare was able to direct interested college coaches to his beRecruited.com profile to watch more video of him in game action.

and athletes sometimes don't understand how college coaches think.

"A lot of people have the mentality that the way recruiting works is you go to showcase tournaments and then you get recruited, but that's really far from the reality," said Stopper. "There are 1,000 players at any given showcase and 50 college coaches and the odds of a college coach seeing you play randomly when you're doing something great is really slim."

Stopper's website, captainU, is a web-based software that helps student athletes through the recruiting process, helping them devise a step-by-step strategy to pursue athletic opportunities after high school.

Potential recruits can create a profile on



Mount Vernon seniors Shaquille Thomas (right) and Johnathon McMillon (left) have received lots of attention from college coaches thanks to an internet recruiting service. Here they are pictured handing off the baton during their first place run in the 4x200-meter relay at this year's National District Indoor Track and Field Championships in Arlington.

COURTESY OF BISHOP IRETON

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

RECRUIT ME, PLEASE

MORE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Recalling the College Recruiting Experience

Local athletes remember the highs and lows of choosing a college.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Here is a look three college athletes from Northern Virginia — AJ Price (South Lakes), Ashley Abed (Oakton) and Jeff Allen (Langley). Each is pleased with where they ended up, but getting there was completely different for each, and anything but simple. For more on Price and Abed, and for Jeff Allen's walk-on story, see www.connectionnewspapers.com.

A.J. PRICE, SOUTH LAKES

A.J. Price, a 6-foot-4 inch football wide receiver at Penn State University, did not emerge into a major recruiting prospect until his senior year in high school at South Lakes.

That fall season, South Lakes coach John Ellenberger emphasized the Seahawks' passing attack, and Price had a breakout season, catching 32 passes for 816 yards and 11 touchdowns. He averaged 25.5 yards per catch and earned Second Team All-State accolades.

Major collegiate football programs, such as Duke, the University of Michigan, the University of Virginia and Penn State, contacted Ellenberger in order to make their intentions known about recruiting Price.

Each of those programs offered him a football scholarship. "I'm not really one for all

the glamour and all, and I wasn't used to being the person being talked about. I tried to take it in stride," said Price.

Price, who graduated in 2008, will never forget the December day during his senior year that Penn State, under legendary coach Joe Paterno, offered him a scholarship. The moment came during the school day. Ellenberger, teaching an English class, got a call from Penn State and was told by a member of the Nittany Lions' football staff that they would make an offer to Price. The teacher-coach immediately found Price to give him the big news.

"I thought, 'Wow, not too many people experience this.'"

Price committed about a month later during a weekend visit to Penn State with his mother. "I told my mom on my birthday, then I told coach Paterno ... the next day at brunch."

Price said his recruiting experience in dealing with Penn State was outstanding. His contact person through the process was Penn State assistant coach Larry Johnson, a former head coach at T.C. Williams High in Alexandria.

"I love it [at Penn State]," said Price, a history major.

FOR ASHLEY ABED, a 2007 Oakton High graduate, the path to becoming a women's college basketball player at NCAA Div. 2 Anderson University (S.C.) was an eventful journey.

The 5-10 forward said she always desired to play college basketball. During her junior season at Oakton, Abed believed she would fit in nicely with a Div. 2 college program.

Abed had to initiate contact with some of the schools she was interested in. Her high school coach, Fred Priester, made a highlight tape of Abed to give to schools.

She elected to accept an offer to play at Francis Marion University (Florence, S.C.). But during the summer prior to her freshmen year at Marion, Abed learned that a coaching change had occurred.

Abed did, in fact, like the new coach. But as things turned out, she received less playing time than she had hoped. "It was kind of my role to be a verbal player on the bench and to be a practice player," said Abed.

Following the season, she decided she would transfer.

Anderson University women's coach Jeff Dow, upon learning about Abed, was interested in recruiting her. She visited the campus and met the coach.

"I knew he was a coach I wanted to play for," she said.

But again, the school Abed was ready to attend made a coaching change. Dow, Abed learned the summer prior to her sophomore year, was leaving. The new coach would be Jim Brunelli.

Abed, it turned out, had a terrific season. The Anderson team was not expected to do well as a result of the late coaching change, but won the Conference Carolina championship and qualified for the NCAA Div. 2 tournament. Abed, a guard-forward, played 20-plus minutes per game.

"Coach Brunelli taught me a lot about myself," said Abed. "It felt really good to play and help a team win."



FILE PHOTO

A junior on South County's softball team, Stephanie Sbardella and her family have traveled to college camps almost every weekend. Below, the map shows one weekend trip of more than 1,200 miles.

