

# Springfield CONNECTION

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## Classic Moves

SPORTS, PAGE 14

Lee's Frank Holloway Jr. had 16 points and seven rebounds for the Suburban All-Stars Thursday, April 9 during an all-star exhibition at American University's Bender Arena.

## County To Charge For Park Access?

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Going Green Pays Off

NEWS, PAGE 3

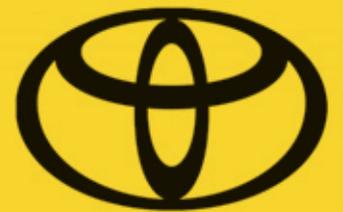
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## Residents May Pay for Park Access

Proposed budget cuts lead Park Authority Board to vote for \$4 resident vehicle fee.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**D**ana Wiseman uses Lake Accotink Park almost every day. Wiseman lives in the Cardinal Forest condominium complex in Springfield, which is located near one of the park's entrances.

"I use the park to relax and enjoy nature, to get away from things that are bothering me," he said while walking near the lake April 8.

If the Fairfax County Park Authority moves forward with new user fees, fewer people may get to enjoy Fairfax County's lakefront parks like Accotink for free.

In the face of a \$4.1 million budget cut, the Park Authority Board voted last month to charge Fairfax County residents for entering four of the locality's most popular parks in vehicles during peak seasonal hours.

It is the first time county residents would have to pay to just enter county-run park grounds. Currently, the Park Authority only charges out-of-county residents in cars for coming into Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station.

The four affected facilities — Lake Accotink, Burke Lake, Lake Fairfax Park in Reston and Riverbend Park in Great Falls

— attract about 3 million visitors in total each year.

Officials said the new fees would not affect the bulk of the park system's users, approximately 17 million people annually.

"It is important to realize that we are only talking about four out of 420 parks," said Judy Pedersen, public information officer for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

**THE NEW LAKEFRONT** park fee structure would go into effect July 1 and apply to people who visit the parks on weekends and holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July through October.

During these times, residents would pay a fee of \$4 per vehicle to drive a car onto the four park grounds. Non-residents would pay \$8 per vehicle to enter Lake Accotink, Burke Lake and Riverbend's facilities and \$4 per vehicle to use Lake Fairfax.

Lake Fairfax's "non-county" fee is lower because the park authority markets its "water mine" to out-of-county residents and did not want to discourage those people from visiting the popular water park, said Pedersen.

She added that the new charges are also unlikely to affect daily users of the waterfront parks since many of those people visit

**"I have a real problem with the Park Authority charging county residents to use those parks."**

— Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County Chairman

SEE ACCESS FEES, PAGE 12



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County residents may soon be charged a fee for driving into Lake Accotink and three other local parks with access to water.

## Rolling Valley Finds Reason To Recycle

Elementary school receives \$5,000 grant for reaching recycling goals.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

**I**n a time filled with slashed budgets and tightening belts, funding can be difficult to come by, but as Rolling Valley Elementary School has shown, all it takes is community and some creativity.

Faced with a shortage of leveled

books and a computer fleet in need of replacement, the school needed money but with FCPS making cuts and the PTA not having the funds to cover it, the school seemed out of luck and options. However, with the discovery of a new grant program and the joint cooperation of the school's administration and surrounding neighborhoods, Rolling Valley was able to make ends meet.

**"With some incentive, we can do a lot to preserve our environment and this was a perfect opportunity for us to do our part."**

—John Cooley, Rolling Valley PTA, president

"We knew that we had a rather large need for capital investment in our school," said John Cooley, Rolling Valley PTA president. "So when I found out about the program, I put [a proposal] together and sent it in."

Started by RecycleBank, the loyalty and rewards program encourages recycling. Originally created to provide incentives for households to recycle, RecycleBank supplemented its community-based program and opened it up into a grant program for populations or localities that are not normally addressed.

When Cooley, who is also the president of the West Springfield Village Civic Association, learned of the program through the company that handles his neighborhood's trash and recycling, AAA Recycling and Trash Removal Services, he knew that this was an avenue to explore.

Initially, Cooley drafted a grant proposal,

### Join the Program

To become a part of the RecycleBank program, visit [www.recyclebank.com](http://www.recyclebank.com). Members of the program are eligible for certificates and discount coupons to many major stores and restaurants based on the amount they recycle.

stating why Rolling Valley Elementary would be a good candidate to receive the \$5,000 grant, but was rebuffed by RecycleBank, which felt that the proposal needed alterations to fit under the umbrella of the Bank's themes for the grant, earth science and environment. So, Cooley contacted the company that distributes the books they wanted to buy with the grant money and obtained a list of all the earth

SEE RAISING, PAGE 4

## More Students May Move to Lake Braddock

Fairfax County Public Schools may move approximately 150 more students to Lake Braddock Secondary School in time for the 2010-11 school year.

The school system said it needs to provide enrollment relief to Annandale High School and Poe Middle School.

The Fairfax County School Board voted to consider moving the portion of Annandale and Poe's boundaries that is outside the Capital Beltway and south of Braddock Road into Lake Braddock's pyramid. Some neighborhoods inside the Capital Beltway would also move from Annandale to Falls Church High School and Glasgow Middle School as a result of the boundary study.

Those families who would be moved to Lake Braddock live primarily in the Ravensworth community. According to the school system, approximately 100 of these students would be in high school and 50 in middle school.

About a dozen Ravensworth parents showed up at the School Board's April 2 meeting to protest the school redistricting, saying they would prefer to attend Annandale and Poe rather than Lake Braddock.

Many opposed being moved from a school with an International Baccalaureate program to a school with an Advanced Placement program.

They also said the school redistricting would adversely affect Annandale, a school where nearly half the students are from low-income households. The boundary shift would move some of the Annandale families with more financial means out of that school's community, said the parents.

School Board member Tessie Wilson (Braddock), who represents both Annandale and Lake Braddock, disputed this fact. She said the percentage of students who qualify to receive free-and-reduced-priced meals would remain approximately the same if the boundary change took place.

Staff has also said the need for capacity relief has reached a fever pitch at Annandale and needs to be addressed as soon as possible. The school is currently 450 students overenrolled and is projected to be 600 students overenrolled by next fall.

"Nobody wants to leave Annandale because of what a terrific school it is. [But] the principal has begged us for some relief sooner rather than later," said Wilson.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE



Children open their eggs to find out their prizes following an Easter Egg hunt at the Journey Church in Springfield on Saturday morning.



Skyler Pagnella races her sister, Shelly, while being careful not to drop the egg they were carrying on a spoon.

## Egg Hunt Underway

Springfield church offers holiday activities for children.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER

**Joshua Winegar, 4, quickly grabs several eggs during an Easter Egg Hunt at The Journey Church in Springfield on Saturday morning.**



## Raising Money with Recycling Program

FROM PAGE 3

science and environmental-centric texts available for purchase. Cooley then sent the list and an updated proposal to RecycleBank. This time, he was successful.

"It took some imagination to meet the criteria," Cooley said. "I retooled the language ever so slightly, but I did not want to lie to [RecycleBank]. I told them that we couldn't get all of the books in those areas but that we would concentrate on earth science and environment."

Armed with an accepted proposal, the efforts to meet the criteria for the grant were launched. The grant called for the accumulation of recycling points, which are earned based on the weight of the items collected. One pound of recycled items counts for 2.5 points, and the school had to collect 50,000 points, or recycle 20,000 pounds of goods, by April 15 to receive the grant.

The weight of the items is calculated at the pickup site, as AAA Removal hands out special 64-gallon blue tote bins to partici-

pants that have radio frequency identification chips in them. AAA then retrofitted their trucks to read the chips, and whenever a participant's recycling is picked up, the chip is read and the tote is weighed.

Rolling Valley had a leg up in their endeavor, as Cooley had already gotten West Springfield Village involved. According to Cooley, the neighborhood had residents already participating in the program, and many of them donated their recycling points to the school. Also, Cooley said that the Rolling Valley neighborhood agreed to do the same and that through RecycleBank's newsletter, got other communities to donate theirs as well.

**ACCORDING TO** Rolling Valley principal Dr. Debra Lane, the school made several efforts to spread the word and collect points. The program was spotlighted in the school's morning show and in addition, a large number of students organized, devising their own ways to collect points and help their school out. Lane said that many of the girls

who belong to the Girl Scouts used their troop's Web site to host online chats where they could meet to discuss strategy. Also, Lane said that a group of students even met daily during recess to exchange ideas and encouragement.

