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**Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37)**  
with wife Julia smile after  
Marsden defeated Republi-  
can Steve Hunt in  
Tuesday's special election  
to fill the vacant 37th  
District State Senate seat.



# Senator Marsden

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# Marsden Takes Special Election

**Democrat defeats Steve Hunt (R) in special election for 37th District Senate seat.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

**D**el. David Marsden (D-41) and his fellow Democrats celebrated an election victory Tuesday night, Jan. 12, that proved significant for not only the candidate, but for the party as well.

Marsden, a two-term member of the House of Delegates, defeated Republican challenger and former School Board member Steve Hunt 11,954 to 11,627 in Tuesday's special election to fill Attorney General-elect Ken Cuccinelli's vacant 37th District State Senate seat. While the margin was a slim 327 votes, the victory perhaps reversed a Republican trend in recent Fairfax County elections and helped strengthen a Democratic Party majority in the Senate.

"We knew it was going to be close, but we felt we had momentum," Marsden said. "Nobody can analyze what happened in November. There were a lot of folks who stayed home and didn't vote [in November] that started thinking 'We need something else' and came out tonight."

Turnout, as both candidates were fully aware, is the key in special elections, and that was the case Tuesday night. In a special election for the same seat in 2002,

slightly more than 18,000 residents participated overall, while 23,602 cast a ballot this year. Though Marsden won the overall vote, Hunt actually won two more precincts, but the race seemed to be decided in the lopsided absentee ballot totals. Marsden garnered 800 absentee votes to Hunt's 395, which proved to be a larger margin than the final overall vote total.

"I hate it when they say I need 11,000 votes [to win] and I get 11,000 and I don't win," Hunt said with a laugh. "We worked really hard and got an incredible turnout, but [Marsden's team] did well. The margin in absentee ballots was larger than the final count. It was a smart move on their part [to target absentee voters]."

**ALMOST IMMEDIATELY AFTER** the unofficial election results came back and a victory speech was given, Marsden had to hop in a car for a late night trip to Richmond for the beginning of the General Assembly Wednesday morning. Marsden will be sworn in as senator later in the day at the General Assembly, but as of Tuesday night, was already ready to get to work in his new position.

Marsden said that he is eager to work on legislation to create more jobs in his district and throughout the state, something he believes would solve many of the region's



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

**Del. David Marsden (D-41) with wife Julia smile after Marsden defeated Republican Steve Hunt in Tuesday's special election to fill the vacant 37th District State Senate seat.**

economic woes. He said that he would work on legislation that will allocate money to the Governor's Opportunity Fund and other bills that would attempt to bring more businesses into the area. In addition, he said that he wants to continue his work to improve the juvenile court system and expand

**"We knew it was going to be close, but we felt we had momentum."**

— Del. David Marsden (D-41)

a program to keep custodial spouses out of jail.

"As a senator, I want to work on legislation to create an environment to create jobs and get our revenue back," Marsden said. "The budget is going to be an overriding concern, though, and I look forward to being able to have discussions on both sides of the aisle and work together."

As for Hunt and his fellow party members, the loss stung a bit more. The 37th District has been a Republican district since 1992, and Hunt said that he was disappointed that he could not keep the seat within the party. However, Hunt would not rule out another run for public office, saying that he could not ignore his desire to serve his community.

"It's a little too early to tell [if I would run again for public office]," Hunt said. "I have a great need to serve people. We had a lot of people that got behind us, so we'll see what opportunities present themselves in the future."

**THE NEXT STEP** for both parties is to prepare for the special election for the now

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# This Is What Your Neighbors Want

**In their own words, locals speak out at Virginia General Assembly hearing.**

BY JULIA O'DONOUGHE  
THE CONNECTION

**A**bout 60 people showed up to testify before the Fairfax County delegation to the Virginia General Assembly at a Jan. 9 hearing. The representatives, including state senators and delegates, headed to Richmond for the start of the legislative session on Jan. 13.

Virginia's budget is one of the top, if not the top, priorities for most state legislators in 2010. The General Assembly only passes a new budget once every two years and the current spending plan has a \$4 billion shortfall.

Former Gov. Tim Kaine (D) proposed closing Virginia's budget gap through a mix of tax increases and cuts in services before leaving office this month. Among other things, Kaine's plan included a \$60 million reduction in Fairfax County Public Schools' state funding.

Unlike his predecessor, newly sworn-in Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) has said he will not raise taxes to balance the budget, which could mean deeper cuts to services than the ones proposed by Kaine.

About one-third of the people who took their Saturday morning off to speak to Fairfax County's senators and delegates had serious concerns about how Virginia's budget would impact residents with disabilities who receive or are waiting to receive assistance from the commonwealth.

Other speakers addressed a range of topics including taxes, the local court system and state funding for Fairfax schools.

Here are excerpts of what people said to Fairfax County's senators and delegates:

**ALBERT FRANCESCE** first became concerned with Virginia's ability to maintain its infrastructure when he started noticing the crumbling pavement in his Little Rocky Run community.

Then, Francese realized Little Rocky Run was not alone. Other neighborhoods with state-controlled roads also need repaving. Virginia, he concluded, simply was not

keeping up with its road maintenance like it needs to.

Francese urged the local General Assembly members to push for a long-term solution for bolstering transportation funding, which, in his opinion, did not include more "creative solutions" like the [High Occupancy Toll lane] project current under construction on the Capital Beltway.

"We need transportation solutions in Virginia and I am not talking about entering in more 80-year private-public partnerships with international companies who might not be around that long," said Francese.

**LIZ BRADSHER** (Springfield), Fairfax County School Board member, was most concerned with state funding cuts to the local school system but she also had harsh

words for one of Bob McDonnell's campaign promises about education funding. McDonnell proposes requiring school districts to spend a greater percentage of whatever state they receive funding "in the classroom."

According to Bradsher, Kaine's proposed budget sets state funding for Fairfax schools at \$20 million below the amount Virginia gave Fairfax in 2007, even though the local school population has grown by approxi-

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**Albert Francese,  
Clifton resident**



**Elizabeth  
Bradsher, Fairfax  
County School  
Board member**

# Lusk Aims To Build a Better Future

**Chamber names Rodney Lusk 2009 Herbert C. Citizen of the Year.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

Rodney Lusk's outlook on life is fitting for a man deemed "Citizen of the Year." Ask him about his accomplishments, and, instead of listing his contributions, he'll talk about the people who helped him along the way. Ask him about the motivation and commitment he possesses to garner the recognition, and he will talk about the values his grandparents passed on to him instead of details about his hard work.

