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Doggie Dippin'

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Candidates, Meet Constituents

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Sammy emerges from the pool and looks for another ball to fetch at the Doggie Swim at Fox Hunt Swim and Tennis Club on Monday.

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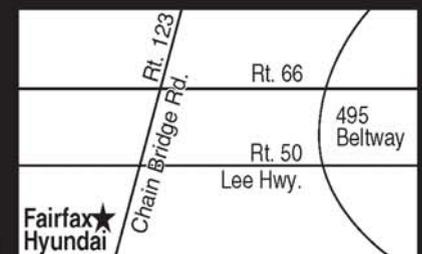


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Del. Vivian Watts (D-39)



Joe Bury

Candidates Meet With Constituents

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

For one night, Crestwood Elementary School was able to call itself the political epicenter of the commonwealth.

The school was host to a political forum Tuesday, Sept. 15, offering the candidates for the 39th district, state attorney general, lieutenant governor and governor races a chance to connect with their constituency. Though only the candidates for the delegate race were present, surrogates filled in ably on their behalf, giving the Springfield residents a clearer picture of the men and women vying to represent them.

"I'm an independent so I came to get an idea of who the candidates were, and this was the first introduction I've had to some of them," said attendee Doug Firman. "Even though a couple people filled in [for the candidates], they did a good job."

The meeting was hosted by the Springfield Civic Association, which also set the procedural guidelines and moderated the forum. Each of the candidates or their surrogates had three minutes to make an opening statement, followed by a 15-minute question and answer segment with the audience. Each candidate was given one minute to answer, and the other was given one minute to rebut.

The meeting kicked off with the candidates for the 39th district delegate race, which features the incumbent Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) running against republican nominee Joseph Bury. The delegate candidates were followed by surrogates for the candidates for the attorney general race between Del. Steve Shannon (D-35) and republican Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37); the lieutenant governor race between incumbent republican Bill Bolling and democrat Jody Wagner; and the governor race between Del. Bob McDonnell (R-84) and Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25).

Perhaps because of the candidates for the delegate race's presence, Watts and Bury faced more questions than any of the three other sets of races. Both of the candidates were drilled for the entire 15 minutes, with the topics of transportation and the economy dominating the discussion.

On transportation, Watts stated that she understands the residents' frustration with the HOT Lanes project, saying that 30 percent of the construction cuts through her district. She also said that while the options may be limited at this point because of the lack of funds, she will try secure money in any way possible, as evidenced by her helping to get \$93 million transferred to Northern Virginia transportation projects from other projects around the state.

"I am working with what's there to make [transportation] the best that it can be," Watts said.

Bury contended that to solve the area's transportation issues, outside input is needed. He said that he supports more input into public projects by the private sector, as he believes that the private sector can come up with more creative solutions to the problems. In addition, Bury said that alternative forms of transportation need to be invested in because there is no money to put into roads.

"We can no longer afford to build new roads, so I'm searching for alternatives," Bury said. "It's time to switch tracks and look for more innovative solutions to our problems, and those can only come from someone outside of the system with fresh ideas."

Watts and Bury faced several questions about the economy, with audience members asking specifically about what the candidates are proposing to jumpstart the sluggish economy. Watts turned the tables on the question, boasting about the state's economic strengths. Watts said that while the downturn has affected Virginia just like every other

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 6



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

West Springfield High School athletic director Tim O'Reilly used the school mower to cut the grass in the public right of way along Rolling Road. The Virginia Department of Transportation is responsible for mowing in that area but said it cannot afford to do so with budget cuts.

Transportation Secretary Paints Gloomy Scenario

State reduces money for mowing, snow removal, stop lights and more.

JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Springfield supervisor Patrick Herrity is so frustrated with the tall grass and weeds in the right of way of some local roads, he decided to take matters into his own hands.

The elected official woke up early on Sunday, Sept. 13 and took his personal mower out to the median stripe of Rolling Road to cut some of the grass himself.

Herrity chose the spot directly outside West Springfield High School because several parents called his office during the first week of school to complain about the tall grass. They said the weeds — about three to six feet tall — presented a safety hazard for students.

Del. Dave Albo (R-42) and three of Herrity's aides helped the supervisor clear the median. West Springfield athletic director Tim O'Reilly also used the school's riding lawn mower to help cut the grass in public space that was closest to the school building.

THE VIRGINIA Department of Transportation is officially responsible for cutting grass in the public right of way on state-controlled thoroughfares like Rolling Road.

But transportation secretary Pierce Homer said the approximately \$4.6 billion reduction



PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

Del. Dave Albo (R-42) helps clean up the Rolling Road median outside West Springfield High School because the Virginia Department of Transportation has no money to do so.

SEE GLOOMY, PAGE 18

Doggie Dippin'

Doggie Swim at Fox Hunt Swim and Tennis Club Sept. 14, 2009



Rocket dries off from her swim in the arms of Susan Grinnings.



Chelsea, a Red Fox Lab, collects a blue ring.



Pinot with possession of the ball prepares to leave the party.



Tim Grinnings talks to Tasha, a miniature pincher.



The water dogs take over the shallow end of the pool at the dogs' only pool party on Monday evening.



Will Zegeer tries to coax Shelby, a fox hound into the pool.



Holly and Rambler prefer the grassy play area to the pool.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

NEWS

Riding for a Good Reason

Springfield's Laura Johnston bikes for Climate Ride.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Sometimes, if you need to get something done, you just have to do it yourself. That is the approach Laura Johnston is taking in her quest to raise awareness about the dangers of climate change.

Johnston, a Springfield resident and graduate student at Georgetown University, entered in the second annual Brita Climate Ride, a fund-raising bicycle ride that begins in New York City and ends in Washington, D.C. The trip, which lasts five days and four nights, will take more than 200 riders on a 300-mile journey that ends with a face-to-face meeting with elected officials.

"I think that for a lot of people, they have the desire to make a difference, and this is an easy, effective way to do it," said Johnston, a West Springfield High School alumnus. "I'm doing this because I came from the mentality that anyone can make a difference."

That mentality originated in Johnston's childhood, which was spent traversing the world as the daughter of two State Department employees. While in elementary school, her parents were assigned to Kenya, where she lived for four years. There, immersed in an outdoor lifestyle because of the culture, she spent a lot of time on game reserves and hiking trails. Johnston said that this experience made her aware of the environment's vulnerability, and ever since, she has been on a mission to protect it.

After completing her undergraduate studies, Johnston got a job at Arlington-based Conservation International, a non-governmental organization where she still works. There, Johnston works with indigenous peoples in developing countries to construct and maintain microfinancing projects and does other climate change and environmental conservation work.

While at work several months ago, Johnston saw an e-mail promoting the Climate Ride, and after reading the details, was immediately interested. Though she wanted to sign up right then and there, she knew that her academic commitments could prevent her from taking part.

"I wasn't sure if I could participate because of classes," Johnston said. "But I realized that this was too great of an opportunity and cause, so I told myself I'd make it work."

