

# Burke CONNECTION

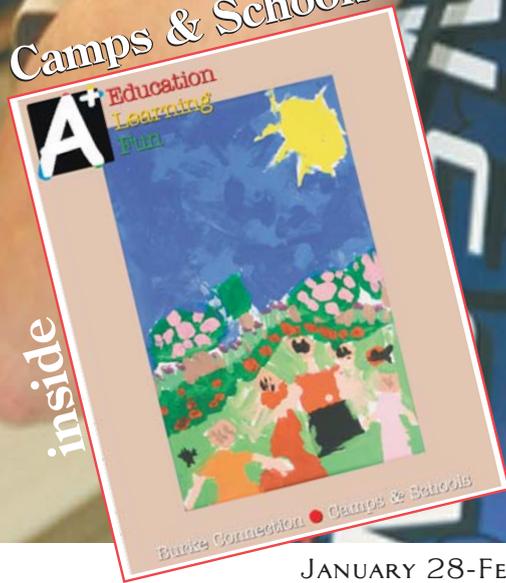
## Derby Day

NEWS, PAGE 4

Cubmaster and Pinewood Derby emcee Joe Margraf, demonstrates one of the photo posters while reviewing the race rules at Pack 1965's Pinewood Derby.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE MARGRAF SPORTS, PAGE 9 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 12

Camps & Schools



inside

## Job Hunter's Resource

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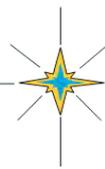
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### Open House

**January 31st • 10:15 am–11:30 am**

Nativity Catholic School and the PTO will host a special Open House on Sunday to begin our celebration of Catholic Schools Week. We invite everyone to visit our classrooms, talk to our teachers and discover more about the unique experience of students attending Nativity Catholic School. We look forward to showing you how our Nativity stars shine!



### 2nd Open House on February 4th

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm

We invite everyone to join us for our **Band Concert immediately following at 7 pm**

### OPEN REGISTRATION:

February 10th • 9:30 am–12 pm

February 11th • 9:30 am–12 pm, 5:30 pm–7 pm

February 12th • 9:30 am–11:30 am



## THIS IS "REX"



Blue Tick Hound, D.O.B. January 14, 2008, Neutered Male, 80 lbs. What breed of dog is Rex? Well, it depends on whether you're looking from the front of him or from the back or from the side. He looks different from every angle. He's truly unique in color, breed and personality. Rex is a laid back 2 year old lover boy with wonderful manners. He's housebroken, likes other dogs and even though he does like to "talk" to you, it's only to say he loves attention. For a chance to

meet this special boy, hurry and send in your dog adoption application today. Attributes: A True Gentleman!



### HUMANE SOCIETY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

Hours: Monday-Friday 10-4 and Saturday 10-3 • [www.hsfc.org](http://www.hsfc.org)  
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## FAIRFAX LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL 2010 SPRING REGISTRATION

Come find your field of dreams with Fairfax Little League!  
Play the great American game in the spirit of the Babe, Hammering Hank, Yogi, Cal, Jeter, and Big Papi.



Fun times for the whole family await you!

Spring 2010 Little League registration **OPEN NOW** online  
at [www.FairfaxLL.com](http://www.FairfaxLL.com)

Register by January 31, **you will SAVE \$25!!!**

**T-Ball:** The best introduction to baseball. Generally for kids ages 5, 6, 7 – everyone plays an every minute both as fielders and hitters. Neighborhood teams.

**"A" (Single A) Baseball:** Generally for players age 8 (and some 7 year olds). All players bat in rotation with machine / coach pitching and play at least half of innings in the field.

**"AA", "AAA", Major League Baseball:** Three levels of baseball for 8 to 12 year olds. All games are played on a 60 foot diamond. Players are placed by a draft system. Primary consideration is for players to play at a level of similar skill and experience.

**Junior League:** Ages 13 & 14 – game is played on a 90 foot diamond. Players are placed by a draft system.

**Challengers:** Ages 6 to 21 To provide youngsters with physical and mental disabilities the opportunity to play baseball on their own level.

**Tryouts:** Saturday, February 20th, see Fairfax Little League website below for details

**Youth Sports Scholarships:** Available to those that qualify.



REGISTRATION IS 100% ON-LINE  
Register Now at [www.FairfaxLL.com](http://www.FairfaxLL.com)

Questions?

Contact Fairfax Little League  
[Questions@FairfaxLL.org](mailto:Questions@FairfaxLL.org)



## How-To Lesson for Leaders

**Civic leaders take part in Braddock Leadership Institute.**

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

Community leaders and activists took the first step in making their Burke communities better places to live last weekend in the second phase of Supervisor John Cook's (R-Braddock) much anticipated Leadership Institute.

Part of Cook's Community Engagement Initiative, Cook welcomed the leaders of many of Burke's civic and homeowner's associations for a day-long workshop Saturday, Jan. 22. The workshop featured several sessions that educated the participants on nearly every aspect of what it takes to be an effective community leader.

"I always feel that we need help in engaging the various groups of people in our communities," said Dottie Dane, Stone Haven Homeowner's Association president. "There are some specific things that we've learned that we can take back to our communities."

Approximately 70 people attended the institutes, which was developed by a team that included Cook, county officials, representatives from Volunteer Fairfax and the Braddock District Council. According to Cook, the institute was targeted at people on homeowners associations, civic associations or other community



Matthew Friedman tells participants how to use their voting machines during the diversity seminar.

boards or for those considering community leadership. The goal of the seven-hour semi-

**"This is a yearlong process of getting communities these tools and putting them into practice."**

— Supervisor John Cook (D-Braddock)

nar, Cook said, was to educate the participants on the responsibilities of leaders within community organizations and the body itself in the hope that they would develop and sustain a vision for their commu-

nities.