No matter how Lusk spins it, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce's 2009 Herbert C. Hunter Citizen of the Year has spent nearly 21 years striving to make the lives of Fairfax County residents better and has no intention of stopping any time soon.

"Rodney was chosen [for the award] for his contributions beyond what he does for a living," Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Nancy-jo Manney. "He is very active with the positive redevelopment of the Central Springfield area, and that is a key issue for us."

Lusk, who is currently the national marketing division director for the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, began his life in public service at an early age. Lusk grew up in Alexandria, attending T.C. Williams High School and then matriculated to the University of Virginia where he majored in U.S. government and sociology.



CONTRIBUTED

**Rodney Lusk, his daughter Sheridan, 8, and Eric Williams of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.**

Following his college graduation, Lusk got a job as an aide to then Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.). However, after seeing the long hours and isolated nature of the job, he knew that he was in the wrong place.

"I thought Capitol Hill was where I wanted to work, but when I got there, I saw that the hours were extremely long and that I didn't have direct contact with any of the people we were serving," Lusk said. "[Having contact with the constituency] was where my heart was, so I decided to move to local government because it is much more connected to the residents."

That move took him back to Fairfax County, as he got a job as an assistant han-

dling environmental issues for then Supervisor Katherine Hanley (D-Providence). After Hanley left the office to become chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Lusk said that her successor, currently U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), called Lusk into his office to ask questions about issues facing the district. Lusk talked at length with Connolly, and then at the end of the conversation, Connolly told Lusk that he was his land use aide.

"He wanted to pick my brain, but at the end of the conversation, he just said 'You're hired,'" Lusk said. "I said 'For what?' and he told me that he wanted me to be his land use aide. I was at a transition point in my

**"Rodney is an incredible community volunteer."**

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

career so I figured I'd try it and I loved it."

Lusk served with Connolly for nearly four years, working on land development projects such as the redevelopment of Tysons Corner Mall and Tysons II in the 1990s. That work laid the foundation for his transition to the Economic Development Authority in 1998 after Connolly's ascension to board chairman. In addition, he was also appointed as the Lee District Planning Commissioner by former Lee District Supervisor Dana Kauffman in 2004 and was re-appointed by Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) in 2008.

**IT WAS HIS** role as planning commissioner that prompted his selection as citizen of the year, according to Manney. She said that Lusk's involvement in the redevelopment of Springfield Mall was a major factor in his nomination by the chamber's Board of Directors and selection by the nomination committee, as well as his tireless dedication to having the Family Recreation Area and Accessible Treehouse at Lee District Park built.

"Whether it's BRAC [Base Realignment and Closure], transportation or mall redevelopment, Rodney is always there to look out for the best interests of the community and its residents," Manney said. "He always sees the bigger picture, and the treehouse is one of those things that will be good for the community and will help bring people to the area."

The Recreation Area and Treehouse was

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# Local Business Helps Less Fortunate

**Metro Run & Walk donates more than 300 food items to Lynbrook Elementary students.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

Mark and Helen Russell, owners of the Springfield running specialty store Metro Run & Walk, bought the store nearly a year ago with the intention of offering local running enthusiasts a quality selection of merchandise. However, the couple could not help their past lives from spilling over into their business and the lives of area children are better because of it.

The Russells, with their respective backgrounds in child advocacy, are using their store as a tool to provide food and clothing for needy children, and Lynbrook Elemen-

tary School is one of those schools. Lynbrook, a Title 1 school, received more than 300 food items as the result of a recent food drive run by Metro Run & Walk.

"We want, more than anything, to be a very involved, giving member of the business community," Mark Russell said. "This [food drive] was a natural follow-up to the things we believe in. We are all about reaching people."

According to Helen Russell, the couple purchased the company, located on Commerce Street, in February 2009, and immediately after becoming owners, set out to find ways to enrich the lives of the surrounding community. Prior to the food drive for Lynbrook last November, entitled "We CAN

Do it," the couple got their store involved in several charitable efforts such as the Susan G. Komen Walk for a Cure, 25:40 Program that serves children with HIV/AIDS in South Africa and the Athletes in Need program for local high school running teams. Though they were more than happy to be contributing to organizations through pre-established charitable endeavors, they had the desire to do even more.

So, according to Helen Russell, the couple began to look for non-profit groups that support local needs to partner with. The goal, Helen Russell said, was to help small non-profits that are often overshadowed by larger organizations, and quickly formed a relationship with the Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a group dedicated to promoting literacy and well being through community programs. The Russells decided that they wanted to get involved with the Assis-

tance League's efforts to implement food programs in needy schools, and initially settled on Garfield Elementary as the recipient of their donations. However, once they examined each Springfield-area elementary school more closely, they quickly decided that Lynbrook should be the beneficiary.

"Once we started looking at the populations of schools in Springfield and their need, we discovered that Lynbrook had 85 percent of its students on free or reduced price meals," Helen Russell said. "So that really drove our decision to select them."

After they selected their recipient, the Russells then ironed out the details of the food drive. Ultimately, they decided to offer every customer discounts on merchandise in exchange for food donations for the

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# Citizen of the Year

FROM PAGE 3

a project that began several years ago in a conversation with Kauffman, Lusk said. Kauffman mentioned that he wanted a recreation area built in Lee District Park, but was unaware of what that actually meant at the time. After a conversation with the Park Authority, however, he knew that it was a project he wanted to get behind.

"Dana said that he was very interested in seeing the treehouse project get funded and constructed, but I didn't know about it," Lusk said. "I call the Park Authority, heard what it was about, and knew right away that it was a project I was going to get involved with."

The existing plans for the treehouse call for the construction of an elevated space of about 2,000 square feet that overlooks a forest and stream valley within the park that is equipped with ramps and elevators to make it accessible to anyone. In addition, a "spray park" would include water showers, a playground with slides, swings and other equipment, an accessible carousel and a picnic area.

Though the plans were approved and in place, money to build the park was lacking, so Lusk committed himself to finding funding.