The race was the brainchild of Montana residents Caeli Quinn and Geraldine Carter. According to Quinn, she and Carter each spent 10 years leading bicycle trips across the world. After seeing the environmental destruction caused by fossil fuel consumption and the subsequent climate change resulting from their use, they decided to do something about it. After brainstorming, they came up with the idea to stage a bicycle ride to the nation's capital to deliver their message of awareness and action to their elected officials personally.

"How we deal with climate change as individuals, communities, a nation, and a world, will define our generation," Carter said. "We must rise to the challenge of dealing with complex and complicated issues, and we must have the courage to stand for future generations and their right to inherit a healthy planet."

According to Quinn, the ride route begins in Manhattan and then moves along country roads in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and into Maryland. On the ride's final day, Sept. 30, the group will make its way down the Capitol Crescent Trail into the District, where



Laura Johnston

they will hold a rally on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. During the ride, the bicyclists will camp out at night together, and will be treated to three or more different guest speakers each night.

Though the 300-mile trek seems daunting, Johnston said she is training daily to prepare. She said that she is swimming as much as possible and biking to as many places as she can, such as the grocery store and even work. As for fund-raising, Johnston is raising her \$2,400 share of the ride's total goal of \$250,000 in several different ways.

Johnston said that she reached out to family, friends and coworkers, even giving a presentation at Conservation International. In addition, Bus Boys and Poets in Shirlington is donating 5 percent of their total receipts for a four-hour period as part of their "Nonprofit Tuesdays" promotion. So far, these efforts have netted \$1,800, all of which will go to nonprofit organizations Rails to Trails, Focus the Nation and Cool Planet.

"We're excited to have someone like Laura on the ride," Quinn said. "She's active and dedicated to climate change issues. She really understands that Climate Ride is a great advocacy event."

While Johnston knows that no sweeping policy change or total attitude reversal toward climate change will happen overnight because of the ride, she is confident that she and her fellow riders can still make a difference.

"It's difficult for people to make big changes in their lives," Johnston said. "But hopefully, this inspires other people to ride their bikes more. This is putting into action what really needs to happen."

Support Laura

Go to <http://my.e2rm.com/personalPage.aspx?registrationID=704313> to donate money to Laura's ride.

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Candidates, Meet Constituents

FROM PAGE 3

state, that Virginia's economic outlook is not as grim as others.

"The debt we have is purely from capital projects," Watts said. "We are only one of seven states with a AAA bond rating, and we are 44th in the nation for our tax burden per \$1,000. We just have to live within our budget."

Bury countered that the debt is a problem, which grew while Watts has served in office. He said that the best way to improve the area's economic forecast is to create jobs, and that he will make that

a top priority if elected. Bury said that he plans to bring the alternative energy industry into Northern Virginia, which he calls his "signature project."

"Creating jobs is the No. 1 goal," Bury said. "I will have a signature project [if elected], which will be to move the alternative energy industry here. I will work to bring that sector here."

Though the candidates would have welcomed more time than the 15 minutes provided to elaborate on their platforms, their messages did not fall on deaf ears.

WEDDING



Heather Eisinger and Michael Wnuk

Eisinger, Wnuk Wed in Bahamas

The marriage of Heather Ann Eisinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Eisinger of Fairfax Station, to Michael Jon Wnuk took place on June 22. Wnuk is the son of Daniel Wnuk of Lakeville, N.Y., and Linda Zoltowski of Rotonda West, Fla.

The wedding ceremony was performed at The Cloisters Garden Gazebo at The One & Only Club in Paradise Island, Bahamas. The dinner and dance reception followed at the Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort. Suzy Eisinger of Dallas, Texas, served as her sister's Maid of Honor. College friend of the bride, Shelly Botzenmayer of Charlotte, N.C., was a bridesmaid. The groomsmen were the groom's stepbrother, Craig Zoltowski of Stamford, Conn., and college friend, Luis Castaneda of Arlington. Ring bearer was Michael Joyce, 3, son of the couple's coworker. Cousins of the bride, Judy Jernigan of Winston-Salem, N.C. and Karen Dotson of New Market, read scripture and poetry. The newlyweds traveled to Jamaica for their honeymoon.

The bride is a 1999 graduate of West Springfield High School. She received a bachelor of architecture in 2004 from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. The groom received a masters of architecture in 2001 from the University at Buffalo. Both the bride and groom are employed by Bowie Gridley Architects in Washington, D.C. They reside in Arlington.

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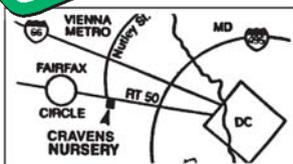


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The Waterlase® allows us to prepare teeth with less trauma which results in significantly less tooth sensitivity after new fillings.

Additionally, using the Waterlase® for gum procedures reduces bleeding, post-operative pain, swelling and the need for pain medication in many cases. That means a new level of comfort and satisfaction for your entire family.

■ Sterilization

The laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay. This is very important. Because of bacterial contamination, many of you have had old fillings replaced with either new fillings, or in many cases, with crowns--and sometimes even root canals!! The reoccurrence of decay under fillings is a primary reason so many root canals are needed. Since this new laser sterilizes the tooth as it removes decay, and since many dentists now use 'bonded' filling materials enriched with fluoride, the chances of ever having recurrent decay under that new filling are much lower.

■ Great for Teenagers

The Waterlase® is especially great for teenagers. Sure, if the dentist is very good, shots should not really be painful. But **KNOWING** you're getting a shot is psychologically painful even if you can't feel the needle--especially for teenagers. By not getting a shot, not feeling the vibration of the drill, and by not hearing the loud drill, kids never become **afraid of the dentist**, so they don't grow up to be adults afraid of the dentist.

By incorporating laser technology into our dental practice, we are changing dentistry. It is no longer yesterday's world of painful shots, large silver mercury fillings, and fearful patients. Lasers have improved the lives of patients and their dentists.

Technology is something that makes life better. Better in this case is better clinical results, improved patient comfort, less use of anesthesia and antibiotics.

We are proud to be one of the first dentists in Fairfax County to offer this revolutionary technology. Since August 2003, Dr. Fox has completed over 3,000 laser fillings with no needle/no pain/no numbness. If you've been putting off going to the dentist because you were nervous about the drill and needle, you don't have to put it off any longer!