The day kicked off at 9 a.m. with an opening session that gave an introduction to the program and discussed the importance of community engagement. Speeches were given by Cook, current Board of Supervisors Chairman and former Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison and Braddock District Council member Bill Barfield.

The next two sessions, which totaled an hour, educated the attendees on how to engage fellow residents and get them to buy

SEE LEADERSHIP, PAGE 11

## Funding Formula Raises Ire

**'Legal action' considered.**

BY VERONICA GARABELLI  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Bob McDonnell's (R) plan to continue using an education funding formula that takes money from more affluent school districts and gives it to less affluent ones has so upset Fairfax County supervisors that they are considering legal action.

"This is really a cut-and-dried issue," said Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee). "It's outright discrimination against Northern Virginia."

McDonnell's decision will cut \$61 million from the Fairfax County Public Schools' budget, said Paul Regnier, a spokesman for the school district.

According to the school system's Web site, Fairfax County's school budget for the 2010 fiscal year is \$2.2 billion, so the funding cut amounts to 3 percent of the budget. Regnier said that could mean larger class sizes, the elimination of full-day kindergartens or the curtailment of foreign language emergence services.

McDonnell's office confirmed Friday, Jan. 22, that he would uphold the use of the school funding formula proposed in December by then-Gov. Tim Kaine (D).

Details will be given to agency heads next week, McDonnell's press secretary, Stacey Johnson, said in an e-mail to Capital News Service.

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) said he was furious when he heard the formula would be frozen at the level set by Kaine.

Petersen noted that because the real estate market had fallen in Northern Virginia, Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun counties received lower scores on the scale than they had in the past. Ordinarily, the lower scores would have resulted in more money from the state for basic education.

"Now, thanks to the plan that was put forward by Gov. Kaine, the rules are being changed on us," Petersen said.

SEE FROZEN, PAGE 12

## The Job Sage

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI  
THE CONNECTION

The country's lagging economy has resulted in unemployment rates the likes of which the nation has not experienced since the Great Depression, leaving many jobless Northern Virginians to search high and low for that next opening.

Burke resident Alan De Back is aware of the tough job market and is offering a way for job hunters to gain a leg up on their competitors and secure new employment.

De Back recently wrote a book entitled "Get Hired in a Tough Market: Insider Secrets for Finding and Landing the Job You Need Now" that equips readers with the skills and tools necessary to land a job at a time in which there is very little separating candidates for a limited number of open positions.



Alan De Back

**Author Alan De Back pens book 'Get Hired in a Tough Market.'**

**Buy the Book**

Go to [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and search for Alan De Back in the "books" section to find "Get Hired in a Tough Market."

"I always had the idea in the back of my mind to do a book, but I never motivated myself to tackle it," De Back said. "It really was just putting the things I've had in my head and all the things I've done all these years and put it to paper. There was not a whole lot to it."

De Back was born in Rochester, N.Y. and lived there until his move to Northern Vir-

ginia 15 years ago. He been in the career field in some capacity for nearly 25 years. His work began in Rochester, where he was the director of the career office at the Rochester Institute of Technology for nine years. During his time there, De Back oversaw the school's efforts to open career opportunities for its students, which included interview preparation, job search skills and more. However, after nearly a decade of helping students, De Back craved a new platform for his abilities, and took a job with the Arlington County government in 1995.

"I loved my time [at the Rochester Institute of Technology] and it was a great experience," De Back said. "But after nine years, I decided it was time to work with adults."

De Back worked in the Arlington County government as the program manager for

SEE BURKE, PAGE 8

## Father Charged In Infant's Death

A Burke man was charged with murder and child abuse after the September 2009 death of his infant son.

Police originally responded to the 9800 block of Spillway Court on Sept. 22 for a report of an unresponsive child. Nine-month-old Dylan Price was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Initial indications from the scene and hospital did not indicate anything of a suspicious nature. The autopsy and additional testing resulted in the medical examiner ruling Dylan's death to be a homicide.

Following an investigation, Dylan's father, Herbert Price, 29, of the 9400 block of Abingdon Court in Manassas, turned himself into police Sunday, Jan. 24.

"The initial findings at the scene and the hospital were not suspicious," Officer Bud Walker said. "There was a delay [in Herbert Price being charged] because the autopsy did not come out until December, so we had to begin our investigation at that point."

— JUSTIN FANIZZI

## Robbery in Burke Area

Fairfax County Police are investigating the robbery of a 17-year-old boy in Burke on Thursday, Jan. 21.

According to police, the victim reported that he was walking along a path in the 5700 block of Oak Leather Court between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. when a man approached from behind. The man reportedly grabbed the victim, held a gun to him and demanded money. The suspect took the victim's cell phone and wallet and fled on foot toward Oak Leather Drive.

The suspect was described as black, between 19 and 24 years of age. He was about 5 feet 11 inches tall and 200 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## Fatal Crash in Burke

A 19-year-old woman died in a single-car crash in Burke on Friday, Jan. 22.

According to Fairfax County Police, Katelyn M. Zinn, 19, of the 9200 block of Cork Place in Burke was driving eastbound on Burke Lake Road near Burke View Avenue around 11:30 p.m. when her 1996 Toyota Camry ran off the road and struck a tree. Zinn apparently lost control, struck a concrete median, ran off the right shoulder and slid sideways into the tree. Zinn was the sole occupant of the vehicle and police do not believe she was wearing a seatbelt.

"Since it was a one-car accident, there is not enough forensic evidence to do a measurement to determine the speed of the car at the time of the accident, so we will probably never know [if she was speeding]," Officer Bud Walker said. "There was also nothing [at the scene] that immediately suggests that alcohol was a factor but we have to wait for the autopsy to know for sure."