"[The students] came up with ideas and bantered after hours," Lane said. "It was so impressive. You read about things like this in the paper but to see it in your backyard was great."

As a result of the community-wide effort to collect points, Rolling Valley surpassed the 50,000 point plateau with time to spare. Though the school was pleased that it received the money, they were even happier to see their students band together and make a difference not only in school, but in the community as well.

"We have been trying to raise the awareness in our children to clean up our environment," Cooley said. "With some incentive, we can do a lot to preserve our environment and this was a perfect opportunity for us to do our part."

POLITICS

# Freshman in a Fishbowl

Gerald Connolly transitions from Fairfax County Government Center to U.S. Capitol.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

A few tell-tale signs remind U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-11) that he is new to the U.S. Congress.

After eight weeks on the job, Fairfax County's greenest congressman stumbled upon the U.S. House of Representatives' "members only" dining room by accident, while trying to find an attending physician's office in the Capitol complex March 19.

"I've never been in here before," said Connolly as he looked around the ornate and deserted facility. Food service workers were already clearing the lunch buffet and the only "member" in the room was U.S. Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-Md.), who sat at a wooden table alone eating a piece of cake.

**EVENTUALLY**, Connolly found the physician with the help of a Capitol Hill staff member who was going to the doctor's office for some aspirin. Connolly is traveling to Colombia this month on official congressional business and needed some precautionary shots before going on the trip.

"This is a quick place for a member to get a shot and that is a good thing," said David Ciomperlik, who was at the check-in desk for the House of Representatives' attending physician.

This, by the way, is not a normal doctor's waiting room.

**"Some things have changed. Some things have not."**

— U.S. Rep. Gerald Connolly (D-11)

Ciomperlik sat behind a large, mahogany desk that looked like something more at home in a law firm than a physician's office. A huge congressional seal with "Office of the Attending Physician" scrawled across it hung over Ciomperlik.

Two large televisions were mounted on the walls, where members can watch the action on the floor of the House of Representatives and U.S. Senate live as they wait to meet with the medical staff.

"I can tell you when the next vote is," said Ciomperlik to Connolly before he went into the doctor's office.

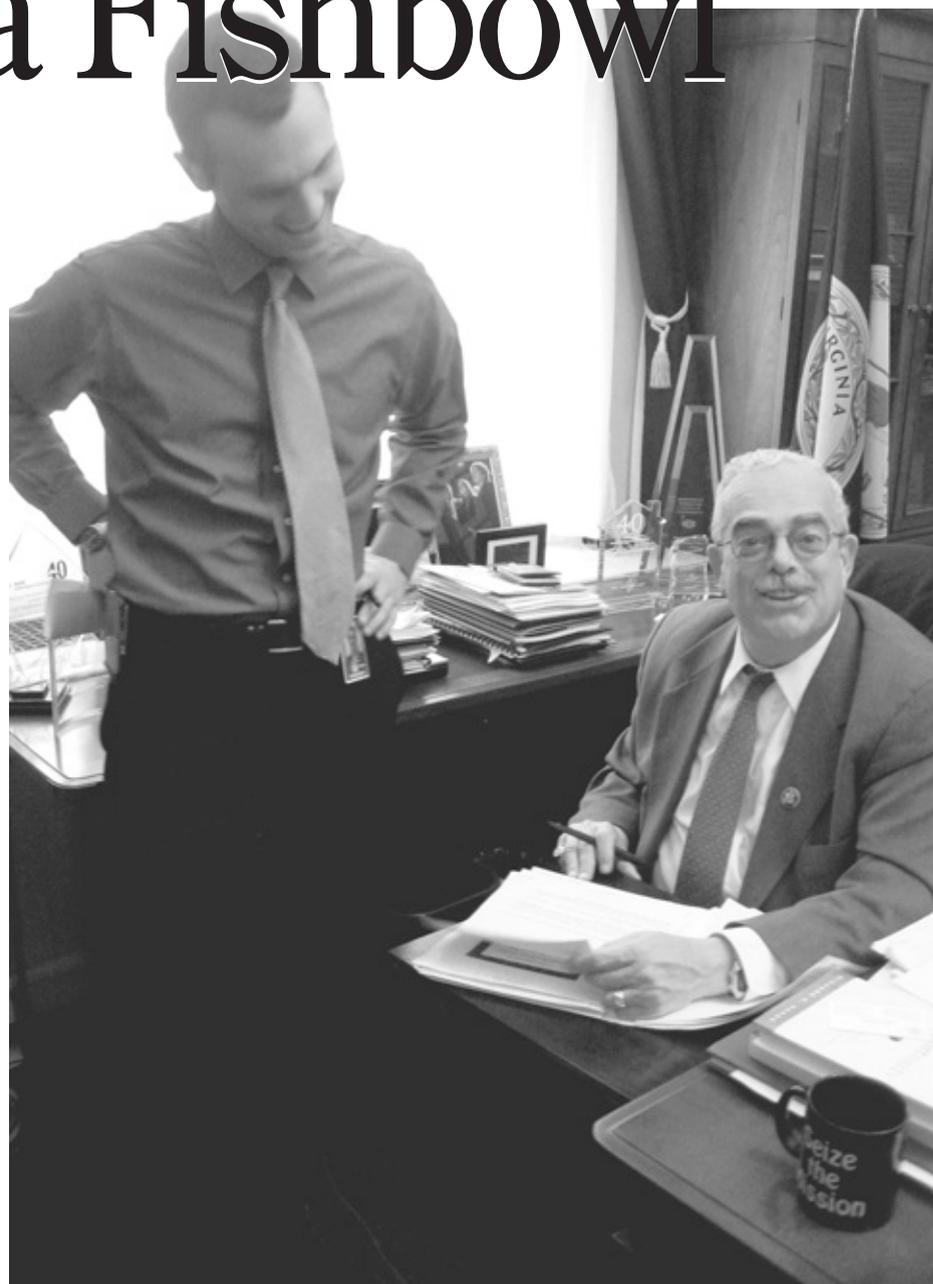
After receiving his shot, Connolly emphasized that the medical services are not a perk for members.

"These medical services are not free. I have to pay for them and I have the same health insurance as other federal workers," he said.

Still, being a member of the U.S. House of Representatives is hardly a typical federal government job.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO**, Connolly worked as a staff member for the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. In January, he returned to Capitol Hill as a member of Congress after 14 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, including five as the county chairman.

"Some things have changed," said Connolly, about life on Capitol Hill. "Some things have not. ... So many of the actors are still here, but they might be doing some-



PHOTOS BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

**U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and his chief of staff James Walkinshaw review paperwork in Connolly's new office on Capitol Hill.**

thing a little different."

The congressman likens his experience to that of Rip Van Winkle, the Washington Irving short story character who falls asleep and wakes up 20 years later. Connolly frequently sees people he used to work with two decades before.

On March 19, Connolly ran into two former colleagues from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who now work for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee at an evening dinner for the interest group's local chapter. On the same day, Connolly ran into a current Senate Foreign Relations staff member who had just started working for the committee as Connolly was preparing to leave in the late 1980s.

"Having been a staffer, it helps me in this job. ... It matters to me how members treat their staff," said Connolly.

The congressman may also take a special interest in how members of Congress and others treat Capitol Hill staff members, not only because he was one but because he also represents so many of them.

On his first day in office, Connolly found out that the House of Representatives parliamentarian, who is sometimes referred to

as Congress' "coach," is a constituent. When an official from the Army Corps of Engineers came to meet with the congressman, he also mentioned he was a Burke resident and represented by Connolly.