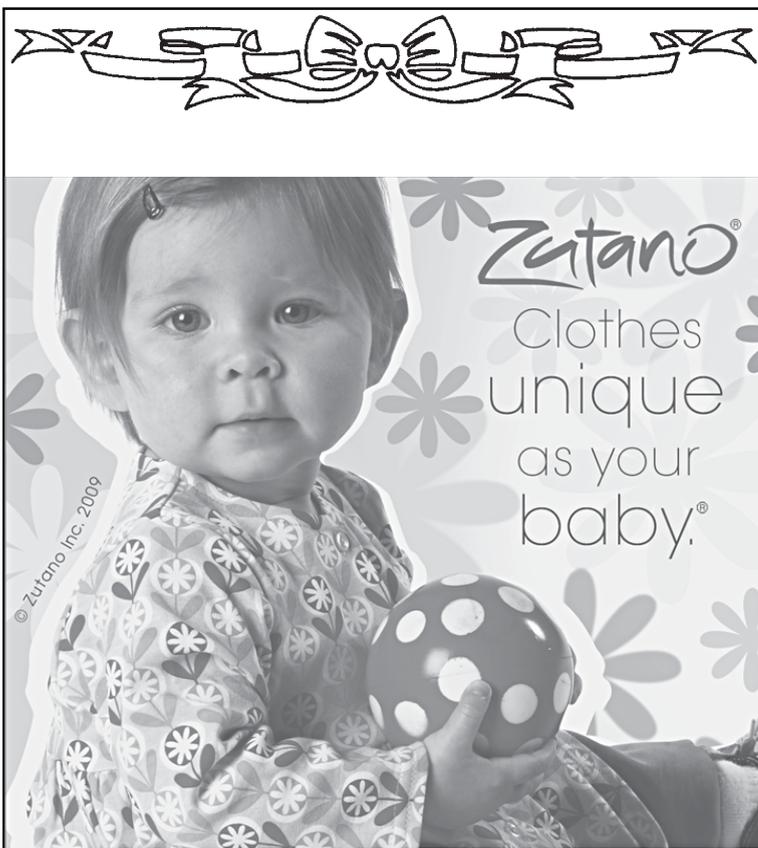
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OPINION

More Advanced Courses

More participation in upper level courses bodes well for students headed to college.

Fairfax County schools reported this week that about 20,000 students are taking at least one Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate course this fall, an increase of 700 over last year. EDITORIAL

Students benefit from participating in advanced level coursework in many ways. Coping with even one class with higher-level expectations helps in preparation for college classes. Completing advanced courses in high school is a good indication of a student's

ability to complete college level work. While that ability is just one element of college success — organization, time management, discipline and more are major factors — the confidence that comes with the experience is key.

Many students who have taken a full AP or IB program report an easier time with the academics of their first year of college, although there are no doubt plenty of other adjustments to make.

Students who take a full complement of AP or IB coursework also lay the groundwork for getting more out of college, and possibly paying less.

A good score on AP or IB exams can be counted for credit in some colleges, so a student with many advanced credits from high school can move directly into upper levels of courses when they arrive in college. And with credit, some students are able to graduate in

three or three-and-a-half years, potentially saving tens of thousands of dollars in the meantime.

Parents and students in schools that offer International Baccalaureate instead of Advanced Placement should know that students who successfully complete an IB course are likely to perform well on the related AP exam, and would be well advised to register to take that AP test. While most colleges accept an AP score of 3 or more for either credit or placement, some colleges are still less consistent about how they handle IB test results. Having the AP test score can make the process in college much simpler. High schools offering IB should also be encouraging their students to take the AP exams.

— MARY KIMM,

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Public Options Are Ill Conceived

BY JOHN PALATIELLO AND LEONARD GILROY

Imagine for a moment the Fairfax County government decides to get into the weekly newspaper business. The Board of Supervisors determines that the advertising rates of The Connection are out of reach for many and offers businesses and individuals advertising at greatly reduced prices, making it available to almost everyone.

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That is exactly what The Connection's editor, Mary Kimm, endorsed in her editorial "Public Options" [The Connection, Aug. 19-25, 2009].

Every time a White House conference on small business has met, it has named unfair government competition a top issue. One such platform said, "Government at all levels has failed to protect small business from damaging levels of unfair competition. At the federal, state and local levels, therefore, laws, regulations and policies should prohibit direct, government created competition in which government organizations perform commercial services."

Governing magazine called golf courses "perhaps the most non-essential of the non essential public services." Not only is there no public interest in low green fees, but governments aren't very good at running golf courses. Many municipal courses run huge deficits and are in poor condition.

The Freedom Foundation of Minnesota reported that municipal golf enterprise funds throughout Minnesota had approximately \$2 million in operating losses in 2007. The South Carolina legislature learned two state-run courses operate at an estimated \$500,000 an-

nual deficit.

Fortunately, more than 25 percent of all municipal golf courses nationally have now been privatized. Governments from New York to Los Angeles have either sold or contracted out the management of their golf courses to private operators. They turned liabilities into revenue generating assets. Non-golfers no longer subsidize duffers on the public links.

The lesson is whether it is golf courses, newspapers or health insurance — government should leave commercial activities to the private sector. Governments at all levels are running deficits and lack the funds needed to carry

Who Needs Health Care?

To the Editor:

We do. As a senior citizen here in Fairfax County, I need it. And for free. We senior citizens have been paying for it out of our first paycheck since we had Social Security deducted from my first full-time job 65 years ago.

The U.S. constitution says, in part, we are all to be treated equal. Of course, we know that is not how it works today. The privileged have their own health care, the poor do not and the middle class is having a most difficult time paying for it.

The jobless is another problem group of folks. They have no jobs because the wealthy, who have their health care, laid us off, so they can continue to increase their yearly bonus.

Is the current system fair? Of course not. Whenever we, as citizens, demand Congress, who holds our tax dollars in the palm of their hands, to stop taking in donations for their reelection campaigns from drug companies, insurance companies and banks, who underwrite loans for insurance and drug companies — until we demand our elected and pre-elected officials to stop these somewhat legal, but unethical ways, only then can we all look to our leaders and expect health care reform to be applied equally for us all to have a chance to be healthy.

Ronald L. Baker
Springfield

out inherently governmental functions. It should forsake the government competition option.

John Palatiello is President of the Business Coalition for Fair Competition in Reston, [www.governmentcompetition.org] and a former Fairfax County Planning Commissioner. Leonard Gilroy is Director of Government Reform at Reason Foundation, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit think tank advancing free minds and free markets, and Senior Fellow for Government Reform at the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy in Springfield.

The Choice Is Clear

To the Editor:

I'm intrigued at the discontinuity between Bob McDonnell's (R) claims and his record.

Much has been written lately of McDonnell's Regent University thesis, "The Republican Party's Vision for the Family." It was written 20 years ago, and Mr. McDonnell says his views have changed. But have they? The language in his 1989 ringing call for change included, among other things, labeling feminism one of the "real enemies of the traditional family" and saying that federal tax cuts for child care costs encourage women to enter the workforce (the horror!). He called a government safety net for the neediest a socialist effort to destroy the family.

By contrast, Mr. McDonnell's opponent for governor, Creigh Deeds (D), has a consistent record of support for women, for public education and for increasing economic opportunity in the commonwealth. He favors a tax cut for small business for each job it provides, as well as common-sense solutions to our pressing transportation problems. And Mr. Deeds' positions have been consistent throughout his record of public service.

To me, the choice is clear: Creigh Deeds.