According to the Fairfax County Park Foundation, most of the funding for the project has been raised from Lee District Land and Development Funds and the 2008 Park Bond, but more funding was still needed. So, Lusk signed up for the 2008 Army 10-Miler and the 2008 Alexandria City Turkey Trot to raise money. Lusk solicited donations from family, friends and colleagues for his participation in the two races and garnered a total of \$9,500. Then, Lusk said that he and McKay discussed ways to leverage redevelopment in the Springfield area to help get the recreation area built, and those efforts resulted in a proffer in the Springfield Mall redevelopment that gave \$600,000 to the project, among other proffers.

"The Springfield Mall proffer was our first big hit for the project," Lusk said. "After that, it was \$10,000 here, \$5,000 there through several other projects."

"Rodney is an incredible community volunteer," McKay said. "His efforts to help promote the accessible treehouse at Lee District Park are just one more thing he has selflessly involved himself with to improve our community for all people."

## VIEWPOINTS

## What do you think of the program cuts proposed by the FCPS superintendent?



"I feel like it's ridiculous. They say we have the right to a free education, but yet they're trying to make us pay. Also, if they cut teachers, it's like saying that they don't matter, and it's like a slap in the face. Every teacher in a school is important."

**Miranda Duke**

"For one, they should cut the higher-ups, like the executives. Teachers and class sizes shouldn't be affected, because our children can't excel if they continue to cut the funding."

**Samantha Benson**

— TIFFANY DANIELS

# NEWS



PHOTO BY KRISTINA TREVINO/THE CONNECTION

Sangster Elementary fifth grade students make pillows for the troops.

# Something To Sleep On

## Students make pillows for soldiers stationed in Afghanistan.

BY KRISTINA TREVINO  
THE CONNECTION

Whether they are collecting mittens and hats for an orphanage in China, backpacks for students in Afghanistan, school supplies for Iraqi students or even supporting a school in the Amazon, Sangster Elementary students are committed to finding ways to give back to their community. This year was no exception with their Pillows for Our Troops event on Friday, Jan. 8.

Fifth grade students made handmade pillows for soldiers in the 82nd Airborne Division deployed in Afghanistan. The event was organized by fifth grade teacher Li-anne Char, who has a brother serving in the 82nd Airborne Division. She contacted three different chaplains from the division who said it would be a great service to do for soldiers.

"We chose to do the pillows because we had heard that the soldiers don't have pillows, so we needed to make something that was small for them to fit into their sleeping bag," said Char. "Plus it is great and wonderful."

The pillows, which were made out of 12 by 12-inch fleece squares, were hand knotted and stuffed by the students, and the patterns were cut by high school students for service credit hours.

The Sangster students attached signed thank you

notes to their pillows and wrote poems for the soldiers.

"We certainly hope it raises awareness overseas for the students because many of the students' parents that attend Sangster Elementary School have come from military families," said Char, "It acknowledges the parents that are serving now and teaches the kids who may not be aware to do something for those people, and it's fun."

**WHILE THE PILLOWS** might have been a little difficult to make, fifth-graders Rachel Moody and Emma Ager conceded that it was a fun project; moreover, soldiers will feel elated and appreciated. "It makes me think about the war," said Rachel. "It makes you realize how lucky you are."

"It makes me think about how the soldiers are helping America," said Emma.

Principal Gail Kinsey, an advocate of service projects, proposed the idea to the teachers when she encountered an ad on TV about soldiers not having pillows in their sleeping bags, and how the soldiers who received them were so gratified for the small gesture. In addition, Kinsey realized the school is part of a community with a strong number of military families causing them to deal with the sacrifices soldiers and their families must undergo. She considered it a privilege to do anything to support the armed forces.

"This project helped students understand in a small way the daily discomfort and deprivation that our service men and women endure as a part of their commitment to ensuring our safety," said Kinsey. "Having a pillow and a cozy place to sleep is what almost all of us take for granted."

**"It makes me think about the war. It makes you realize how lucky you are."**

— Rachel Moody, fifth grader



# NEWS Neighbor

FROM PAGE 2

mately 10,000 students since then.

Fairfax County Public Schools was also scheduled to receive an additional \$61 million from the commonwealth this year, the result of a recalculation of the commonwealth's funding formula for primary and secondary education.

But as a cost-saving measure, Kaine proposed "freezing" Virginia's education funding formula so that school districts would receive the same amount of money from the commonwealth that they did last year. If implemented, this measure would cost Fairfax the \$61 million it was scheduled to get, on top of the \$20 million in other state funding cuts it will sustain, said Bradsher.

In light of current cuts in state financial assistance, Bradsher criticized McDonnell's proposal to require local school systems to spend 60 percent or more of their state funding on "classroom instruction."

"To rely on a one-size-fits-all gimmicks to 'protect the classroom' is exactly the wrong approach and will do absolutely nothing to address the budget crisis all school divisions face. We hope you will reject calls to direct arbitrarily set percentages of funding 'to the classroom,'" said Bradsher.

## FAITH NOTES

**Seniors are invited to the Lunch N' Life** sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, Jan. 21, from 12- 2 p.m., at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. The program will be presented by Phyllis Verhalen performing as Abigail Adams in period costume. Seating is limited. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry 703-620-0161 by Jan. 14. \$8; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See [www.fairfaxburkesc.org](http://www.fairfaxburkesc.org).

**United Methodist Men Breakfast** is on Saturday Jan. 23, at 8 a.m., at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. The men of Franconia UMM (United Methodist Men) will begin another year in ministry to the men of the congregation with their annual kickoff breakfast to plan out the entire year of 2010. All men are welcome. 703-971-5151 or [www.franconiaumc.org](http://www.franconiaumc.org).

**Grace Presbyterian Church Weekday Preschool Open House.** 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 22 at 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be served at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall; pre-orders only, \$10 per large one topping pizza. Classrooms will be open from 7-8 p.m., with hands-on activities to explore with children. Music & Movement will be available with our music teacher, 7:45 to 8:15. Appropriate for age 2-5. 703-451-3314.