— JUSTIN FANIZZI



A big crowd gathers for Pack 1965's Pinewood Derby. Scouts are eager for the races to begin.

# A Night at the Races

## Cub Scout Pack 1965 hosts its annual Pinewood Derby.

Cub Scout Pack 1965's annual Pinewood Derby Race took place Friday, Jan. 15, at Kings Park Elementary School. Forty Cub Scouts, from grades 1-4, participated in the derby. Each cub scout designed and built his own car and competed by den. Medals were awarded in two categories: Fastest Car and Best Design. The first place winners advance to the district-wide races on Saturday, March 6 in Fairfax.



Some of the creative car designs for this year's Derby.



First place winners, from left, are Sean McAllister, Davy Read, Matthew Davison, Jesse Thayer, Nicholas Margraf, Jorge Cadme and Ben Siebert. Not pictured: Joshua Carpio.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOE MARGRAF

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



# Goodbye Back Pain Hello Life

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## In 40 seconds, his world changed.



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The Community Coalition for Haiti, a faith-based nonprofit relief organization, has set up a restricted fund for the Haitian relief effort. 100% of every donation is used to help the thousands in need. Every dollar is a treasure to those in desperate need of food, water, medicine and help. Please donate today. Make a donation online at [www.cchaiti.org](http://www.cchaiti.org) or mail your check to Community Coalition for Haiti, P.O. Box 1222, Vienna, VA 22183.

Our medical volunteers are in Haiti now. Please help.



[www.cchaiti.org](http://www.cchaiti.org)

Partners with CCH in the Haiti relief effort include: MedAssets; Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children; Missionary Flights International; and MTS Services.



"In addition to our prayers, the people of Haiti are in great need of our compassion and assistance."

— Charles Mann, Inova Health System Board Member



"Luciana and I have worked with the Community Coalition for Haiti and we ask you to join us in supporting the humanitarian efforts that are under way."

— Robert & Luciana Duvall



"We all need to take swift action to make sure that relief reaches the people of Haiti as quickly as it can."

— Darrell Green, NFL Hall of Fame

Photo by © Cameron Davidson

# CALENDAR

To have community events listed, send to south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416 with questions. Deadline for calendar listings is two weeks prior to event.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 29

**Friends of the Pohick Regional Library Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Choice selections. All ages. 703-644-7333.

**The Kennedys and Maura Kennedy's Solo CD Release.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$18. www.jamminjava.com.

**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.

**Brendan's Voyage.** 7-9:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

**Aspen Ensemble: The Discovery Series.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. 703-938-2404 or wolftrap.org.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 30

**Friends of the Pohick Regional Library Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Choice selections. All ages. 703-644-7333.

**Sing Me Insomnia, The Goodnight Anthem and Struan Shields.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. www.jamminjava.com.

**An Evening with Charlie Hunter.** 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. www.jamminjava.com.

**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.

**Brendan's Voyage.** 7-9:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

**John Eaton. 7:30 p.m.** The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or wolftrap.org.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 31

**Martina McBride and Trace Adkins.** 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$49.75-\$69.75, available at all Ticketmaster locations or Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

**Friends of the Pohick Regional Library Used Book Sale.** 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Choice selections. All ages. 703-644-7333.

**Springfield Community Theatre presents "Heros."** 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.

## MONDAY/FEB. 1

**Weeping Weeds & Veils: Victorian Mourning Customs.** 7 p.m.



**Jewelry by Janine Bland**

Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association meeting, City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Free. 703-322-1811.

**Can You See My Shadow?** 10:30 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Groundhog Day stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-978-5600.

**Calling All Guys.** 7 p.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Book discussion group for boys. Samurai Shortstop by Alan Gratz. Age 9-12 with adult. 703-978-5600.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 2

**Teen Book Club.** 6:30 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Food, fun and reading. Age 12-18. 703-249-1520.

**Girls Rock! with Ivy Rose, Mad**

**The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia showcases artwork by local artists Sarah D. Samuels and Janine Bland through Feb. 16, in the Bodzin Art Gallery, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. For more information, call 703-323-0880; e-mail IreneG@jccnv.org; or visit www.jccnv.org. Gallery hours are Sunday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday, 12:30-6 p.m.**

**Brenda and The Shields Brothers Band.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 3

**Buckwheat Zydeco, General Admission Dance.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

**Tales for Twos: Kittens and Mittens.** 10:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about three kittens who have trouble with their mittens. Age 24-35 months with adult. 703-644-7333.

**Writers' Roundtable.** 6 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Discuss your work with

other writers. Adults. 703-644-7333.

**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. 703-249-1520.

**The Movement, Lucky Dub and Fairgrounds.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 4

**Fairfax High School Choral Department Cabaret Night.** 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Tickets cover admission, dessert and a beverage. \$10 adults; \$5 seniors, students or children over two years old. \$25 for a family of four. A separate raffle for gift baskets will also be available. www.fhschorus.net.

**The Persuasions.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

**Owl Tales.** 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories about owls. Age 13-23 Months with adult. 703-249-1520.

**TrackHustle & BeTaRaZ presents the Board Games Beat Battle.** 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 5

**Fairfax Symphony Valentine Pops Gala: Amore! An Evening of Italian Love Songs.** At the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. 6:30 p.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

## FAITH NOTES

**Congregation Adat Reyim Havdallah, Pasta Dinner and Bingo Night,** on Saturday, Feb. 6 at 6500 Westbury Oaks Court, Springfield. 6 p.m. Havdallah service followed by pasta dinner at 6:30 p.m. and games at 7:30 p.m. Bring non-perishable food donations and gently-used clothing to be donated to ECHO. \$4 for individuals, \$10 for families. Mail checks and registration to CAR or register online at www.adatreyim.org/news-a-events/269-pasta-bingo or 703-569-7577.