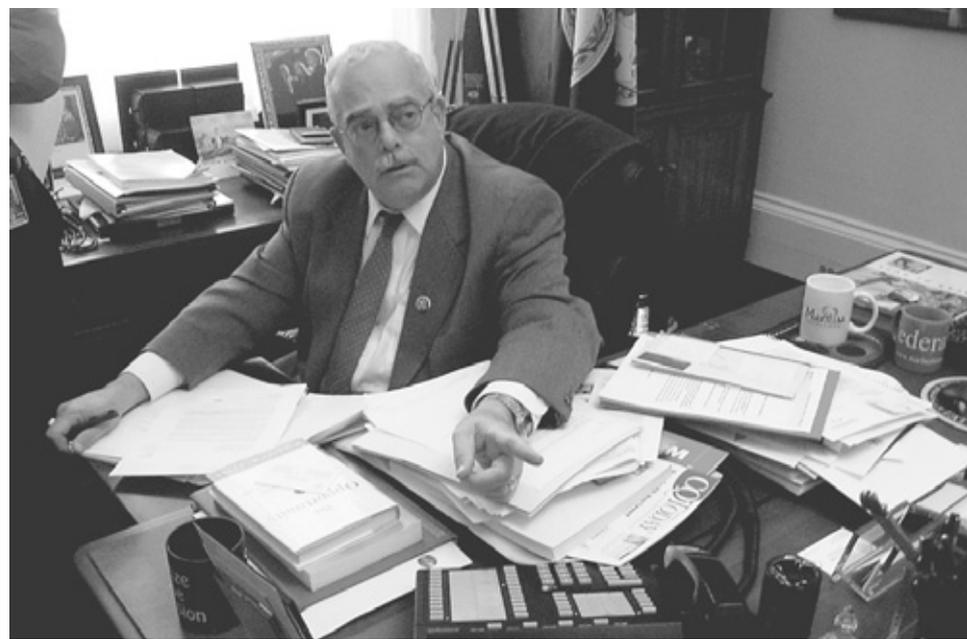
"Half the people that work up here in live in my district. ... In one walk from my office to the Capitol, five people stopped me to say that they were constituents, including [U.S. Rep.] Tom Perriello's press secretary," said Connolly.

Some other members of Congress also own property and live in Fairfax County while Congress is in session, he said.

U.S. Rep. Dale Kildee (D-Mich.) insists on calling Connolly "Mr. Chairman," because Connolly represented Kildee, a McLean homeowner, on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Connolly's constituency is not only well informed but also close by, which means that they have higher-than-average expectations for seeing their member of Congress.

"Tons of people come across the river. They are an educated group. They know what is going on and they want to talk to



**U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) is getting acquainted with life in the U.S. Congress after 14 years on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.**

SEE CONNOLLY, PAGE 7

# OPINION

## More Unemployed in Northern Virginia

### House of Delegates votes to turn away millions for local people without jobs.

If you live in Northern Virginia and, like most people here, you still have a job, you might have read with a certain detachment the news that the Virginia House of Delegates voted to turn away millions of dollars in federal money for people.

After all, the unemployment rate here is the lowest in the state, Northern Virginia is the economic engine of the state, so it might not matter much up here, right?

Wrong.

There are more unemployed people in Northern Virginia than in any other part of the state, 75,390 unemployed people looking for full time work here in Northern Virginia in February, according to the Virginia Employment Commission, up from 38,100 last year. That's 75,390 of the statewide total of 291,100.

The unemployment rate in Northern Virginia of 5.2 percent, up from 2.7 percent in February, 2008, pales in comparison to, say Danville's rate of 12.3 percent. But in Danville, that rate translates to 6,450 unemployed people, less than 10 percent of the number here.

Every local jurisdiction in Northern Virginia is facing its highest unemployment rate in more

than a decade.

Arlington has the lowest unemployment rate in the state at 4.4 percent, up from 2.3 percent last year at this time, and 1.6 percent a decade ago.

Fairfax County's unemployment rate is 4.7 percent, up from 2.6 percent this time last year and 1.5 percent a decade ago.

Loudoun County's unemployment rate is 4.8 percent, up from 2.7 percent last year at this time and 2.4 percent a decade ago.

**EDITORIAL** The City of Alexandria's unemployment rate is 5.1 percent, up from 2.7 percent a year ago and 2.8 percent a decade ago.

The City of Fairfax's unemployment rate is 5.6 percent, up from 3.3 percent a year ago, and 1.3 percent a decade ago.

This is one instance where there is no competition between jurisdictions. Unemployed people in Northern Virginia were hurt the same amount as unemployed people in other parts of the state when the Virginia House of Delegates voted not to alter Virginia's unemployment requirements, voted to turn away mil-

lions in aid for the unemployed.

While those who voted against the changes said they did so to protect Virginia's pro-business environment, the changes required — extending unemployment benefits to part-time workers and unemployed people in certain job training programs — would not have moved Virginia down from the very top of the list as a pro-business state.

What businesses in Virginia need right now is to bolster consumer confidence. Turning away federal stimulus money does just the opposite.

Local members of the General Assembly who voted against the benefits will likely discover that many more of their constituents than they thought are currently unemployed.

The economy here is already showing signs of recovery, meaning job opportunities for the unemployed. But in the meantime, check in with your legislators to see how they voted.

Here are the local representatives who voted no:

In the Senate, just one from Northern Virginia, Sen. Ken Cuccinelli.

In the House, Northern Virginia delegates voting against the unemployed included Dave Albo, Tim Hugo, Bob Marshall, Joe May and Tom Rust.

— MARY KIMM

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## Cuts Needed

To the Editor:

I want to thank Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) for his recent letter regarding FCPS and its budget priorities ["School Budget: Changing the Equation," Connection, March 26-April 1, 2009]. Every one of his points is right on target. I am especially concerned with the need for optimization of the use of the transportation department's current software. Studies have shown that significant money and time could be saved as a result. As taxpaying citizens, we need to call on our Board of Supervisors and School Board members to be the leaders in "changing the equation." We need leaders that will make the cuts that should be made, despite bureaucratic inertia and the pull of the status quo.

**Terry Tuley**  
Fairfax Station

## Understanding Children's Needs

To the Editor:

School Board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence) responded to Supervisor Pat Herrity's (R-Springfield) editorial ["School Budget: Changing the Equation," March 26-April 1, 2009] regarding the school system

budget ["Commentary: Understanding the Equation" April 7, 2000]. I would like to thank Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner for reaching out to the community to solicit for opinions on the subject of the school budget. To that end, the message that Mr. Herrity and the rest of the parents of Fairfax County are delivering is very clear: give teachers their seniority-based raises and do not raise class sizes.

**LETTERS**

There have been thousands of studies on what are the most important criteria in helping children learn. The Harvard Graduate program says that the education of the teacher drives successful learning, the studies of the 1990s point to class size, and more recently it is education level of the child's mother. Regardless of all of these studies, no one can dispute that increasing the class size makes it more difficult for our children to learn. All children can't have a teacher with a Ph.D. in education, and not everyone's mother graduated from an Ivy League school. But we can control how many kids are in the classroom.

Virginia State Department of Education Regulation 22.1-253.13:2 sets limits of 30 students per class for grades 1-3, and 35 students per class for grades 4-6. There is no "formal" limit on the middle and high school levels (ex-

cept for English classes). Theoretically, a high school class could have 50 students, as long as it is not an English class and a teacher does not teach more than 150 students in a week. Fairfax should establish its own goals on class size.

Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner defends the School Board's budget by providing excruciating details on the price of gas, anticipated enrollment and details of the size of the administration. These details dilute the broader and more substantive message — the School Board has not established goals for maximum class sizes or pursued additional measures to keep class sizes in check, and has not given teachers their seniority raises. Montgomery County is controlling class size and Prince William is giving their teachers 2.9 percent increase in cost-of-living adjustments and no increases in class size. The School Board will tell you that we can't do this because we get less funding from the state. Rather than address the problem and work on a solution that does not increase class sizes, they take the easy way out. We can only hope that more officials join Mr. Herrity to provide the necessary leadership to address the larger, more compelling issues and keep our children and teachers' interests at heart.

**Kim Farrell**  
Vienna

## Quality Starts In Classroom

To the Editor:

The response of School Board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (D-Providence) to Supervisor Pat Herrity's March School Budget Commentary "School Budget: Changing the Equation" [Connection, March 26 to April 1, 2009] is an illustration of why parents are increasingly dismayed by the budget priorities of the current School Board.

To his credit, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner has tried to extract accurate information from Superintendent Dale and his staff. In fact, during one School Board work session, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner pointedly noted that some supervisors were looking closely at how FCPS spends money, and the School Board could not lobby effectively for more money if School Board members had less information than these supervisors.

Thus far, however, Mr. Niedzielski-Eichner's valiant efforts have not resulted in much accountability. Instead, School Board members have largely supported and defended Superintendent Dale's priorities, regardless of whether those priorities are aligned with the views of local taxpayers, teachers or parents of chil-

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**CIRCULATION: 703-917-6481**  
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PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Chief of staff James Walkinshaw and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) relax in the congressman's new office on Capitol Hill.

# Connolly Back on the Hill

FROM PAGE 5

him about it," said George Burke, Connolly's press secretary.

Burke said Connolly's office was purposefully designed with a large waiting area so that staff could accommodate as great an influx of constituents as possible. Rhonda Gillis, Connolly's scheduler, said she receives several hundred requests each week for meetings with the congressman.

"I have talked to other schedulers and they tell me that they panic at least once every single day. It's also tougher if your district is close by. ... They don't all come in from Kansas but they all come in from Fairfax," she said.

