

Fairfax Station ❖ Laurel Hill CONNECTION

Clifton ❖ Lorton Valley ❖ Crosspointe

Singing Christmas carols in the RussekRobbins home during the Clifton Homes Tour are Vocal Express members, from left, Bruce McCall, Diane Allard and Lynne Johnson.

Holiday Cheer

NEWS, PAGE 3

Keep On
Chuggin'

NEWS, PAGE 4

Rotary Club
Goes South

NEWS, PAGE 3

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Teeth Whitening...What You Should Know.



With the holidays around the corner, everyone seems to be coming in to whiten their teeth for their picture perfect moments. So before you start using whitening products that you may be completely unfamiliar with, you may want to read this article.

If you want to whiten your teeth, the best place to start is with a healthy mouth. Tooth decay, sensitive or cracked teeth, infections or periodontal (gum) problems should be diagnosed and treated before any teeth whitening procedure. Otherwise, you could experience discomfort. If using the right products, the whitening process is safe; however, it can aggravate existing problems.

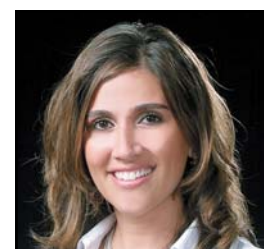
Rather than heading to the local cosmetic counter or shopping mall in search of teeth whiteners, start with a dental check up. This way, we can diagnose the cause of discoloration—injury, stains from food or tobacco, antibiotic treatment and so on. Whitening products only work on natural tooth enamel, not on crowns, veneers, bonding materials or tooth colored fillings. Does this mean if you have any of the above mentioned conditions you are stuck with yellow teeth? Absolutely not! The diagnosis is important; from there, we can determine whether whitening will work for you and which product will suit you best; otherwise you could be wasting time and money!

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Songs For the Season

Snow postpones parade, Homes Tour goes on.

All decked out for the holidays, the Town of Clifton conducted its annual, Candlelight Homes Tour, Saturday, Dec. 5, and the season's first snow only added to the ambience. However, the weather forced the parade on horseback to be postponed until Saturday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m.

— BONNIE HOBBS



The Vocal Express of Fairfax sang Christmas carols in each home on tour. From left are Don Johnson, Jennie Boyt, Laura Possessky, Bruce McCall, Diane Allard and Lynne Johnson.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Board Rejects Meals Tax

Hyland floats proposal to offset potential hike in real estate tax.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors killed a proposal for a special election to ask the voters if they would approve a new tax on restaurant meals in 2010.

Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) put forward the suggestion at a Dec. 7 board meeting. He wanted to conduct the special election March 16, so that a meals tax could be incorporated into the upcoming 2010 budget planning if voters approved the measure.

The supervisors said a meal tax could result in an extra \$80 million in revenue for the county. Hyland argued it would also bring tax diversification to Fairfax and government, which relied on local real estate taxes to fund more than 60 percent of its budget last year.

According to recent county documents, approximately 1 cent per \$100 of assessed value in the real estate tax rate produces \$18 million in revenue for the county. By implementing a meals tax, the county could have potentially offset an increase in the residential real estate tax rate by about 4 cents, said supporters.

Hyland wanted to use money generated by the meals tax to fund Fairfax County Public Schools. Hyland's motion only garnered two other votes of support, from Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and John Foust (D-Dranesville).

THE THREE REPUBLICANS on the board — Supervisors Patrick Herry (Springfield), Michael Frey (Sully) and John Cook (Braddock) — said they opposed the meals tax for philosophical reasons.

"This is really nothing but a different way to increase the tax burden on our citizens," said Herry, during the board meeting.

Herry and Frey said they were also concerned about the expense associated with holding a

SEE MEALS TAX, PAGE 5

New Club Planned for Lorton

Rotary District 7610 is forming new service club for residents of South County area.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

For more than 100 years, Rotary Clubs have been working in communities across the world to fulfill their motto, 'service above self,' which is more of a mission than a credo for their members. Their efforts to combat hunger, improve health, provide education and promote peace have enriched many lives over the years, and now, the Rotary is looking to expand its reach into the Lorton area.

Rotary District 7610, whose borders are Loudoun County to the north, Ablemarle County to the west, Gloucester County to the south and King George County to the east, is forming a new Rotary Club in Lorton. The club will include Occoquan, Colchester, Mason Neck and part of Southern Fairfax Station.

"We've got clubs all around the Lorton

area, but not in it, so we figured we'd put one out there and extend Rotary to serve more people and their communities," said Dave Mercer, district governor special representative and Bailey's Crossroads Rotary Club member, who is leading the formation process. "We need a club in Lorton to support our charity activities in that area."

According to Mercer, the process to start a club in Lorton began many months ago. Mercer said that the district's Extension Committee was doing research on population and business growth in areas where the Rotary did not have a club, and Lorton immediately stood out. The data showed that 18,000 people are living in the area and that business presence and growth was strong. Soon thereafter, plans were put in motion to form a new club.

"We looked at this area for quite some time and we knew that the population growth in the area has been escalating in

the past few years," said District 7610 Governor Horace McCormick. "Potential Rotarians were moving into the area and we wanted to serve them."

The new club, Mercer said, will be comprised completely of new members. Rotary International requires a minimum of 20 members for the club to be chartered, so Mercer will be leading an effort over the next two months to spread the word

throughout the community about the club's formation in order to recruit new members. He will be hosting a series of evening mixers for local residents and business leaders where current Rotarians will give an overview of the club and

the type of activities they engage in.

"We want to have a viable club, so it's really a matter of finding a mix of people who have an interest in leading the club with a commitment to serve the community," said Scott Mills, a member of the McLean Rotary Club and a district governor special representative assigned to the formation of a new Ashburn club. "We look for people who can sustain a club over a

"We need a club in Lorton to support our charity activities in that area."

— Dave Mercer, district governor special representative

SEE NEW ROTARY, PAGE 5

Join the Lorton Club

Contact Dave Mercer at 703-795-9229 or DSMercer@cox.net for more information on Rotary and to apply for membership.

Commercial Vehicles Banned From Residential Streets

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to ban most commercial vehicles, trailers, trucks and vans from parking on residential streets at the group's meeting Dec. 7. Only one board member, Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), dissented.

"This is something that we hear about in our offices all the time," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

Among the handful of witnesses that testified, not one person opposed the measure and most spoke enthusiastically in favor of it.

"We want you to prohibit the parking of certain vehicles in residential areas," said Margie Wheedleton, vice president of the Brookfield Civic Association in Chantilly.

William Coleman, who lives in the Lee District, said approximately nine D.C. taxi cabs park on one of his neighborhood streets, which is only one-third of a mile long, every night.

"They leak oil and destroy the professional character of our neighborhood," said Coleman, who added that the cabs do not seem to belong to any nearby residents.

Barb Branham of the Lake Braddock Homeowners Association said that 20 to 30 vehicles park on one stretch of street with only about 12 homes on it. None of the residents in those homes typically know who owns the vehicles.

"The ladder vans lined up really impair the site line of people trying to get in and out of their driveways. ... There are also property value issues," said Branham.

