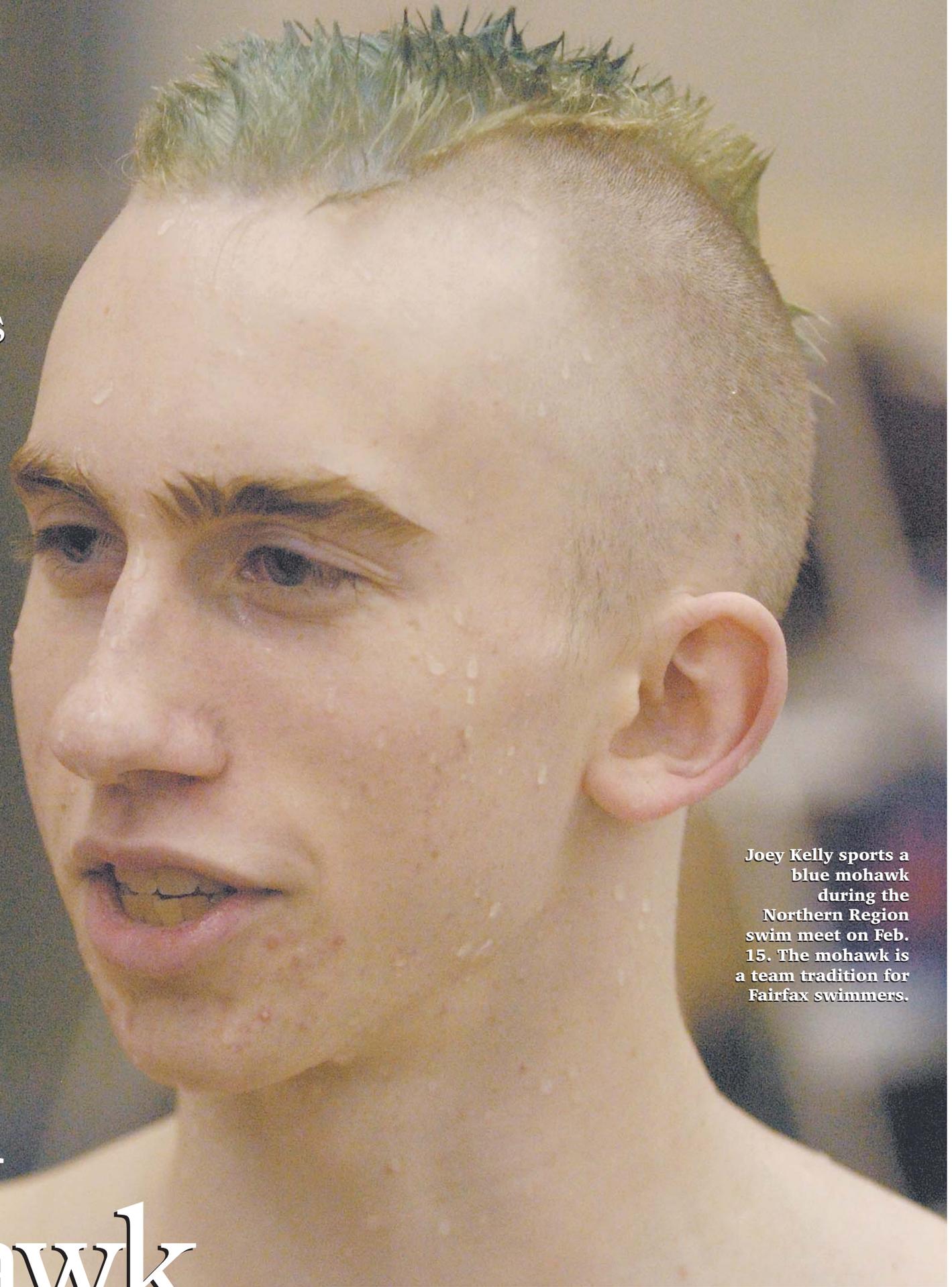


State Honors NVCC Teacher

NEWS, PAGE 4

Positive Reviews For Snow Plan

NEWS, PAGE 3



Joey Kelly sports a blue mohawk during the Northern Region swim meet on Feb. 15. The mohawk is a team tradition for Fairfax swimmers.

Rebel Mohawk

SPORTS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION CALENDAR, PAGE 9 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 15

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"Our players and families go to this school, so we wanted to help."

— Dave Baciocco, president of Burke Basketball

COURTESY PHOTO

Members of Oak View Elementary and Burke Basketball watch as Oak View Assistant Principal David Fee cuts the ribbon on the school's new gym floor.

New Gym Floor at Oak View

Burke Basketball renovates aging gym floor at Fairfax school.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

Oak View Elementary students may not realize it, but their brand-new \$39,880 basketball court is the culmination of a dream that was hatched before they were born.

On Jan. 10, representatives of youth athletics group Burke Basketball and Oak View

Elementary cut the ribbon on the new gym floor that will be used for the group's games and the school's physical education classes.

"Our players and families go to this school, so we wanted to help," said Dave Baciocco, president of Burke Basketball. "Oak View Elementary serves everyone from our youth to the adult groups."

When Burke Basketball was formed in 1997, its founders wanted to buy a facility and turn it into a recreation center where

teams could play games, Baciocco said.

But various factors, including a lack of money, forced the group to change its plans.

"We decided to look at a few schools to [try renovate the gym]," he said.

After looking around the community, Burke Basketball settled on renovating the Oak View gymnasium since many of its 2,000 members were Oak View students, Baciocco said.

"Oak View is not just part of the Fairfax County Public Schools family, but it is also part of Burke Basketball," said Richard

SEE NEW GYM, PAGE 4

Officials Pleased with Snow Response

City of Fairfax recovers quickly from crippling snowstorms.

BY JUSTIN FANIZZI
THE CONNECTION

Mayor Robert Lederer has lived in the City of Fairfax his entire life and believes that he has never seen anything like the two record-breaking snowstorms the region endured last week. One thing that was familiar to him, however, was the scene playing out in the aftermath of one of the largest snow events ever

recorded in Northern Virginia.

The City of Fairfax was one of the few areas of the county that was not incapacitated for days following each of the storms, having passable roads and open sidewalks when other localities struggled to make it to the end of their own driveways.

"The city is very well-equipped and staffed to handle events like these due to the fact that we train a lot of our people in different departments and put them on

snow plows for round-the-clock work," City Manager Bob Sisson said. "People are amazed at how well the city does [recovering from snow storms], and we have a reputation as being one of the best at clearing out."

That reputation, Sisson said, comes from the city's extensive preparations for weather emergencies, which are carried out well in advance of the storm even being forecasted. According to Sisson, the city is not under the jurisdiction of the Virginia Department of Transportation, so while VDOT plows

SEE CITY, PAGE 17

Marsden Bill Moves Forward

Bill aims to protect sex offenders' employers.

BY VERONICA GARABELLI
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

A bill making headway in the General Assembly seeks to protect employers of sex offenders by not listing the name of the offender's workplace on the Virginia Sex Offender Registry.

Senate Bill 635, sponsored by Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37), would still list a sex offender's work address. The bill passed the Senate this month unanimously and now will be considered by the House of Delegates.

Marsden said SB 635 is meant to help sex offenders integrate back into society. Currently, the Virginia Sex Offender Registry's Web site [<http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov>] displays a photograph and description of each offender; lists the offender's crime; and shows the offender's home address and the name and location of the offender's employer.

As a result, some sex offenders lose their jobs, because a customer complains or because the employer fears the stigma of being associated with the sex offender registry.

"It's the address and the location that is still important, not the name of the business," Marsden said. "We don't want businesses to be harmed, and we don't want the offender, if they're doing everything they're supposed to do, being harmed."

A group called Reform Sex Offender Laws of Virginia approached the senator about filing the bill.

Mary Devoy, organizer for the group, said employers who are willing to give sex offenders a second chance despite the negative publicity should not be punished. Devoy said that when sex offenders are unemployed, they can't meet their parole requirements.

"We want the folks on the registry to be able to survive," Devoy said. "Let them live their lives, have a job and raise their children. This bill is one step toward that."

Several people have posted comments about the bill on the Richmond Sunlight Web site. One said that by listing the employer's name, the sex offender registry has "effectively applied the 'social pariah' label to responsible businesses."

Virginia on Track To Allow Concealed Guns in Bars

The General Assembly is poised to loosen up restrictions on guns in bars, clubs and restaurants that serve alcohol despite objections from the hospitality industry and public safety officials.

By this time next year, residents will likely have the right to carry a concealed gun into any eatery, as long as they have the appropriate permit and agree not to consume alcohol.

But on Feb. 10, the Senate's Committee for Courts of Justice voted eight to seven to extend the benefit of "conceal carry" in alcohol-serving establishments to most residents who desire it.