For Connolly, one of the toughest parts of the transition from Fairfax County chairman seat to 11th Congressional District seat has been Capitol Hill's unreliable schedule.

Connolly has always been busy. Before he joined Congress, he worked for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a government contractor, in addition to his job as Fairfax County chairman. He attended night and weekend community meetings approximately 360 day per year and often worked 12-hour days to fulfill his obligations to both jobs.

But as the leader of a 10-person policy body, Connolly could set the county board's agenda and, to a certain extent, control the supervisors' schedule. Now, as a freshman in the 435-member House of Representatives, Connolly has little, if any control, over when a vote or meeting takes place.

In March, Connolly had to miss most of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce's Valor Awards cer-

emony, which honor county public safety employees, because his committee meeting ran later than expected and then an afternoon vote took place before it was scheduled. Connolly said he was particularly upset about having to leave that event early, since he had attended every one of the awards ceremonies in the previous 14 years.

"It is most frustrating. People think nothing of adding votes and caucus meetings. If I have an emergency meeting that lasts an hour or more, my entire schedule is thrown. ... I am learning to live with that," said Connolly.

The congressman is also getting used to his higher profile.

**"They know what is going on and they want to talk to him about it."**

— George Burke, Connolly's press secretary

A joke he made at a Fairfax County Democratic Committee event in January ended up drawing national criticism when it was replayed on FOX News' "The Sean Hannity Show." Connolly has also been invited to appear on "The Colbert Report," popular cable news show spoof that airs on the Comedy Central network. "I definitely feel like I live in more of an fishbowl," he said.

The representative reluctantly agreed to appear live on Fox News Channel the morning after he voted with most other House members to tax financial bonuses insurance giant AIG awarded to its employees after receiving assistance from the federal government.

Connolly felt confident about his vote and said he was "outraged" AIG would do such a thing. But he was not so sure he wanted to have to be at Fox's studio in downtown Washington and on television by 7 a.m.

"I am not a morning person. I consider the morning an assault," said Connolly.

## FAITH NOTES

International Calvary Church is hosting a special service on Sunday, April 26, 6 p.m., during **North Korea Freedom Week 2009**. Candlelight Vigil to remember and pray for all repatriated

North Koreans who have been beaten to death and publicly executed in North Korea because of China's repatriation policy and 7 p.m. prayer service for North Korea and for the visiting North

Korea defector delegation. Location: International Calvary Church, 5700 Hanover Ave., Springfield. More info about North Korea Freedom Week at [www.nkfreedom.org](http://www.nkfreedom.org) or 202-341-6767.

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## CALENDAR

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

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

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

**Practice Your English**, 10:15 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation groups for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

**Lorton Book Club**, 7:30 p.m. at the Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. "Traffic" by Tom Vanderbilt. Adults. 703-339-7385.

**Book Discussion Group**, 7:15 p.m. at the John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Adults. 703-971-0010.

**English Conversation Group**, 6 p.m. at the Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Practice your English with other adults. 703-339-7385.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 16

**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus**, 7 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Earth Day: Birthday!** 10:30 a.m. at



**The Haunted, with Nachtmystium, Kylesa, Intronaut, The Osedax and Kysmet, will perform at Jaxx Night Club in Springfield on Wednesday, April 22.**

the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and a craft celebrating our Earth. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

**Springfield Writers' Group**, 7 p.m. at the temporary Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road in Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Share work, give and receive feedback. Adults. 703-451-8055.

**Dope, Burn the Fields, Bitter and Blood Corps**. 7:30 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$18 in advance, \$20 day of show. 703-569-5940 or [jaxxroxx.com](http://jaxxroxx.com).

### FRIDAY/APRIL 17

**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus**, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**Lunch Bunch**, 12 p.m. at the John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch and join us for stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

**Paganfest Amerika II**. 5:15 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$10 in advance. \$12 day of show. 703-569-5940 or [jaxxroxx.com](http://jaxxroxx.com).

**'The Judgment Seat II'** by Dr. Russ Houck, 7:30 p.m. at The Harvester Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Road in Springfield. 703-455-7800 or [harvesterpca.org](http://harvesterpca.org).

**Lake Accotink Adult Civil War History Program**, at Braddock Hall in the King's Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The focus is on 1860s life in Fairfax County during the Civil War, the role of women during the war, slavery in 1860s society and period entertainments. \$10 fee. Pre-registration required by March 28 at 703-569-3464.

**Workhouse Film Institute Screening of 'Man on Wire.'** Join the Workhouse Film Institute for the second in its series of film

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

screenings 7-9 p.m., in the Workhouse's Gallery W-16. The evening will include a short reception and an artists Q&A after the screening of the film. Tickets are \$10 each. To reserve tickets call 703-584-2900. Workhouse Arts Center is located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 18

**The Shenandoah University Conservatory Dance Ensemble** performing the works of Alwin Nikolais, 3 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9517 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Includes opportunities for

audience interaction with dance professor Kim Gibilisco. clorange@su.edu or acambel@su.edu.

**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus**, 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

**Summer Reading Program Sneak Preview**, 10 a.m. at the Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A sneak preview of 2009's Summer Reading Program. Youth Services Staff will discuss their favorite books. 703-249-1520.

**Artists' Reception at the Artists'**

**Undertaking Gallery**, 4-6:30 p.m. at 309 Mill St. in Occoquan. "Artistic Impressions" is an exhibit of hand-built pottery by Sherri Johnson of Fairfax and digitally painted photographs by David and Jane Ernst of Springfield. The exhibit runs through May 4, and the gallery is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 703-494-0584 or at www.theartistsundertaking.com.

**Y&T, Switched at Birth, Sinners Trail and Under Command**, 8 p.m. at Jaxx Night Club, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. \$25 in advance, \$28 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

**'The Judgment Seat II'** by Dr. Russ Houck, 7:30 p.m. at The Harvester

Presbyterian Church, 7800 Rolling Road in Springfield. 703-455-7800 or harvesterpca.org.

**Lake Accotink Adult Civil War History Program**, at Braddock Hall in the King's Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The focus is on 1860s life in Fairfax County during the Civil War, the role of women during the war, slavery in 1860s society and period entertainments, with additional presentations on medicine, soldier's camp life, learning to load cannon, rudimentary infantry drill and firing blank rounds in a black powder musket. \$10 fee. Pre-registration required by March 28 at 703-569-3464.

**Art Exhibit and Sale**. The Kingstowne Area Artists Association will exhibit and sell its work 12-5 p.m., at the Snyder Center located at 6450 South Van Dorn St., Kingstowne. Free. Work in a variety of media will be displayed, including: acrylics, oils, watercolor, mixed media, pastels, photography, pen and ink and digital media. Refreshments will be served. For directions to the Snyder Center, go to www.kingstowne.org. For more, contact Ginny Sywyj at duchessducky@msn.com or Nancy Hannans at nhannans@cox.net.

**The Lions Club Flea Market**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., at the VRE Parking Lot, 6900

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



# NOT AS EASY AS 1-2-3

## I-495 HOT LANES PROJECT UPDATE: MAJOR LANE CLOSURES COMING TO ROUTE 123

As part of Virginia's five-year-long I-495 HOT lanes construction project, a new Capital Beltway bridge will be built over Route 123 (Chain Bridge Road) in Tysons Corner.

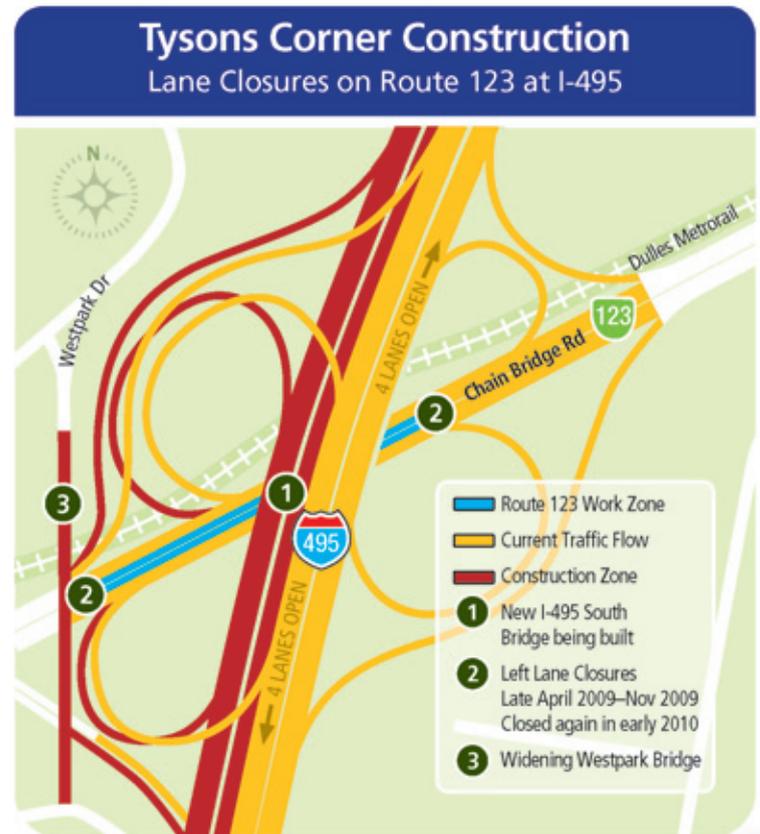
Although Route 123 will remain open throughout the entire project, motorists should expect long-term lane closures and delays on this road when construction begins in late April.