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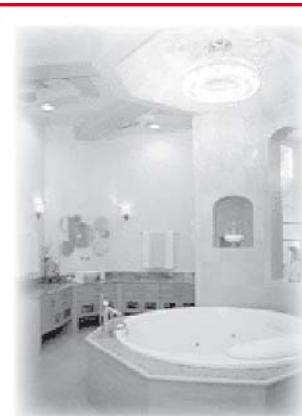


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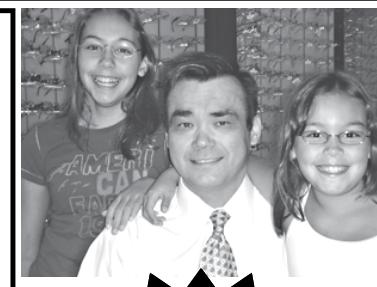
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# OPINION

# Large Classes, Tough Choices

With overcrowding in public schools, it's time to open doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

**O**ne reason for growth in the student population in public school systems in the area right now is the effect of the recession on family budgets. With more than 70,000 unemployed people in Northern Virginia, and thousands more underemployed, some families who did have children in private schools have switched to public school. Given the stellar reputations of the schools in question, it's a rational financial move.

But now growing enrollment and costs combined with stagnant budgets are forcing some local public school systems to rework their budget calculations as well, resulting in more

than 30 students in many classes, more than 40 students in some classes.

This will no doubt send some parents back to the family budget drawing board, seeking a way to afford private school and smaller class sizes for their children.

**EDITORIAL** Most parents don't care very much about the size of the average class, only the sizes of the classes in which their children are trying to learn.

Very large classes, especially classes with 30 or more students in them, are a detriment to learning. Students with any sort of challenges are particularly poorly served by large classes.

Very large classes also make the task of maintaining a civil school environment much more difficult.

Schools would do well to focus first on limiting very large classes, worrying a bit less about average class size.

It's also an excellent time to begin paving the way for charter schools in Virginia. What, in the middle of a financial crunch? If we start now to develop more encouraging guidelines for charter schools in the region, by the time the first schools are open, the economic climate will be vastly different.

Public schools cannot meet all the needs of all the students that come through the doors. Families deserve some well-constructed alternatives. Governor-elect Bob McDonnell, along with President Obama, is right to push to open the doors for more charter schools in Virginia.

— MARY KIMM  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

## Preserve and Protect

To the Editor:

On Monday, Jan. 18, Virginians from all over the state will gather on the Capitol Grounds in Richmond to commemorate Martin Luther King's birthday and his message of obtaining peace through non-violence. In addition, we will remember the approximately 800 Virginians who lose their lives every year to gun violence. We will meet with legislators to encourage them to pass bills that protect the public while preserving the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

This year, the following bills have been filed: HB 32, allowing faculty at state colleges and universities to carry concealed handguns on campus; HB 49, repealing Virginia's one gun-a-month law; HB 54, allowing the carrying of handguns into a courthouse when the courthouse is being used for non-judicial purposes; HB 69, declaring that firearms and ammunition made and/or retained in Virginia not be subject to federal or Congressional law; HB 72, changing the penalty for possession of a firearm on school property from a Class 6 felony to a Class 1 misdemeanor; HB 106, allowing a person with a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun in a place of worship with permission of the leader of the religious meeting and eliminating the restriction against carrying a concealed handgun in a restaurant that serves alcohol.

Presently, Virginia law allows citizens to carry weapons in every venue, except K-12 schools, churches and courthouses. Citi-

zens may open carry in a restaurant or establishment that serves alcohol but may not conceal carry. The Board of Visitors of each individual college or university determines whether students, faculty or staff may carry firearms on campus. Currently, Virginia citizens may only purchase one gun per month and federal law traditionally overrules state law.

Should the above bills pass, Virginia will allow the following: Virginia citizens to purchase an unlimited number of guns, the right of faculty to conceal carry on our campuses, allow guns in our courthouses and churches during "off" hours, lessen the penalty for those carrying firearms on K-12 school property, allow concealed weapons in establishments that serve alcohol and allow Virginia to ignore laws passed by the United States Congress.

My question has been and continues to be, how can Virginia, the place where the worst mass tragedy in American history occurred, and which loses more than 800 people every year to gun violence, continue to ignore the loss of life and create policies that leave families and communities devastated? Join us on Jan. 18 —please go to the Virginia Center for Public Safety Web site: <http://www.vacps.org/>.

**Lu Ann Maciulla McNabb**  
Centreville

## Promises, Promises

To the Editor:

Today, I ran several errands in

Northern Virginia and found that most of the roads I traversed were in a poorly maintained condition. Quite frankly, the roads in Northern Virginia are falling apart with many having budding pot holes, some large enough to jar your car when you run over them.

But, we should have no anxiety about this matter because Gov-Elect Robert McDonnell (R), "Fairfax's Own" and my delegate, David Albo (R-42), who is "Working Hard" for the people up here in Northern Virginia, will fix this horrible transportation mess. The question I have is where will Mr. McDonnell and Mr. Albo get the money, and lots of it, to fix the transportation problem up here in Northern Virginia? You cannot build new roads and maintain the existing roads without money. And selling the ABC stores does not sound like a good idea, unless someone can explain to me where the Commonwealth will get a \$100 million a year to replace the annual profit it receives from the ABC store sales?

The citizens in Northern Virginia should make sure that our elected officials in Richmond live up to the promises they made to us during last year's campaign. Quite frankly, I am tired of having promises made to me during the election that are quickly forgotten by elected officials after the election is over.

**Lon Caldwell**  
Springfield

## Lifesaving Bill

To the Editor,

As a two-time cancer survivor I was encouraged that the Senate passed its health care reform leg-

islation before the Christmas holiday. It was an early gift for cancer patients, survivors and their families, who are closer than ever to reaping the benefits of historic legislation that will dramatically improve the health care system in this country.

The experiences of families affected by cancer highlight the major problems in our health care system. The difficult and complex road that begins with a diagnosis, cancer patients can encounter all of the major problems in the health care system today. They are often denied coverage because of preexisting condition exclusions or charged more than they can afford for critical care simply because they have cancer.

If enacted, this bill could have immediate and lasting benefits for millions of people with cancer and other life-threatening chronic diseases. Getting a cancer diagnosis would no longer put families at risk of being denied or getting priced out of lifesaving coverage.

This is a critical point in the war against cancer. And I would like to thank Sens. Warner and Webb for putting patients before politics by voting in favor of this lifesaving bill.

Thank you Sen. Warner and Sen. Webb for standing up and looking out for cancer patients.

**Jim Radmore**  
American Cancer Society  
Cancer Action Network  
Volunteer

## Write

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
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## THE CONNECTION

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## TRAFFIC

# Funds Coming for Route 1, I-95

**Officials call funding 'a start' to address military relocation problems.**

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**U**S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) appears to have secured funding to help mitigate the additional traffic congestion coming to the Mount Vernon, Lorton and Springfield areas as the result of a massive Department of Defense personnel and facilities relocation in 2011.