Edward L. Jaffee
Springfield

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BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

Western Fairfax Republican Women's Club. 6:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center (Sully District Station), 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Meeting and presentation by the speaker, Jim Gilmore, former governor of Virginia will begin at 7 p.m. after the social. For more, visit <http://www.wfrwc.org/>.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

What to Expect this Flu Season. 7 p.m., at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. These town hall style meetings will give residents the opportunity to ask any flu-related questions they may have. Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu will begin each meeting with a brief presentation before taking questions from the public. For information about the town hall meetings visit the Health Department's Web page: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/town-hall-meetings.htm, or call 703-246-2411, TTY 703-591-6435.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

Democratic Women of Clifton will host U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) from 3-5 p.m., at Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Connolly will discuss how a bill is made and the upcoming Virginia elections. Parking available in the parking lot next to the shops.

MONDAY/SEPT. 21

Self-Defense Class. Join Officer Courtney Thibault of the Fairfax County Police's crime prevention unit to learn about self-defense for women. 7 p.m., at the Jewish Community Center of Northern

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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CALENDAR

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 17

Nuts About Squirrels! 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about squirrels. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Barnyard Friends. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Classic and not-so-classic tales from down on the farm. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

Cold, Taproot, Killer and the Star, Midnight to 12 and more. 8 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. \$20 in advance, \$23 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 18

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch, come for stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

The Hardknock Life summer Tour at 4:15 p.m. \$13 in advance, \$15 day of show. Jaxx Midnight Madness with Cycle of Pain and Fuzzbox at 10:30 p.m. \$10. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 19

29th Annual Fall Mosby's Confederacy Bus Tour sponsored by the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society. The Tour Leaders will be Don Hakenson, Gregg Dudding and Eric Buckland. The bus will be leaving the Truro Rectory at 8:30 a.m. It will be visiting various sites in Marshall (Salem) and Rectortown as well as the Caleb Rector House, and more, arriving back at Truro around 5-5:30 p.m. Price: \$65 members of the Stuart-Mosby Society \$75 for non-members. Contact Don Hakenson, 703-971-4984 or dhakenson@cox.net; Gregg Dudding, wdudding@cox.net. Send a check made payable to Don Hakenson to Don Hakenson, 4708 Lillian Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310.

Alexandria Jaycees Community Yard Sale. 6-7 a.m. for set-up and 7 a.m.-2 p.m. for event at Anthony Lane Elementary School, 7137 Beulah St., Alexandria. The cost for sellers is \$15 per space. No cost to browse. www.alexjaycees.org.

Silent Civilian, We Were Gentlemen and more at 1:15 p.m. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. George Lynch's Souls of We, Napoleon & Rags and more at 9:30 p.m. \$18 in advance, \$20 day of show. Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

Car Wash by Boy Scout Troop 1076. 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at Yates Kingstowne Sunoco located at 5800 Kingstowne Center Drive. Proceeds from the car wash are used to fund activities for the troop, such as recent campouts at Hershey Park and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Troop 1076 meets Mondays at the Moose Lodge located at 7701 Beulah St. www.Troop1076.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 20

Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. This year marks Siegel's 17th at George Mason University and the 40th anniversary of Keyboard Conversations. Created so that audiences can gain a richer understanding and appreciation for piano and classical music. Tickets for Keyboard Conversations are \$38,



Traci Oberle and Marni Maree Exhibit at Vale Arts Show

Watercolorist Traci Oberle of Burke and Marni Maree of Springfield will exhibit their most recent work Oct 2-4, at the Vale Arts Fall ART Show in Oakton The nine-member ValeArts will exhibit more than 125 original works in the three day show. Maree has prepared a series of ever-colorful watercolor florals for the show while Oberle has experimented with the abstract in a group of mixed media pieces. The varied paintings will hang in the 1888 Vale schoolhouse, which had been used as a Fairfax county school until the 1930s. Hours are: Friday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3 and 4, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Free.

\$30, \$19 at the George Mason Center for the Arts Concert Hall on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. Family Friendly! Youth through grade 12, half price! Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit www.tickets.com.

"Grand" Piano Celebration. Jean Carrington Cook Memorial Scholarship Concert featuring Mason's Piano Faculty and Scholarship Students. 3 p.m., at Concert Hall, George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$15 adult, \$10 senior, students free.

"Chopin for Lovers!" Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel. 7 p.m., at Concert Hall, George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$38, \$30, \$19. Youth through grade 12, half price.

Apex Booking Local Showcase. 3:15 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

MONDAY/SEPT. 21

One-on-One eAudiobook Training. 6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to download digital audiobooks to a personal computer and portable MP3 player. Call to sign up. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Back to School DIY: Marble Magnets. 4 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Make fun and funky magnets to keep or share. Age 13-18. 703-339-7385.

"Global Warming: Science, Adaptation and Mitigation" by Jagadish Shukla. 7 p.m., at Concert Hall, George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Free.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 22

Computer Tutoring. 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. One-on-one help with computers, common software applications and navigating the Internet. Call to sign up. Adults. 703-249-1520.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 23

Kingstowne Library Writers Peer Review Group. 7 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Review peers' works and receive in-depth feedback on your own work. Adults. 703-339-4610.

Practice Your English. 10:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

Travel Club. 1 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults. 703-451-8055.

Tell It Again. 6 p.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Enjoy a story in English and Spanish. Age 4-12 with adult. 703-451-8055.

Staged Reading. 4:15 p.m., at TheaterSpace, George Mason University. "The English Channel" by Robert Brustein, follows a young Shakespeare on the eve of his theatrical career and stealing his plotlines and dialogue from friends and fellow tavern-goers as they take refuge from the plague. Free.

Staged Reading. 7:30 p.m., at The Space, 10427 North St., Fairfax. "Mortal Terror" by Robert Brustein, involving William Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, John Marston, King James, Queen Anne, the Gunpowder Plot and the destiny of free expression in a time of terror. Free.

Chthonic, Krass Judgement, Cab Ride Home, Apothys and Stitch the Lids. 7 p.m. at Jaxx, 6355 Rolling Road, West Springfield. \$12 in advance, \$15 day of show. 703-569-5940 or jaxxroxx.com.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 24

Discussion of "The Tainted Muse." 10:30 a.m., at George Mason University, Research 1 building, Room 163, Fairfax. Brustein discusses his latest book. Free.

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COLLEGE

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Stephanie K. Lizza of Rockland Court in Clifton was named to the dean's list for the fall 2008 semester. Lizza is a junior majoring in international studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. To qualify for the dean's list, students must attempt at least 12 credit hours graded on the A-F option and earn a 3.4 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the semester.

Ray S. Yankey of Fairfax Station, a sophomore majoring in civil engineering in the College of Engineering, was one

of 127 Hokie Ambassadors, student tour guides, who volunteered for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Virginia Tech during the 2008-09 academic year.

Kelly D. Mitchell of Fairfax Station, a senior majoring in communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, was one of 127 Hokie Ambassadors, student tour guides, who volunteered for the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Virginia Tech during the 2008-09 academic year.

Christina Y. Mejia of Fairfax Station recently graduated from Boston University and received a bachelor of science in business administration and management.