Vienna and Fairfax state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and former gubernatorial candidate Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25) were among the committee members who voted for the bill. Northern Virginia Sens. Janet Howell (D-32), Toddy Puller (D-36) and Dick Saslaw (D-35) voted against it.

Now that the measure has made it out of committee, the full Senate and House of Delegates are likely to pass it. Both branches of the General Assembly approved similar legislation in 2009, only to see it vetoed by former Gov. Tim Kaine (D).

Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) has said he will sign the expansion of gun rights into law.

Offshore Drilling Bill Killed

On a party-line vote, the Democratically-controlled state Senate killed a bill tied to Gov. Robert McDonnell's (R) plans for offshore oil and natural gas exploration.

Twenty-two Democrats — including all senators from Arlington County, City of Alexandria and Fairfax County — voted down a bill that would have designated 80 percent of revenue and royalties produced by drilling off the shore of Virginia for the commonwealth's transportation trust fund. All 18 Republicans supported the measure.

While on the campaign trail this past fall, McDonnell had promoted drilling for oil and natural gas off the shore of Virginia Beach, saying, among other things, that it could bring money to Virginia for transportation projects.

Critics, including Democratic Majority Leader and Fairfax County Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35), called McDonnell's offshore drilling proposal ridiculous.

Saslaw, who made money running gasoline and service stations, doubted that there was easily accessible oil off the shore of Virginia. Even if oil or natural gas could be retrieved, it would be 10 years before Virginia would receive any financial benefits and long after a new source of transportation funding was needed, said the Democrat.

Host an Exchange Student

Hosts are being sought for international exchange students. People opening their hearts and homes to a young person from another culture will be exposed to new worlds and have an unforgettable experience. Contact Kathy Kinter and K.Kinter@international-experience.net or 703-988-9565. For more information, see www.ie-usa.com.

Helping Keep Children Safe

City of Fairfax Police, in conjunction with the Optimist Club, will be offering Safe Assured identification kits on Friday, Feb. 26, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the City of Fairfax Police Department, 3730 Old Lee Highway.

Parents will receive a full-color photo ID and a mini-CD containing digital fingerprints, a digital photo, video showing movement and mannerisms, a general physical description, vital personal information and a family code word. Pri

SEE NEWS BRIEFS, PAGE 13

State Honors NVCC Teacher

Dr. Terry Alford one of 12 from across Virginia to receive Faculty Award.

BY STEPHANIE MARTINEZ
THE CONNECTION

It's the end of the day and, as usual, Dr. Terry Alford is playing a couple of games of online chess. His daughter is around and hears his advice for his chess opponent after a poor move: "Why Pawn to K3? Would Knight to K4 be better?" he asks.

Alford's daughter looks at him. "You can't stop being the professor, can you?" she said.

After a long history of achievements, history professor Alford was honored with the 2010 Outstanding Faculty Award, highest faculty honor for Virginia's public and private colleges and universities.

During high school, Alford realized he would dedicate his life to enriching others. "I recall very distinctly a conversation I had with my older brother in the bedroom we shared when I was in the ninth grade," he said. "He asked me what I wanted to be, and I replied a teacher. At that time, I didn't know what I wanted to teach, but I knew early on that good teachers were people of intelligence, integrity, and inspiration."

As a Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC) instructor, Alford was recognized for his superior work on research, teaching and public service. Student and teacher feedback, his accomplishments, contributions and awards allowed Alford to become one of the 12 recipients of the award that recognizes top faculty members in Virginia.

"I vividly recall Dr. Alford's most recent student evaluations," said Dr. William Kinsella, NVCC's assistant dean of history. "Students noted his enthusiasm, passion, energy and dynamic teaching style. They were impressed by Dr. Alford's organized, structured and concise methodology in presenting his



Dr. Terry Alford

tory. Dr. Alford is not only a nationally recognized scholar, but most importantly, he is a superior teacher who reaches every student. He inspires and educates each person in his classroom. I know that his colleagues share this assessment

of a truly outstanding educator."

Alford attended Mississippi State University for his bachelor and master's degrees and his Ph.D. in history. In 1972, he joined the NVCC family. Over the years, he has received various offers to teach elsewhere but he hasn't considered them.

Alford is author of two well-known biographies such as "Prince among Slaves" and one about Lincoln's assassin John Wiles Booth, which will be published in 2011.

"My work on slavery led ultimately to Abraham Lincoln, and for some years I have researched the life of his assassin for a biography titled 'Fortune's Fool: The Life of John Wilkes Booth,' which Oxford University Press will publish," said Alford. In his first book, "Prince among Slaves," Alford narrates the story of an African prince enslaved for 40 years in early America. The book portrays the African slaves more as individuals, as he said, it "puts a personal face on slavery by telling

the story of one individual."

"Academically, the thing I have done that has been most notable is writing the book 'Prince among Slaves,'" said Alford. "It's been in print for over 30 years, an unusual distinction, and in 2008 was shown as a documentary on PBS to a national audience of over 3 million people."

SEE FACULTY AWARD, PAGE 5

New Gym Floor for Oak View

FROM PAGE 3

Esposito, Burke Basketball director of community relations.

OAK VIEW Assistant Principal David Fee said the group approached school officials about a year ago to discuss renovating the gym's floor.

"They, and we, were very excited [about the opportunity]," he said.

The aging floor definitely needed an upgrade, Fee said.

"[The floor] was OK, but it had tile," Fee said. "The tiles were hard and slippery. Kids would slide during games and [physical education] class. ... It looked like they were playing on ice."

Months passed and Fee said he'd nearly forgotten

about the proposal until Burke Basketball representatives let the school know they were ready to renovate.

"In the fall of this school year, it all went in place," he said. "Over the winter break, they had [the floor installed]."

Although basketball was the main driver for purchasing the floor, Burke Basketball made sure the gym is accessible for other sports.

Foursquare, hopscotch and other physical education courts were mapped out on the floor along with the basketball court lines.

After a month of enjoying their new gift, Fee said the reviews from Oak View students have been first-rate.

"The kids love it," he said. "It's just a really nice [floor]."

Faculty Award for Alford

FROM PAGE 4

The documentary became the winner of the Best Documentary at the 2007 American Black Film Festival. He was featured in the documentary as an expert commentator. Additionally, he has also made appearances on C-SPAN, The Biography Channel, the Arts & Entertainment Channel, The History Channel and the Discovery Network.

He currently teaches United States history survey courses at NVCC, but he has also taught classes on history of western civilization, 19th century American theater, Washington, D.C. in the Civil War, George Washington, John F. Kennedy and Historical research methods.

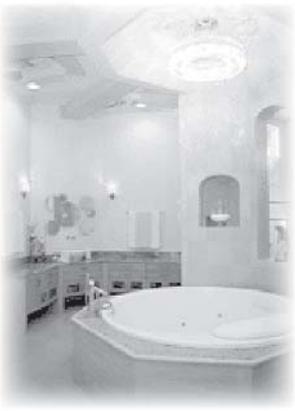
Alford was nominated five times for the Student Government Association's Golden Apple Award and twice for the NOVA

Alumni Federation Faculty of the Year Award. Additionally, he was the winner of the NOVA Educational Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching and received additional honors from Phi Theta Kappa, the SGA and the Muslim Students Association.

"I strive in my classes and my scholarship to make history relevant to my students," said Alford. "Historical figures were actual people. Some were extraordinary, some just got caught up in extraordinary times, but they were all flesh-and-blood like you and I. If you can convince your students of that, you're half-way home."

Free Income Tax Preparation Feb. 20

Deloitte Tax LLP has gathered more than 70 of its local professionals to offer free income tax preparation services to low- and middle-income taxpayers in Northern Virginia. The firm's third annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is Saturday, Feb. 20, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Bryant Alternative High School at 2709 Popkins Lane, Alexandria. The event is presented in partnership with the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and Volunteer Fairfax.



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New Housing Blueprint

Ending homelessness, moving beyond preservation of affordable housing.

BY SHARON BULOVA

Several years ago, on a freezing February morning, I rode the VRE into Washington, D.C. for a Council of Governments meeting. As I was leaving Union Station, I noticed a middle-aged woman, with sacks of belongings and bedding gathered around her. She was clearly a person with mental illness, muttering to herself and batting the air at imaginary objects.

I remember thinking, "I'm so glad I live in Fairfax County. We have social services programs that would help someone like this woman." But later that week, while jogging down an old alignment of a road near my home, I spotted a tent tucked way back in the woods. It was a homeless person's encampment.

Fairfax County has established a "hypothermia program" to shelter homeless individuals during the cold winter months. The program

is a partnership among county agencies, area houses of worship and nonprofit organizations. The hypothermia program has served to crystallize how inadequate our human services network is for dealing with homelessness.

In March 2008, our Board of Supervisors endorsed a "Housing First" strategy to end homelessness as we know it. Working with houses of worship and charitable organizations, Fairfax County has adopted a strategy for making sure people in our community have a roof over their heads and receive the help they need to get back on their feet.