Moran expects that the money would be used to widen Richmond Highway in the immediate vicinity of Fort Belvoir Army Base's main post. It is also likely the funding will pay for a new high occupancy vehicle [HOV] "flyover" exit from Interstate 95 to Newington Road in Springfield.

"The move to a non-transit accessible military base should never have been agreed to. ... [But] we now have people in the defense department who will at least listen to us," said Moran.

The U.S. Congress approved a military base realign-

**"This is a step in the right direction but it is not going to solve the problem."**

— Del. Scott Surovell (D-44)

"We are inheriting an insolvable mess," said Moran. The federal money, approximately \$300 million overall, is supposed to ensure good access to the new hospital facility at Fort Belvoir and must be shared

SEE ROUTE 1, PAGE 13

ment and closure plan in 2005 that included the transfer of approximately 19,100 people, mostly from Arlington County's transit-friendly Crystal City, to three more remote locations in Mount Vernon, Springfield and the City of Alexandria.

As part of the same facilities reorganization, the Department of Defense is also doubling the size of the Mount Vernon Community Hospital on the Fort Belvoir Army Base, partly in response to the closing of Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington D.C.

Local elected officials expect the change, which is supposed to be complete by 2011, to wreak havoc on traffic in the southeastern part of Fairfax County and Alexandria, particularly along Richmond Highway and in the Interstate 95/395 corridor.

Though all 19,100 workers are technically assigned to Fort Belvoir, approximately 8,500 of them will be moving to the former Engineering Proving Ground in Springfield and 6,400 will be transferred to a new facility at the intersection of Seminary Road and Interstate 395 in the City of Alexandria.



**"I hate it when they say I need 11,000 votes [to win] and I get 11,000 and I don't win."**

— Steve Hunt (R)

Steve Hunt, left, makes a speech while Supervisor Pat Herring (R-Springfield) and Attorney General-elect Ken Cuccinelli look on.

## Marsden Defeats Hunt in 37th

FROM PAGE 2

vacated 41st District House of Delegates seat. According to state election laws, a special election to fill the seat must take place no less than 30 days and no more than 90 days after the seat opens and will be scheduled by the governor. According to Fairfax County Democratic Committee Chair Rex Simmons, if Marsden resigns his delegate seat before the General Assembly begins on Wednesday, at 12 p.m., Gov. Timothy Kaine (D) can set the date for the election before his term expires on Saturday. If Kaine does not set a date before then, Simmons said, Gov.-elect Bob McDonnell (R) will make the decision. The delegate seat will remain open until the election takes place.

Simmons said that as of Wednesday morning, no

one declared intentions to run for the Democratic Party nomination but that there is interest. He expects to hear something official by Wednesday afternoon.

**ACCORDING TO** Fairfax County Republican Committee Chairman Anthony Bedell, Kerry Bolognese, who lost the delegate race to Marsden last November, has announced that he would vie for the nomination but that others might still enter their names as well. Regardless of the final candidate, however, the Republicans agreed that to win that election, they would have to alter their strategy.

"It's unfortunate to come up a little short here," Cuccinelli said. "As aggressive as we were, we needed to be more aggressive and that's what the next election is for."

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## THINGS TO DO



Nathan Detroit, played by Reid Bigman, joins fellow gamblers shooting craps in a floating crap game that he's organized.

## 'Can Do' Show

**'Guys and Dolls'** take the stage at Lake Braddock's Little Theatre.

**A**ctors in Lake Braddock Musical Theatre are currently rehearsing the Broadway musical "Guys and Dolls." Performances will be Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Jan. 23, at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., in Lake Braddock's Little Theatre, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12 at the door. Tickets may be purchased in advance during school lunches and before show time. For more information, visit [www.freewebs.com/lbmusical/](http://www.freewebs.com/lbmusical/).

**Senior Andrea Harmon plays Adalaide, one of the two female leads .**



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



Dancers, from left, Vivian Ross, Laura Hager, Jordan Rothwell, Tessa Cate, Andrea Farinelli and Sydney Kirwan entertain the audience.

## CALENDAR

### Snow Dates for 'Nutcracker'

The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax presents "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday, Jan. 17, at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts Center, 3001 North Beauregard St., Alexandria. Tickets for all shows are \$20. These performances have been rescheduled from their original December dates due to the winter storm that plagued the area on Dec. 19. Tickets from the December shows will be honored. To learn more, go to [www.thecenterforballetarts.com](http://www.thecenterforballetarts.com) or phone 703-273-5344.



Lake Braddock student Kailey Leinz as Clara

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

#### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

##### Nonfiction Book Discussion Group

6-7:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Call for title. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**One-on-One Genealogical Research Assistance.** 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Get started on genealogical research with the assistance of our experienced volunteers. Adults. 703-249-1520.

**Older Adults Book Group.** 2 p.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini. Meet next door at Kingstowne Center for Active Adults (KNCAA). 703-339-4610.

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

**Springfield/Alexandria Women's Connection Christmas Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. at Springfield Golf and Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. \$17, includes luncheon and free childcare. Reserve at 703-569-4670 or 703-590-6562 or [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com).

**Gallery After Hours: Los Gatos.** 7 p.m., at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Cash bar and light fare will be available, wear your dancing shoes. Tickets \$15-\$25. For more information visit [www.losgatos.cc](http://www.losgatos.cc).

#### FRIDAY/JAN. 15

##### U.S. Navy Band's 33rd International Saxophone Symposium

8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With clinics, recitals and vendor displays, 3-7 p.m. 202-433-2525 or [www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium](http://www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium).

**Pentagram, The Gates of Slumber, Earthride, Lord, Ol' Scratch, Croatoan.** All ages \$20 advance, \$23 door. Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.

#### SATURDAY/JAN. 16

##### U.S. Navy Band's 33rd International Saxophone Symposium

8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With clinics, recitals and vendor displays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 202-433-2525 or [www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium](http://www.navyband.navy.mil/saxophonesymposium).

##### So You Think You Can Dance Fairfax County Competition for Teens Audition Rounds

3-5 p.m. All contestants will need to fill out a Team Registration Entry Form prior to the audition, at any teen center or at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec); go to Teen Services. Audition locations are: James Lee Teen Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church; Mott Teen Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Fairfax; Reston Teen Center, 12196 Sunset Hills Drive, Reston and Hideaway Teen Center, South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

**Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heroes.'** 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or [www.sctonline.org](http://www.sctonline.org).