How Far to Go

Thousands of dollars and miles, plus and hundreds of games, endured in pursuit of free money.

BY JASON MACKEY
THE CONNECTION

Perhaps the only thing as practiced as Stephanie Sbardella's swing may be her penmanship. After each of the collegiate softball camps that Sbardella, a junior third baseman at South County, attends, she has made it a point to draft her own personal thank-you letter to that school's coach.

In the past two years, Paul Sbardella, Stephanie's father, can count on one hand how many times the family has stayed home for the weekend, instead of electing to attend some sort of camp or clinic, aimed at Stephanie's recruitment as a college athlete.

During one particular weekend this past winter, the Sbardellas left Lorton on a Friday morning and drove to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke — roughly 350 miles away — for a camp. Later that day, they drove 167 miles to Charlestown, S.C. and stayed the night. The next day, Stephanie Sbardella attended Charleston Southern University's camp until 5 p.m. and then hopped back in the car for a 10-hour drive to the University of Delaware, which was Sunday's destination, again for a camp.

"It's something that she's really interested in," Paul Sbardella said. "I'm just there to support her. ... But it is a lot of driving."

Paul Sbardella estimates that he's spent between \$7,000-\$10,000 on travel expenses and fees associated with all of the camps, clinics and competitive tournaments that his daughter attended during the past year.

At camps Stephanie Sbardella frequents, players of all ages, not just college recruits, are welcome. Some feature instruction. Some are composed mostly of games.

BY DIRECTING his own program at the high school level and also serving as an assistant soccer coach at Shenandoah University, Robinson girls' soccer coach Jim Rike has been on both sides of

SEE HOW FAR, PAGE 16



Sbardella family roadtrip.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



AJ Price emerged to become one of the metro area's top receivers during his senior season at South Lakes, drawing the attention of several big-time college football programs.

RECRUIT ME, PLEASE

World Wide Web of Recruiting?

FROM PAGE 14

year, Zare has been actively self-marketing himself since last summer.

He has gone to several showcase camps, has his own beRecruited profile with uploaded videos, and has followed up with more than 100 emails to various college coaches around the country. All of that hard work came to a head last Monday, when members of Temple University's coaching staff came to watch Ireton's 5-4 win over St. John's.

Although, Zare had one of his worst games of the season at the plate, going 0-for-3, it didn't much matter because the Temple coaches had already seen plenty of him in advance.

"I wasn't really nervous because I knew they already knew what I was capable of, so I just played my game," said Zare, who hasn't received an offer yet, but has narrowed his list down to three schools — Temple, Eastern Kentucky, and St. John's. "But I wasn't sure if he was coming or not, so if I had known for sure he was going to be there, I would have been a lot more nervous going in."

Zare first got noticed by the Temple coaching staff at a showcase camp in Woodbridge, Va. He then directed them to his beRecruited profile, so they could check out game footage his father, Victor had posted.

Victor Zare said he considered hiring a recruiting agency that would have put together a professional highlight reel for Frankie, but once he heard the price tag of between \$500 and \$2,000, he simply be-

gan filming his son's games with his own video camera and posting them to the web via beRecruited.

After the Temple coaches saw Frankie's video clips, they invited him up to their own camp this past summer. They liked what they saw enough to make the trip down last week.

"After going through this, I think the best way to get recruited is with video," said Victor Zare, who said the Temple coaches would get back to them by mid-April. "You can reach out to so many coaches. At these camps and other things, some just didn't even notice Frankie. They send notices like you're really important but then you show up and there are hundreds of kids."

Sites like beRecruited and captainU are not for the type of athlete that will demand the attention from North Carolina basketball or USC football. As Stopper puts it, "The Dukes of the world have their stuff figured out, they know who they want to go after."

STILL, THERE are detractors. Bill Finney, the athletic director and women's basketball coach at Division III Marymount University in Arlington calls recruiting websites "a waste of money," especially for student-athletes trying to make it to the Division-I level.

He says coaches are more savvy than to believe clips on the web that create the illusion of a basketball player with a 100 percent shooting percentage or a soccer player whose every pass results in a goal. With the chances of a professional sports career after college slim to none, he thinks recruits should be focusing on everything

but athletics when looking for the right college.

"I would rather have my daughter go into the guidance office and say this is what I want to do the rest of my life," said Finney, who had one daughter play basketball at Georgia Tech and another play for him at Marymount.

"Instead of throwing away all this money, put the responsibility on your kids. Families can do all this on their own. All they have to do is research what colleges match both their academic and athletic needs and reach out to them. A lot of people are expecting someone to call them up and say we want you, but that's just not how it works."