GUEST EDITORIAL

At our Jan. 26 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a new Housing Blueprint to address the challenge of ensuring there is accessible, affordable housing for all members of our community. Affordable housing was a key topic when the Board considered our current Fiscal Year 2010 budget and the Board dedicated considerable time to discussing housing issues at our post-budget retreat last June.

At the retreat, we agreed that our housing programs must emphasize serving those with the greatest needs, that affordable housing represents a spectrum of needs, and that we can be most effective in accomplishing these goals by working with Faith Community and non-



FILE PHOTO

Sharon Bulova

profit partners in the community.

The Housing Blueprint is a strategy for addressing these priorities and represents a new direction compared to the previous policy of preservation. The new goals stated in the Blueprint are comprehensive: to end homelessness in 10 years, to provide affordable housing options to those with special needs, to cut the waiting lists for affordable housing in half over 10 years, and to produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

The Blueprint is the product of impressive collaboration by county agencies, concerned citizens, houses of worship and local nonprofits. Because of the metrics it includes, the Blueprint sets short and long term goals and can be used to evaluate our programs.

TO VIEW the Housing Blueprint, please visit <http://www.e-affordable.org/>.

If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer in efforts to address homelessness, the County's Office to End Homelessness can be reached by going to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless>.

Sharon Bulova is chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Blueprint Highlights

Resolved: End homelessness; provide affordable housing options to those with special needs; cut the waiting lists for affordable housing in half; produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

The Big Dig Out Continues

State must meet its obligations regarding snow removal.

BY SEN. CHAP PETERSEN
D-34

This week our office has been consumed with calls from constituents digging out from the Great Blizzard of 2010. Thank you to those who contacted us regarding their friends and neighbors. We have been talking around-the-clock with the VDOT supervisors, who are coordinating the relief efforts, and we are trying to get every street plowed as soon as possible.

Our home in central Fairfax, which is mostly single-family residences, has been at the eye of this storm. Like in most suburban counties, the key roads in Fairfax County are all state-owned, which puts the burden on state officials to pursue any reasonable means for relief.

On Monday, Feb. 8, I spoke to my colleagues in the Senate about the need to focus state resources on Northern Virginia during this storm. Here are the three main points I am trying to

make:

1. It is imperative for neighbors to continue helping neighbors. The citizens of Fairfax are our first defense against catastrophe. I can't share enough good stories about folks that have helped out by shoveling snow or making deliveries in a four-wheel drive vehicle. Please continue to check on your neighbors.

2. We need as much state and private help as possible in Northern Virginia. From talking to the regional commissioners of VDOT, there are more than 2,000 state employees focused on this storm, many coming from districts downstate. A lot of them are focused on removing snow, a half-million tons removed from our highways as of Sunday night. But we also need plows, especially on the residential streets. I've asked our downstate colleagues to spread the word to small businesses that have plows or hauling equipment so that we can maximize resources.

3. The necessity of state action in the face of the Great Blizzard underlines on of the central purposes of our state government, i.e. maintaining a state highway system. Private contractors are great but only a state agency can respond with the size and scale demanded

COMMENTARY

SEE MEETING, PAGE 7

Reliable Service Needed

To the Editor:

Most of us are aware of the benefits of public transportation, especially for getting to and from work. For this to be a practical option, however, public transportation has to be reliable. The Metro buses provide a good example of why many people opt to drive instead. On Jan. 31, I checked the Metro Web site and was informed the Metro bus I take to the Pentagon would indeed be running the next day. After waiting about 40 minutes the next morning, I realized no bus was coming. Fortunately, a neighbor who relies on his car gave me a ride to a Metro station.

I was able to take the evening bus home. When I spoke to the driver about what happened that morning, I was told that although the Metro Web site had said most bus routes were running (exceptions were noted), drivers had been told not to go into my neighborhood. I

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

Meeting Obligations

FROM PAGE 6

by this epic storm. We must have a sufficient work force at VDOT, which can react to these situations.

The last point is critical. Without VDOT plows, our residents cannot go to work, to the doctor or to the grocery store. Even those citizens in Fairfax City and Town of Vienna, which have locally-owned streets, must rely on state highways. Keeping these highways clear right now is our most important task. Reaching the residential streets so that our citizens can have access to the highways is close behind.

This storm has come at a really tough time. But it's reminded us that we are all only a short step away from living on the edge, unless we can count on each other.

If you need to reach us during a storm, please contact my office at 804-698-7534 in Richmond or 703-349-3361 in Fairfax. Or you can e-mail us at Kathy@fairfaxsenator.com. Let us know how we can represent you better.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

was told to call the morning I need to use the Metro to see if there is service. If that is the case, why have the Web site at all? And what will happen if everyone needing to use Metro has to call? Won't that jam the phone lines?

Furthermore, although my neighborhood streets are plowed to accommodate the Metro buses, the buses seldom come after even a minor snowfall. This is understandable if the bus routes are hazardous, but more often than not, they are safe since these are the streets that receive the attention, while less traveled streets such as mine are ignored until days after a snowfall (if plowed at all). If the buses are not going to travel their routes, even when safe to do so, Metro should at least provide customers with accurate information the night before so commuters can make other arrangements. Another request: please publish on the Web site each bus line's emergency route. Although the Web site says "As conditions worsen, we limit service to snow emergency routes: no side streets," the customer is not informed what these emergency routes are.

William Tirre
Fairfax

Embarrassment of Riches

To the Editor:

While I'm thrilled at the response — thanks to Del. David Bulova's (D-37) staff — to my complaint about snow removal last week, it seems that Holden Street is now suffering from an embarrassment of snow removal riches. We currently have a large snow removal truck with a scoop parked on our street that worked its way up and down Holden Street for about five hours yesterday widening the traffic lanes. While this is greatly appreciated by all residents, I'm sure, we are around the corner from both Oak View Elementary and Robinson Secondary schools and not much has been done to widen the lanes on Sideburn so the school buses can get through tomorrow. Holden Street has never been a through street for school buses and given VDOT's limited resources, I find it odd that we're being treated so lavishly.

This again, begs my original question: Who makes these emergency plans? It seems that either nothing gets done or the squeaky wheels receive entirely more grease than they need.

Danelle Springer
Fairfax

COLLEGE NOTES

Marie E. Randolph of Fairfax graduated magna cum laude with a B.A. degree in linguistics from the University of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.

Nelly Rebeca Robles of Fairfax graduated with a B.A. degree in political science from the Univer-

sity of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.

Lee D. Clement of Fairfax graduated with a B.S. degree in economics from the University of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.



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PEOPLE

Fairfax Businessman Carries Olympic Torch

McDonald's franchisee wins honor.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The 2010 Winter Olympics are well underway in Vancouver, Canada. But for Max Van Valkenburg, the festivities began in December, when he participated in the Olympic Torch Relay.

"It was a lot of fun, and humbling," he said. "There were a lot of people on each side of the street, waving banners and cheering everyone along. And when we stopped, they crowded around and shook our hands. They were just the nicest people."

Van Valkenburg, his wife of 56 years, Neva, their son and daughter own 18 McDonald's franchises — including restaurants in Chantilly, Centreville, Clifton, Fairfax and Fair Lakes. The opportunity to carry the torch came about because of that association, plus McDonald's relationship with Coca-Cola.

Both Coca-Cola and RBC, a Canadian bank, sponsored the relay. "Coca-Cola is one of McDonald's major vendors and we're Coca-Cola's biggest customer," said Van Valkenburg. "So Coca-Cola invited McDonald's to participate in the relay."

He then won the chance to be in the torch relay at a McDonald's Operators Convention in April 2009 in Orlando, Fla. There,

Coca-Cola put the attendees' names in a hat and drew Van Valkenburg's. "It was the luck of the draw, but I was honored," he said. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

He didn't do anything out-of-the-ordinary to prepare for the event. But he exercises regularly on a treadmill, so he just continued. "You could walk, jog or run in the relay," he said. "So I told them I'd jog."

The entire relay was 45,000 kilometers, or 27,945 miles. According to Van Valkenburg, the Canadians decided to run

all the way around their country so 90 percent of the Canadians would be within 10 miles of where the relay was run so as many people as possible could see

the torch pass by. "It took 106 days and 12,000 torchbearers to complete that run," he said. "It was the longest torch run of any Olympics."

Van Valkenburg participated Dec. 20; his portion was 300 kilometers — about two blocks — in Hamilton, Ontario, about 30 miles south of Toronto. He wore a white uniform, and his red mittens were adorned with Canadian maple leaves.

"Everybody had a number and they marked the route on the street," he said. "They gave me a torch with a propane tank and, as each person finished their segment, you put the torches together and lit the next person's torch. Afterward, we each got to

"It was the luck of the draw, but I was honored"

— Max Van Valkenburg



COURTESY OF NEVA VAN VALKENBURG

Max Van Valkenburg holds the Olympic Torch aloft.

keep our torches — minus the propane tanks — as a souvenir, which was great."