**Gallery After Hours: Los Gatos.** 7 p.m., at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Cash bar and light fare will be available, wear your dancing shoes. Tickets \$15-\$25. For more information visit [www.losgatos.cc](http://www.losgatos.cc).

**Korpiklaani, Tyr, Swashbuckle, White Wizard, Radamanthys, TBA, Silvanus.** All ages \$20 advance, \$25 door. Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m. Jaxx Nightclub, 6355 Rolling Road Springfield. 703-569-5940.

#### SUNDAY/JAN. 17

**Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heroes.'** 2 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or [www.sctonline.org](http://www.sctonline.org).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

admission, \$15 seniors and students.  
703-866-6238 or [www.sctonline.org](http://www.sctonline.org).

## MONDAY/JAN. 18

### Give Together: A Family Volunteer Day.

10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Dewberry Hall in the Johnson Center, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Volunteer for multiple nonprofit agencies at one central location. Service projects will benefit populations served by FACETS, Fairfax 4-H, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and the Orphan Foundation of America. Pre-register at [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org). 703-246-3826 or [swatson@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:swatson@volunteerfairfax.org).

## TUESDAY/JAN. 19

**Early Readers Book Group.** 4:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A book group for 6 to 8-year-olds and their parents. 703-249-1520.

**Snowy Tales.** 10:30 a.m. Kingstowne Library, 6500 Lansdowne Centre, Alexandria. Winter stories. Age 13 to 23 months with adult. 703-339-4610.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

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

**Mother Daughter Book Club.** 7 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. A book club for girls 9-11 and an adult. 703-249-1520.

**Book Discussion Group.** 6:30 p.m. John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive, Alexandria.

"Housekeeping" by Marilynn Robinson. Adults. 703-971-0010.

**Practice Your English.** 6:30 p.m.

Kingstowne Library, 6500 Lansdowne Centre, Alexandria. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-339-4610.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 21

**Windy Weather Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Story time about winter weather. Ages 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

**Snowy Day.** 10:30 a.m. Richard Byrd Library, 6315 Backlick Road, Springfield, on the second floor of the Bank of America building. Stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-451-8055.

**Guys and Dolls.** 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12. [ppir930702@aol.com](mailto:ppir930702@aol.com).

## FRIDAY/JAN. 22

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

**Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heros.'** 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or [www.sctonline.org](http://www.sctonline.org).

**Spot-LYTE Company presents:**

"**Incorruptible.**" 8 p.m., Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. 703-495-0001 or [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org).

**Guys and Dolls.** 7:30 p.m. at Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Tickets are \$12. [ppir930702@aol.com](mailto:ppir930702@aol.com).

**Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.** 7 p.m., at Robinson Secondary School. Information and tickets are available online at [www.RobinsonDrama.org](http://www.RobinsonDrama.org). Tickets are \$7 online or at the door, or \$5 in advance by mail. Robinson Secondary School is located at 5035 Sideburn Road in Fairfax.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 23

**Springfield Community Theatre presents 'Heros.'** 8 p.m. at The John Swayze Theatre at the New School, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. \$18 general admission, \$15 seniors and students. 703-866-6238 or [www.sctonline.org](http://www.sctonline.org).

**Children's illustrator and political cartoonist Chip Bok.** 2 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. Bok will discuss his new children's book, *The Great White House Breakout*, coauthored with Helen Thomas. Books available for sale and signing. Free, registration required at 703-339-4610.

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Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.

—Albert Einstein

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# Swimming with Clothes On

**Unusual training method improves team's performance.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**efore taking a leap into the pool for practice on Jan. 11, members of the West Springfield swim team take a second to make adjustments to their attire.

Check the goggles for fog, make sure the swimsuit is tied on and be sure to have a full set of clothing on.

"We've been wearing clothes in the pool and it's helping us get faster," senior Briana Rinaldo said. "It's a more difficult workout, but it's making us stronger."

So how does clothing make a swimmer more effective in the pool?

"It's building a natural drag," Head Coach Karen Spooner said. "We don't have all the equipment that bigger clubs have, so we're using [clothes] to create more resistance in the pool."

That's not to say the Spartan swim and dive team doesn't have equipment it could use, but the minimalist approach is part of a learning process for Spooner's team.

"We have kickboards and other equipment," she said. "But I wanted to teach the kids they don't need fancy equipment to get a good workout."

The workouts don't just feature shirts and shorts.

"At one point, we were wearing gloves in the pool," senior Cort Ruslton said. "That made a huge difference. It was so much harder than you would think."

The sight of a swim team clothed in T-shirts and mesh pants attracts attention from other teams practicing at the Audrey Moore Recreation Center in Annandale, but the swimmers say the training is working.

"You can feel the impact of the training when you don't have [clothes] on in the pool," senior Captain Ryan Scholobach said. "Your muscles don't get as tired quickly."

**"It's a more difficult workout, but it's making us stronger."**

— Briana Rinaldo



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

**West Springfield Head Coach Karen Spooner gives out instructions during practice on Jan. 11.**

You feel faster."

The new training techniques aren't the only reason the team is enjoying success. An infusion of young talent has helped, as well.

"We've got really good depth this year," Scholobach said. "We have a lot of good freshmen, and younger swimmers make up most of the team."

With a young roster, the Spartans are hoping the development of freshmen swimmers will help make waves in the Patriot District

SEE ODD, PAGE 11

## 5 Qs with West Springfield Swimmer Sean Nickley

**Q: If you could play a sport with any athlete, who would it be?**

A: It would be soccer with Liverpool center midfielder Steven Gerrard. It would be a ton of fun.

**Q: So you're an English Premier League fan. Have you always been a Liverpool supporter?**

A: Well, my family and I were Manchester United supporters, but they started buying all of their players, so we switched.

**Q: What's the one song you must listen to before you jump in the pool for a race?**

A: I really like to listen to "Oh Shot" by The Gay Blades. That song really gets me pumped up.

**Q: Any sporting goals?**

A: I'd like to go swim in college.

**Q: Most you've ever spent on a pair of goggles?**

A: \$15. I actually like to wear junior goggles because of how they fit on my face.