Gina Kirkland of Clifton was recently inducted into the Virginia Tech chapter of Psi Chi National Honor Society.

Two Fairfax Station residents, **Isaac J. Bragum and Lawrence J. Breyfogle**, have recently been named to the dean's list at Boston University for the spring semester.

Dr. Christine Hwang, a general surgery resident from Fairfax Station, has been inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society by the Eta chapter at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield.

MILITARY NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Army National Guard Pvt. Jesse R. Rodriguez has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Maria G. Ramirez of S. Walter Reed Drive, Arlington, and brother of Vladimir Rodriguez of Inverary Court, Lorton. Rodriguez is a 2007 graduate of Washington-Lee High School in Arlington.

Navy Ensign Michael J. Noce, son of Jane S. and Michael A. Noce of Fairfax Station, has received his bachelor's degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, La. Noce is a 2005

graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Army Pvt. Charles M. Gildon has graduated from Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. He is the son of Lynn Gildon of Clara Barton Drive, Fairfax Station.

Air Force Cadet Ian T. Hurdle of Clifton has graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. The graduate received a bachelor of science degree and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.

Army Spec. Brian W. Tobias has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Craig Tobias of Beaver Pond Lane, Fairfax Station. Tobias graduated in 1996 from Lake Braddock Secondary

School and received a bachelor's degree in 2008 from Liberty University in Lynchburg.

Navy Lt. Robert W. Kurrle Jr., whose wife, Jennifer, is the daughter of Trudy and Jim Larson of Fairfax Station, was recently selected to the 2010 Blue Angels, the U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, while assigned to VFA-106, Naval Air Station Oceana, Va. He will be serving as a Blue Angel's F/A-18 Hornet pilot.

Army National Guard Spec. Gregory M. Larsen has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. He is the son of Barbara Larsen of Wainwright Drive, Reston and David Larsen of Clifton Road, Clifton Station. Larsen is a 2007 graduate of W.T. Woodson High School.

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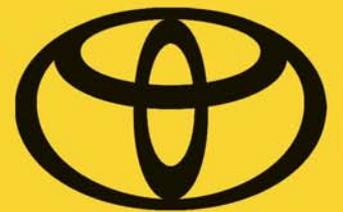
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SPORTS

Stallions Start Fast at Monroe Parker Invitational

Personal best times and surprising finishes highlight South County's season opening race.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Jackie Dunbar's 17th place finish at the Monroe Parker Invitational cross country meet may not have been the fastest performance of the race, but it was a personal best on the 2.98 mile course.

"I started out faster than I normally do," the South County Secondary School senior said. "I just tried to hold on for the rest of the race."

Exhausted by the sloping hills on the Burke Lake course, Dunbar battled through fatigue and managed to beat her best time on the course by 20 seconds with a final time of 19:12.

"I'm just really happy that I improved on my time," she said.

Dunbar's performance wasn't the only surprise for the Stallions' cross country team. Despite injuries and stiff competition, South County finished in sixth place in both the boys and girls team competitions.

"We had a lot of surprises today," Head Coach Robert Christie said. "A lot of people stepped up. The girls were just great out there today and overall I'm pleased."

The Stallions' boys team also had to overcome injuries to post their sixth-place team finish.

"Our top runner twisted his ankle during the race," he said. "Another one of our [runners] had jaw surgery and is just now starting to run again."

With the first race of the season over, Christie said that his team's depth should help them be a contender in the Patriot District.

"We just saw a lot of great things from the younger kids and we're excited for the rest of the season," he said. "The older kids know what they're going to need to do to be successful."

South County's top girls finisher was

Madeleine Willner who placed 16th overall and posted a time of 19:12. The top boys finisher was Dylan Morgan who finished 12th overall and posted a time of 16:15.

The South County Stallions also competed against new Patriot District member W.T. Woodson High School.

Woodson sophomore cross country runner Paul Gates hoped that he could use the race as a test of his abilities against some of the region's best runners.

Finishing with a time of 16:04, Gates turned in the best time of all the Woodson boys. His 12th place finish helped him gauge where he stands with the Patriot District's best.

"I stayed with the leaders for the first mile," he said. "In the second mile they pulled away, but in the third mile I just went all out."

With stiff competition from Chantilly High School's Chris Foley and other Patriot District rivals from Lake Braddock Secondary School and West Springfield, Gates' strong effort was enough to keep pace with the tournament favorites.

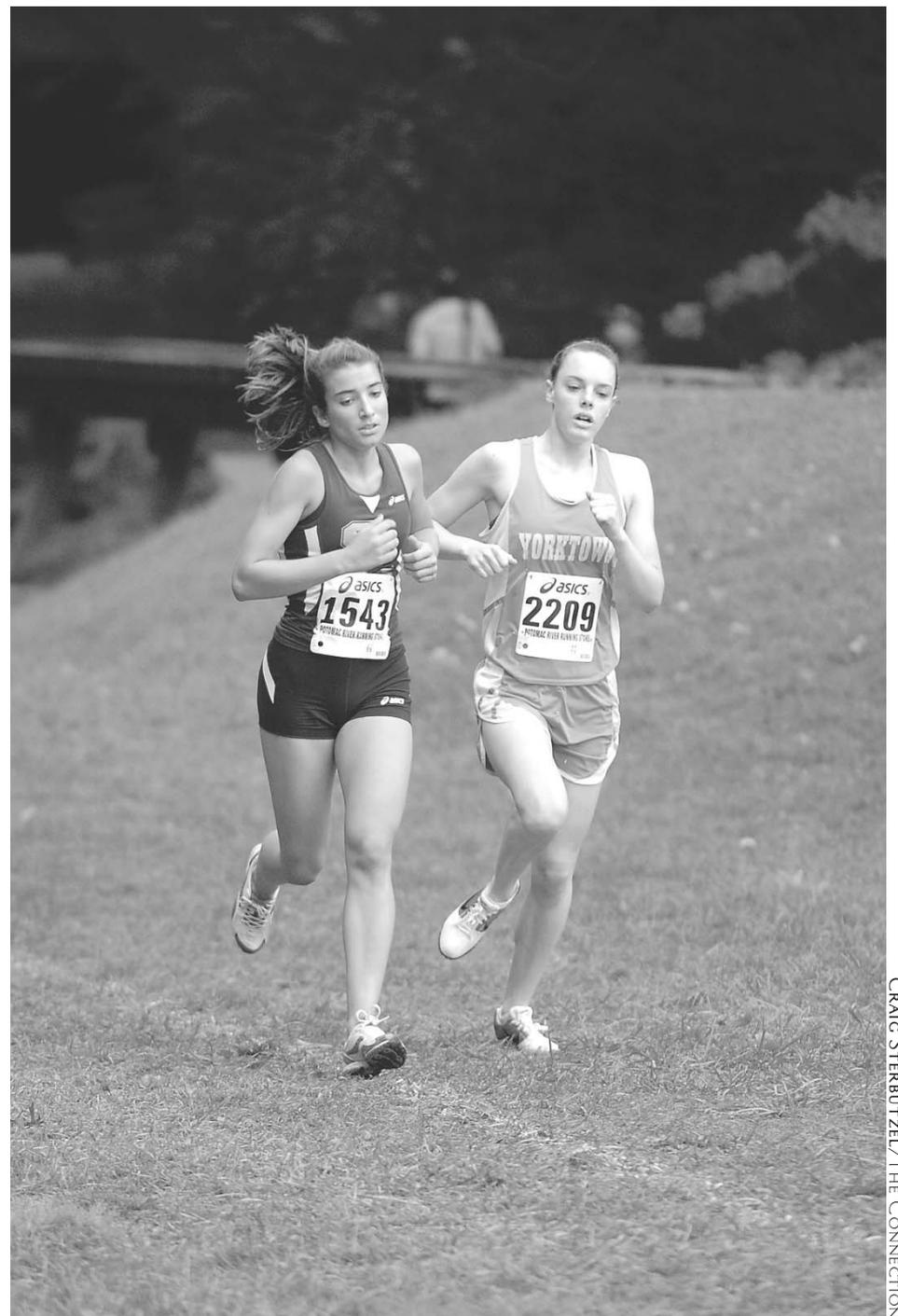
"I just wanted to go out there and run my race," he said. "I was able to run the way I wanted to."