**Burke Presbyterian Church** is participating in the Church World Service (CWS) humanitarian relief efforts to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The public can help CWS in its urgent disaster response by assembling and donating a hygiene kit or a baby kit. BPC is a collection point for the kits. To create a kit, visit either www.BurkePresChurch.org and click on "Haiti Relief" or visit www.ChurchWorldService.org and click on "Hygiene Kit" or "Baby Kit." Both of these sites provide specific instructions on how to assemble a kit. Drop off kits at Burke Presbyterian Church, located at 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Phone the church office with any questions at 703-764-0456.

**Renew Your Wedding Vows on Valentines Day** on Sunday, Feb. 14, 11 a.m., at Messiah United Methodist Church, 6215 Rolling Road, Springfield. The church will sell flowers for "brides" to carry in the service. A nursery is available for age 2 and under, and Sunday School classes for age 3 through sixth grade. Immediately following the service, couples are invited to a wedding style reception in the Fellowship Hall. Bring wedding albums to share with others, enjoy a light snack and wedding cake.

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



5690 Oak Leather Drive  
Burke, VA 22015  
703-764-0456  
www.BurkePresChurch.org

**Sunday Worship:**  
8:30 & 11:15 am  
9:45 am Sunday School

**Saturday Worship:**  
5:30 pm CoffeeHouse  
casual, guest musicians

First Monday & Tuesday of the month: Labyrinth Prayer Walk  
Great offerings for children, youth and adults throughout the week.  
Wonderful opportunities in music and mission.

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SUNDAY 8, 9:30, 11AM  
VENTURE (YOUNG ADULTS) 11AM  
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*Check out our*

- Creative ministry to children, including Union Station, AWANA, and VBS
- Relevant ministry to middle and high school students
- Vibrant ministry to men, women, and couples
- Young Adults service at 11am
- Spanish-language service at 12:30pm
- ESL classes (fall/winter/spring)
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## Messiah United Methodist Church

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Check out our:

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Sunday Services 8:15, 9:30 and 11 am  
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Childcare is available during worship

6215 Rolling Road, Springfield  
(near West Springfield High School)  
703-569-9862



9800 Old Keene Mill Rd.  
703-455-7041  
Sunday School 9:15 AM  
Worship Service 10:30 AM  
www.calvaryfamily.com  
"Continuing the ministry of Christ on earth"

St. Stephen's United Methodist Church  
03-978-8724

**Non-Denominational**  
Burke Community Church  
703-425-0205

Calvary Christian Church  
703-455-7041

Knollwood Community Church  
703-425-2068



**Presbyterian**  
Burke Presbyterian Church  
703-764-0456

Sansaug Korean Presbyterian  
703-425-3377

**Unitarian Universalist**  
Accotink Unitarian Universalist  
703-503-4579

**Baha'i Faith**  
Baha'is of Fairfax County Southwest  
703-912-1719

**Baptist**  
Preservation of Zion Fellowship  
703-409-1015

**Catholic**  
Church of the Nativity  
703-455-2400

**Christian Reformed**  
Grace Christian Reformed Church  
703-323-8033

**Episcopal**  
Church of the Good Shepherd  
703-323-5400

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
703-455-2500

**Lutheran**  
Abiding Presence Lutheran Church  
703-455-7500

**Methodist**  
Burke United Methodist Church  
703-250-6100

**To Advertise Your Community of Worship, Call 703-778-9418**

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

silent auction and cocktail reception, 8 p.m. dinner, 9 p.m. FSO in concert with tenor Robert Petillo and soprano Jeanine Thames. \$300 per person or \$3,000 per table, available by credit card at 703-563-1990, or by check to Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, 3905 Railroad Ave., Suite 202N, Fairfax, Va. 22030.  
www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

**Mark Morris Dance Group.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With the area premieres of 'Visitation' and 'Empire Garden.' A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

**Brian Gaffney.** 7-9:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

**Stroke Comeback Center Fund-raiser: the Benefits of Chocolate.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Live music, boutique of gifts, chocolate choices, food, open bar, and an auction of canvases painted by local physicians during the evening. 703-255-5221.

**Pianist Hiromi.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 6

**Jeri Sager.** 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. West Springfield High School alumnus and Broadway star Sager debuts at the Barns of Wolf Trap with her solo cabaret show, "Broadway by Jeri." Accompanied by a four-piece band, Sager will re-create her roles in "Cats," "Les Misérables" and "Evita." \$25. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

**Spagetti Dinner.** 5-7 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Senior Center, Green Acres Center Cafeteria, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Pasta, salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverage. Adults \$8, students and seniors \$7, \$6 under age 10. Children under age 2 free. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center. Open to the public, walk-ins welcome. 703-359-2487 or jormesher@fairfaxva.gov.

**Mark Morris Dance Group.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With the area premieres of "Visitation" and "Empire Garden." A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

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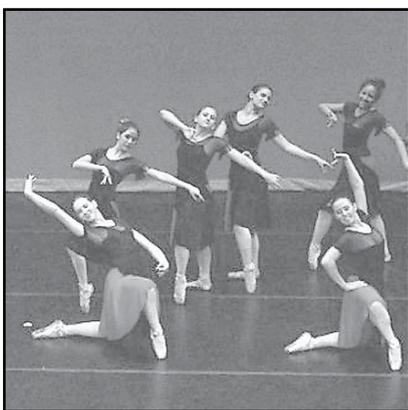
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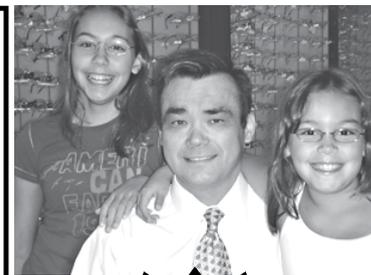
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# PEOPLE

## Burke Author Pens Jobs Book

FROM PAGE 3

leadership development, working with candidates for high-level positions to help mold them into effective leaders. De Back left the position several years later after he was offered a job by Lockheed Martin to serve in a similar capacity. After a short stint with the company, De Back was persuaded to work for a small "dot com" consulting firm, which ended up going bankrupt and closed within months of him starting.