— REED S. ALBERS



**Sean Nickley**

REED S. ALBERS

SPRINGFIELD CONNECTION SPORTS EDITOR REED ALBERS  
703-224-3014 OR [RALBERS@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:RALBERS@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## WEEK IN SPORTS

### West Springfield Little League Registration

Registration for the 2010 spring Little League season is ongoing and parents will have two more chances to sign their youngsters up in January.

Parents can visit Washington Irving Middle School on Sunday, Jan. 17 from 1-5 p.m. or on Saturday, Jan. 23 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The spring season is open to players ages 5 to 12.

### Umpires Needed

Northern Virginia Baseball Umpires Association (NVBUA) is in need of officials for baseball and volleyball. Umpires are needed for colleges, men's leagues, high schools and youth recreational leagues. Experience is helpful but not required. Formal classroom and on-the-job training will be provided. Classes will begin in mid-February. Umpires are needed for all communities in the greater Washington D.C. Metro area. Call Ken Williams at 703-400-3232 for more information or go to [umpires.org](http://umpires.org) to fill out a "New Ump" form.

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS), the largest softball organization in the area, is also seeking umpires for its adult slowpitch softball leagues in Fairfax County. Umpires' net pay starts at \$25 per one-hour game and they are paid monthly. Contact FAS at 703-815-9007 or send an e-mail to: [office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com](mailto:office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com).

## SPORTS



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/THE CONNECTION

**Clothing in the water is common place at a Spartan swim team practice. 'We're using [clothes] to create more resistance in the pool,' Head Coach Karen Spooner said.**

# Odd Training Method

FROM PAGE 10

for years to come.

"The team is very young, and I think we can be good for quite a few years," Rusliton said.

**ANOTHER ELEMENT** to the team's success is the strong leadership of captains Scholbach, Rusliton, Rinaldo and Sean Nickley.

"The seniors have grown up with getting beat by Lake Braddock and have grown up in [the strong Patriot District]," Spooner said. "They have the spirit of a bonding unit and are very unified with the team."

**"We're always working together. We have a lot of teamwork and I think it helps us in meets."**

— Sean Nickley

"Two of our toughest meets are coming up," Nickley said. "So we know [Spooner] will be stepping up practices even more."

Wheat at [wheatsbaseball@aol.com](mailto:wheatsbaseball@aol.com), or by calling 703-966-3805.

## Umpires Needed for Adult Slowpitch Softball

Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS), the largest softball organization in the area, is seeking umpires for its adult slowpitch softball leagues in Fairfax County. Umpires' net pay starts at \$25 per one-hour game and they are paid monthly. Experience is desired, but ASA training is provided beginning early February. Flexible scheduling is based on availability. Contact FAS at 703-815-9007 or e-mail to: [office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com](mailto:office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com).

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## Seeking Softball Players

The NoVA Flash, a 14U fast-pitch girls softball travel/tournament team, is looking to add a few committed players from the Northern Virginia area for the 2010 Spring-Summer season. Formed late last summer, the Flash participated in four tournaments during the Fall 2009 season, compiling a record of 12 wins and 7 losses, with one second place tournament finish. The team is looking for at least one additional pitcher to augment its current staff, as well as defensive players with solid skills and strong bats. The Flash uses practice fields in the McLean area. Players, 13 or 14 years old as of Dec. 31, 2009, who are interested in learning more about the NoVA Flash or arranging a tryout during our Saturday afternoon winter batting practices, should contact Coach Mike

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TRAFFIC

# Route 1, I-95

FROM PAGE 7

with the Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., where the bulk of Walter Reed's personnel and departments will move.

The simplest way to justify the money was to put it in for the military medical facilities," said Moran.

The congressman, who sits on the House of Representatives committee that oversees the military spending, put the request in for the funding himself, expects Virginia and Maryland will split the money equally, receiving \$150 million each.

Last fall, Gov. Tim Kaine (D) wrote Moran asking for money to widen Richmond Highway from Telegraph Road to the Woodlawn Plantation, which the Virginia Department of Transportation estimated would cost approximately \$75 million. In December, Fairfax County chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) urged Moran to ask for enough money to widen a longer stretch of the corridor, from Fairfax County Parkway to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway.

"There are going to be thousands of people coming to that hospital. This [funding] is a very important piece in terms of addressing the present bottleneck," said Hyland.

Richmond Highway, which shrinks down to four lanes near the base, already backs up in several areas during traffic rush hours, including near the Fort Belvoir gates.

"A lot of people are really worried about what is going to happen to traffic around the base because of that hospital," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44), whose district includes Richmond Highway to the north of Belvoir.

In addition to the hospital and Defense Department workers being relocated to Belvoir, Hyland and Surovell said a new Army museum, which is likely to open in the next few years, will also aggravate the traffic situation.

They said this latest batch of federal funding is crucial start but not nearly enough to address the long-neglected problems of the Richmond Highway corridor.

"This is a step in the right direction but it is not going to solve the problem," said Surovell.

If Moran is able to get all the money he asked for, Fairfax County has requested approximately \$5 million of it for a feasibility study of resurrecting an "old" Fort Belvoir rail spur that could run from the Franconia-Springfield Metro station to the base, according to a letter written by Bulova.

Next to Richmond Highway's expansion, the top priority for the new funding is to address traffic backup that could occur along Interstate 95 as a result of moving thousands of workers onto the Engineer Proving Ground site in Springfield.

Kaine and Fairfax County has asked Moran to find \$15 to \$40 million to construct a new HOV "flyover" exit at Newington Road that would provide direct access for employees going to the new Springfield facility.

## COMMUNITY

# Families To Feel Crunch in School Budget

## Superintendent asks Board of Supervisors for additional \$57.8 million from budget.

BY JULIA O'DONOCHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**S**uperintendent Jack Dale wants to ask the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for an additional \$57.8 million in funding to help meet Fairfax County Public Schools budget needs next year, according to a presentation he made to the School Board Jan. 7.

Fairfax already allocates the school system approximately \$1.7 billion annually, or about 53 percent of the county's overall revenue. But Dale said the schools are facing a projected shortfall of \$166 million in the 2010-11 school year, in part due to rising costs that are out of the system's control.

The additional money equates to an increase of 3 cents per \$100 of assessed land value in the Fairfax County real estate property tax rate. Fairfax schools draw approximately 75 percent of its funding from the local county government, which in turn, almost exclusively relies on real estate taxes for revenue.