### Drivers: what to look for now

- The left lane in each direction of Route 123 will be closed beneath the I-495 overpass (approximately 500 feet in each direction)—these lane closures will be in effect 24 hours a day until Thanksgiving, when the two lanes will reopen for the 2009 holiday shopping season, and then close again in early 2010 until work is completed in 18-24 months
- When driving through the work zone, expect delays during a.m. and p.m. rush hours—please allow extra time to reach your destination
- There will be no lane closures on the Beltway during rush hours, and no routine work done on weekends
- Arterial roads like Route 7 will remain open throughout the entire project—motorists may experience additional delays due to utility relocation and rail extension work taking place as part of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail project

**Get help navigating construction:** Big roadwork projects like these can be challenging to deal with. But rest assured—when completed, they'll improve traffic flow, business efficiency and personal mobility for everyone in the area. Until then, you can sign up to receive project updates and helpful information on commuter solutions at [VAmegaprojects.com](http://VAmegaprojects.com).

The I-495 HOT lanes construction is part of the Virginia Megaprojects—a series of large-scale transportation improvements designed to ease traffic congestion and provide you with more choices and better transportation options than ever before.



To make your travels as easy as possible, visit [VAmegaprojects.com](http://VAmegaprojects.com)

# CALENDAR

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FROM PAGE 9

Hechinger Drive/5701 Backlick Road, Springfield. Free. Vendors \$15. 703-960-6739. [www.sfhostlions.org](http://www.sfhostlions.org). All funds earned go for Lions charities.

**ECHO Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Bernadette Catholic Church Gym, 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. All proceeds are used to support ECHO programs. For additional information call 703-569-9160 or 703-440-1353.

**Friends of the Occoquan Clean Up Day at Occoquan Water Trail,** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. River and shoreline clean up of the Occoquan River at Fountainhead Regional Park, Bull Run Marina, Occoquan Regional Park, The Town of Occoquan and Lake Ridge Park.

**Art in the Park at Occoquan,** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Artists from the Workhouse Arts Center will display their art and also be creating new work along the riverfront at Occoquan Regional Park, 9520 Ox Road, Lorton. Contact: John Houser, 703-690-2121 or [Occoquan@nvrpa.org](mailto:Occoquan@nvrpa.org).

**SUNDAY/APRIL 19**

**Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey Circus,** 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$14-\$95, available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

**N-Scale Model Trains,** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Admission is \$2 adults, \$1 children. 703-425-9225 or [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

**OWL Bull Run Virginia Bluebell at Occoquan Water Trail,** 1-5 p.m.

\$2/\$3 launch fee. River paddle along the upper Occoquan. Contact Jim Zawlocki, [www.cpakayaker.com](http://www.cpakayaker.com).

**Paddle Adventure-Morning Tour at Pohick Bay,** 8 a.m.-12 p.m., at 6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton. \$30 per person or group rate. Enjoy a morning park paddle tour on the water before the hustle and bustle of boaters. See eagles in the morning light as they hunt for the day. No experience is necessary Contact: 703-339-6104.

**Art in the Park at Occoquan,** 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Artists from the Workhouse Arts Center will display their art and also be creating new work along the riverfront at Occoquan Regional Park, 9520 Ox Road, Lorton. Contact: John Houser, 703-690-2121 [Occoquan@nvrpa.org](mailto:Occoquan@nvrpa.org).

**Exhibition.** Members of the Workhouse Artist Associates are exhibiting a variety of works in the Associates Gallery, Gallery W-16, First Floor through May 16. Free reception for this exhibition and for the Workhouse Art Guild exhibition April 19, 2-4 p.m. Guests will have the opportunity to meet the artists to learn more about their work. Workhouse Arts Center is located at 9601 Ox Road, Lorton.

**The American Philharmonic,** conducted by Luis Haza of the National Symphony Orchestra, will perform "Virtuosity" at 1 p.m., at George Mason University Center for the Arts in Fairfax. The concert features violinist Marina Aikawa, AYP Concertmistress and protege of Maestro Luis Haza, performing Paganini's "Violin Concerto No. 1 in D Major." Repertoire also includes Verdi's "Overture to Nabucco," Tchaikovsky's "Pas de deux" from "Nutcracker Suite No. 2" and Elgar's "Enigma Variations." Tickets are \$10

for students, including college; \$10 for seniors, age 62 and above; and \$14 for adults. Children ages 5 and younger are free. Buy tickets at [www.aypo.org](http://www.aypo.org) or at the door.

**'The Sari Soldiers' a film by Julie Bridgham.** 4-6 p.m., at the Ernst Community Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Tickets: \$10 and students: \$8. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.cmiNepal.org](http://www.cmiNepal.org).

**Spring Birding Outing at Huntley Meadows Park.** 8-11 a.m. Search for warblers, thrushes waterfowl and a host of other birds at the park as we approach the peak of spring migration. Following the hike, recap the sightings during a continental breakfast at the visitor center. Bring binoculars and field guides. Reservations are required and the cost is \$8 per adult. For information or reservations for all the events, call 703-768-2525. Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria.

**Eco-Savvy Expo.** 12-4 p.m. at the Huntley Meadows Visitor Center. Host of presentations available including tips for shade-gardening, rain garden plant lists, wildlife brochures and ideas for attracting local native wildlife. Purchase native plants, bee boxes, rain barrels and wildflower seed mixes. Free, small fee for some presentations. For more information or reservations for all the events, call 703-768-2525. Huntley Meadows Park is located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria.

**Meet Author Marfe Ferguson Delano.** 2-4 p.m., at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. in Alexandria. For reservations, call 703-768-2525.

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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

dren in the public schools.

In his letter dated March 30, 2009, Mark Glaser, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, commended Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) for recognizing that FCPS needs to change its priorities. As he pointed out, “[t]eachers slash ineffective and superfluous programs, keep instruction as the number one priority, reduce the administrative bloat, and pay teachers and adequate salary.”

In her letter dated March 31, 2009, Terry Tuley specifically commended Supervisor Herry for pointing out that FCPS still plans its “bus routes with paper, scissors and envelopes.” At Board of Supervisor hearings, SLEEP co-founder Phyllis Payne testified that FCPS could save \$11 million per year by doing nothing more than shifting about one dozen high schools to slightly later start times. Notably, she used a software program — not slips of paper — to model FCPS bus routes.

As a long-time volunteer in my children’s schools, I see teachers gradually becoming disillusioned and demoralized by the decisions of Superintendent Dale and his staff. For example, central staffers tell classroom teachers to “differentiate.” That’s not easy, if one class has some students at grade level and others who are three years above grade level. It’s almost impossible if that class has 30 or more students. Similarly, many teachers have such large classes that they do not have the time to correct all the grammar, spelling and other mistakes in student drafts, let alone work with each student on improving their paragraph structure. Finally, teachers are less impressed than the School Board with the “instructional support” from central headquarters. Teachers say many “in service” training sessions waste time and money, and that the much-bally-hooded “e-cart” system developed by central staff is moving FCPS towards one-size-fits-all mediocrity.

The quality of our public schools depends on what happens in the classroom. Class sizes do not have to increase. Teachers can be paid more. Schools can be adequately maintained and cleaned, instead of firing janitors. But for this to happen, the FCPS School Board needs to begin using its authority to establish different priorities.