"[Getting laid off] was a great experience, because it made me a better career counselor," De Back said. "I personally experienced what it is like to be called into an office and told to pack your things. It made me more sensitive to the issues people are facing when they lose jobs. It was a blessing in disguise."

Instead of joining another company, De Back decided that the best way to utilize his skills was to go independent and work on his own. He created Alan De Back Learning and Communications, working with individual clients that need job search assistance as well as doing sub-contracting work with the federal government to train and counsel some of its employees. In addition, De Back works with the American Management Association and the IWCC, a communication training organization.

Though De Back wrote for trade publications and newsletters during that time, it was not until early 2009 that his writing career was launched. De Back was at a national conference on career counseling, where he was slated to give a special presentation

on finding a job in a down economy. After the presentation, representatives from publishing house McGraw-Hill e-mailed De Back asking to speak with him about ideas for a book on that topic. De Back quickly put a proposal together, and within a week, the company accepted his proposal and gave him a three-month deadline to complete it.

"I signed the contract to do the book on Feb. 1, and was given a deadline of May 1 to finish it," De Back said. "They said that they wanted to get it out while the economy was still bad."

So, De Back quickly got to work, writing every day for as much as 40 hours a week to meet the tight deadline. Though the deadline did not leave him with much time to work, he said that the publishers were more than happy with the result, as he got it done on time and with very few grammatical or structural errors. The finished product, De Back said, is a compilation of all of the things he has learned both personally and through counseling others throughout the years. The material is arranged in a way that engages the reader.

The book, he said, offers a step-by-step look at job hunting, all the way from interviews to job performance. It contains worksheets and checklists that the reader can use as a navigation aid during the process.

"I see it as a comprehensive job search guide to get a person through the entire process," De Back said. "I've worked with college students, adults and even

SEE JOB BOOK, PAGE 12

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# Bruin Girls Qualify for States

**LB girls' 4x800 relay  
13th fastest in state  
history.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

Since the start of the 2009-10 Indoor track season, Lake Braddock head coach Mike Mangan's top four girls haven't competed together in the 4x800 meter relay for a number of reasons.

"Having all four girls together wasn't always guaranteed," he said. "With the snow and holidays, people were out of town as well."

His talented group of runners helped Lake Braddock claim a state title in cross-country in 2009, and Mangan anxiously anticipated the chance to load-up his relay.

The first chance came on Jan. 19 on one of indoor track's grandest stages, The Armory Track and Field Center in New York City.

With banked turns and an intimidating atmosphere, Mangan hoped his four girls — Sophie Chase, Kelly Hagan, Liana Epstein and Casey Lardner — would qualify for the Virginia state indoor track meet during The New Balance Games, a major competition featuring schools from across the country.

"We felt like we should be able to run a state qualifying time when we had an opportunity," he said. "The race in New York was the perfect chance."

The Armory Track and Field Center bills itself as one of the nation's fastest places to run. Senior Liana Epstein said it was the perfect place for the girls' relay debut.

"Any time we get to go to the Armory and race, we know it's going to be good," she said. "We knew we were ready to run fast. It was nice to have it play out [in New York]."



Two members of the girls' 4x800 meter relay, Casey Lardner and Liana Epstein, pose for a photo. Kelly Hagan and Sophie Chase were also members of the relay team.

Coupled with the anticipation of running in such a high-profile race and running as a unit for the first time, the girls turned in a time of 9:19.90, the 13th fastest 4x800 Virginia indoor track time. It also set a school record for the fastest time during a non-championship race.

"We fought really hard," Epstein said. "We were just going for [the qualifying time] and we're really happy with how our first race [as a group] went together."

Lardner said the atmosphere of The New Balance Games helped the team to focus on the relay's goal.

"It was really exciting to compete against tons of teams," she said. "Before our race, we saw professional athletes running the

mile. It just brought us down to earth to see them running and reminded us what we needed to do."

The boys' 4x800 meter relay team also delivered a standout performance, despite Mangan's uncertainty going into the race.

What he got was one of the boys' fastest times in Lake Braddock's recent history.

The boys' time of 8:12.62 narrowly missed the Virginia state qualifying cut.

"We had the parts, but we hadn't put together a full [team]," said relay team member Matt Hoogland. "It was a surprise to see that we were that close to getting to the state [qualifying] time."

**"We knew we were ready  
to run fast."**

— Liana Epstein

## 5 Qs with Lake Braddock runner Sophie Chase

**Q: What's the pump-up song you have to hear before you hit the track?**

A: I have a lot of different songs that I like to listen to. It's nothing really specific, anything by the Black Eyed Peas is good.

**Q: Do you have a favorite pair of running shoes?**

A: I actually have been wearing the same [Nikes] since cross-country season.

**Q: What was your favorite moment at the New Balance Games in New York City?**

A: It was just a totally new experi-

ence. I've never been up at the big leagues before, and I knew it was an important race.

**Q: You're a freshman this year, what are some of your goals for the future?**

A: I want to try and make it to Nationals for cross-country or maybe break a few records.