Previously, Fairfax County prohibited vehicles of a certain weight to park in residential neighborhoods. Now, the ban has been expanded to include vehicles that are more than 21 feet long, more than 8 feet high, and at a width of 102 inches or more. Vehicles carrying commercial freight as well as many trailers or semi-trailers are prohibited.

Residents will also not be able to park any vehicle with three or more axles on the street, according to county documents.

A few exceptions exist where commercial vehicles are permitted. One resident of each single-family dwelling unit is allowed to park one taxi cab or limousine on the street, but the vehicle has to be registered in Virginia.

Virginia law also exempts commercial vehicles of a public service company, school buses, vehicles used to transport people with disabilities, vehicles for cable television and vehicles for propane gas service from being prohibited. Additionally, moving vans or trucks are allowed to park on a residential street for up to 48 hours, according to Fairfax documents.

Residents are also allowed to keep boats, campers and motor homes on a residential street until a "community parking district" restricting such vehicles from public property is implemented. Currently, both the Mount Vernon and Lee districts have such a ban in place.

The supervisors said they would allow a "grace period" of 30 days before they start enforcing the new regulation, so that commercial vehicle owners can figure out an alternative parking situation.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

Unemployment Still Rising

Fairfax County's unemployment rate reached 4.7 percent in September, approximately 1.8 percent higher than it was during the same month a year earlier.

During August, the number of jobs in Northern Virginia declined by 13,000, approximately 1 percent, overall. It was the region's 10th straight month of job losses, though Northern Virginia still has the lowest jobless rate in the

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 9

Toot-Toot, Chugga-Chugga

Railroad museum hosts 20th annual Model Train Display last weekend.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Dropping temperatures, falling snow and even a brief power outage could not stop the engines from pumping and the wheels from turning at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum last weekend.

The museum hosted its 20th annual Holiday Model Train Show Saturday, Dec. 5 and, despite the difficulties, drew a large crowd of train enthusiasts of all ages. Once again, the museum welcomed back familiar faces from model train groups from across the region to display their locomotives.

"We look forward to this event every year," said Bob Minnis of the HO Potomac Module Crew. "We like the people who come to it and it kicks off the Christmas season. We look for any reason to run trains, too."

The HO Potomac Module Crew was just one of several groups displaying trains off all sizes, or gauges. Ell Geib, brought the smallest trains of the show, the Z-Scale models, which are 1/220 of the size of an actual locomotive. Rodney Bohlmann and Mitch Mitchell represented Northern Virginia NTRAK, which runs N-Scale Trains that are 1:148 scale. Minnis' HO Potomac Module Crew ran half-O gauge trains, which are 1:87 scale, and the National Capital Trackers ran 1:48 scale O-gauge trains.

In addition, the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Garden Railway Society and Monty's Lego Trains also had displays at the show that got chil-

"The kids love watching the trains. They could stay here all day."

— Twila Lytle



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

The caboose housed Monty Smith's Lego Trains and NTRAK's N-Scale display.

dren especially excited. Jeff Mitulla, of the Garden Railway Society and a member of the Friends of Fairfax Station, Inc. Board of Directors, continued a nearly decade-long tradition of running a G-Scale train around the perimeter of the museum. Most years, running a train outside is no problem, Mitulla said, but this year, due to the snow, a small "plow train" had to run in front of the engine to push snow off of the tracks.

"We've been here when it is 70 degrees out, raining and now this year, it's snowing so we have a plow

SEE TRAINS, PAGE 18



Thom McKinney of National Capital Trackers with his group's O-Scale trains.



Hope Danielson has this standard-gauge train display set up at the museum year-round.

Meals Tax Nixed

FROM PAGE 3

countywide special election. Given that Hyland has known about the county budget forecast for months, they also questioned why the Democrat had not recommended putting a meals tax on the November general election ballot.

"I will not support doing this as a special election. It is just too costly," said Frey.

A few of the four remaining Democrats who voted against Hyland's proposal wanted to have more discussion on the matter of a meals tax referendum before voting on the proposal.

Given that there was no chance for a more in-depth discussion, some board members felt uncomfortable voting for Hyland's proposal, even though they might have supported a meals tax referendum overall.

"I think this has been brought up too abruptly. ... I want to make sure we have a package that could be presented that the restaurant and business community would believe is fair," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

But Hudgins said the board had discussed the possibility of a meals tax at several times already, including during the supervisors' group retreat and through a board matter Hyland brought to a few months ago.

"Each time we have raised this, there has been some reason not to discuss it," said Hudgins.

UNDER VIRGINIA LAW, most counties must conduct a voter referendum on the issue of a meals tax in order to implementing it. But governing bodies in towns, cities and some urban counties have the ability to implement a meals tax without a specific vote of approval from the public.

The result is that Fairfax, where a meals tax overwhelmingly failed in 1993, has fewer revenue options than some surrounding jurisdictions. Elected officials in the cities of Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, Manassas and Manassas Park have all passed meal taxes as well as those in Arlington County and the towns of Herndon, Leesburg and Vienna have all passed taxes on restaurant meals without the hurdle of a referendum.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

New Rotary Club

FROM PAGE 3

long period of time and that takes a mix of unique skill sets."

The activity that the new Rotarians will engage in, according to Mercer, would be the same that other local clubs are participating in. District 7610's main project currently is "End Polio Now," a project involving the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and governments from across the world. The project's goal is to raise \$200 million to provide vaccination and education to afflicted countries. In addition, the new members would participate in locale-specific charity efforts in which members of the Lorton club would identify issues in their community that need to be addressed and then create activities or fundraisers to rectify those problems. For example, members at the Bailey's Crossroads club distributed Thanksgiving baskets to people in need, and the Lake Ridge club went to a retirement home in its area and built a patio for the residents.

"You can pretty much think of any project that would be of interest to the community, and we've done it or will do it," Mercer said. "There are projects that we do that the Lorton club will do, but it's really up to the members."

Mercer said that he hopes to have a provisional club formed by the end of February and, once that is formed, members would meet for about a month to create their by-laws and constitution. Though Rotary International has a template for charter constitutions, Mercer said that the specifics are up to each club, as they all have different needs. By April, Mercer hopes to have the Lorton club chartered and ready for work.

"I'm very excited about setting up the club and its prospects," Mercer said. "I was selected as a special representative to start the club and I wouldn't have accepted the position if I didn't think it would work."

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Bob Larsen, on left, explains the current, school-boundary maps to the ad hoc committee members.

Examining Boundaries

Committees gather facts about overcrowding, possible school closing.

By BONNIE HOBBS
 THE CONNECTION

The Southwestern Regional Planning Study considering possible boundary changes, student shifts — and even the future of Clifton Elementary — still has lots of work to do, but has already accomplished a great deal. Members of the various committees met on Thursday, Dec. 3, at Liberty Middle School to give progress reports.

"Schools are already overcrowded," said Union Mill Elementary parent Elaine Walsh, on the Clifton Renovation Committee. "Closing Clifton would exacerbate the problem if a new school weren't built. You'd have to put Clifton's approximately 400 students elsewhere." She said there is a 124-student, classroom-space deficit now at the elementary-school level, so adding Clifton's students would make it more than 500 students.