Van Valkenburg said the relay was organized perfectly — "which was monumental, when you think about how long it was." He was also impressed by seeing, firsthand, what having the Olympics in Canada means to the Canadian people.

ALTHOUGH HE was only there for that weekend, Van Valkenburg enjoyed himself. "Canada is a happy place; the people love their country and think the world of it," he said. "They're very proud to be hosting the

Olympics."

His granddaughters were going to fly to Canada to see him run, but their flights were cancelled because of the huge snowstorm here. So when he returned home to Dulles Airport, he changed into his relay uniform just for them and they were thrilled.

All in all, said Van Valkenburg, "It was a wonderful experience. Being a part of such an uplifting event made me so proud to be associated with Coca-Cola and McDonald's. As I reflect on [it], I can only imagine what the Olympic athletes must feel as they participate in their chosen events."

Good Work Garners Cruise

Cabot recognizes Guiseppe for her volunteerism.

Cabot Creamery Cooperative honored Sherry Guiseppe of Fairfax for her selfless volunteerism. Guiseppe and her husband Jeffery joined more than 50 other winners and their guests along with representatives from Cabot Creamery on a six-day, five-night Caribbean cruise to honor them for the volunteer work they do in their communities.

The Guisepes joined other winners from all along the East Coast, members of Cabot's Management team, local radio station personalities who helped promote the program to identify local winners and representatives from CommonKindness, an organization that creates sustainable partnerships between people, the charities they care about and businesses and Celebrity Cruise Lines.

The winners departed from the Port of Miami on Jan. 23 and returned Jan. 28. The Celebrity Century cruise ship made stops in Ocho Rios, Jamaica and George Town, Grand Cayman.



Sherry and Jeffrey Guiseppe aboard Celebrity Century having been honored by Cabot Creamery Cooperative and Common Kindness.



Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. Receives 2 Awards

The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) Metro DC Chapter presented Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. with two award during NARI's 2009 Capital COTY Awards ceremony on Jan. 30, in Bethesda, Md. Case Design received a Grand prize for the residential exterior under \$100,000 category and a Merit prize for the entire house remodel under \$250,000 category. This photo shows one of the winning projects.

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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 18

Afternoon Reading Group. 1 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Make New Friends. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Stories, songs and activities about friendship. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-249-1520.

David Choi. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Fairfax Antique Arts Association. 10:15 a.m. at City of Fairfax Senior Center (Green Acres Center), 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Speaker Ivan Dietrich will speak about life in Hershey, Pa. Free; annual membership fee required to attend

American Treasures. 8 p.m. at Fairfax High School Auditorium, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Gould, Persichetti, Hanson, Sousa, Rodgers and Gershwin and more. \$13 adults, \$7 seniors, age 18 and under free. www.fairfaxband.org or 703-757-0220.

Flying Cows of Ventry, 7 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

Simply Sinatra, with the Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra and Vocalist Steve Lippia. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$21-\$42. Charge at 888-945-2468 or www.gmu.edu/cfa.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10-11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer, navigate the Internet, and work with common software applications. Call for an

703-293-6227.

Felicia A. Bell Unchained Memories. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. A movie and discussion program on slave narratives with historian Felicia A. Bell Ph.D., director of education and outreach for the U. S. Capitol Historical Society and author of "The Negroes Alone Work." 703-293-6227.

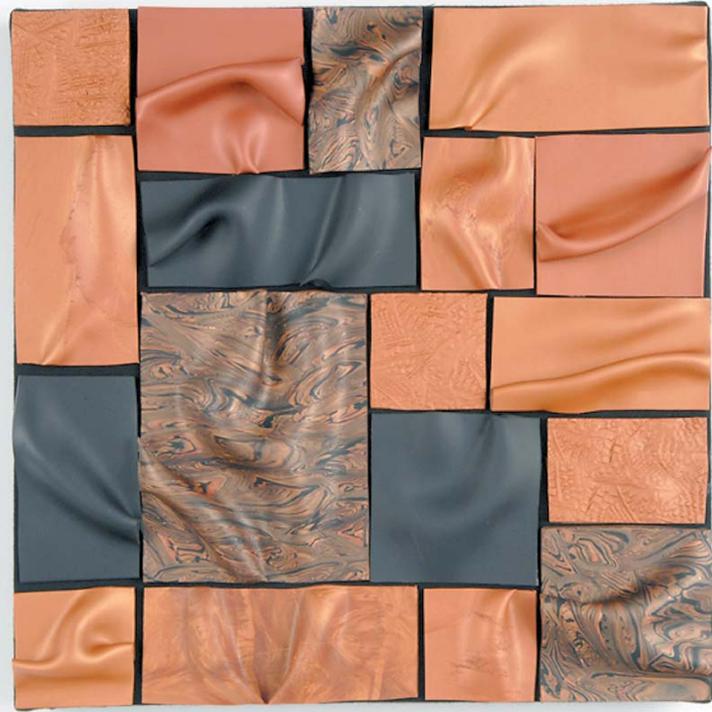
The Northern Virginia NTRAK Model Train Club. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Scale Model Trains will be running in both the station and the caboose. \$2 for adults, \$1 ages 4-10. 703-425-9225.

Alternative Takes: An Acoustic Evening with The Verve Pipe. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$17 advance, \$20 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Burke-Fairfax, Virginia Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., Black History Forum 2010. 3

New 'Visions' At JCCNV

The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia presents the exhibit "Visions" through April 13. The three "Visions" artists are united in their use of color and design yet has a creative and varied approach to their art. Fran Abrams creates her images out of polymer clay capturing "the fluid sense of fabric caught at a moment in time." Mina Oka Hanig's paintings consist of small squares that create a mosaic-like effect. Cherie M. Redlinger creates abstractions from her life experiences, reflecting the artist within. An artists' reception is Sunday, March 7, 5:15-7:15 p.m. The JCCNV is located at 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax.



'Underground Vista 2008' by Fran Abrams

subsequent meetings. \$15 single; \$25 couple. 703-359-2487.

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances cancelled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

FRIDAY/FEB. 19

Flying Cows of Ventry, 7-9:30 p.m., at The Auld Shebeen, 3971 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 703-293-9600.

The Bigger Lights, Sing Me Insomnia and Action Item. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The D.R.A.M.A Kings and The Blackjacks. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances cancelled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888.

SATURDAY/FEB. 20

The City of Fairfax Band:

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

appointment. Adults. 703-249-1520.

Minh 'Dreamgirl's Heart' Release. 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566.

Rocknocoeros Family Happy Hour. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Middle East MicFest Tour 2010. 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 day of show. 703-255-1566

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances cancelled due to snow will be honored.

SUNDAY/FEB. 21

NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. restonbell7@gmail.com.

"Unchained Memories." 2 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. A movie and discussion on slave narratives. With historian Felicia A. Bell, Ph.D., Director of Education and Outreach for the U. S. Capitol Historical Society. Age 12 and up. Free, register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or

p.m. at the Flint Hill School, Olson Theatre, 10400 Academic Drive, Oakton. Black history trivia competition and celebration of African-American history with contestants from area high schools. Speaker, Dr. Greg E. Carr, chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University. Free. Register at Black.History.Forum@gmail.com.

Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.' 2 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances cancelled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

MONDAY/FEB. 22

Jessie & James. 2:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. See a pack of mutts present a comic dog show with juggling, rope walking and crowd play. 703-644-7333.

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

Bushwalla. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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Rebels, Cavs, Rams Swim for State Bids

Individual swimmers earn trip to state finals in Virginia Beach.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

For much of the 2009-10 season, Fairfax swim coach Meredith Harris has raved about her male swimmers. On Feb. 15 at the Northern Region swim meet at Washington and Lee, the boys' team exceeded Harris' expectations with a stellar performance.

"The boys have done more than [we] could ever expect," Harris said.

Among the boys' accomplishments at the meet were seven state cut times and a new school record.

Senior Patrick Johnson's time of 54.15 in the 100-yard backstroke beat the school's previous mark and qualified him for the state finals on Feb. 19 at Virginia Beach.

Senior Joey Kelly also turned in a strong performance earning an All-American Consideration (AAC) time in the 50-yard freestyle and finishing first in the event with a time of 21.18, beating the state cut time of 22.29.

Kelly's 50-yard freestyle time was not even his personal best.

"I went faster at a club meet, but only by about .06," Kelly said. "I've been training pretty hard for [this meet]. I just love it."

Due to the blizzard, Harris and her team missed a week and a half of practice in the pool, but Harris said she was pleased with the team's performance after the lengthy dry



A member of the W.T. Woodson boys' relay leaps off the starting block against some of the Northern Region's best swimmers.

spell.

"The boys have been doing great," she said. "I couldn't ask for anything more."

In addition to the strong individual performances, the Fairfax boys' team finished second at the Northern Region meet allowing the Rebel boys to compete at states as a team.