WHETHER RECRUITS and their families want to do it themselves or get some outside help, the end result they're seeking is the opportunity to continue athletic careers beyond high school.

The route people take to get there, though, is up for debate. Even beRecruited's Cravens admits his site isn't the end all for college recruiting.

"There's no one way to go about recruiting that works for every coach because coaches are no different than any other people," he said. "They think about things differently. Whether it's emails or phone conversations, they're just looking for information, they're like anyone else. They don't make bad decisions, they just make decisions without information."



COURTESY OF BISHOP IRETON

Bishop Ireton shortstop Frankie Zare was a second team all-WCAC selection last year and is hoping to play Division-I baseball next year. He has his list narrowed down to Temple, Eastern Kentucky, and St. John's. Here is pictured during last year's WCAC championship game against DeMatha.

Now that McMillon and Thomas and their journey from high school athlete to college freshman is near its completion, Ron McMillon has begun encouraging Mount Vernon junior Clive Cameron — a talented track and field athlete that qualified for last year's outdoor AAA state meet in two events — to create his own beRecruited profile.

And although neither Thomas nor McMillon knew much about how the web has changed recruiting before they began their college search, the results speak for themselves.

"It made it easier for me to market myself, and it makes it easier to contact coaches," said Johnathon McMillon. "I was surprised by the different coaches, I was surprised so many were interested in me."

How Far Some Will Go

FROM PAGE 15

high-level recruitment.

Rike still attends camps as a Shenandoah representative but also hears about experiences that some of his high school players have had at them as well.

The defending Virginia AAA state champs, Robinson has four girls on its current roster committed to Division-I schools, with possibly two more on the way. To combat their rigorous club schedules, Rike has started to give his players at least one day off during the week, knowing that they had spent almost the entire weekend playing soccer.

"Five of my girls are on one club team,

"You can't overwhelm them and it's got to continue to be fun."

— Dan Anderson, Centreville High parent

and they're approaching almost 150 games in a year of high level, premiere, showcase games because they keep going and going and going," Rike said. "I worry about the effect it's going to have on their bodies 10 years down the road."

"From my standpoint, as a college coach, I only need to see a kid a couple times to see whether he can play for me or not," Rike continued. "I don't see need to see him 40 times. I've told my girls that you can have three or four great games, but all it takes is one really bad game and that gets set in the coach's mind and it evens out."

Dan Anderson, whose son, Holland Anderson, plays linebacker for the Centreville football team, has tried to find a steady mix. The Andersons did fly to San Antonio over New Year's for the U.S. Army National combine, which included 500 of the top juniors from across the country.

But the father still wants the sport to be

"I worry about the effect it's going to have on their bodies 10 years down the road."

— Coach Jim Rike, Robinson Secondary

fun for his son, an approach that has led the Andersons to attend only three high-level combines: the U.S. Army National, the Nike Combine and the Schuman Underclassman Camp. Dan Anderson said that his investment in his son's recruitment has cost more than \$4,000 to date.

"You can't overwhelm them and it's got to continue to be fun," Dan Anderson said.

And just because an athlete stands out at a camp, doesn't mean the college that notices will be a good match.

"What we find is that kids who go to these showcases get wrapped up in the recruiting cycle with schools that aren't good fits for them," said Avi Stopper, who co-founded www.CaptainU.com.

"You get a lot of people who go to showcases and often they do get seen, but it doesn't make sense and suddenly they have mismatched colleges on their list. It's really conspicuous that it's not a good fit."



FILE PHOTO

LeighAnne Baxter, a senior on Robinson's girls' soccer team, earned a scholarship to Richmond after scoring or assisting on every goal the Rams scored during last year's Virginia AAA state tournament, which her team eventually won, 2-1, over Battlefield.

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE
MICHAEL AMANKWAH,

Plaintiff,

vs.

AARON HERNANDEZ, SPECTRUM FINANCIAL, LLC aka SPECTRUM FINANCIAL FUNDING, and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,

Defendants.)

Case No: MSC08-03159

[PROPOSED] ORDER FOR PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS

On reading and filing the evidence consisting of plaintiff's Application for Order for Publication of Summons and the supporting Declaration of Harvey W. Stein, attorney for plaintiffs, for this Order, and it satisfactorily appearing to the Court therefrom that defendants Aaron Hernandez and Spectrum Financial also known as Spectrum Financial Funding, hereinafter referred to as ("defendants") cannot with reasonable diligence be served in any other manner specified in Sections 415.10 through 414.40 of the Code of Civil Procedure, and that a Cause of Action exists in favor of plaintiffs and against defendant.