Walsh said Clifton has site constraints due to lack of public water and steep topography. Questions that her committee is investigating, she said, are:

- * Can the school continue to operate on well water if it's renovated?
- * How does the renovation cost compare with the cost of bringing in public water?
- * What's the cost of renovating Clifton vs. renovating other FCPS schools vs. building another school?

"Clifton Elementary is the hub of that community, and we need to consider the impact closing it would have on those students," said Walsh. "What would

their busing look like? And do they all go to a new school together, or get split up between four different schools? What happens to the staff there?"

She said the viability of long-term maintenance is also at issue. However, she stressed that, if renovated, Clifton could become a model of a green, environmentally friendly, energy-efficient building.

Sangster Elementary parent Bob Larsen, on the Boundaries Committee, said his group is reviewing whether the 23 schools in the study are the right number, whether the current school boundaries make sense and whether any other matters were left out. Part one, he said, is validating the issues; part two is recommending solutions.

His committee suggests five more elementary schools be added — Waples Mill, Navy, Silverbrook, Terre Centre and Lees Corner — but not until the beginning of part two, "to get their input."

"We must develop solutions with budget cuts in mind," said Larsen. "For example, transportation cuts for the GT program and changes to the immersion program could drastically change whatever recommendations we come up with."

He also recommended establishing "simple logic" for boundary evolution and correcting certain "inconsistencies," such as islands of students attending one school while students in neighborhoods all around them attend a different

school.

Representing Liberty Middle School, Al Francese said his committee investigated FCPS building a new elementary school next to Liberty or on some other site. "We believe the heavy overcrowding isn't here, near Liberty," he said, adding that the overcrowding is occurring near the Fairfax County Government Center and Colin Powell Elementary.

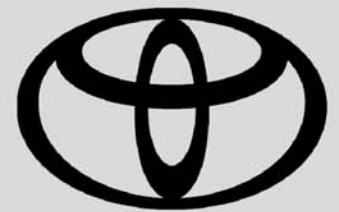
If a school were built on the north end of the property near Liberty, it would require "heavy removal of trees on this environmentally sensitive site that's

"Realistically, can we change 23 boundaries?"
 — Amy Riddick, Fairview Elementary parent

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OPINION

Choose Responsibly

Many families have paid dearly for mistakes of others; SoberRide offers a safety net.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend. But the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents should provide a chilling cautionary tale.

William Cameron Schlifke, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after his Volkswagen Jetta was rear-ended in Newport News. He was 22.

Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, Eric Fowler, 20 at the time and also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and later with involuntary manslaughter.

Last week on Nov. 30, 2009, just after the one-year anniversary of Schlifke's death, Fowler was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in Newport News, according to court

records. Fowler's bail was revoked and he will be in jail over the holidays awaiting sentencing in March.

Unfortunately, such tragedy is not rare. In fall 2008, a different young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in unspeakable tragedy for three families. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change.

Don't take the risk. Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young

Free Ride Home

WRAP's 2009 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. For more, see www.wrap.org.

adults in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 41,010 safe rides home. Call 800-200-8294. For more information, see www.wrap.org

WRAP's 2009 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly, from Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50.00 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service.

EDITORIAL

THE CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Newspaper of **Fairfax Station, Laurel Hill & Clifton**
An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

**1606 King Street
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Increasing Taxes Easy Way Out

County should address its spending problem.

BY SUPERVISOR PAT HERRITY
R-SPRINGFIELD

There has been a lot of talk about the return of the automobile decal fee or a new meals tax in Fairfax County as an answer to the county's budget shortfall. These proposals are being pushed as "revenue diversification" initiatives. "Revenue diversification" may sound good but the reality is someone has to pay these taxes. I see them as nothing more than different ways to increase the tax burden on our citizens in these tough economic times.

Simply put Fairfax County has a spending problem not a revenue problem. This spending problem can be seen in the massive growth of the county budget over the past 10 years, which was fueled by a doubling of the real estate tax bills over the same time period. We began to fix our spending problem last year when we cut the county budget for the first time in recent memory. The roughly \$100 million in reductions made last year have had no significant impact on county services and have resulted in no major increase in complaints about county services.

Even as we talk of cutting the county budget to deal with our shortfall, some on the Board of Supervisors are simultaneously proposing increasing the size and role of our county government. Last year, we added a county version of a "czar" with the creation of the Office to

COMMENTARY
Prevent and End Homelessness. While I certainly feel that the county has a role in helping those most in need, this office, which was created with a budget of \$500,000 for a director, staff and administrative costs, is nothing more than a new layer of bureaucracy. It provides no direct benefits or support to our homeless population. Also last year, the board passed 127 pages of regulations on trees without looking at the efficiency or fiscal impact of implementing and enforcing these regulations.

This year, the board is moving forward with a plan to add public art proffers to the county's Comprehensive Plan. This plan is moving forward despite the fact there has been no effort to determine the cost impact to the county or our citizens of processing, reviewing and approving the additional requirements. Developers would now be pushed to provide proffers for public art, which will directly compete with the other proffers that developers already contribute — including those for transportation,

education, affordable housing and environmental projects — all of which are county priorities. While I support public art, and there are some great examples in the Springfield District, I do not believe county staff should have a role in pushing public art over transportation or education projects.

These are just a few examples of the county attempting to do good things for its citizens while failing to look at the cost of implementing them. In doing so, the board has blindly increased the size and cost of the county bureaucracy. It is long overdue for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to focus on the priorities of our citizens as well as ways to make our county government more efficient and effective in addressing those priorities.

Clearly, this is not the time for the county to be increasing the tax burden on our citizens. Revenue diversification and increasing the tax burden on our citizens is the easy way out. But as we have seen over the past decade taking the easy way out has drastically increased the size of our county government while doubling the tax burden on our citizens. It is long overdue for this Board to take the more difficult route of focusing county spending on our priorities while working to increase the efficiency of our existing government programs.

NEWS

FROM PAGE 4

commonwealth, at 4.9 percent overall. In September, Virginia, with the fifth lowest unemployment rate in the county, was 6.6 percent.

While Fairfax's economy remains strong when compared to other parts of the country, the county's jobless rate never exceeded four percent during its previous two economic downturns, according to budget documents.