Though he didn't place in the top 10, the sophomore's cross country career is bright. Woodson's coach, Casandra DeVaughn is looking for Gates to be a leader this season.

"He made a major improvement today," DeVaughn said. "He's a sophomore and he is our No. 1 varsity runner. We're expecting him to perform well."

Last season Gates finished 16th at the district tournament and ran a 16:31 at regionals.

While Gates was Woodson's top performer, DeVaughn quickly pointed out that many members of her young team exceeded expectations, giving the Cavaliers hope to



CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South County's Madeleine Willner battles with Yorktown's Lindsey Hunt on the final stretch of the course. Willner was the Stallion's girls' team top finisher.

compete in the historically strong Patriot District.

"We have a lot of new faces this year, but this was a great way to start out the season," DeVaughn said. "Our freshmen started off strong and now we're just looking for kids to work hard and step it up. We're in a good place for the season."

The Cavalier boys finished in eighth place

in the team competition with 269 points. The girls finished 11th with a score of 338.

With one race completed this season, Gates said he's ready to use what he learned in the race to improve.

"I need to improve my endurance and work on my speed," he said. "[The Patriot District] is tougher and we all need to step up to meet the demands of the district."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Lake Braddock Defeats West Pot.

The Lake Braddock Volleyball team continued its winning ways with a 4-1 victory against West Potomac High School on Sept. 10.

Standouts in the match were Tara Fialkow who had nine digs, 12 receptions, six aces and nine kills. The Bruins also had strong performances from Tara Everhart, Emily Lavery, Imani Hudson, Jamie Cachuela, Kyla Rodi and Logan Russell.

The Bruins are now 3-1 this season and are 2-0 in Patriot District play.

Woodson Slips Past Bruins

Pegged as one of the Patriot District's top teams, the Lake Braddock Secondary School varsity football team learned it's going to take more hard work to live up to expectations after a 43-42 loss to W. T. Woodson High School.

The Bruins started the season hot with a dominating 38-0 victory against Langley High School. Elevating the Bruins' confidence was the fact that its offense had scored 135 points through one game and two scrimmages and had allowed only 14 points total across those contests.

But on Sept. 11, the Cavaliers got the best of the Bruins. Head Coach Jim Poythress, however, wondered if the Bruins beat themselves.

"We dominated the early going, but [late in the second half] Woodson scored [and kept it close]," Poythress said. "I felt like our kids were surprised. All of our games and scrimmages to this point had been blowouts. The kids looked like they didn't know what to do when they were challenged."

The late first-half touchdown by Woodson and a second-half comeback also affected the Bruins' game plan.

"We were out of our comfort zone," Poythress said. "We started playing to not lose instead of to win."

Making matters worse, when the Bruins did hit a second-half offensive stride, the team allowed 14 unanswered points on defense.

"We got up 35-21 and the kids relaxed," he said. "The kids thought the game was over at that point. Once they relaxed, bam, it's 35-35 and Woodson had all the momentum."

Adding to the Bruins woes was a controversial 2-point conversation where Woodson's quarterback may have thrown the ball while on his back, which should have resulted in a sack.

"It just happened really fast," Poythress said. "It was the decisive play. You hate to lose on those sort of things."

If you don't know where you're going, you'll end up somewhere else.
—Yogi Berra

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FAITH

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Join Congregation Adat Reyim for the High Holidays: Rosh Hashanah Services Friday evening, Sept. 18; Saturday, Sept. 19 and Sunday, Sept. 20, with a family service open to the community on Saturday at 2 p.m. Take part in the Community Tashlich Service on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 2 p.m. Yom Kippur Services begin with Kol Nidre, Sunday evening, Sept. 27 and Monday, Sept. 28, with a family service open to the community at 2 p.m. Tickets are available for non-members. For more information and times, call 703-569-7577, or visit AdatReyim.org.

Saint Peter's in the Woods hosts its Annual Community Picnic on Saturday, Sept. 26, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 5911 Fairview Woods Drive, Fairfax Station. Free. Games, entertainment, face-painting, moon bounce and more.

Parenting: The Early Years Class. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, will offer a six-session video study for parents of young children on Mondays from 7-9 p.m. starting Oct 5-Nov 16 (no class on Oct. 12). \$15 registration fee, which includes a workbook. To register, contact Frank at 703-971-5151 ext.112, or e-mail dce@franconiaumc.org. Web site: http://www.franconiaumc.org.

Community Days at Harvest

Church. Saturday, Oct. 3 and Sunday, Oct. 4. Bring the whole family to Saturdays events from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and will include inflatables, rock wall, pony rides, face painting, magic show, drawings for prizes, etc. On Sunday a special one-hour community service will begin at 10:30 a.m. highlighting the various ministries of the church. Grand prizes will be given away on Sunday. Must be present to win and at least 18 years of age. Free. Harvest Church is located at 7401 Beulah St., Kingstowne. Call 703-971-7070 or visit www.harvestchurch.org.

Messiah United Methodist Church is located at 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. For more information, call 703-569-9862 or visit www.messiahumc.org.

❖ **A Community of Contagious Joy.** Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m., with Holy Communion every Sunday; and 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

❖ **Heartline:** An interactive praise and worship service, Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.

Fairfax Presbyterian Church worship services are at 8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. at 10723 Main St., Fairfax. Contact 703-273-5300 or fpc@fairfaxpresby.com.

Sydenstricker United Methodist Church will be open to the public every Wednesday morning from 5:45-7:45 a.m. for prayer and meditation. The church is at 8508 Hooes Road. Free. 703-451-8223. www.sumdisciples.org.