IT IS ORDERED that Summons be served by publication in the McLean Connection, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Fairfax, Virginia, hereby designated as the newspaper most likely to give defendants actual notice of the action, and that publication be made once a week for four consecutive weeks.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of the Summons, a copy of the Complaint, and a copy of this Order be forthwith mailed to defendants at 1410 Woodhurst, McLean, Virginia.

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JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

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Overachieving Speeds Recycling

FROM PAGE 3

there, and we'll be able to pick it up."

WHILE RESIDENTS await arrival of the blue bins, they can continue to use the old yellow bins to collect materials, although they can skip the sorting. Along with the new bins, residents will receive educational materials including a magnet with a quick reference guide, and pamphlets with details on the program and how to maximize participation.

The Solid Waste Management Bureau was recently recognized nationally for the quality of its educational materials and is proud of this key aspect of its program. After that, the county is encouraging residents to keep their yellow tubs and use them as part of the recycling regimen in their homes.

The privately owned Material Recovery Facilities, or MRFs, which handle the county's recyclables represent a significant advance in technology. As the stream of combined recyclables comes off the truck and down the chute, a combination of manual and automatic sorting techniques are employed, including magnets, rotating discs which cause certain materials to float to the surface, and sophisticated optical sorting mechanisms. The high-tech process makes it easier to sort out the materials and prepare them for sale on the commodities markets. Lisa Kardell, spokesperson for Waste Management in Elkridge, Md. says they are constantly looking for new outlets for their materials so they can pass the convenience on to their customers. "When we found a business that would turn plastic bags into plastic lumber, we knew our customers would appreciate our ability to handle this added material," she cited as one example.

Currently, waste coming through the recycling system accounts for only 3-4 percent of the total volume. The main problem is getting the recyclables separated from trash in people's homes. Solid waste audits conducted on homes in Arlington shows that approximately 26 percent of trash could be recycled. This is the gap that county officials hope single stream recycling will fill.

Barbara Favola, chairman of the Arlington County Board, expressed her enthusiasm about the initiative. "We're so excited about this program — we really think it's going to make a big difference in terms of increasing the recycling rate in Arlington." She cited her hope that the program make a dent in the quarter of garbage that could be recycled. "The way you get people to change their behavior is by making it convenient," she said.

FAVOLA SUGGESTED that in the future the county may also look at using financial incentives to encourage recycling, such as the "pay as you throw" approach that has been successful in other states. Such a pro-

More

Visit www.arlingtonva.us/recycle
Or call the county's customer service line:
703-228-6570.



PHOTO BY A. KUCZUCA

Chief of Solid Waste Management Erik Grabowsky

easy for them."

Grabowsky agrees that this is mainly a problem of education and convenience, and points out that these are the two areas the new program is targeting.

The RFID tags in each bin will tell the county which houses aren't recycling so that they can provide more targeted outreach and focus their education dollars on the homes that are not using these services. "We want to find out why people aren't recycling, and what we can do to make it more convenient — what are we doing that could be improved? With this kind of program, it's all about participation," said Favola.

"The direct collection costs are cheaper, of course the blue bins are more expensive to provide, but every ton of material we take out of the trash stream and put in the recyclables stream saves the county and its taxpayers money," said Grabowsky. Despite the fact that the new bins are more expensive, collection fees are lower, and Favola said the county would get a 100 percent cost recovery on this program.

Favola said she hadn't yet decided how the county would use the data collected from the recycling program. She added however, "From my perspective, we're looking for trends. We want to see if there are clusters of neighborhoods or certain demographics which aren't recycling, so that we can reach out to them. We'll hopefully create geographic and other profile indicators to let us know where we need to be using a different message to reach different groups of people."

She added that whatever data they gather will tend to be looked at in the aggregate, and that "they would follow privacy policies to the nth degree."

COMPARE ARLINGTON'S 2007 40 percent recycling rate to Fairfax County for 2007 (37.7 percent) and Alexandria (21.8 percent). According to the National Recycling Coalition, the national recycling rate is 32 percent. Grabowsky adds a caveat that comparing recycling rates can be like comparing apples to oranges because each county collects data slightly differently (for example, some include yard waste collection in their reporting). In addition, the proposed cost (\$325 for proposed FY2010) for each customer on an annual basis is the lowest of the three counties. Not only is Arlington recycling more, but the rate of solid waste generation in the county has also gone down. In 2000 it was 6.3lb/person per day, now its 4.97lb.

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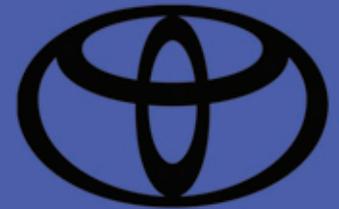
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