Fairfax County unemployment insurance claims also increased 116 percent from July 2008 to July 2009.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY, DEC. 10

League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. 7:45 p.m. at Paul Spring Retirement Community, Mount Vernon Room, 7116 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Contact Marge, 703-768-5212 or www.lwv-fairfax.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 14

League of Women Voters of the

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

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PUBLIC NOTICE:

Environmental Regulatory Variance

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on the tentative decision by the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality to grant a variance to regulatory requirements of the Virginia Solid Waste Management Regulations (VSWMR) regarding the I-95 Landfill in Fairfax County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: December 14, 2009 to January 13, 2010

PERMIT NAME AND NUMBER: I-95 Sanitary Landfill, SWP 103

VARIANCE PETITION APPLICANT: Fairfax County, Department of Public Works & Environmental Services, Division of Solid Waste Disposal & Resource Recovery

FACILITY NAME AND LOCATION: The I-95 Sanitary Landfill is located in southern Fairfax County, approximately one mile east of Interstate 95, near the Occoquan River at 9850 Furnace Road in Lorton, Virginia.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The I-95 Sanitary Landfill has submitted a petition to the Director for a variance in accordance with 9 VAC 20-80-250.B.10., requesting an alternate liner design for the Area Three Lined Landfill, Phases III and IV. This petition has been submitted consistent with the requirements of 9 VAC 20-80-790.A. The tentative decision to approve this petition for a variance is based on information submitted to the Department.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the variance petition at the DEQ office named below.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Kathryn Perszyk, Solid Waste Permit Writer, Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193; Phone: (703) 583-3856; E-mail: kathryn.perszyk@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (703) 583-3821.

Study Looks at 23 School Boundaries

FROM PAGE 6

supposed to be protected," he said. "And putting the school on existing ballfields to the south of Liberty may not be possible, either, without violating the integrity of the Occoquan Watershed."

Francesse said building another school in that area "might create more traffic on Union Mill Road and adversely impact Liberty Middle, so our committee isn't thrilled with this option. He said committee members have driven around the area looking for another site, to no avail.

He said a new school next to Liberty might overpopulate both it and Centreville High, just down the street. "The only, real advantage to using Liberty as a site is that it's already in the School Board's inventory. It wouldn't have to buy land," said Francesse. "But it seems that staff needs to approve alternate sites, in addition to this one. And we need to involve Liberty and its PTA."

"We did a quantitative analysis of the data," said Clifton's Ina Patton, on Francesse's committee. "We looked at alternative sites because the overcrowding is in the area from Colin Powell Elementary through Eagle View Elementary."

Virginia Run Elementary parent Cassie Eatmon said her Expansions and Renova-

tions Committee looked at which schools could be renovated or expanded, without it being cost-prohibitive. "We also considered how much capacity they could hold and what [enrollment] limit we wanted an elementary school to have," she said. "The vast majority are 800-900 students, and adding more would push them to 1,000, the size of a middle school."

Eatmon said it costs \$2.5 million just to add eight classrooms and renovations don't necessarily add space. Instead, she said, her committee is investigating "modular units" (trailers) as possibilities, or renovating a school with an addition embedded in it.

But she said none of the schools in the study are due for renovations for years. "We also discovered that, where expansion is more likely to be feasible, it wouldn't be helpful," said Eatmon. "For example, Bull Run Elementary has room, but [nearby] Virginia Run isn't overcrowded."

She said her committee also has problems

with FCPS formulas determining the impact of new development on enrollment. Noting that Korean Central Presbyterian Church, currently under construction along Route 29 in Centreville, will contain a private school (for students in grades K-2), she said, "We wonder what impact it will have if parents take their kids out of FCPS to put them there. And are we planning for the next upturn in the economy?"

"Expansion should be a secondary consideration," said Eatmon. "We don't have enough schools in the system [to handle the enrollment], especially if we lose Clifton, without building a big, new school."

Colin Powell Elementary parent Dawn Fraioli, of the Programs and Centers Committee, said both GT and kindergarten classes affect capacity. "GT centers, each with 200 students, are [currently] at two schools that are over capacity," she said. "And some schools have six kindergarten classrooms. We could get to three class-

rooms if we go to half-day, but we're making no recommendation on that."

She said her group wants to find out how many students entered FCPS this year from private schools, due to the economy. "We couldn't find this information, but think it's important to consider," said Fraioli.

About 40 people attended the meeting and, after the reports, the committee heads answered their questions.

"We need to make sure we have correct numbers for each school's capacity," said Laurel Ridge parent Melody Rudy.

Larsen told her each school would return that information before the committees embark on phase two.

"Realistically, can we change 23 boundaries?" asked Fairview Elementary parent Amy Riddick. "Politically, would the School Board members be agreeable to that?"

"If we develop criteria that are logical and easy to understand, common sense will prevail," said Larsen. "But you also need 25-30 percent of your communities to push the issue. It takes time, discussion and letting them think about it."

At the group's next meeting in January, said Larsen, the final, phase-one reports will be presented, phase two will begin and, with the School Board's permission, the other five schools will be invited to join.

"If we develop criteria that are logical and easy to understand, common sense will prevail."

— Bob Larsen, Sangster Elementary parent

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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/DEC. 10

Tiny Tots Holiday Concert. 10 a.m., 12 p.m. and 7 p.m. at South County Secondary School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. \$3 per person. 571-332-5920 or redroc26@aol.com.

C Is for Candle. 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield. Holiday stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

FRIDAY/DEC. 11

La Leche League of Springfield Breastfeeding Support Group. 10:30 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, Free. Casual and informal discussion format. 703-298-4133.

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

SATURDAY/DEC. 12

Breakfast with Santa. 9 a.m. at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. Continental buffet breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Tickets are \$8.50 at www.wshschorus.org.

Clifton Horse Society Annual Christmas Parade. 2 p.m. in the town of Clifton. Follow horses and riders dressed in costumes to Kings Field to sing carols, enjoy cookies and a costume judging contest. If it is raining or snowing the event will be canceled. jjirucha@cox.net.

Collector's Showcase Event and Third Annual Fund Raising. 6-11 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Pillow Talk: The Designer's Showcase, 6-8 p.m. on the first floor of building W-16. Pillows designed by members of the Association of Interior Design Professionals will be auctioned. \$25 per person, including appetizers, live music from Royce Campbell, wine tastings and a chance to win an interior designer's pillow. Followed by Fete d'Etoile: A Festival of Stars, 8-11 p.m. on the second floor. Food, art and dancing. Each ticket holder will leave with one original piece of artwork and be entitled to attend Pillow Talk. \$150 per person or \$175 per couple, including an original piece of artwork, lecture on the topic of collecting art, hors d'oeuvres and desserts by Bistro L'hermitage. Tickets can be purchased online at www.workhousearts.org or 703-584-2900.

Friends of the Library Book Sale. 10 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. 703-339-4610.

SUNDAY/DEC. 13

Christmas Cantata: Morning Star. 11 a.m., at Franconia United Methodist Church. Franconia United Methodist Church is located at 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall are handicapped accessible. 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

A Classic Brass Christmas. 7 p.m. at 225 E. Broad St., Falls Church. Choral concert by Choralis; Gretchen Kuhrmann, Artistic Director. Also The Classical Brass Quintet, Edison High School Concert Choir, a candlelight processional and carol sing-along. \$25-40 adults, \$5 students; age 12 and under free. www.choralis.org or 703-237-2499.

The Tale of the Drowsy Shepherd. 6:30 p.m. at Sydenstricker United Methodist Church, 8508 Hooes Road, Springfield. Reception following performance. 703-451-8223 or www.sumedisciples.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 14

PAL Reading Visits. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Read to a trained therapy dog. Call to reserve a time slot. Call for title. 703-249-1520.

Early Reader Book Discussion. 3:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Call for title. Ages 6-8 with 703-971-0010.