**Louise Epstein**  
President  
Fairfax County Association  
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Vice President, FAIRGRADE



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9503 ASHBRIDGE CT.....\$390,000...Sun 1-4...RE/MAX.....Bruce & Tanya Tyburski.....703-239-2525
7204 CAULKING PL.....\$509,900...Sun 1-4...RE/MAX.....Bruce & Tanya Tyburski.....703-239-2525
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6910 HEATHSTONE CT.....\$649,000...Apr 26 1-4...Long & Foster.....Kulvinder Saund.....703-425-8000
7009 SYLVAN GLEN LA.....\$924,900...Sun 1-4...Long & Foster.....Marcia Wolber.....703-618-4397
9201 CROSS OAKS CT.....\$798,500...Sun 1-4...Coldwell Banker.....Susie Carpenter.....703-906-6598

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7725 WHITE WILLOW CT.....\$689,999...Sun 1-4...RE/MAX.....Bruce & Tanya Tyburski.....703-239-2525
6426 BLARNEY STONE CT.....\$344,950...Sun 1-4...Weichert.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....703-862-8808
6003 HAVERHILL CT.....\$365,000...Sun 1-4...RE/MAX.....Bruce & Tanya Tyburski.....703-239-2525
6740 SPANIEL RD.....\$489,000...Sat 1-4...Keller Williams.....Lisa Langlais.....703-562-1800
7705 MODISTO LA.....\$619,000...Sun 1-4...Isabelle Williams & Assoc.....Isabelle Williams.....202-584-4663

**Lorton (22079)**

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**Kingstowne/Alexandria (22310, 22315)**

7603 DARDEN ROW.....\$695,000...Sun 1-4...Long & Foster.....Beth Jones.....703-503-1869
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6101 BEECH TREE DR.....\$675,000...Sun 1-4...Weichert.....Mary Smith.....703-549-8700
6410 CALEB CT.....\$690,000...Sun 1-4...Long & Foster.....Mona Bekheet.....703-313-6500
7704 CASHLAND CT.....\$749,950...Sun 1-4...Candy Clanton & Assoc.....Candyce Clanton.....703-625-0695
5978 MANORVIEW WAY.....\$729,900...Sun 1-4...Redwood.....Kevin Battle.....703-915-1392
5306 SANDYFORD ST.....\$515,000...Sun 1-4...Keller Williams.....Joe Davis.....571-338-4989
7008 DREAMS WAY CT.....\$570,000...Sun 1-4...Century 21.....Karen Hall.....703-508-0561

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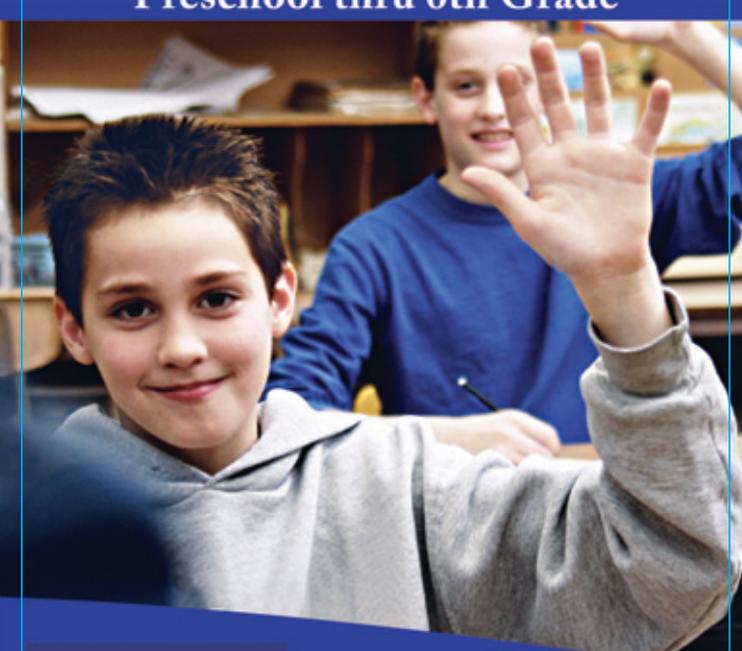
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# Plans Unveiled for Shelter Renovation

**Animal Shelter expansion, renovation funded by 2006 Public Safety Bond Referendum.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Calling the Fairfax County Animal Shelter cramped and crowded would be an understatement. The animals are well-cared-for, but the staff is stuffed and jammed in too-small spaces in a building in need of an upgrade.

But help is on the way. The building is getting both a renovation and an addition, and construction should begin in a year or so. Yet Fairfax County residents needn't worry about where the money is coming from — the work is already funded.

"Even though there's a budget deficit, we have the dough for this project," said Fairfax County Planning Commissioner Pete Murphy (Springfield). "It was approved as part of the November 2006 Public Safety Bond Referendum."

On Tuesday, April 7, members of the Springfield District/Fairfax Center Land-Use Committee received an update on the project from Toni Ogurcak, with the Planning and Design Division of the county's

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. She said voters approved \$17 million for the animal shelter in the bond referendum and \$9.85 million of that amount will go toward "fixed construction costs."

The existing building, at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax, is 15,600 square feet and the addition will bring another 13,400 square feet for 29,000 square feet total. However, the shelter's location and ongoing

operation pose some hurdles to the project. "It's a challenging site due to [the proximity of] I-66 and West Ox Road and school-bus parking on two sides," said Ogurcak. "Plus, there's a high volume of use at the shelter and the facility will remain open during construction, so the work will have to be done in phases."

Cole & Denny Inc. of Alexandria, with the Bacon Group of Clearwater, Fla., were awarded the design contract in July 2008,

and the project is now in design development. Construction is anticipated to start in late summer 2010 and take about two years to complete.

"Part of the existing facility will be demolished, and there'll be a security fence in the back," said Ogurcak. "We also want to separate the parking area for visitors and deliveries from the parking area for the animal-control officers. We have 55 parking spaces now — 27 of them for visitors — and will add 45-51 new spaces for more than 100 total."

The improved shelter will boast two, separate lobbies, as well. One will be an adoption lobby, with the kennels for cats and dogs up for adoption, plus a small-mammal and bird area nearby. The other will be a lost-and-found lobby. Additional dog kennels will also be there, plus feline holding-areas and spaces for quarantined and isolated animals and strays.

"Now there are 39 double runs for the kennel animals, but we're planning a total of 77," said Ogurcak. "And we'll increase from 26 to 40 condos in the cat-adoption areas. Also, we can now hold 46 animals in

the shelter, but will be able to hold 100 with the expansion."

The shelter will also have a room for training, plus classes and educational programs. And the animal-control officers will have secured offices with a roll-call room and armory.

"It's so crowded now," said land-use committee member Claudette Ward. "Is there anyplace else they can put the animals 'til this is built in two years?" But Ogurcak said there really isn't.

Phase one of the project will include all the dog kennels, cat-adoption and feline-holding areas, the adoption lobby and staff offices. Then animals will be moved into the new section, while their old areas are renovated and part is demolished.

The entrance will still be from West Ox Road, but will be farther back. "There'll be lots of windows so the animals and people will have light," said Ogurcak. "Our goal is to have this be a LEED [energy-efficient and environmentally friendly], silver-certified-type building."

On April 30, the plan goes before the Planning Commission, which will determine whether the shelter design is compatible with its surroundings. But Murphy, for one, is pleased. "I think, considering the site constraints, they did a remarkable job," he said. "It'll be a first-class facility."

**"It'll be a first-class facility."**

— Pete Murphy, chairman, Fairfax County Planning Commission

## Access Fees for Lakeside Parks

FROM PAGE 3

the facilities outside of peak hours anyway.

For example, those people who walk or jog in the parks on a regular basis typically come before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m., said Pedersen.

Some residents will also avoid the fees because they do not have to drive to the parks to use them. For example, Wiseman will always be able to use Lake Accotink for free, even during peak hours, because he walks, and doesn't drive, to the site.

But Wiseman was unhappy about the county potentially charging for park use. With the economy in a downturn, people need a refuge, he said.

"People are not going to have a place to get the relaxation and release of tension that they need. That's important, especially in this economy," said Wiseman.

**THE PARK AUTHORITY** will consider rolling back plans for the new fees if the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors restores some of the park system's funding in the 2010 budget.

In his initial budget proposal, county executive Anthony Griffin cut park funding to help close a \$650 million shortfall overall. But the supervisors have the authority to make major changes to Griffin's proposal when they vote on the final budget April 27.

If supervisors decided to give the Park Authority back \$650,848 for programs at Lake Accotink, Burke Lake and Lake Fairfax as well as \$150,000 in funding for Riverbend Park, the park board would have no need to implement the fees, said Pedersen.

This funding covers approximately 33 positions, she added.

Several supervisors indicated that they are inter-

ested in trying to find a way to keep the parks free for county residents.

Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), who is also head of the budget committee, said she is looking for a way to restore waterfront park funding so residents do not have to be charged.

"I have a real problem with the Park Authority charging county residents to use those parks. ... People pay to acquire the parkland and to develop the parkland already," said Bulova.

The chairman said it could also be prohibitively expensive to charge non-county residents coming into the three parks — Accotink, Fairfax and Riverbend — that are currently free for everyone. The cost of putting up and staffing entrances could be more expensive than the revenue collected from the out-of-county residents come to use the facilities, she said.

"It may not be that easy to sort out people from outside the county," said Bulova.

Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) is also opposed to levying park entry fees for residents. He said the entry fees at the four waterfront parks could cause unanticipated problems for the county.

People may be more inclined to park their cars in neighborhoods near the parks to avoid paying the vehicle fee. The new fees could also aggravate the back up that already forms at some park entrances on the weekends because now every driver entering those facilities would have to stop and pay, he said.

Adult "walk-ons" who play pickup sports on fields at some of these larger park, especially Lake Fairfax, could also start crowding onto space at smaller neighborhood parks to avoid paying the new fees, according to Herrity. He added that here are already problems with field access and "walk on" games in many parks in the county.



**What's the Buzz?** John Gallagher, author of the 'Buzzboy' graphic novel series, speaks to Rolling Valley Elementary students recently. He had 'Westie' kangaroo with him. Gallagher had lunch with small groups of students as well as hosting three assemblies for all the students at Rolling Valley.

### HEALTH NOTES

**Free Wellness and Fitness Expo at Dr. Robert Posner Internal Medicine office** April 18 and 25, from 12:30-2:30 p.m., at 9289 Old Keene Mill Road, Burke. Free blood pressure checks by medical staff, free spinal screenings by chiropractic staff, seated massage, acupuncture evaluations, fitness evaluations by a personal trainer. Free golf lessons by Top Golf Kingstowne.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia**, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, is offering a free four-week Teen Loss Support Group, beginning Thursday, April

30 from 5-6:30 p.m. The group will not meet on Thursday, May 21 due to the Memorial Day holiday. Registration is required. Haven of Northern Virginia is also offering a free community presentation on Coping with Life's Losses on Thursday, April 30 from 7:30-9 p.m. The presentation will focus on the loss of a loved one, but also on the aging process, lifestyle changes and other losses. Registration is required. For registration and information, call 703-941-7000, visit Haven's Web site at [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) or e-mail [havenofnova@verizon.net](mailto:havenofnova@verizon.net).

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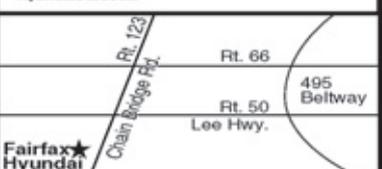
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# Lee Lancers Even Surprise Themselves

Boys' lacrosse team enjoying hot start, even if it doesn't know how it started.

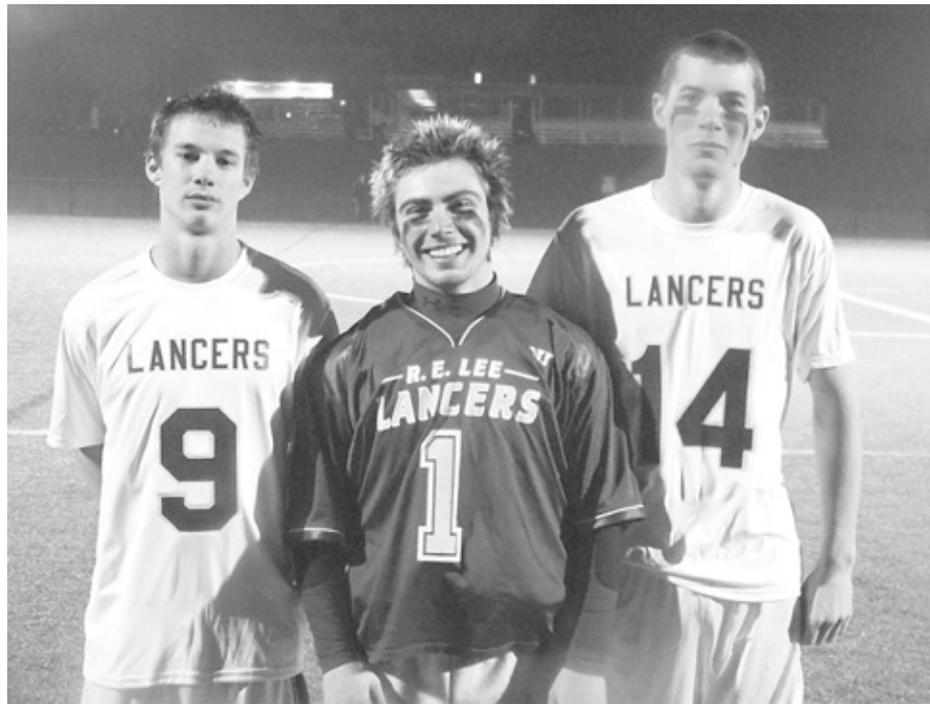
BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

**N**o one doubted that the Lee boys' lacrosse team would eventually garner five wins. The majority, though, just thought it might take a few years. Not seven games.

But a month into the season, the Lancers have enjoyed perhaps the Northern Region's most pleasant and unexpected surprise. Three months ago, Lee was struggling to have more than six people at off-season workouts.

"Before this year, I wasn't expecting much, to be honest," said junior Andrew Senft. "But after we got through the first two weeks of practice, then I started to expect more and more wins. Then we came out on fire. The first three games were just awesome for us."

Those three games were all wins. First came a 14-11 defeat of Edison, during which Senft scored eight goals. Six days later, Lee notched an overtime victory over South County, with Senft netting the win-



The Lee boys' lacrosse team's three junior captains, from left, Andrew Senft, Damian Pulos and Killian Gallagher, have the Lancers at 5-2 after topping T.C. Williams Tuesday night.

ner and Will Ho the game-tying goal with nine seconds left in regulation.

During a 13-11 come-from-behind win over McLean to move to 3-0, Senft again tallied eight goals, while junior goalkeeper Damian Pulos made nine saves overall and several key stop down the stretch as Lee rallied to score four unanswered goals.

"Through the hard work that these guys have put in during the off-season, I think that's definitely made the difference through the first part of the season so far," said third-year coach Dan DiPirro. "We have to out-work everybody. That's where our bread is buttered."

Not only did those three wins give the

"Before this year, I wasn't expecting much, to be honest."

— Andrew Senft, junior, Lee High

Lancers a 3-0 start, but they also included the team's first district victory in nearly two years, as Lee went 2-10 last spring, 0-7 against Patriot opponents.

Much like a baseball team that has a strong catcher, center fielder and sure-handed set of middle infielders, Lee has benefited from its depth up the middle. With Senft as a sniper up top, junior defender Killian Gallagher spends his time patrolling the defensive zone. If a shot gets near the cage, Pulos can and will stop it with ease.

Despite the on-field talent, no one can really explain the drastic turnaround.

One day the Lancers were struggling to field a starting lineup. The next, they were putting a 19-1 beating on Wakefield, which happened on March 26. With a 12-9 win at T.C. Williams Tuesday night, April 14, Lee has a chance to improve to 3-1 against district opposition when it travels to Hayfield on Friday, April 17.

"We had off-season tryouts, and it wasn't looking too sharp," Gallagher said. "We were worried. It was definitely an eye-

SEE SURPRISING, PAGE 15

# Capital Classic Brings Out Best

Area stars showcase skills during lead-up game to yearly basketball event.

BY JASON MACKEY  
THE CONNECTION

**I**n all-star basketball games such as the April 9 Capital Classic at American University's Bender Arena, players are substituted freely, enabling everyone to see some playing time and allowing no one to get all that tired.

Stephen Stepka, a senior forward for the W.T. Woodson Cavaliers, made sure, albeit not intentionally, that he was afforded even more rest. While his teammates took the floor, Stepka was still getting dressed, the result of accidentally driving to Gonzaga College High School instead of the Northwest D.C. campus.

For the first 10 minutes of the first half, Stepka sat on the right of the Suburban All-Stars' bench without his blue pullover, a forgotten accessory during a moment of panic.

"I was rushing so quickly," Stepka said, "I forgot to put it on."

The disorganization, though, didn't carry over. In a 113-104 loss to the District All-Stars — a precursor to the evening's marquee matchup — Stepka made several important contributions, scoring six points on 3-of-6 shooting while also accumulating two blocks, three assists and six rebounds.