One God Ministry Church, located at 4280/4282 Chain Bridge Road,

Fairfax, has launched a new Web site with news, events, training, conferences, fellowship programs and more. Sunday School is at 10 a.m., Sunday Worship Service at 11 a.m., and Wednesday Prayer Service at 7 p.m. Women's, Men's, and Youth Bible Studies are on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. A Spiritual Gifts Service is the first Friday of every month at 7 p.m. One God Ministry has ministries for youth, men, women, couples, music and singles. 703-591-6161 or www.onegodministry.org.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church presents Financial Peace University, a video-based small group study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth and better manage their finances. Contact Arlene K. Darke at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. 703-323-9500 or ardarke@lordoflifelutheran.com.

New Women's Bible Study meets at Jubilee Christian Center on Tuesdays, 9:45 a.m.-12 p.m. The study will focus on "Spirit, Soul, and Body" by Andrew Wommack. \$10 per person. Nursery provided for registered children. 703-383-1170 or www.jccag.org.

The Fresh Fire congregation meets every Sunday for a service at 10:30 a.m. Pastor Sackey and his congregation invite all to participate in preaching and teaching, praise and worship, in a Christ-centered ministry. Fresh Fire International Center meets at the Chinese Martial Arts Building, 8426-B Lee Highway, Fairfax, opposite the BMW Fairfax; entrance is in the back. 703-815-8950.

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- Cranford United Methodist Church**...703-339-5382
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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9
Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike,
Fairfax. Free. Dessert served. RSVP to
703-323-0880.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 24

Universal Design Seminar. 9 a.m. to
12 p.m., at West Springfield
Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling
Road, Springfield. Universal design
modifications can help older adults
make their homes safer and more
comfortable. Free. Space is limited to
45; RSVP by e-mail to
springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov or call
703-451-8873, TTY 711.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 26

Volunteer Fair for Older Adults. 10
a.m.-12 p.m., at Kingstowne Center
for Active Adults, 6488 Landsdowne
Center, Alexandria and the adjacent
Kingstowne Library.
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or
703-704-6075 or trina.mayhan-
webb@fairfaxcounty.gov. Attendees
will have the chance to visit with
area nonprofit groups and county
agencies that are in need of
volunteers.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 29

What to Expect this Flu Season. 7
p.m., at the Franconia Governmental
Center, 6121 Franconia Road,
Alexandria. These town hall style
meetings will give residents the
opportunity to ask any flu-related
questions they may have. Dr. Gloria
Addo-Ayensu will begin each meeting
with a brief presentation before
taking questions from the public. For
information about the town hall
meetings, visit the Health
Department's Web page:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/flu/town-
hall-meetings.htm, or call 703-246-
2411, TTY 703-591-6435.



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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Burke (22015)					
6221 GARRETSON ST	\$499,900	Sun 1-4	RE/MAX	Enkhtuya Lodon	202-320-0020
Fairfax Station (22039)					
11611 YATES FORD RD	\$767,500	Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	Karen Paris	571-220-7503
10717 TIMBERIDGE RD	\$1,049,900	Sun 1-4	Long & Foster	Ann Grainger	703-503-1870
7101 PARK POINT CT	\$669,950	Sun 1-4	Weichert	Kathleen Quintarelli	703-862-8808
9103 AUTUMN OAK CT	\$724,900	Sun 1-4	PenFed	Eric Guggenheimer	571-278-4924
8304 PINYON PINE CT	\$899,900	Sun 1-4	Long & Foster	Mary Wharton	703-452-3945
10905 OLM DR	\$645,000	Sun 1-4	Weichert	Valerie Gaskins	703-881-2787
11535 LILTING LA	\$929,000	Sun 1-4	Long & Foster	Carol Hermendorf	703-503-1812
Lorton (22079)					
8940 HOLLYMEADE DR	\$759,000	Sun 1-4	Jobin	Donna Er	703-861-2350
Clifton (20124)					
12400 HENDERSON RD	\$849,900	Sun 1-4	Long & Foster	Ann Grainger	703-503-1870
Springfield (22150, 22151, 22152, 22153)					
6020 DINWIDDIE ST	\$389,900	Sat 11-5	Premiere	Mona Shrestha	703-300-7055
5613 QUEENSBERRY AVE	\$389,900	Sat 12-4	Weichert	Preston Lewis	703-850-0978
5405 ROLLING RD	\$428,000	Sun 12-4	Avery-Hess	Susan Metcalf	703-472-6512
Kingstowne/Alexandria (22310, 22315)					
5662 CLOUDS MILL DR	\$765,000	Sun 1-4	Keller Williams	Diane Rastelli	703-609-9069
6535 GRANGE LA, #402	\$339,900	Sat 1-5	Belinsky	Vladimir Gherman	703-909-5487
6112 REDWOOD LA	\$539,935	Sun 1-4	Weichert	Phil Cefaratti	703-371-7601
4400 EATON PL	\$625,000	Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker	Rita McCauley-Redmond	703-447-9114
5644 GLENWOOD DR	\$825,000	Sun 1-4	Coldwell Banker	Phyllis Patterson	703-408-4232
6014 BITTERNUT DR	\$444,900	Sun 1-5	Weichert	Edgar Moore	703-598-7942
Annandale (22003)					
3711 MERLIN WAY	\$625,000	Sun 1-4	Samson	Scott Koval	703-625-3446

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR SOLID WASTE
PERMIT-BY-RULE FACILITY**

In accordance with Virginia Solid Waste Management regulations 9 VAC 20-80-485.2.g., citizens may comment on a permit-by-rule application for a materials recovery facility to be located at 10100 Furnace Road in Lorton, Virginia. COMMENT PERIOD: September 8, 2009 through October 19, 2009. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT: W&N Material Recovery Facility, 10001 Furnace Road, Lorton, Virginia 22079. The facility is owned and operated by Furnace Associates, Inc. PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The purpose of this notice is to allow the public to comment on a proposed material recovery facility, which will operate under a permit-by-rule to be issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality after public comments are received. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The facility is located on a 9.7 acre property off Furnace Road. The facility will accept construction and demolition debris and will process the waste to recover recyclable materials, such as cardboard, steel, or brick. Recyclable materials will be shipped off-site and reused, while remaining residuals will be shipped off-site for disposal. No waste materials will be left on-site. TO REVIEW THE PERMIT APPLICATION: A copy of the permit-by-rule application document is available for review at the Lorton Public Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, Virginia 22079 under the title W&N Material Recovery Facility. HOW TO COMMENT: Written comments may be submitted at any time during the comment period via e-mail to the following address: wncomments@geosyntec.com. Alternatively, written comments can be mailed to: Hearing Officer, c/o Geosyntec Consultants, 10220 Old Columbia Road, Suite A, Columbia, Maryland 21046. Comments must include the name and address of the person commenting as well as a brief statement regarding the interest of the person commenting and how the operation of the facility may affect the citizen. Oral and written comments will be received at a public meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m. on October 19, 2009 at the Lorton Public Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton, Virginia 22079.