**Q: If you could train with any athlete, who would it be?**

A: I would just want to train with any long distance runners. Anyone who might work hard and want to do their best, nobody really specific.

— REED S. ALBERS



Bruin Sophie Chase had a strong cross-country season in 2009.

## WEEK IN SPORTS

### Robinson Races In New York

The Robinson girls' 4x200 meter relay turned in one of its fastest performances of the season at The New Balance Games on Jan. 19 in New York City.

The girls took advantage of a chance to run on a banked indoor track at The Armory Indoor Track and Field Center, turning in a time of 1:43.96 for fifth overall at the competition.

The boys' team also turned in a speedy performance with a 3:30 time in the 4x400 meter relay.

### Rams Struggle Against Wildcats

On Jan. 22 the Robinson (2-14) boys' basketball team struggled to snap a 10-game losing streak against Centreville.

The Rams lost 66-45 extending the streak to 11 games. Mike Rice led the scoring with 19 points and C.J. Cleaves rounded out Robinson's top scorers with 10.

The Rams will face Concorde District foe Chantilly (10-6) on Jan. 28.

The Lady Rams (9-6) also suffered a loss at the hands of Centreville on Jan. 22.

Robinson fell short 48-44 in the game, but the team was led by Samantha Partonen's 13 points and Brigitte Kuter's 10 points.

The girls' team will also face Chantilly (11-5) on Jan. 28.

### 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. Support your local community's sports leagues by signing up. 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 e-mail to: [office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com](mailto:office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com).

## SPORTS

# Cavs Comfy in New District

**After rocky start, boys' basketball team finds success in Patriot District.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
THE CONNECTION

One trip around the Patriot District is all it took for the W.T. Woodson boys' basketball team to get accustomed to their new home.

After dropping four straight district matches to start January, the team is finally beginning to heat up with a recent three-game winning streak.

"It's a little different in this district," senior Max Lenox said. "We play a much more athletic game [in the Patriot District]."

Prior to the 2009-10 season, the Cavaliers (8-9, 4-5 in district play) were accustomed to annual match-ups with Liberty District foes, but a re-alignment of the districts sent the boys and all of Woodson's sports teams to the Patriot District.

"It's a change," Lenox said. "But we're getting used to it."

A four-game losing streak in early January showed the Cavs that they still had a lot to learn about the district's competitiveness.

"The game here is a lot faster," sophomore guard Mark Noe said. "First time around, we weren't prepared for it."

The team is now showing that it can be a force in the Patriot District, evident by a 68-59 win over district rival Robert E. Lee on Tuesday, Jan. 26.

**"The game here is a lot faster."**

— Mark Noe

The victory is the Cavaliers' third district win in a row, a streak which includes wins over West Springfield and Lake Braddock.

"We let a few games get past us," Lenox said. "But now we know we can play with these guys."

The change in district also prompted a minor change in coaching philosophy for head coach Doug Craig.

"This is a league of runs," he said. "Teams get out on 10, 12 point runs and you have to stop that. I've been calling timeouts ear-

lier to control that."

Craig said the transition from the old district to the new hasn't hindered the team's ability to adapt.

"More than anything, it's just a different style of basketball," he said. "The Liberty District is good, but this is more up and down. You have to play more helter-skelter."

While the district has provided new challenges for his teammates, Lenox, who scored 39 points in the victory over Lee, is flourishing. He's 13 points away from scoring 1,000 career points as a Cavalier.

"I just try to do what my team needs me to do," Lenox said. "If they need me to pass, I will. If they need me to score, I can."

Lenox sat out his junior season with an injury, but his return has been a welcome one for Woodson.

"He's the guy we can look to for scoring," Noe said. "It's good to have that on our team."

Lenox's return might be a boost for the Cavaliers, but the team is still without another one of its stars, John Schoof, who is battling a leg injury and has been sidelined

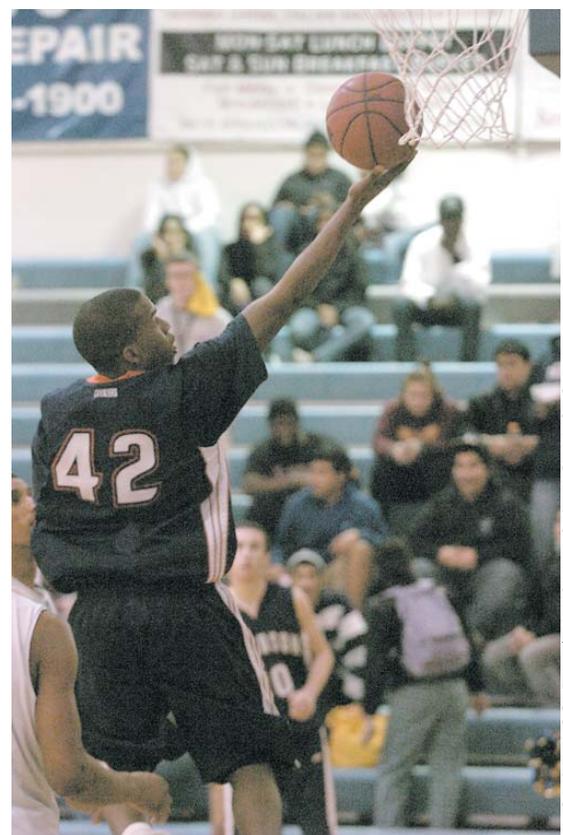


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Senior guard Max Lenox attempts a lay-up during the Cavaliers' 68-59 win over Lee. Lenox finished the game with 39 points.**

all season.

The Cavaliers continue their season with a road game against district opponent T.C. Williams (10-3, 8-0 in district play) on Jan. 29, at 7:45 p.m.