After claiming her first Patriot District swimming title, Woodson head coach Susie Hamrock set her team's sights on finishing near the top at the Northern Region swim finals on Feb. 15 at Washington and Lee.

"We wanted to be in the top two teams," Hamrock said.

While individuals can earn a chance to compete at specific events, only the top two

teams from the Northern Region meet will compete in the state finals on Feb. 19 at Virginia Beach.

Although Woodson was unable to garner one of the top two seeds, the Cavaliers finished the meet in fifth place as a team, they did manage to send a few more swimmers to the state meet in individual and relay events.

"The team just had a great meet," Hamrock said "We had some better finishes and we mixed things up on our relays."

One relay shake-up involved putting together swimmers for the 200-yard freestyle relay who hadn't been swimming together for much of the season.

"We never put that relay together [in the regular season]," senior Braden Baffer said. "So we stacked it [with our best swimmers] and tried to win it from the outside lanes."

The relay earned a state qualifying and All-American Consideration (AAC) time of

The boys have been doing great,"

— Meredith Harris

1:28.01 and finished third in the event.

Baffer said the addition of the new relay didn't faze the Cavalier swimmers and dismissed any notion that it would take time for the group to gel.

"We all swim other relays together," he said. "It was pretty much the same thing, just a different event."

Senior Kevin Vest was another top performer for the Cavaliers. He broke his own record in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 21.34. Vest finished second in the event and beat the state cut and AAC time. Vest also beat the state cut in the 100-yard freestyle where he finished in third place with a time of 48.04.

A blizzard wasn't enough to stop the Robinson boys' swim team from making its mark on the Northern Region swim meet.

Eight Robinson swimmers exceeded state cut times for their events, some even surpassing state cuts they set at previous meets.

"I'm proud of my guys," head coach Clayton Joyner said. "They were in a tough situation with this break."

Five Rams also earned All-American Consideration (AAC) times across four events.

Junior Ricky Munch earned his AAC time in the 100-yard breaststroke and finished third with a time of 58.51.

Munch earned another AAC time in the 200-yard freestyle relay alongside junior Matt Osiecki, freshman Johann Shim and junior Cameron Boster with a time of 1:28.26. The 200-yard freestyle relay team finished fourth in the event. The 400-yard freestyle relay, featuring Munch, Boster, junior Ben Zajic and junior Kyle Bumiller, finished with a time of 3:12.47, good enough for fourth place and an AAC time.

5 Qs with Fairfax swimmer Jacob Baumgardner.

Q: If you could be any athlete, who would you want to be?

A: [United States Olympic swimmer] Ryan Lochte. He just seems like a pretty chill guy.

Q: Do you have a favorite sports moment?

A: When I got my junior nationals cut in the 400-meter individual medley last year.

Q: What sort of music do you listen to before a swim meet?

A: [Rapper] Lil' Wayne.

Q: What's up with the hair?

A: It's kind of a tradition and we did it last year. We decided to keep it going this year too.

Q: Have you been watching the Vancouver Winter Olympics?

A: Yeah, I think the snowboarding is pretty cool.

— REED S. ALBERS



Jacob Baumgardner



Fairfax senior Joey Kelly shakes hands with an opponent after a race. Kelly finished first in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 21.18.

SPORTS

Back On Court after Snow

Basketball teams complete two of the previously cancelled games.

BY REED S. ALBERS
THE CONNECTION

The South County boys' basketball team couldn't have asked for a better season. For the first time in school history, the boys were enjoying a winning 14-4 record and looking to ride their momentum to a top spot in the Patriot District tournament.

"We were getting into a routine," head coach Wendell Johnson said.

Then Old Man Winter paralyzed Northern Virginia with a blizzard that closed schools and cancelled the final four games of the Patriot District basketball season.

"It's frustrating," Johnson said. "But we weren't sure what we could do about [playing the rest of the season.]"

Coaches were resigned to the fact the season could not continue under the circumstances and discussions began to try to save the post season.

"Basketball is a tournament game," Johnson said. "We didn't want the season to end without a tournament."

The back-up plans, which included advancing the top two teams from each district based on regular season record to the Northern Region finals in late February, may be shelved.

After a week and a half suspension of high school sports, teams in the Patriot District are lacing up their shoes to pick up where they left off and finish the season by playing two of the final four games.

"These kids want to play."

On Feb. 16, teams resumed district play and finished the season on Feb. 17. The Patriot District tournament follows the season end on Feb. 19.

T.C. Williams will host the Patriot District tournament over the weekend with the girls' finals set for 6 p.m., and the boys' final at 8 p.m. on Feb. 22.

"The [Patriot District Council] did a good job of trying to get some games back," W.T. Woodson boys' basketball coach Doug Craig said. "These kids want to play."

Coaches were thrilled to finish at least two of the previously cancelled four games, but a week spent cooped-up in a house rather than on the court had some cursing the missed practice time.

"We had installed new [offenses before the snow]," Lake Braddock girls' basketball coach Carl Harris said. "We were preparing for the district tournament. ... It was frustrating [to not have games or practice]."

Harris, whose team is 3-13, prepared his team for an extended break.

"I told the girls on Thursday before the snow to get to a court and have a basketball in their hands," he said. "We just had to wait [the snow] out."

To Harris, games lost equaled experience lost, and game-time experience is crucial for his young team.

"When you lose, you can learn something from it," he said. "You learn from the experience of that game."

West Springfield girls' basketball coach Bill Gibson also gave his players a pre-snow warning, asking them to "stay in shape" during the break.

Gibson, whose Lady Spartans' lead the Patriot District girls' table with a 16-1 record, said he wasn't worried that missed practices might hurt his team chemistry, but mentioned the break will give teams new life for the post season.

"[The storm] has given every team a chance to start all over again," he said.

— Doug Craig

Paul VI Hires Metrokotsas as New Football Coach

On Feb. 15, Paul VI Catholic High School announced the hiring of Nick Metrokotsas as the new head football coach for the Panthers.

"Following an extensive search of over 50 applicants we have found an educator who stands for the principles of faith, academics, respect, integrity and has a reputation for developing a winning football program," said Paul VI principal Virginia Colwell, in

a press release.

Metrokotsas brings nearly 40 years of coaching experience to Paul VI and has earned a career record of 131-90-4. His coaching exploits at New Jersey prep schools such as St. Peter's Prep, St. John Vianney High School and Morris Catholic High School helped earn him three Coach of the Year awards as well as two state championships.

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he'd rather have a jogging partner than a hunting partner. Put on your jogging shoes and come meet Cordell today. Attributes: He's more fun than Weight Watchers!



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5300 ESABELLA CT.....\$675,000.....Mar. 7-12-2...RE/MAX Regency.....Christine Kropp.....571-213-1327
5503 CHESTERMILL CT.....\$640,000.....Sun. 11-3.....NetRealtyNow.com.....Thomas Hennerty.....703-286-7253
12459 BLISSFUL VALL.....\$450,000.....Sat. 11-2.....Real Estate One.....Anibal Campano.....240-268-0760
12310 FOX LAKE CT.....\$400,000.....Sun. 2-4.....Long & Foster.....Steven Wylder.....703-873-5020
3044 MISSION SQUARE.....\$389,000.....Sun. 1-4.....Weichert.....Nita Neri.....703-893-1500
9004 PINEY GROVE DR.....\$339,000.....Sun. 1-4.....Premiere Realty.....Bettina Dee.....703-748-0001

Reston/Herndon

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All listings due by Monday at 3 p.m.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Monday Bird Walk. 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Eakin Community Park. Discover resident birds of the Accotink Stream Valley. Boardwalk is for all ages. Meet at the Prosperity Avenue parking lot. Activity is free. 703-941-1065.

TUESDAY/FEB. 23

Inova Blood Drive. 1 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred, call 1-866-256-6372. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Teen Book Group. 6 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Find out what's hot and what's not. Age 12-16. 703-644-7333.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

Picnic Time. 11:30 a.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Bring a bagged lunch for stories, fingerplays and songs to break the winter blahs. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-644-7333.

Steve Moakler (full band), Ben Rector and Andrew Ripp. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Trevor Hall (full band) and Jer Coons. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Lavay Smith. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. \$60-\$177. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 26

The Virginia Opera presents Mozart's Don Giovanni. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

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

Friends of the Burke Centre

Library Big Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

Jammin' Java's Mid-Atlantic Band Battle II Finals. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

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

Civil War Author Book Mart. 12-4 p.m. at The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Local and regional Civil War authors and film directors will discuss, sell, and sign their fiction and non-fiction books

Ages. 703-644-7333.

Friends of the Burke Centre Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. 703-249-1520.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 10-11 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Learn to use a computer, navigate the Internet, and work with common software applications. 703-249-1520.

Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy: Masters of the Fiddle. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$22-\$44. Youth through grade 12, half price. Charge at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SUNDAY/FEB. 28

The Virginia Opera presents



'Key to Harmony' by Huh Hwe-tae

Emography Exhibit

George Mason University's School of Art brings Huh Hwe-tae's exhibition 'Emography' to the Mason Hall Alumni Atrium Gallery on the Fairfax campus on through March 15. This traveling exhibition demonstrates the artist's contemporary painting known as emography as well as elaborate seal engraving pieces. The Web site www.moosan.net contains the history of emography and all of Huh Hwe-tae's work. For more information, contact Young Yim at 571-215-9417 or emography05@gmail.com.

and film productions. Sales include a 20 percent donation to the preservation of Historic Blenheim. Cash or checks only. Light refreshments served. For more, call 703-591-0560.

Inova Blood Drive. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Photo ID required. Appointments preferred, call 1-866-256-6372. Adults. 703-644-7333.

Polar Bear Club Polar Bear Reading Club Party. 2:30 p.m. Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Celebrate the end of the Polar Bear Reading Club with cake, juice and fun. All

Mozart's Don Giovanni. 2 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

Disney Live Rockin' Road Show. 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. At the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. \$22-\$55. Tickets available by Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Beth Rinaldo, Scott Holland & Friends CD Release and The Honey Dewdrops. 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$8. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

PEOPLE NOTES

Vinh H. Nguyen of Westgate Realty Group in Fairfax has graduated from the Virginia Leadership Academy, sponsored by the Virginia Association of Realtors. Through this program, VAR attempts to identify emerging Realtor leaders in the state, encourage them with motivational activities and assist in sharpening their leadership skills so they will exert a strong positive influence on the future of the Association and real estate profession. The Virginia Association of Realtors is the business advocate for real estate professionals in Virginia.

Joseph Reef, sales associate with Coldwell Banker Residential



Joseph Reef

Brokerage in Fairfax, has been nominated for the Spirit of NRT Award. Coldwell Banker parent company NRT presents the award to sales associates that demonstrate a high level of professionalism in relationships with clients and colleagues, and actively contribute to their community.

Reef has been a full-time Realtor for six years. He is actively involved in his community, giving to such organizations and events as the Avon Walk, Toys for Tots, Equality Fairfax, Harvest for the Hungry, local flu clinics, the 5 for 4 pet foundation and the National City Christian Church's food distribution program for the homeless.

From Combat to Gridiron

Fairfax Bronze Star recipient honored at bowl game.

BY RICH LAMANCE
JOINT HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE

SAN ANTONIO - Evgueni Erchov never joined the Army with thoughts of being labeled a hero. As a signal officer and an Army Reserve first lieutenant, he just wanted to do the best job he knew how.

But Erchov, son of Alex and Tamara Erchov, of Marcus Court, Fairfax, found himself in just that role recently when he was announced at midfield during high school football's biggest contest, the U.S. Army sponsored All-American Bowl.

Erchov was honored as a soldier-hero, one of more than 90 throughout the Army who had been awarded either the Silver Star, Bronze Star or Purple Heart during deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan. The soldier-heroes were each matched with an all-star player before the kick off of the contest that pits the best players in the nation against each other in an East versus West matchup.

"I was awarded the Bronze Star for my service in Iraq," said Erchov, a 2007 graduate of George Washington University, Washington. "It's an honor to be here and represent the men and women of the armed services."

During activities in the days leading up to game day, Erchov was involved with the players, as well as



Army Reserve 1st Lt. Evgueni Erchov greets East offensive guard Quinton Spain from Alexandria, at midfield during pre-game activities prior to the start of the U.S. Army-sponsored All-American Bowl football game in the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. Erchov was one of more than 90 soldier-heroes from throughout the Army, Army Reserve and National Guard honored for their efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

PHOTO BY DAREN REEHL

"I was awarded the Bronze Star for my service in Iraq."

— 1st Lt. Evgueni Erchov

other soldier-heroes in events such as a skills competition, a barbecue and a banquet given in their honor.

"During the course of the week we had a few chances to interact with these amazing athletes and share our experiences with each other," said Erchov. "I was amazed that these guys look beyond their potential careers in the NFL and think about alternative careers too."

Today, Erchov is a signal officer in the National Capital Region Information Operations Center in Adelphi, Md. He has been in the Army Reserve for seven years. Erchov started as an enlisted soldier and later decided to become an officer. He has deployed to Iraq and Kuwait for 18 months.

Michael Murphy, 30, Dies of Cancer

Michael Murphy died of cancer Thursday, Feb. 11, at his parents' home in Fairfax. He was 30. Murphy was born July 27, 1979 in Herndon to James and Martina Murphy.

He graduated from Chantilly High School in 1997 and was in the class of 2001 at the Citadel Military College of South Carolina where he graduated with departmental honors in Education. While in High School, Mike Murphy was active in the Boy Scouts; Chantilly High School's Symphonic Band, Marching Band and Drum Line. He also volunteered for five years at Ashgrove Adventure Day Camp for the Girl Scouts. At the Citadel, he was a drummer in their bagpipe band.

After college, Mike Murphy lived in Charleston, S.C. where he played for the City of Charleston Police Bagpipe Band, grades 2 and 3. He was the drum instructor for the group's grade 4 band as well. In 2008, he joined the City of Washington Pipe Band. At the time of his death, he was also the drum instructor for the MacMillan-Birtles grade 4 bagpipe band in Montgomery County, Md.



Michael Murphy

His brother, James Murphy, predeceased him in 1977.

Mike Murphy is survived by his parents and three sisters: Kathleen Murphy of Creede, Colo.; Christy Leonard and Jaime Osborne both of Fayetteville, N.C. He is also survived by four nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the Mike Murphy Scholarship

Fund c/o Wachovia Bank, Sully Plaza Financial Center VA1138, 13960 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Chantilly, VA 20151. This scholarship will continue Mike Murphy's passion for Scottish bagpipe drumming.

Visitation services will be Friday, Feb. 19, from 6-8 p.m., at Adams-Greene Funeral Home, 721 Elden St., Herndon. Funeral Mass will be at St. John Neumann's Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyer's Road, Reston, on Saturday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m.

FROM PAGE 4

vate information is encrypted and accessible only by law enforcement.

Missing posters can be created and printed directly from the mini-CD in English, Spanish and French. The Safe Assured ID kits are free and an appointment is necessary. Call Sgt. Pam Nevlud at 703-385-7966 for further information.

Citizens Police Academy Offered

The City of Fairfax Police Department is holding the third session of its Citizens Police Academy from March 18, 2010 through May 20, 2010. It offers an opportunity for interested citizens to learn about the role of the Police Department and its many functions, services and capabilities. Initiated in 2007 by Police Chief Richard Rappoport, the objective isn't to train individuals to be police officers, but to produce informed citizens.

Citizens and police officers meet each other face-to-face in a neutral, friendly setting, so each group develops an understanding of the other. By helping citizens learn about its operations and personnel, the Department hopes to reduce fears and misconceptions that may exist and which result in conflicts caused simply by lack of understanding.

Applicants to attend must meet the following minimum requirements: Be a city resident or work in the City of Fairfax, be at least 18, pass a police background check and be a U.S. citizen. Classes are Thursdays from 6:30-9 p.m. For more information, contact Sgt. Pam Nevlud at 703-385-7966 or Capt. Michael Artone at 703-385-7972. To obtain an application, go to www.fairfaxva.gov/Police/CitizenPoliceAcademy.asp.

Indoor Farmers Market Is Open

An indoor farmers market has opened in a storefront within the Fairfax Corner shopping center, off Monument Drive in Fairfax. The address is 11895 Grand Commons Ave., between the Lucy and Il Vino stores, and the market will be open every Tuesday from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

A wide selection of products will be offered, including winter fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy products, baked goods, gluten-free products and a large variety of prepared foods. It'll be run by Smart Markets, which operated last summer's farmers market in both Centreville and Fairfax Corner. The market will be there through April, when it will return to its site in the shopping center's parking lot.

Academies Host Information Nights

Fairfax County Public Schools high school career academies are hosting information nights and open houses for prospective high school students who may be interested in academy courses for the 2010-11 school year. The open houses are open to students entering grades 10, 11, and 12 in 2010-11. ((Information about each academy's information night and open house can be found below.

❖ Chantilly Academy—Engineering, Scientific Technology, Health and Human Services, Thursday, Feb. 18, 5:45-8:30 p.m., <http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyAcademy>, 703-222-7460

❖ Edison Academy—Engineering and Scientific Technology, Thursday, March 4, 6-7:30 p.m., <http://www.fcps.edu/EdisonAcademy/>, 703-924-1800

❖ Fairfax Academy—Communications and the Arts, Thursday, March 4, 7:30-9 p.m., <http://www.fcps.edu/FairfaxAcademy>, 703-219-2226

❖ Falls Church Academy—Health and Human Services, individual visits are welcome, <http://www.fcps.edu/FallsChurchHS/academy/index.html>, 703-207-4011

❖ Marshall Academy—International Studies and Business, Engineering and Scientific Technology, Monday, Feb. 22, 7-8:30 p.m., <http://www.fcps.edu/MarshallAcademy>, 703-714-5582

❖ West Potomac Academy—Communications and the Arts, Health and Human Services, individual visits are welcome, <http://www.fcps.edu/WestPotomacAcademy/>, 703-718-2500.