Gingerbread Tales. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Warm stories for cold days. Age 24 months to 5 with adult. 703-339-4610.

TUESDAY/DEC. 15

Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

All About Me. 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Stories that celebrate me. Age 13 to 23 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 16

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

Hidden Ponds Nature Program. 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Includes dissection of a rotting log; be aware in case of mold allergies. Ages 6-12 with parent. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

One-on-One Genealogical Research Assistance. 6-7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Start personal genealogical research with experienced volunteers. Adults. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Book Discussion Group. 6:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Possession: A Romance by A. S. Byatt. Adults. 703-971-0010.

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

Tell It Again. 6 p.m. Richard Byrd

'Nutcracker in a Nutshell'

Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield. Enjoy a holiday story in English and Spanish. Music and activities. Age 4-12 with adult. 703-451-8055.

Lorton Book Club. 6:30 p.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. "Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole. Adults. 703-339-7385.

THURSDAY/DEC. 17

Starlight, Starbright. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Sparkly stories, songs and activities. Ages 2-5 with adult. Call for title. 703-249-1520.

FRIDAY/DEC. 18

Natalie MacMaster: Christmas in Cape Breton. 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Celtic melodies and classic Christmas carols. Tickets are \$23-\$46. Youth through grade 12, half price when accompanied by an adult. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

Lunch Bunch. 12 p.m. John Marshall

Leinz Dances as Nutcracker's Clara

Lake Braddock Secondary School freshman Kailey Leinz, 14, will dance the role of Clara in the Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax's (BAE) performance of "Nutcracker in a Nutshell" on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at Northern Virginia Community College's Alexandria campus at 3001 N. Beauregard St. Tickets for the holiday classic are \$20 and are available in advance by calling 703-273-5344. Tickets will also be available at the door.

For more information on "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," The Center for Ballet Arts or The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax, visit www.thecenterforballetarts.com or call 703-273-5344.

Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria. Bring lunch and come for stories. Birth-5 with adult. 703-971-0010.

Naturalist Boot Camp. Send Children ages 6 to 10 to a naturalist boot camp on at Hidden Pond Nature Center. Help them burn off that holiday excitement and focus on the adventure of learning about natural world from 6:30-10:30 p.m. They will hike, go critter watching, meet, feed and hold live animals. They will make a craft with natural items. The boot camp will conclude around a campfire with snacks, holiday songs, and ghost stories. The cost is \$30 per child per day. Reservations are required. To reserve a child's spot, call 703-451-9588. Hidden Pond Nature Center is located at 8511 Greeley Blvd. in Springfield.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19

Gallery After Hours: Point Blank. 7:30 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Cover songs and dancing with Point Blank. Advance tickets \$10 member, \$8 non-member. www.workhousearts.org or 703-584-2900.

PAWS To Read. 11 a.m. Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Call to register. Arrive early to check in. 703-339-7385.



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Overtime Catch Lifts Bruins to Victory

Bruins advance to Virginia Division 6 AAA State Finals after nail-biting overtime.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Chris Williams sure picked an opportune time to catch his first touchdown pass of the season. After 13 weeks without a touchdown, Williams worried that even if he did manage to catch one, it would probably get taken away due to a penalty. "I joked about it not counting," he said. "It just seemed that's how it would go this season."

Fast forward to Monday night, Dec. 7, in overtime in the state semi-finals, Lake Braddock trails Battlefield 24-21, facing a dire third and 15 situation. Quarterback Michael Nebrich needs someone to catch a pass to end the game.

Down, set, hike. Williams cuts a slant route across the end-zone and the set play degenerates into a scramble to find an open receiver.

Nebrich rolls out of the pocket toward the Lake Braddock sideline before zeroing in on Williams deep in the end zone.

"I ran the route, turned around and looked for the ball," Williams said. "I wasn't expecting it all. It went right up over the



Chris Williams hauls in the game winning touchdown reception during Lake Braddock's 27-24 overtime victory over Battlefield. The catch was Williams' first touchdown reception of the season.

defensive backs and I had to put my hands up to get it."

Williams makes an acrobatic jump, clasps both hands around the ball and touches his feet in the end zone before falling backward to the ground.

Game over.

Lake Braddock wins 27-24 and advances to the Virginia State Division 6 AAA final in Charlottesville, marring Battlefield's perfect 12-0 record.

"I've been waiting for a touchdown catch," Williams said. "Me and Nebrich are really good friends, and I knew it was nothing

against me. I just needed to get open."

The catch was Williams' first and most important of the season. It also came from Nebrich, Williams' neighbor and best friend.

"[The catch is] huge for him and will give him a lot of confidence for the title game," said Nebrich. "[The touchdown] was just like playing in the backyard [with Williams]."

For Nebrich, the game was just another platform to showcase the junior's strong grasp of the spread offense.

Nebrich threw for 305 yards, connected with wide receiver Brandon Johnson for two passing touchdowns and rushed for 102 yards, including a four-yard touchdown run late in the fourth quarter.

"He's on his way to being the best in the area. Senior year, there won't be anyone

In Overtime

High school football overtime is akin to NCAA overtime rules, but teams are given the ball at the 10-yard line and have four downs to score. If the score remains tied after each team's possession, overtime is played back-and-forth until there is a winner.

BATTLEFIELD

- ❖ **First and 10:** Cedric Agyeman rushes for three yards.
- ❖ **Second and seven:** Agyeman rushes for five yards.
- ❖ **Third and two:** Nagee Jackson rushes for no gain.
- ❖ **Four and two:** Jason Hoepker kicks a 20-yard field goal. Battlefield leads 24-21.

LAKE BRADDOCK

- ❖ **First and 10:** Michael Nebrich's pass intended for Brandon Johnson is incomplete.
- ❖ **Second and 10:** False start called on the offense, five-yard penalty.
- ❖ **Second and 15:** Nebrich's pass to Ali Banihashemi is incomplete.
- ❖ **Third and 15:** Nebrich's pass to Chris Williams is caught. Lake Braddock wins 27-24.

better," said assistant head coach Bill Renner.

Nebrich's top receiving target, Brandon Johnson, finished with 130 yards receiving which includes his 29- and 49-yard touchdown receptions.

Johnson fought back tears of joy as reality hit — his team was going to the Virginia state finals.

"I'm speechless," he said. "It's just unreal."

SEE FIRST, PAGE 13

Robinson Tries Blue Collar Basketball

Opting for hard work over flashy plays, Rams hope hustle can lead the team to success.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

The Robinson boys' basketball team isn't looking to beat its opponents with slick outside shooting or flashy playmaking in the 2009-10 season, instead its players plan to take a more blue-collar approach to the game.

"We're not going to win games by shooting three-point shots all night or running complex offenses," said junior forward Matt Zanelatto. "We're going to do the dirty work. Dive on the floor for rebounds, steal the ball and stuff like that."

Through two games this season, the Rams are off to a 0-4 start, not exactly what head coach Brian Nelson had in mind, but the

tough style of play is starting to reap some rewards.