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# COMMUNITY



PHOTO BY JUSTIN FANIZZI/THE CONNECTION

The Leadership Institute drew approximately 70 participants.

## Leadership Training

FROM PAGE 3

into a shared vision for the community. This session was headlined by Ron Carlee, former Arlington County Manager and current executive at the International City/County Management Association.

"[Ron] was just phenomenal," Cook said. "He was really good at getting a dialogue going and laying the groundwork for the rest of the day. He said that the first thing you need to do is know your neighbor, and that's what is going to motivate people to get involved."

The day continued with participants attending an hour-long breakout session in which three different seminars covered three different topics.

The three breakout sessions were "Creating and Maintaining Safe Neighborhoods," "The Nuts & Bolts of Managing and Sustaining Community Organizations" and "Environmental Stewardship." Members of the county police and fire and rescue departments led the safe neighborhoods seminar and discussed the importance of engaging residents in neighborhood watch groups, code enforcement and emergency preparedness.

"The safe neighborhood session was one that I liked," said Crownleigh resident Gail Kohn. "In my community, I see lights on all night long, and after the training, I now know that it is a safety tactic."

The "Nuts & Bolts of Managing and Sustaining Community Organizations" seminar addressed the responsibilities of a civic organization and its leaders. The workshop covered the local and state statutes that govern community associations and the organization's legal and fiscal responsibilities. Ideas on how to successfully develop a vision for a community and plan for the long-term sustainability of the vision were also discussed amongst the group.

"The nuts and bolts session was really good," said Charles Osborn of the Braddock Rural Youth Club. "I'm taking over as president [of the club] so I'm trying to better myself for that job."

In the "Environmental Stewardship" session, members of the county's Environmental Coordinating Council taught participants ways to "live green" in

the hopes of maintaining the livability of the community's neighborhoods. The session also discussed ways to encourage fellow residents to adopt more environmentally-friendly lifestyles so that the entire community will have a stake in their neighborhood's cleanliness.

"I'm here to pick up some tips that could be of use to my community, and the environmental session was extremely useful," said Dave Martyn, member of the Southport Homeowner's Association. "We have a stream running through our neighborhood, so the environment is a big issue for us."

**FOLLOWING THE** sessions, a working lunch included the seminar "Human Capital and Engaging Diverse Populations." Led by Manny Brandt and Matthew Friedman of the National Multicultural Institute, the seminar employed handheld remote controls that participants used to enter votes on a series of questions presented by Brandt. The questions ranged from household income to thoughts on sensitive topics in the realm of diversity. The point of the exercise was for participants to learn more about the demographics of their communities and skills on how to reach out to the various racial and ethnic groups within their neighborhoods.

After this session, the same breakout sessions from the morning were repeated, along with a new seminar, "Emergency Preparedness." County Emergency Management Coordinator David McKernan led that seminar and discussed ways to prepare neighborhoods for disasters of all types.

The day concluded with a wrap up from Cook, in which he encouraged all attendees to take what they learned throughout the day and put it into action within their respective communities. Cook said that he was pleased with turnout for the event and was confident that the messages of the various seminars were received well.

"This is a yearlong process of getting communities these tools and putting them into practice," Cook said. "They can't just take this information home, say the day was nice and forget about it. They have to do something with them."



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# COMMUNITY

## Frozen Formula

FROM PAGE 3

On Jan. 12, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted 10-0 to look into legal action if the McDonnell administration upheld the freeze in the school funding formula.

The formula is called the Local Composite Index, or LCI. It determines which localities can pay the most for basic kindergarten-through-12th-grade education and which ones cannot. It is calculated using adjusted gross income, taxable retail sales and true value of real property.

**THIS YEAR**, Fairfax's score went from .76 to .71; Loudoun fell from .67 to .58 and Prince William dipped from .44 to .40.

That should have meant more money for those school districts. However, Kaine — and now McDonnell — decided to freeze the formula at the previous scores.

That decision will please some localities, such as Russell County, in the southwest corner of Virginia.

Dr. Lorraine C. Turner, superintendent for the Russell County Public Schools, said her school district would benefit from the LCI freeze.

"If it's frozen at last year's rate, the state will give us more money, as opposed to asking the locality to pay for it," Turner said.

In December, Kaine proposed freezing the LCI until the 2012 fiscal year. He said this would help protect 97 school divisions that would lose money if the formula were recalculated.

## Job Book

FROM PAGE 8

senior citizens, and it works for all of those age groups because a lot of the strategies and processes are the same whether you're looking for a new job or just entering the work force."

The book was officially published at the end of November, and copies hit bookshelves in early December. So far, the book has enjoyed modest success, making Amazon.com's top 100 list for best selling career/interviewing books several times and garnering positive reader reviews. In addition to getting strong nationwide sales, De Back said that the book has been doing well this area, too.

"I googled the book the other day and found that many Fairfax County Public Libraries bought it," De Back said. "I saw that they purchased 15 copies at several different libraries, and that 13 of the 15 were checked out."

"I've made every possible mistake you could make over the years," De Back said. "I'm just trying to help people, who for whatever reason, are going through this experience."

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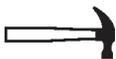
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# Time for Civil Redistricting

**T**he U.S. Census is underway, an every-10-year process that attempts to count every single person in the United States at their home address. From the results of the count come a nearly infinite number of critical decisions. The way those decisions are carried out have consequences for every one of us.

One of those decisions is the redrawing of political lines for all political offices, including the General Assembly, U. S. Congress and local offices. In Virginia, the current process allows the political party in charge to draw the lines.

Proposals in the Virginia General Assembly could lead to a change in politics and democracy here. The measures would establish the Virginia Redistricting Commission to redraw Congressional and General Assembly district boundaries without the bitter partisan hatchet that has characterized Virginia's process under each party in the past.