Recycle During Electric Sunday

Residents may recycle old TVs, computers, peripheral electronic devices — such as keyboards, speakers, printers and scanners, as well as household hazardous wastes — including fluorescent light bulbs and tubes, for free, during Fairfax County's "Electric Sunday" events. The next one is slated for Sunday, Feb. 28, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-324-5052.

FCPS Sees Ups, Downs of Funding Fight

School Board lays out budget and governor agrees to give Fairfax schools more money.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

While Maryclaire Ramsey appreciates the Fairfax County Public Schools is in a difficult budget position, she also wishes she saw more outside-the-box thinking from the school administration and School Board members.

"I don't feel like they are taking a good, hard, long look at operations on a higher level," said Ramsey, who lives in the Fox Mill area of Oak Hill.

Instead of being creative, the School Board and schools Superintendent Jack Dale are trotting out the same list of potential cuts — popular programs like elementary school foreign language instruction — that they do whenever they face a budget downturn, according to Ramsey.

A skeptic might think the School Board does this because it scares parents and motivates them to go the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to advocate for more money to be transferred to the school system.

Ramsey, for her part, resents the fact that releasing a list of vulnerable programs tends to pit one parent community against another at a time when the school advocates

should be working together.

"Everybody is going to have their favorite program. How do you tell parents that freshman sports is more important than band?" she said.

Instead, Ramsey wishes the school board offered more creative solutions to solving the current budget crisis. She would like the school board to explore "revenue generation" or offer more cuts to the central administration for example.

For her and many others, the current school budget proposal offers the same, old-way of thinking.

"We are going to be fighting for any money we can get."

— School Board member
Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill)

STARTING NEXT YEAR, it seems almost certain that Fairfax County students have to pay a fee to play high school sports and advanced placement tests.

The Fairfax County School Board voted on its initial budget re-

quest to the Board of Supervisors at a Feb. 4 meeting, laying out those programs it intends to ask the county to fund and those it will reluctantly agree to cut at this early stage.

The request included are new student fees to participate in high school athletics and to take Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests. The School Board is moving forward with a plan to eliminate

The Fairfax Schools Budget So Far ...

The Fairfax County School Board took its first pass at its operating budget for the 2010-11 school year during a Feb. 4 meeting, tacking on approximately \$23 million in additional spending to the plan originally proposed last month.

Schools Superintendent Jack Dale had presented a \$2.3 billion budget for Fairfax County Public Schools in January. Dale's plan included \$100 million in spending reductions and a request for the Fairfax County government to provide \$57.8 million more to the school system than it did last year.

Fairfax County already devoted more than 50 percent of county revenue, approximately \$1.7 billion, to the school system last year.

The School Board amended Dale's proposal slightly, deciding it could not live with some of the cuts that the superintendent had proposed, and asking for more from the county. The School Board increased the public schools' funding request to the county by \$81 million over what was provided last year.

During its own budget deliberations, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will decide how much of the county's total revenue to give to the school system. If the amount of funding is less than the school system requested, the school board will have to make additional cuts to the budget currently proposed in the late spring.

The following are some of programs and services the School Board would use the additional \$23 million from the county to fund

and those programs they have agreed to eliminate.

The School Board voted to put the following programs and cuts into the budget:

- ❖ \$17.1 million added to avoid increasing class size by an additional student per teacher
- ❖ \$1.4 million added to keep assistant principals positions
- ❖ \$800,000 added for instructional assistant positions
- ❖ \$1.6 million added for instructional coaches' positions
- ❖ (\$900,000) reduction via additional cuts for central administration
- ❖ \$2.2 million added for the Foreign Language in Elementary Schools program
- ❖ (\$110,000) reduction, cutting a fifth grade field trip to the International Children's Festival
- ❖ \$250,000 added to help students from Pimmit Hills Alternative High School transition to another program. The School Board has agreed to eliminate the following programs:
- ❖ \$1.2 million for "Focus," a special academic program in place in schools with high-risk student populations
- ❖ \$1.3 million for the Extended Learning Program known as Excel, also in place in schools with high-risk student populations
- ❖ \$6.3 million for summer school
- ❖ \$200,000 for two internal auditor positions
- ❖ \$150,000 for a student suspension program

Pimmit Hills Alternative High School and two academic programs in elementary schools with large populations of poor students.

Though the School Board can restore such programs after the supervisors approve the public school money transfer in the late spring, it is unlikely board members will have the luxury of restoring funding to pro-

grams cut this early on in the budget process.

"We are going to be fighting for any money we can get," said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill).

CURRENT CLASS SIZE, foreign language

SEE SCHOOL BUDGET, PAGE 17

COLLEGE NOTES

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

Amara Del Vecchio, a resident of Fairfax, graduated with a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.

Diane Ashley Ditko, a resident of Fairfax, graduated with a B.S. degree in computer science from the University of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.

Teresa Tua Duncan, a resident of Fairfax, graduated cum laude with a B.S. degree in chemistry from the University of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.

Johnathan Dang Nguyen, a resident of Fairfax, graduated with

a B.S. degree in biology from the University of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.

Kelsey Gray Teeters, a resident of Fairfax, graduated with a B.S. degree in business administration from the University of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.

Tuan P. Huynh, a resident of Fairfax, graduated with an MBA degree from the University of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.

Brittany Jean Valint, a resident of Fairfax, graduated with an M.S. degree in elementary education from the University of Mary Washington during its 98th commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9.

Natalie Gessert from Fairfax City graduated with a master of divinity from Luther Seminary, St Paul, Minnesota. Gessert was a 1999 graduate of Fairfax High School, and graduated from Roanoke College in Salem, Va., in 2003 with a bachelors of arts in religion and

philosophy. While at Luther Seminary she was the editor of the Concord, the Seminary Newspaper. Presently she is awaiting synod assignment from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Gessert is the daughter of David and Sheri Gessert of Fairfax.

More than 1,500 students graduated from Villanova University (Villanova, Pa.) during a commencement ceremony held on Sunday, May 17, in Villanova Stadium. The following local residents were among the students from Villanova University who received undergraduate degrees:

❖ **Laura Regina Noonan**, Fairfax, bachelor of science in business administration (finance) cum laude

❖ **Davis Reynolds O'Brien**, Fairfax, bachelor of science in business administration (finance and international business).

Adina L Rubinstein, a University of Denver Daniels College of Business undergraduate student from Fairfax, made the Hornbeck scholars list for spring quarter of the 2008-09 school year. The Hornbeck scholars list recognizes those undergraduate students who, in a given quarter, have earned a

4.0 grade point average while taking between 12 and 14 credit hours.

Jesse Schank of Fairfax received a doctor of philosophy from the Graduate School of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., at its 164th commencement ceremony on May 11.

The following students from Fairfax recently graduated from the College of William and Mary with a bachelor of arts degree: **Sherif Abdelkarim, Jeffrey Bergemann, Rebecca Brofft, Carolyn Bruner, Sara Coleman, Emmy-Marie Fritz-Krockow, Pooja Gupta, Cody Hill, Dagmara Kalnins, Michelle Kelley, Brian McKeon, Katherine Mulhall, Sarah Nolan, Kate Tedesco and Rachel Walsh.**

Fairfax residents **Tiffany Alcorn and Alexander Nikolov** recently graduated from the College of William and Mary with B.B.A. degrees.

The following students from Fairfax recently graduated from the College of William and Mary with a bachelor of science degree: **William Ames, Charles Liarakos, Danielle Neal**

and **Andrew Pierce.**

Tracy Pearson of Fairfax received her juris doctor (law degree) from Widener University School of Law in Delaware at its commencement for its 35th graduating class on Saturday, May 16.

Fairfax residents **Alex B. Aferiat, Marian J. Hwang, and Bo-Min Son** have recently been named to the dean's list at Boston University for the spring semester.

Timothy Michael O'Bryan, a resident of Fairfax has earned a bachelor of science, computer technology from Excelsior College.

Fairfax resident **Leanne Williams** is currently studying abroad through the Boston University International Programs office. A film and television major at BU's College of Communication, Williams is currently enrolled in the Los Angeles Internship Only Option Film and Television through the end of the Fall 2009 semester. Williams is scheduled to graduate from BU in 2011.