After opening the season on Dec. 2 with a 61-45 loss to Yorktown, the Rams posted a stronger effort in a Dec. 5, 87-67 loss to South County.

"Our effort level in the second game was better [than the first game] and we played together," said junior forward C.J. Cleaves. "We shared the ball and no one person was really leading in scoring. We had multiple guys in double figures for points and rebounds."

The Rams other two losses came courtesy of Mountain View on Dec. 4 (56-83),

Nelson said the losses can also be chalked up to inexperience on the varsity team.

"We're a young team," Nelson said. "We

don't have seniors starting. Both of our senior players are out with injuries."

The roster features three sophomores and eight juniors, many of whom are just getting acclimated to varsity-level play.

"We're relying on a lot of guys who don't have a lot of varsity experience," Nelson said. "We showed a lot of signs of positive things [against South County] ... but we have to learn how to win games."

Senior Mike Creighton, who is currently sidelined with an injury he received during the football season, said he's liked what he's seen from his younger teammates.

"When we started the season, there wasn't a lot of enthusiasm," Creighton said. "But after the past three games, the young players have stepped up."

Creighton also noted that it is crucial that the senior class returns to the team and plays an active role in helping to sustain any chemistry the team is creating.

"I know a lot of the guys on the team are younger, but they have a lot of chemistry," Creighton said. "I've got to get ready to join that chemistry."

SEE BLUE COLLAR, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



C.J. Cleaves, Matt Zanelatto, Mike Creighton are hoping their 'blue collar' approach to basketball can help the Robinson Rams this season.

Blue Collar Philosophy

FROM PAGE 12

While blue collar might describe Robinson's style of play, big is a better word for the team's make-up.

Of the 13-man roster, only four players are under 6-feet tall and five are taller than 6-feet 3-inches.

The Rams' hope is that by combining their size with an immense amount of hustle and heart, the team can muscle through the tough Concorde District to a state tournament appearance.

Nelson also mentioned that team captains Zanelatto and Creighton need to step up their game in order for the Rams to be successful.

"They both exhibit leadership for us," Nelson said. "We're counting on them to show the younger guys the way."

Leadership also will fall on Cleaves' shoulders because of the important role he will play for the team next season when he is a senior.

"[Zanelatto and Cleaves] need to start acting as if they are our seniors," Nelson said. "They've shown their experience [against South County] and other juniors will step in to that role with them as the season goes on." Robinson's next game is against on Dec. 11 against Fairfax followed by a Dec. 15 bout with West Springfield.

First Time in State Tournament

FROM PAGE 12

"I've been dreaming of this since I was in third grade."

Despite the dramatic outcome, the game wasn't as simple as Nebrich tossing touchdown passes to receivers all night. On Lake Braddock's first drive, an errant snap forced Nebrich to take a safety giving Battlefield a 2-0 lead.

The troubles didn't end there. After assuming control with a 14-8 lead after the first half, Nebrich fumbled twice, giving way to a Battlefield touchdown drive. Fortunately for the Bruins, Battlefield kicker Jason Hoepker missed the extra point attempt.

With the score even at 14-14 and just over a minute left on the clock, Nebrich hit Johnson with a deep pass for 30 yards, setting up Nebrich's four-yard touchdown run to take the lead with 14 seconds left in regulation.

With such a miniscule amount of time left in the game, the Lake Braddock sidelines prepared its celebratory rush to the field, but Battlefield defen-

sive back Blaine Mason hushed the Bruins with a miraculous kickoff return.

As Battlefield's Bobo Beathard was being tackled, Mason caught a pitch from Beathard and ran the ball 75 yards for the game-tying touchdown with only .9 seconds left in regulation.

"I looked up to the sky and said, 'God, what did I do?'" Lake Braddock head coach Jim Poythress said. "There had to have been something I did wrong in a past life to deserve this."

Poythress was overjoyed with the win, but he wasn't afraid to point out the mistakes that he said can't happen in the State finals.

"We gave Battlefield nine points on special teams," he said. "We let them hang around. They hung around and almost broke our backs. That can't happen next week."

Lake Braddock's first appearance in a state title game also signals the first time in 15 years a Patriot District team is contending for a state title.

Annandale is the last Patriot District school to win a state championship, taking the 1993 and 1994 state titles.

WEEK IN SPORTS

Popcorn, Soda and Basketball

Students looking for a cheap date or a fun event to enjoy on Friday, Dec. 18 should look no further than a doubleheader basketball match between rivals Lake Braddock and Robinson.

At the upcoming Lake Braddock and Robinson Varsity Basketball Challenge, students wearing a Burke basketball shirt will be admitted inside the game free and receive a coupon for a free soda and box of popcorn.

The T-shirt admission is good for both the boys' and girls' varsity basketball game.

Tip-off is set for 5:45 p.m. for the girls and 7:30 p.m. for the boys. Both games will be played in the main gym at Robinson Secondary School.

Ram Girls Start Season Hot

The Robinson girls' basketball team charged out to a 3-0 start in the 2009-10 basketball season this past week.

The Rams recorded wins over Yorktown (58-37) and Battlefield (63-23) and Langley (42-34), with Samantha Partonen leading the scoring with 14 points in the Yorktown game.

The Rams next three games are against Fairfax on Dec. 11, West Springfield on Dec. 15 and Lake Braddock on Dec. 18.

Robinson Alumni Honored On All-Region Team

James Madison University soccer defender and Robinson alumni Teri Maykoski was recently named to the 2009 National Soccer Coaches Association of America All-Mid-Atlantic Region Team.

Maykoski anchored a JMU defense that allowed just over goal per game (1.07 average) and recorded seven shutouts.

Indoor Lacrosse Registration

Northern Virginia West Lacrosse (NoVa West) is currently in the process of registering for its indoor lacrosse season.

The group is also accepting registrations for tryouts in its summer select teams, which include U11, U13, U15 and two levels of high school play.

For more information about NoVa West Lacrosse's youth sports offerings for 2010, visit, <http://www.novawestlax.com>.

Holiday Sports Camp

Parents seeking a high energy camp for children during the holiday break might be interested in the Fit Kids Sports Mania Holiday Camp.

The Camp is for children ages 5 to 9 and will be at the Claude Moore Community center from Dec. 28 to Dec. 30.

Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will feature a variety of sports including soccer, hockey, t-ball and more.

The camp's goal is to emphasize teamwork and sportsmanship. Interested parties can find registration information at <http://webtrac.loudoun.gov> or call 571-258-3500.

Registration for Dec. 28-30 Youth Basketball Tournament

The 16th Annual Mason Dixon Holiday Tip-Off Basketball Tournament for boys and girls in the 8, 10, 12 and 14-and-under age groups is currently accepting registration.

The event is Dec. 28, 29 and 30 in York County, Pa.

The tournament features round-robin competition and all teams are guaranteed a minimum of three games.

Those interested in registering for the tournament can find forms at usaamatuersports.com.

Additional information can be acquired by calling 410-363-8610 or e-mailing usaamatuersports@aol.com.

People generally quarrel because they cannot argue.