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www.visithardy.com/heritage.html

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Public Information Meetings I-66 Transit/Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study

The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) is conducting this study to identify potential short- and medium-term transit and TDM enhancements that will increase mobility in the I-66 corridor between Washington, D.C. and Haymarket, Virginia.

The public information meetings will focus on the transportation alternatives under study, including new bus services such as Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), express bus service and commuter choices such as carpooling, vanpooling and park and ride lots.

Each meeting will include a continuous open house with study representatives available to provide information. Presentations will be given at 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. with an opportunity for questions and answers afterwards.

Meeting Dates and Locations

Wednesday, September 23, 2009	Wednesday, September 30, 2009
Arlington County Board Room-3rd Floor 2100 Clarendon Boulevard Arlington, VA 22201	Oakton High School Cafeteria 2900 Sutton Road Vienna, VA 22181
Thursday, September 24, 2009	Schedule for all Meetings:
Battlefield High School Auditorium 15000 Graduation Drive Haymarket, VA 20169	6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Open House 7:00 p.m. – Presentation and Q&A 8:00 p.m. – Presentation and Q&A

For more information on the study, visit
www.drpt.virginia.gov/activities/I66study.aspx

If you are unable to attend a meeting, comments on the study may be sent to Public Information Office, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219, or DRPTPR@DRPT.Virginia.gov. Comments will be accepted until October 9, 2009.

DRPT ensures nondiscrimination in all programs, services and activities in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. For special assistance or information, call (804) 786-4440 or TDD 711 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting date.

NEWS

Transportation Secretary Paints Gloomy Scenario

FROM PAGE 3

in Virginia's transportation funding over the past 18 months lead his department to make some tough choices, including a decision to mow state-controlled roads fewer times during the year.

"The \$60 million per year we spend on mowing? We had to reduce it," said Homer at the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance's yearly "What You Need To Know About Transportation" seminar and fundraiser Sept. 9.

Other reductions Homer's department has had to make include shuttering 19 highway rest stops — which cost \$500,000 each to run — and closing one third of the transportation department's local storefronts, which means many rural communities will not be able to have face-to-face contact with state transportation officials.

HOMER SAID Virginia's transportation department will probably have to "lower the standard" of snow removal statewide, meaning those same Fairfax County corridors that have not been mowed are at risk for not being plowed after a snow storm in timely fashion.

Homer has also had to drastically reduce the amount of funding Virginia gives out to localities to deal with smaller projects like new stop lights, parking signs, stop signs and turn lanes.

Two years ago, Fairfax County received \$18 million from Virginia for these "bread and butter" functions. In this fiscal year, which started July 1, the locality received just \$230,000, which does not even cover the cost of installing a traffic signal at a major intersection, said county officials.

Next year, Homer says Fairfax — and most other localities in Northern Virginia — should not expect to see any state money for such functions.

Currently, the transportation secretary is choosing between funding basic maintenance projects at the state level, like shoring up existing bridges and replacing pavement, and putting up the money required to access funding from the Federal Highway Administration.

Since Virginia receives four federal dollars for every one local dollar it offers up for federal highway administration projects, Homer has chosen to make matching federal highway dollars the priority over maintenance. But he wonders how long Virginia can afford not to fund its own upkeep projects.

"There are parts of the state where we are condemning bridges because there is no money to repair them," said Homer.

The Virginia Department of Transportation has also made significant staff cutbacks as a result of the loss of revenue. In the last 18 months, Homer has laid off 1,000 full-time employees and 450 part-time employees.

"When I started in this position, [the state

transportation department] had 10,000 employees and I will leave it with 7,500 employees," said Homer, who has served as transportation secretary for almost eight years and plans to leave at the end of 2009.

VIRGINIA'S funding for transportation continues to diminish because its largest sources of revenue — mainly a state gas tax and fees associated with car sales — have diminished, according to Homer.

"In the last 18 months, we have lost \$4.6 billion because we are a business based on the sale of gasoline and new and used cars. That is not a very good business model," said Homer.

In the current economic climate, consumers are not buying more expensive items like cars. Vehicles have also gotten far more fuel-efficient since the Virginia General Assembly last raised the gas tax in 1986 so that revenue source does not bring in as much money. Inflation has also reduced the purchasing power of money collected from the 1986 gas tax, which is fixed at 12 cents.

Almost everyone in the General Assembly agrees that the state needs to devote more money to transportation funding. Representatives from Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads in particular have pushed for a solution.

But the General Assembly has been deadlocked in a partisan and ideological divide over how to fund transportation for the past decade.

"All of us are a little surprised that we haven't been able to find a solution," said Homer.

In general, Democrats in state senate and some in the House of Delegates have pushed for an increase in the gas tax. They argue that because the gas tax has not kept up with inflation, consumers have actually been receiving a "tax break" on gas for many years.

But some Democrats in the House of Delegates — particularly those from economically depressed and rural areas — have opposed an increase in the gas tax. And Republicans, particularly those who control the House of Delegates, have objected to any sort of tax increase for the most part.

Republicans say that the General Assembly should use more money from the state general fund — which supports public safety and education functions in the commonwealth — for transportation projects. Republican gubernatorial candidate Bob McDonnell has also called for the state to dedicate a portion of its future revenue growth to transportation.

In the last 10 years, only one bill with new transportation funding has made it out of the state assembly. Unfortunately, the Virginia Supreme Court declared a large part of that legislation — which largely passed off the responsibility of raising taxes and fees to local government officials— unconstitutional.



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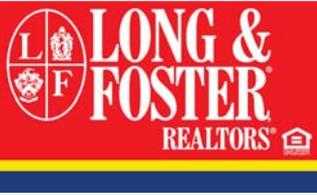


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Clifton \$859,000 Charming New England Colonial!

5 acres with swimming pool. Total privacy yet very close to Historic town of Clifton. 5BR, 4BA, 3 fireplaces. All new Kitchen with

Granite counters and upgraded appliances. Fully finished walkout lower level with 5th bedroom/den, full bath, & rec. room. Great Value!

See this property at www.GraingerTeam.com
Ann Grainger 703-503-1870



Fairfax Station \$975,000 Builder's Own Home!

This is one of the prettiest settings you will find in all of Fairfax Station! 5 gorgeous acres w/professionally designed landscaping, brick & slate walkways & patio. A golfer's delight including a lighted putting green, sand trap, and driving range, plus a 3-stall stable! 4BR, 3.5 BA, Lib, fin. walkout bsmt. The 2 story sun room addition is spectacular! A perfect "10".

See this property at www.GraingerTeam.com.



Sheila Adams

703-503-1895

Life Member, NVAR Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club
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Fairfax Station \$739,000

Crosspointe
This stunning brick front colonial features 4 BRs, 3 1/2 Baths, gorgeous hardwood floors through-out.

Granite counters grace the large updated kitchen, adjacent family room opens to wonderful deck perfect for entertaining. The Lower level is unbelievable with Media Room, Recreation Room w/Wet Bar & Study area. Great Location, minutes to Parkway, Metro & I-95. For a private showing

Call Sheila Adams 703.503.1895

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