**IN ADDITION** to requesting more money from the county, Dale has suggested \$108.2 million in spending cuts to assist in closing the schools system's projected funding gap for next year.

The superintendent added that the quality of Fairfax County public education system would suffer as a result of the cuts.

"We spend the same amount of money on schools as Montgomery County, Md. but we have 30,000 more students than they do," said Dale, referencing Fairfax's largest public education rival in the region.

Dale does not ultimately make the decision about the Fairfax schools' budget. The School Board — largely relying on the superintendent's budget proposal as a template — will make its formal request for funding from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors next month.

In late April, the supervisors will pass an annual countywide budget and announce

how much they intend to allocate to Fairfax schools overall next year.

Some School Board members have already indicated that they would like to ask the county for funding above and beyond what Dale has suggested.

"Let's just say \$57.8 million is not my favorite number," said School Board member Brad Center (Lee).

### New Fees For Families

To make up for the budget shortfall, Dale is proposing \$3.4 million in new fees for families and students, such as:

- ❖ a \$75 charge for any Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate exam a student takes
- ❖ a \$100 student fee for participating on a sports team

### Proposed programs for elimination

Dale has proposed the elimination of the following services:

- ❖ "behind the wheel" drivers education. Fairfax students would now have to depend on the private sector for such training.
- ❖ bus service to "gifted and talented" centers if a base school has "gifted and talented" equivalent classes available.
- ❖ bus service to academy programs if there are fewer than five students enrolled in the program from a high school.
- ❖ freshman athletics, indoor track and winter cheerleading
- ❖ foreign language in the elementary schools (not including immersion programs)

- ❖ elementary "focus" programs (currently present at Riverside, Fort Hunt, Hollin Meadows, Woodley Hills elementary schools in Mount Vernon; Lake Anne and Forest Edge elementary schools in Reston; Kent Gardens Elementary School in McLean; Daniels Run Elementary School in Fairfax)
- ❖ Pimmit Hills Alternative High School in Falls Church
- ❖ Modified School Calendar (currently present at Dogwood Elementary School in

Reston, Franconia Elementary School in the Springfield area, and Timber Lane Elementary School in the McLean area)

- ❖ Project Excel (currently present at Bucknell, Hollin Meadows, Hybla Valley, Mount Vernon Woods, Riverside, Woodlawn, Woodley Hills and Fort Belvoir elementary schools in the Mount Vernon area; Dogwood Elementary School in Reston; Hutchinson Elementary School in Herndon; Halley Elementary School in Fairfax Station; and London Towne Elemen-

try School in Centreville)

❖ Most traditional summer school programs

### Other Budget Actions

Dale has also proposed the following:

- ❖ To increase class size by one student per teacher for all classes except special education.
- ❖ To freeze employees salaries and not give school system staff a "cost of living" increase in the next year.

## Metro Walk & Run Collects Food for Lynbrook E.S.

FROM PAGE 3

month of November. The offer, Helen Russell said, was 10 percent off a purchase for three donated food items and 20 percent off for a donation of six items. The Russells promoted the drive by e-mailing all 3,000 people on the store's e-mail list and also reached out to friends and colleagues. In total, the store ended up collecting more than 300 food items ranging from canned good to cereal to bags of nuts.

"Our customers were heartened that there is a local business not concerned about

things other than itself," Mark Russell said. "They're glad to have a business that takes its role in the community seriously."

While the Russells and their customers were more than happy to partake in the food drive, perhaps no one was more satisfied with the store's efforts than the school itself. Principal Mary McNamee said that since the school does not have a business partner in the community, it relies heavily on small grants and community donations to help its children, many of whom, as evidenced by the meal statistics, are in great need. As a result, the school welcomes any

opportunity to be a beneficiary of such donations.

"Many of our Lynbrook families are currently in distress due to the recession and high unemployment," McNamee said. "We are grateful that we will be able to use a portion of the donated food to help these displaced families with the remainder being distributed to families currently in crisis due to job losses."

While the Russells have no concrete plans to partner again, they both said that they are willing to assist Lynbrook in the future. Helen Russell said that the Assistance

League has targeted Lynbrook as an expansion school for its upcoming 2010 Weekend Food for Kids program that will aim to provide nutritious meals and snacks to Title 1 schools in Fairfax County and Prince William County schools. In addition to receiving food, Helen Russell said that the expansion would also involve clothing donations, as well. The result, the Russells hope, is that through the store, they can support the community that helps to support them.

"It's important that families and children that do without realize that there are people in the community who do help," Mark Russell said.

## VIEWPOINTS

### What do you think of the program cuts proposed by the FCPS superintendent?



"It's upsetting that freshman sports maybe getting cut, my daughter was looking forward to playing sports, like cheerleading. It's also really hard to believe that a county as wealthy as Fairfax is having such severe budget issues."

**Penny Henslee**



"It's not right because freshman wouldn't have their own team to try out on, and it would be harder for them to get on JV and varsity sports and, also, my sister in the third grade is in strings, and she enjoys it, so I hope they keep the band and strings programs up in elementary schools."

**Kristiana Moore**



"I feel like it's ridiculous. They say we have the right to a free education, but yet they're trying to make us pay. Also, if they cut teachers, it's like saying that they don't matter, and it's like a slap in the face. Every teacher in a school is important."

**Miranda Duke**



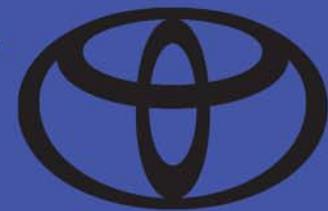
"I think that the school system wastes money on things that aren't important, and if they re-prioritized it wouldn't be as bad as it is now."

**Bethany Cubbage**

— TIFFANY DANIELS

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**TO REGISTER:**  
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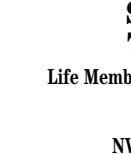
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**Fairfax Station \$698,900**  
**Crosspointe**  
This attractive brick front colonial features 4 BRs, 3 1/2 Baths, gorgeous hardwood floors throughout. Granite counters grace the large updated kitchen, adjacent family room opens to wonderful deck 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 Ann Witherspoon 703.503.1836.



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**Woodbridge \$449,900**  
**Picture Perfect**  
Lovely 4 Bedroom, 3 1/2 Bath 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. Sheila Adams 703-503-1895



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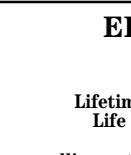


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