—G. K. Chesterton

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U.S. Treasury Issues New Guidelines on Short Sales to Help Homeowners

The Government announced new guidelines earlier this week aimed at helping homeowners in the short sale process. A Short Sale sometimes referred to as a "pay off" or "short pay", is a transaction authorized by the mortgage company / lender in which they agree to the sale of the home for less than the Seller owes on the mortgage. As a part of the Short Sale, the Mortgage Company / lender "usually" agrees to write-off / forgive the balance difference in order to avoid greater losses of the mortgage loan that a foreclosure would cause. In order for the Seller to be pre-qualified for a short sale the Seller must be experiencing a financial hardship that meets the lender's criteria.

Over 10 million homeowners are upside down on their mortgages across the U. S.; Dynamic Duo & Associates a local real estate company brokered by Coldwell Banker has helped many people struggling to obtain Short Sale approval and are considered experts in the field. One of their clients' referred to DDA as "Angels sent from GOD". Over the past 3 years, DDA has SOLD over 920 properties with a specialization in Short Sales & Foreclosures.

Joan Williamson, Partner of DDA states "historically, borrowers were typically issued an unsecured note for a portion of a deficiency amount. Imagine, going through a hardship of being forced to sell your home due to financial reasons in order to avoid foreclosure and the lender then requires a deficiency payment on the balance". "Under the new plan, borrowers are not only relieved of the debt, but now... they will receive a bonus of \$1,500 from the government for selling their home for less than the mortgaged amount" says Racquel Sharpton another Partner of the Dynamic Duo. The lender will also see a bonus at \$1,000 as an incentive.

"Often times negotiating a short sale can be a painstaking process. While the approval is gained from the primary lender, the 2nd lender can very well kill the deal by requesting more than the primary lender will allow, which is typically \$3,000. The 2nd lien holder has been known to ask for as much as \$25,000 or more" states Williamson. Under this new guideline, the mortgage holder can receive no more than \$3,000 of the sale's price in exchange for releasing the lien. Another awesome guideline, and this is really where the assistance to home owners comes in...now if the lender accepts a Short Sale, the Borrowers must be "fully released" from future liability of the debt. To qualify under the new guidelines the property must be the homeowner's principal residence; the home owner must be delinquent on the mortgage or close to defaulting on the loan; the loan must have been made before Jan. 1, 2009 and be for less than \$729,750; and the borrowers' total monthly mortgage payment must exceed 31 percent of their before-tax income. For additional information or to get started on a short sale, please contact DDA at 703-680-9551 or email asharpton@cbmove.com

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 9

Fairfax Area. 1:30 p.m. at Hunters Crossing Classroom, Spring Village Drive, Springfield. Contact Kay, 703-644-2670 or www.lwv-fairfax.org.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16

Laurel Hill Meeting. 7:30 p.m., at the South County Secondary School Media Center, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. The Laurel Hill Project Advisory Committee (PAC) will conduct a public meeting to finalize its recommendations on the Final Master Plan for the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Area. The plan was developed based upon public comments, more than 30 public meetings, and recommendations from previous task forces. Early next year, it will be submitted to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for approval. For more information, call the Department of Planning and Zoning at 703-324-1380, TTY 711, Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Laurel Hill Web site can be viewed at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/laurelhill.

TUESDAY/JAN. 12.

An Inside Look at Medicare, Present and Future, with Medicare Specialist Howard Houghton. 10 a.m. at Ernst Cultural Center on the NVCC Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike. (refreshments, 9:30 a.m.) Open Forum offered by Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia. Free, no reservations needed. lii.nova.org or 703-503-0600.

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SPORTS

Cavs Fight Past Early Adversity

Woodson starts season 2-1 despite injury to starting guard John Schoof.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

What could have been a disastrous start to the 2009-10 season for the W.T. Woodson boys' basketball team, turned into a strong weekend performance and confidence booster for head coach Doug Craig.

Just minutes into a routine drill on the first day of practice, junior guard John Schoof injured his ankle, putting the 6-foot 5-inch guard out for what Craig said will be a "couple of months."

"We were as crisp as we'd like to be all season. It was a strong game for us."

— Doug Craig, Woodson head coach

nament.

Senior Max Lenox scored 22 points, assisted on four baskets, captured eight rebounds and stole five balls in the win.

"We were as crisp as we'd like to be all season," Craig said. "It was a strong game for us."

THE CAVALIERS didn't escape the weekend unscathed. In a meeting with fellow Fairfax school Paul VI, a poor shooting effort and 17 turnovers played a key role in a 60-36 loss to the Panthers.

"The game was a bit closer than the score suggests," Craig said. "But in the last two quar-



FILE PHOTO

Junior guard John Schoof, seen here in a game against McLean in the 2008-09 season, injured his ankle during a routine practice drill. His extended absence from the team is one of the first hurdles the Woodson boys must deal with this season.

ters, Paul VI just blew us out."

The Cavaliers, however, aren't going to let an early season loss to one of the area's top private schools take away from the team's strong performances without Schoof.

"Early out-of-division games are like glorified scrimmages," Craig said. "You want to win them, but you're still learning about your team at that point. The division play later on matters the most."

The season's early stages won't get any easier for the Cavaliers. On Tuesday, the Cavs faced Fairfax High School, [put result in here after Tuesday] and will face Bishop O'Connell on Dec. 9, followed by the team's first Patriot District match with Lake Braddock on Dec. 11.

"We want a tough schedule early on," Craig said. "It helps you get ready for later in the season."

HEALTH NOTES

Haven of Northern Virginia, 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, will be offering a free Widow/Widower's support group. Haven also offers one-on-one support. A volunteer will meet with a person grieving the death of a loved one, as needed, to provide individual support. Volunteers will be selected to match individual need. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or e-mail havenofnova@verizon.net

Life with Cancer has a variety of support programs for cancer patients and their families at the Cancer Family Center, 2700 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax. 703-776-2841

or www.lifewithcancer.org.

The Clifton Presbyterian Church has a Caregiver Support Group that meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. This group is for caregivers of seniors with Alzheimer's, dementia, and other age-related problems. 703-830-9175 ext. 17.

Registration for weekday and weekend **Lamaze childbirth** classes in Springfield is available at www.lamaze-dc.com or by calling 703-549-2226.

Alzheimer's Family Day Center, located at 2812 Old Lee Highway,

Fairfax, hosts various classes. Reservations are required, and classes are open to people who are caring for a relative or friend with dementia. 703-204-4664 or www.alzheimersfdc.org/classes.htm.

TLC: Teens Living with Cancer. Monthly social activities for 13 to 18-year-olds who have cancer give them a chance to meet others with cancer, share a little, and have fun. Call 703-208-5623 for details. At the Life with Cancer Family Center, 2832 Juniper St., Fairfax. For more information, call 703-698-2841 or visit www.lifewithcancer.org.