"I just went out and played as hard as I could," said Stepka, who was the Liberty District Player of the Year and a first team All-Northern Region pick. "It's an all-star game so sometimes you don't get the ball as much as you would like because other guys like to take it themselves, but hustle plays are what shows in a lot of these games."

In the primary showcase, Paul VI guard Erick Green posted a team-best four steals to go along with his 10 points, and his Capital All-Star squad pulled off a 129-98 upset of the United States All-Stars.

Committed to Virginia Tech, Green averaged 17 points, seven rebounds and had a 5:1 assist-to-turnover ratio for the Panthers (19-15) this winter, as

SEE STARS, PAGE 15

**With a game-high five assists, Lake Braddock's Dominic Morra directed his Suburban All-Star team's offense Thursday, April 9 in a preliminary game at the 36th-Annual Capital Classic.**



## SPORTS

# Stars Shine at Classic

FROM PAGE 14

Paul VI snagged its first-ever Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA) state championship.

**DOMINIC MORRA** spent most of his senior year at Lake Braddock posting did-you-see-that-type scoring numbers. Fifty points during a season-opening win over Robinson. Forty during a holiday tournament loss to KIMA on Dec. 31.

But last Thursday for a preliminary game before the 36th-Annual Capital Classic, Morra assumed a different sort of role. In a showcase scenario that often overflows with offense, Morra became the Suburban squad's facilitator, dishing out a game-high five assists.

"The game wasn't about scoring, so I had to change up my whole game plan from the season," said Morra, who finished his career as a Bruin with 1,561 points — 43 less than former NBA player and Lake Braddock alum, Hubert Davis.

"The way I thought I would get the most recruitment out of it," Morra said, "was to play the natural point guard position, distribute the ball equally to everyone and then try to hustle and get steals."

He did that by treating his defensive assignments as if they occurred during the final two minutes of a Northern Region championship game against rival Robinson. Morra spent a good part of the evening diving after loose balls or pestering some of the more-flashy and less-defensive-minded players around him.

"I tried to get every loose ball I could," Morra said. "Every time [the ball] wasn't in someone else's hands,

I wanted it in mine. To stand out, you really had to do things to make people say 'Wow,' or 'That guy was really playing hard.'"

**FOR SOME**, like Morra (game-high five assists), who became less of a scorer and more of a distributor, the Capital Classic can alter the roles of those involved. But for Lee senior Frank Holloway Jr., a 6-foot-6 post player, the 36th-Annual event offered a platform to showcase his season-long dominance of the paint.

Holloway led the Suburban All-Stars during a preliminary game against the District All-Stars with 16 points and seven rebounds, connecting on seven of his 13 shots. He also started and played a game-high 21 minutes.

But for others, Holloway said, the biggest assignment was changing roles and realizing that everyone on both teams was a star during the regular season.

"We practiced a lot, but it was just hard accepting your role," said Holloway, who led Lee to the Northern Region semifinals this winter. "All of us played on different teams, and we were all stars on our teams. So it's hard accepting that role to do what you have to do."

In the nightcap, Springfield native Tristan Spurlock, a University of Virginia-bound forward who attends Word of Life Christian Academy, had 15 points and a team-high four assists during the Capital All-Stars' surprising upset of the United States team, 129-98.

The 6-foot-8, 220-pound Spurlock averaged 23 points and nine rebounds this season and was voted to the Capital Classic's All-Tournament Team.

**"To stand out, you really had to do things to make people say 'Wow.'"**

— **Dominic Morra, senior,**  
**Lake Braddock Secondary**

# Suprising Results for Lancers

FROM PAGE 14

opener once we started coming out [to practice]. All my high school career, we've only won one or two games a season.

"To be 5-2 right now, I'm so grateful for that. I'm so happy that our coaches put in the effort that they do to get us out there running and working our butts off."

Lee's offensive attack starts, oddly enough, with Pulos, who is counted upon to initiate the team's breakout plays. If he sees one of his teammates streaking upfield, the obvious choice is to hit that man with the ball. If not, Pulos trots the ball up himself.

While admitting that he had a bit of a sub-par game against the Titans, with errant passes nearly missing his teammates' sticks, Pulos praised his midfielders and attackmen for picking up the slack.

"It's scary at times," said Pulos of his offensive

responsibility. "But like our coaches have taught me, look upfield. Most people know how our team works and how everybody plays their position, so we can just work off of each other like that."

Once the ball finds its way to the attackmen, it's up to Senft and Ho to finish off the play. Senft has been lighting it up thus far, with 37 goals and 54 ground balls — both tops on the team. Ho, meanwhile, has 13 goals and 31 ground balls. Senior Eddie Kascasak, who had six goals prior to the T.C. Williams game, nearly matched that total with five against the Titans.

"His stick skills and shot are incredible," said DiPirro, of Senft. "I haven't seen that. He can put it anywhere. The only bad thing is that he thinks he's invincible," meaning that Senft oftentimes thinks he can finish every play on his own.

"He thinks he can roll through everybody," DiPirro said, "but he has to get some other guys involved with the game."

## WEEK IN SPORTS

### Bayliss Nets Winner

Mike Bayliss, a fifth-year senior attackman on the Wingate University (Division II) men's lacrosse team, scored 1 minute, 18 seconds into overtime during an April 9 matchup with Catawba College, giving the Bulldogs an 8-7 win. The goal was Bayliss' 17th this season and helped his team improve to 8-7 overall, 3-2 against Deep South Con-

ference opponents. A No. 3 seed, Wingate will play second-seeded Saint Leo Friday, at 4 p.m., in the semifinals of the DSC tournament. Before missing his would-be senior season because of injury, Bayliss notched 18 goals and 10 assists as a junior. Bayliss was a three-time all Patriot District and a two-time All-Northern Region pick at Hayfield. He was also an honorable mention All-America choice during his senior season.

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**21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF HORRY  
IN THE PROBATE COURT  
CASE NUMBER:  
2007-ES-26-1731

Dorothy E Darling  
Petitioner  
vs  
HEIRS-AT-LAW OF HOWARD DARLING  
and all persons unknown who are or might claim to be heirs-at-law of Howard N. Darling, all such unknown persons being collectively designated as JOHN DOE and MARY DOE, including any unknown persons in the Armed Forces of the United States of America, any minors, persons non compos mentis and persons under a disability of any kind of nature who might claim to be heirs-at-law or Howard N. Darling.  
Respondents.

TO: RESPONDENTS NAMED ABOVE

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Petition to Determine Heirs, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the Petition to Determine Heirs on the subscriber at his office at 4702 Oleander Drive, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577, within thirty (30) days of service. If you fail to answer the Petition to Determine Heirs within the time aforesaid, the Petitioners will seek default against you.

CLIFFORD H. TALL, P.A.

Clifford H. Tall  
SC Bar No: 005463  
Attorney for Petitioner,  
Dorothy E. Darling  
4702 Oleander Drive  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
Telephone: 843-497-9777

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

DISTRICT COURT DIVISION  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY FILE NO.: 08 SP 2435  
FREDDIE RAY BLACK,  
Petitioner.

NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PUBLICATION

KRISTY SAUNDERS BLACK  
(AKA: Kristy Michelle Saunders),  
Respondent.  
and

DARIN RAMSEY,  
Respondent's Former Husband.  
and

CAROLINE ROSE BLACK,  
Child.

TO: DARIN RAMSEY

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled action. The relief being sought is Legitimation of a Minor Child (under the age of 16).

You are required to make defense to such pleading no later than the 18th day of May, 2009, which is forty (40) days from the first publication of this notice. Upon your failure to file a pleading by the above date, the party seeking service against you will apply to the Court for the relief sought.

This the 6th day of April, 2009.

M. DeVondria McClure  
Attorney for Petitioner  
The Law Offices of M. DeVondria McClure, P.C.  
3325 Washburn Avenue, Suite 212  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28205  
Telephone: (704) 372-2031

**TRUSTEE'S SALE**

Improved by the premises known as

7610 Savannah Street, #201, Falls Church, Virginia  
In execution of a Deed of Trust from Erlis Bonilla, dated May 24, 2005, and recorded May 26, 2005, in Deed Book 17328 at page 452 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Monday, April 20, 2009 at 11:00 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Unit 201, Building 7610, FALLS CHURCH GARDENS CONDOMINIUM, Phase V

Tax Map No. 049-2-31-10-0201

Commonly known as 7610 Savannah Street, #201, Falls Church, Virginia 22043.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of \$19,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.25 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY  
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:  
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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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