Seasonal Accounts Receivable Assistant

Meadows Farms Nurseries in Chantilly, VA is looking for an Accounts Receivable Assistant for data entry. Accounting knowledge helpful. Pay range \$10 - \$12.50 hr. M-F 8am - 4pm, March-June. Email resume to tknowlan@meadowsfarms.com or call Catie @ 703-327-3940 ext 207

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Via email- HRMail@MountVernon.org, or fax- 703.780.8320. Applications may be downloaded and printed from the website (under employment) at www.MountVernon.org

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements**

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as 4257 Americana Drive, #102, Annandale, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Sylvia G. Zamora, dated March 7, 2005, and recorded March 16, 2005, in Deed Book 17075 at page 1769 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:
 Tax Map No. 070-2-14-01-4257D

Commonly known as 4257 Americana Drive, #102, Annandale, Virginia 22003.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$20,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 3.25 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAVID N. PRENSKY
 Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
 David N. Prenskey
 Chasen & Chasen
 5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
 Washington, D.C. 20015
 (202) 244-4000

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
 9019 Scott Street, Springfield, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Susan W. Kane and Victor D. Kane, Jr., dated September 7, 2004, and recorded [Deed of Trust Rec Date], [Page] among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Lot 206, Section 2-A, South Run Forest, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 6880 at page 363, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 9019 Scott Street, Springfield, Virginia 22153.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$50,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 5.125 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

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

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

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

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

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

DAVID N. PRENSKY
 Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
 David N. Prensley
 Chasen & Chasen
 5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
 Washington, D.C. 20015
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School Budget Battle Goes On

FROM PAGE 14

in elementary schools and freshman sports are among the programs threatened by cuts that so far are still funded.

The School Board budget includes a request for \$81 million more from the county than the approximately \$1.7 billion the supervisors gave the school system to operate last year.

Schools Superintendent Jack Dale had originally suggested the school board only ask the county for an additional \$57.8 million and include several more cuts in the budget.

But School Board members found several of Dale's cuts — including freshman sports, foreign language in elementary schools and larger class size — to be too drastic. The School Board also restored \$3.8 million in funding for instruction assistants, instructional coaches and assistant principals that Dale had proposed to eliminate.

Without full funding, including the extra \$81 million, the School Board will argue that many of the undesirable cuts they have avoided will have to be made, said School Board member Brad Center (Lee.)

"To make any real difference, this budget has to be fully funded. ... And we have no guarantee that even [the superintendent's] original request will be funded," said School Board member Brad Center (Lee.)

SEVERAL SUPERVISORS said it is unlikely Fairfax would give the school system an extra \$81 million, especially when other

county agencies and departments are seeing cuts in their funding.

"I think trying to provide an extra \$81 million in funding would be extremely difficult to do in this economic climate. Our board has to be sensitive to taxpayers who are struggling to pay their mortgages and stay in their homes," said Fairfax County Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large.)

Fairfax County already allocates more than half of its general funding to the public school system annually. Since the residential real estate tax generates most of the county revenue, an increase in schools funding would most likely correspond to an increase in real property tax rate for homeowners.

According to county officials, \$81 million is equal to increasing property taxes approximately 4 cents per \$100 of assessed property value this year.

Some supervisors questioned whether the School Board had really made all the cuts it could, particularly when it came to central administration staff.

"Until the school system looks at their administrative costs, I think this School Board will be hard pressed to spend an additional \$81 million on the school system," said Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield).

When compared to Dale's budget proposal, the School Board did vote to reduce spending on central administration functions by \$900,000 in order to fund other programs, according to school system documents.

Still, other supervisors appeared to be questioning whether the School Board had looked at all of its options.

"I have serious questions about cost and whether there are things not on the table to be cut," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville).

Gov. Bob McDonnell (R) did offer a silver lining in the discussion about schools funding late in the day on Feb. 8.

McDonnell supports restoring the Virginia state education funding formula to its original 2010 proportions, which means Fairfax will get a larger slice of the financial pie of education funding coming out of Richmond.

Last December, former Gov. Tim Kaine (D) proposed "freezing" the education funding formula to proportions used last year, protecting funding for several school districts downstate from losing money but costing Fairfax County Public Schools \$61 million.

It is unclear whether Fairfax will receive the full \$61 million now that McDonnell has "unfrozen" the formula. In light of a massive budget shortfall, the Virginia General Assembly could cut education funding overall, meaning the pool of money for all school districts may shrink.

But Fairfax County will still receive more money than the locality would have, if McDonnell had stuck to Kaine's original proposal.

"By unfreezing the formula, the governor had made sure we will see additional money or, at least, some more money that we would have otherwise expected for our school system," said Bulova.

City Mobilizes Quickly To Beat Snow

FROM PAGE 3

other county roads, the city is responsible for its own, including U.S. and Virginia numbered routes. As a result, Sisson said that the city trains employees from the city's Parks and Recreation and Utilities Departments how to operate in the event of snow.

According to Sisson, those trained crews were dispatched immediately as snow started falling in the first storm and worked 24 hours a day through both storms and several days thereafter. Sisson said that in both cases, all of the city's subdivisions were plowed at least once within 36 hours of each storm ending.

"Even after streets were plowed, we received calls and e-mails about certain areas having problems," Lederer said. "When one of us [on City Council] got one of those comments, we forwarded them to staff and immediately they were out there taking care of it."

The city's response was so efficient, some residents said, that problems affecting students in other areas of the county did not manifest themselves prominently in the city. All FCPS schools were closed for five straight days last week, and many school districts across the county were struggling

to clear walking paths for students as recently as Monday. In Fairfax, however, sidewalks and bus stops were mostly clear for the reopening of all schools Tuesday due to the initiative of city officials and staff.

Old Lee Hills Civic Association President Scot Rosomer said that he heard the call for volunteers from FCPS to help clear the areas around schools Monday, Feb. 15, and organized a group of several of his neighbors to clear out school bus stops in the Old Lee Hills community. He said that upon his group's arrival to the first bus stop, they encountered a 6-foot wall of ice. After a few minutes of trying to dig through, Rosomer said that they realized that they would not be able to break the ice down. So, he said that he made a couple of phone calls and minutes later, he had Sisson on the phone offering to meet him to assess the situation. The next day, Rosomer said, city employees Charles Blevins, Rich Hancock and Ed Clairvaux met him at the intersection of Colony Drive and St. Andrews Road with equipment to take care of the ice bank.

"They were fantastic about taking care of the bus stops for us," Rosomer said. "We were going to hire people to do it just so our kids could be safe but the city came through for us. It was a huge plus."

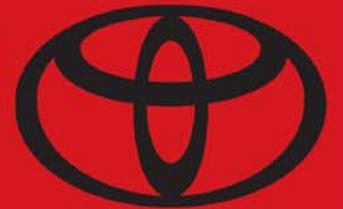
Despite the glowing reviews about the speed and quality of the snow removal, Lederer said that the city did receive some complaints nonetheless. Lederer said that the biggest issue residents had during the removal process was complaints that plows were throwing snow from the road into driveways that residents had previously shoveled themselves. In addition, Sisson said that some people expected their streets to be plowed immediately after the snow stopped falling, and in some cases, called to ask city officials when a plow was going to come.

"The questions dealt with [the city's plowing] priorities," Sisson said. "Everyone wants to have their street plowed first and if we're not there within a couple hours, people are asking where we are. But by and large, we got an enormous number of compliments and a small number of complaints."

Lederer acknowledged the problems that some residents had with the snow removal process but called the nature of the received complaints after the storms unavoidable. "Despite all of the challenges, I couldn't be more proud of the city's response," Lederer said. "It's never perfect, but under the circumstances, it's pretty close to it."

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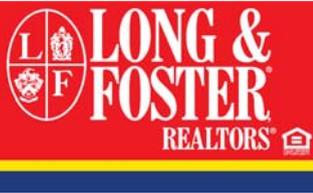


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From the Beltway (495), take Rte. 66 West to the Nutley St. South Exit (exit 62) towards Fairfax. Go through the intersection of Lee Highway and Nutley Street. The training center is located in the Pan Am Shopping Center on the left.

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Fairfax Station
\$685,000

New Listing!
Charming wonderfully priced 3 level Cape Cod on peaceful 1+ acre lot, Walking distance to Fountainhead Park. Quality built, mostly brick, 5BR, 3BA, Fin walk-out LL, Hdwd floors, scrnd Porch, updated Kitchen & Baths. Walk-in Attic, storage galore! Deck overlooks woodland, beautifully landscaped.

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Rental

Immaculate 4-level brick townhome in Inlet Cove, close to Lorton VRE, Metro, and minutes to Fort Belvoir. Gorgeous open floor plan w/hardwood floors, 9 ft+ ceilings, huge kitchen w/island. MBR w/tray ceiling, walk-in closet, soaking tub w/separate shower. Finished walkout level w/gas fireplace, patio, deck plus 2-car garage. Must see this beautiful 1st time rental.
Call Judy McGuire 703-581-7679



Sheila Adams

703-503-1895

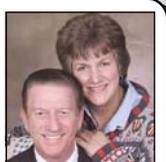
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Fairfax Station \$969,900

Country Living, Close In
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Reston \$515,000

Rarely Available in Reston
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