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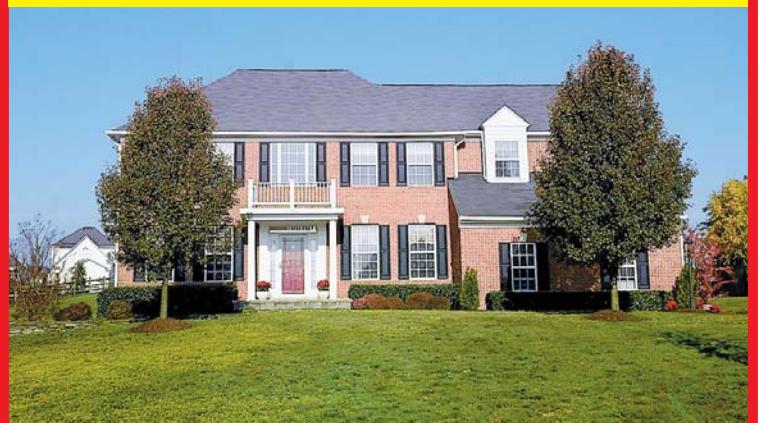


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PEOPLE

Eisinger, Escalante Wed

Suzy Lynn Eisinger and Adrian Escalante Jr. were united in marriage on Sept. 19, at the Tower Club in downtown Dallas, Texas. The bride was presented in marriage by her parents and escorted by her father. Heather Wnuk, sister of the bride, and Judy Jernigan, cousin of the bride, served as matrons of honor. Bridesmaids were Peggy Chin-Ortiz, Martha Hollingsworth, Tara Hudson, Karen Dotson and Amanda Dotson. The groom's best man was Rob Fayard. Groomsmen were Jerome Rose, John Trelford, Theo Jackman, Lenroy Malone, Rob King and Jeff Willix. Ushers were Patrick Swain and Bryan Fagen. The groom's dog Missy served as the flower girl. The bride's dog Cash served as the ring bearer. After the ceremony, a dinner and dance reception took place in the Pegasus Ballroom of the Tower Club.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Eisinger of Fairfax Station. She is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, the University of Virginia and the Yale University School of Management. She is a healthcare consultant with Deloitte Consulting.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Escalante of Waco, Texas. He is a graduate of Waco High School and Baylor



Suzy Lynn Eisinger and Adrian Escalante Jr. were married Sept. 19 in Dallas, Texas.

University. He is a client support manager for Mercer Consulting in Dallas. The couple traveled to Hawaii for their honeymoon. They reside in the northern suburbs of Dallas.

Romano, Zacharias Tie Knot

Jessica Romano and Ronald Zacharias of Springfield were joined in Christian Marriage on Saturday, Oct. 24, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. at Silverbrook United Methodist Church in Lorton. Rev. Ralph Rowley of Messiah Methodist Church in Springfield officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Nick and Lana Romano of Wilmington, N.C.. The groom is the son of Amy Zacharias of Manassas and Ken and Carla Zacharias of The Villages, Fla.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her father. The bridesmaids were Susan Betts, friend of the bride, of Arlington; Beth Wheeler, friend of the bride, of Lawton, Okla., and Michelle Hunt, sister of the groom, of Ashburn. The best man was Larry Zacharias, brother of the groom, of Inwood, W.Va.; Groomsmen were Mike Petrassi, friend of the groom, of South Riding, and Ian Trumbore of Woodbridge.

The dinner reception, hosted by the Romanos, took place at Madigan's Waterfront Restaurant in Occoquan. The rehearsal dinner, hosted by the Zacharias', was at The Occoquan Inn.

The bride has a master's degree from Old Dominion University and teaches second grade at Bren Mar Park Elementary School. The groom works for



Jessica Romano and Ronald Zacharias

Fairfax County Public Schools as an electrical mechanic. The couple lives with their adorable cat in West Springfield.

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On December 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia, the Town Council of the Town of Clifton will hold a public hearing on a lease of Town-owned property located at 7137 Main Street, Clifton Virginia, known as the "Pink House" property. The public hearing will be held pursuant Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800 (disposal of public property). The public hearing was authorized at a special meeting of the Town Council on November 22, 2009. Copies of the rental criteria are available for public inspection at 7150 Main Street, Clifton Virginia.

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Monty Smith with his Lego Train display.

Trains Roll at Museum

FROM PAGE 4

pushing the snow off the track," Mitulla said. "The kids love these trains because they can run with them, but the parents love them even more because the kids are so tired out, they fall asleep in the car ride home."

Monty Smith, 19, has been displaying the other fan favorite, Monty's Lego Trains, at the show since he was 11. Smith uses Lego sets to build the trains, tracks and the display's scenery, a practice that has become more difficult in recent years as Lego has stopped making train sets. So Smith said he must scour eBay for sets in order to keep the children satisfied each year with fresh setups. Though it is an added inconvenience, Smith said it is worth it to see the children excited.

"I've been coming to this show since I was born, and I wanted to show off my creations, so I started displaying," Smith said. "I'm always getting new track pieces, trains and motors so I come with something new every time, and the children seem to figure

it out before the parents."

While the train operators admittedly have the most fun at the displays they attend, the show's patrons were every bit as excited for the trains. Most of the attendees were families with young children and, according to those parents, the event was worth the price of admission.

"WE'VE COME [to this event] several times," said Christine Cardwell, who brought her son Zachary, 3, along with her husband Howard. "Our son really loves trains, and it's nice that something like this is here for the little kids. Boys just love trains. You can't get around it."

Twila Lytle brought her twin 4-year-old boys, Ryan and Connor, to the show for the first time. Like Cardwell, she found that it is nearly impossible to separate boys from trains.

"We've been here for what feels like hours," Lytle said. "The kids got into trains when they were two and we haven't been able to get them away. The kids love watching the trains. They could stay here all day."

MILITARY NOTES

Air National Guard Airman 1st Class Nicholas G. Crispino graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Mary Crispino of Wolf Run Shoals Road, Fairfax Station. Crispino is a 2009 graduate of Mountainview Alternative School.

Air Force Airman Kenneth J. Vaughan graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Kenneth and Caryl Vaughan of Hanson Lane, Lorton. Vaughan is a 2004 graduate of Thomas Edison High School.



Crispino



Vaughan

Douglas K. Wiltsie Jr. has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior

Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. He is the son of Doug K. Wiltsie and Elizabeth A. Moore of Autumn Oak Court, Fairfax Station.



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Charming New England Colonial on hard to find almost one acre lot. 4BR, 2.5BA, 3 fin lvls. Separate entrance den/office/5th BR on main level. Recent updates, spacious rooms. Exc. Location close to Ffx Cty Pkwy.
See this property at www.GraingerTeam.com.



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Woodbridge \$449,900
Picture Perfect
Lovely 4 BR, 3 1/2 BA Colonial, sited on a perfect lot, Large Gourmet Kitchen w/Centre Island, Breakfast Room w/ Glass Slider views Gorgeous Deck w/built-in Hot Tub, Manicured yard completely fenced with Privacy Fence, Lower Level offers theater Room, exercise Room, 5th Bedroom & full Bath.
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Woodbridge \$118,000
Charm & Convenience
This 2 BR, 2 BA first floor condo is features a large LR w/ gas fireplace, sliding glass door to balcony, sep DR, and HDWD floor in KIT. The spacious MBR has a walk-in closet and full MBA. Convenient to shopping, schools, I-95 and transportation.

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