Tradition in Virginia holds that the ruling party decides how to redraw the lines around political districts after each census. The process in the past has involved the majority party using its power without any checks or balances to create districts that protect incumbents of the majority party and try to force out incum-

## Governor ran on non-partisan redistricting; now is time for proposals in General Assembly.

bents of the minority party.

The losers in the process are the citizens of Virginia, who first find themselves in political districts that make little sense geographically or in terms of communities of interest. They then find that even if they are unhappy with their elected officials, the gerrymandering has created districts that have killed any competition between parties, and that each party strongly discourages any primary challenges.

### EDITORIAL

The result: most voters have far less choice in who represents them than they should.

There are probably hundreds of ways to set up a commission or non-partisan board that would take the politics out of the process.

House Bill 323, introduced by Del. Ken Plum (D) of Reston, and Senate Bill 626, introduced by Sen. Jill Holtzman Vogel (R) pave the way for real reform and integrity in the political process.

— MARY KIMM

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### Redistricting Bill

"Bipartisan Redistricting Commission created. Establishes a seven-member temporary commission to prepare redistricting plans in 2011 and each tenth year thereafter for the House of Delegates, state Senate, and congressional districts. Appointments to the Commission shall be made one each by the four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate and by the state chairmen of the two major political parties. Those six appointees shall appoint the seventh member and chairman of the Commission. If they cannot agree, they shall submit the names of the two persons receiving the most votes to the Supreme Court for the Court to select the chairman. The Commission will prepare plans and submit them as bills to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall then proceed to act on the bills in the usual manner. The bill provides for Commission comments on plans as they change in the legislative process. It also spells out the standards and process to be followed by the Commission in preparing plans, including limitations on the use of political data and opportunities for public comment on the plans."

Source: <http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm>

## Action and Its Consequences

To the Editor:

A letter appeared recently in a local paper saying that it's time to cut the president a little slack, give the man some elbowroom to set things in order. He is, after all, only one man. Well, the uproar against this letter was instantaneous. Both the political right and left pilloried the author for her blind support of Obama. The left is mad at the president for the War in Afghanistan and broken promises of open government. The right is mad at him for being president in the first place. What seems odd is how so few commentators are rising to defend Obama at all. Here are three reasons why:

Reason One: For Republicans, it's payback time. Democrats relentlessly attacked President Bush for a now-familiar list of reasons: The way he used 9/11 as an excuse to invade Iraq, the way he lied about weapons of mass destruction, appointed opponents of regulation to oversee regulatory agencies, politicized the Justice Department, squandered the Clinton-era surplus and ignored the economy as it began to falter. Democrats deeply despised the actions of G.W. Bush and said so whenever possible. Today, the tables are turned,

and if you open Google and type in any phrase that Obama ever said, you'll first see pages and pages of criticism, and finally, links to the source of the president's real words. Based on the Dems treatment of Bush, Republicans consider their virulence to be fair retribution.

### LETTERS

Reason Two: Many acknowledge that Obama has a full plate, that he's called upon to fix health care, the economy and security issues simultaneously. However, he also made many promises about transparency in government. Indeed, Obama's most soaring campaign speeches were about the end of backroom dealing, the end of "old" politics.

The "open government" promises went down much easier than acknowledging one obvious fact: Whoever ended up as president in 2008 would have to make long-avoided choices that would make everyone mad. That's why those choices were long-avoided. OK, fine, but so what? Why should the president have to defer his promises of transparency "till later, just because the job is hard? Can't he tackle everything at once, and be in the open as well? Probably not, and here's why: Although we all agree that the economy, security needs, health care spending and

the environment need immediate attention, no congressional representative wants to bear the burden of that immediacy. What if something is good for the nation, but not popular with the folks back home? A congressman might support the president at such times, might choose conscience over expediency, but only if the president is popular. Such two-mindedness is nothing you want shown on camera, but it is, honestly, the way the political world turns. We have a word for politicians who put what's good for America ahead of what's good for their district: "Unemployed."

Reason Three: As president, each time you stick your neck out and make an executive decision, you'll get criticized, which is one reason why Republicans tend to govern by not governing. Note the Republican slogans "Let the market sort it out" or "Further regulation makes things worse." Now back in 2008, there was one candidate who trudged up and down the country with stories about the bad things that happens when you let insurance industries sort it out, what happens when you let mortgage lenders and banks sort it. We agreed with him and elected that candidate by the largest margin of victory since Reagan. We did not elect the guy who said everything could be fixed by lower taxes and

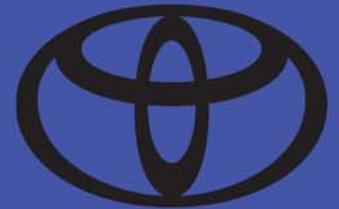
that government should stand aside and allow losers to lose and winners to win, regardless of the social consequences. We sent that guy home, and we elected the guy who said he'd aggressively try to fix the economy and health care. Trouble is, there's no template for how to repair America's portion of the global economy, or how to make it so middle-class households don't lose everything they own when they face prolonged illness. This is new turf for a president, and Obama will have to get his hands dirty proposing and modifying various solutions.

But a funny thing happened last year: We've learned that such a process does not make a president look "presidential." We've learned that a president who stands aside and does nothing looks a little classier, more "in charge," more confident, a bit like he knows what he was doing, even if he's doing nothing. Perhaps that's because we could make believe that President Bush was doing a "strategic" nothing, rather than a "clueless" nothing. What we've learned in Obama's first year is that it's easier to appear "in charge" by sitting on your hands and professing faith in the American spirit and the robust economy to eventually rebound.

Jerry Armato  
Fairfax

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